NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: San Felipe de Austin Historic and Archeological District
Other name/site number: San Felipe Memorial Park; San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site; 41AU2; San Felipe de Austin
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & number: 15945 FM 1458
City or town: San Felipe State: Texas County: Austin
Not for publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☑ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☑ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:
☐ national ☑ statewide ☐ local

Applicable National Register Criteria: ☑ A ☐ B ☐ C ☑ D

State Historic Preservation Officer
Signature of certifying official / Title **Date**

Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official **Date**

State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

___ entered in the National Register
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ determined not eligible for the National Register.
___ removed from the National Register
___ other, explain: _____

Signature of the Keeper **Date of Action**

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

	Private
	Public - Local
X	Public - State
	Public - Federal

Category of Property

	building(s)
X	district
	site
	structure
	object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
1	0	sites
1	0	structures
5	1	objects
8	2	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: DOMESTIC/village site; RECREATION AND CULTURE/monument/marker

Current Functions: LANDSCAPE/park (state park); RECREATION AND CULTURE/monument/marker

7. Description

Architectural Classification: No Style

Principal Exterior Materials: Wood, Stone

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 7-6 through 7-16)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

X	A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
	B	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
	C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
X	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations: F: Commemorative Properties

Areas of Significance: Archeology/Historic Non-Aboriginal; Conservation

Period of Significance: 1823-1836; 1928-1966

Significant Dates: 1823, 1824, 1836, 1928, 1936

Significant Person (only if criterion b is marked): NA

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion d is marked): Anglo-American, Hispanic

Architect/Builder: Angel, John (sculptor)

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 8-17 through 8-29)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheets 9-30 through 9-33)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):
- _ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- _ previously listed in the National Register
- _ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- _ designated a National Historic Landmark
- _ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- _ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:
- x State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*, *Austin*)
- _ Other state agency
- _ Federal agency
- _ Local government
- _ University
- _ Other -- Specify Repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 97 acres

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (use decimal degree format)

Datum if other than WGS84: NAD83

1. 29.808644° -96.097350°
2. 29.806706° -96.089586°
3. 29.803308° -96.091147°
4. 29.802433° -96.091825°
5. 29.804938° -96.098389°
6. 29.806901° -96.099044°
7. 29.808059° -96.098497°

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation page 10-33

Boundary Justification: See continuation page 10-33

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Kristen Brown and Anna Mod (with assistance from THC Historian Carlyn Hammons)
Organization: SWCA Environmental Consultants
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Date: October 2015

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheets Map-34 through Map-40)

Additional items (see continuation sheets Figure-41 through Figure-44)

Photographs (see continuation sheets Photo-45 through Photo-50)

Photographs

All photos share the following information.

Name of Property: San Felipe de Austin
City or Vicinity: San Felipe
County, State: Austin County, Texas
Photographer: Kristen Brown for SWCA Environmental Consultants
Date Photographed: October 2014

Photograph 0001
Stephen F. Austin Statue, south and east elevations, view north

Photograph 0002
Bricker Monument, southwest face, view northeast

Photograph 0003
Centennial Marker, southeast face, view west

Photograph 0004
Eastern portion of district (east of FM 1458), view northwest from near southeastern corner of district

Photograph 0005
J.J. Josey Store, east and north elevations, view southwest

Photograph 0006
Town site, view north/northeast from north of J.J. Josey Store

Photograph 0007
Commemorative Obelisk, southeast elevation, view northeast

Photography 0008
Stephen F. Austin Replica Cabin, southeast elevation, view southwest

Photograph 0009
Town Well, view south/southwest

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Narrative Description

The San Felipe de Austin Historic and Archaeological District consists of approximately 97 acres of state-owned land at the location of the former townsite of San Felipe de Austin (San Felipe). The district contains ten resources; one site, six objects (one is noncontributing), one structure, and two buildings (one noncontributing). The district encompasses a large portion of the original 148-acre townsite that was founded in 1823 and the entirety of the San Felipe State Historic Site, a state historic park owned and managed by the Texas Historical Commission. The portions of the townsite owned by the state are designated as archaeological site 41AU2, and encompass areas where archeological features and artifacts related to the 1823–1836 occupation have been found. Approximately six of the 97 acres are located on the west side of present-day Farm-to-Market (FM) 1458 and contain nine resources related to the early twentieth century establishment of the park, its commemoration of Stephen F. Austin and the townsite, and its ongoing use throughout the twentieth century as a public park and commemorative site. The remaining 91 acres on the east side of FM 1458 contain no above-ground resources. The entire 97-acre park sits atop the archeological remains of the historic townsite.

Location and Site Description

The site is moderately to heavily wooded, and is primarily flat with a bluff that descends to the river. Because the town lots were originally laid out to orient to the river, the streets and lots were originally platted with a diagonal axis. Today, the park and its buildings and monuments are also arranged on this axis.

In the western portion of the district, a crushed gravel pathway leads northwest into the site from a small parking lot along FM 1458 (MAP 3A). The path roughly corresponds to the location of San Felipe's Commerce Street, or more specifically, to the northern edges of Lots 13-15 along Commerce Street. Within the pathway near FM 1458 is a granite obelisk (ID1; contributing) commemorating the townsite. Nearby to the north are a flagpole (ID9; noncontributing) and a large bronze statue of Stephen F. Austin atop a pink granite plinth (ID4; contributing). South of the obelisk near a large tree is the town's historic well (ID6; contributing). Northwest of the well is the J.J. Josey Store (ID7; noncontributing), which is situated approximately 45 feet southwest of the pathway on what would have been the boundary line between Lots 13 and 14. At the end of the path near the district's western boundary is a replica of Stephen F. Austin's cabin (ID8; noncontributing), which is located on what would have been the northwest corner of Lot 13. A granite centennial marker (ID5; contributing) is located near the cabin. North of the pathway is an open field, woods, and eventually, the river. The larger section of the district located east of FM 1458 is undeveloped and consists of pasture, scattered trees, and woods near the river. The district is located within the Gulf Coastal Prairies and Marshes physiographic region of Texas and contains alluvial and colluvial soils.[1]

The entire 97-acre San Felipe de Austin Historic and Archaeological District is situated atop a large portion of the original San Felipe townsite, which was 148 acres in size. The six acres located on the west side of present-day FM 1458 correspond to lots 13, 14, 15, 535, 536, 565, and 566 of the original town site (MAP3A). The remainder of the district is located east of FM 1458 and corresponds to the following San Felipe blocks: 16–51, 82–98, the western half of Lots 99 and 100, Lots 101-117, and Lots 537-564 (MAP3B). Approximately 51 acres of the original 148-acre town site are located outside the district boundaries to the west on private property and correspond to the following San Felipe blocks: 1–12, 52–81, 579-582, 523-534, 547, 568-576 (MAP 5).[2]

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[1] Leezer, Carole. *Small-Scale Archaeological Testing at the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site (41AU2), Austin County, Texas.* Center for Archaeological Studies, Texas State University-San Marcos. 2010. Pg. 2.

[2] MAP 4 is designed to give a good representation of the original townsite lots in relation to the existing landscape and approximate park boundaries. The correct park boundaries are shown in MAPS 1-3AB; the westernmost portion is clarified on the 1971 survey (MAP 5). When FM 1458 was constructed, an easement was granted. This easement is indicated in the dashed lines on (MAPS 3AB).

The district has significance as an archaeological site and as a commemorative park with two separate periods of significance. The archeological period of significance is from 1823 to 1836 and spans the time between the town's initial settlement in 1823, its official founding and platting a year later in 1824 to its destruction during the Texas Revolution. The second period of significance is for its importance as a commemorative park and state historic site with a period of significance from 1928, the date of the parks founding, to 1966. The ending date of the period of significance relates to its continued significance as a state historical park.

Previous Archaeological Investigations and Archaeological Resources Found

San Felipe was recorded as archaeological site 41AU2 in 1964 and was designated as a State Antiquities Landmark (SAL) in 1983. Since the late 1960s, a number of archeological investigations have been undertaken in and around this historical portion of the Stephen F. Austin State Park.[3] These investigations fall into five categories or eras: cursory site visits, surface collecting and construction monitoring (1966-1972), a general reconnaissance of the town site (1987), an intensive survey of the historical park with limited testing (1995), systematic survey and testing of privately owned lands surrounding the historic site (2002-2007), and survey and testing excavations for park improvements (2010). Most of the archaeological work conducted at 41AU2 has been in conjunction with projects located within the small portion of the site that is owned by the State of Texas and now managed by the Texas Historical Commission (THC).

Table 1 (see next page) summarizes the previous investigations conducted in the publicly and privately owned portions of the site. For purposes of this nomination, however, only the three largest investigations within the publicly owned portions of the site will be discussed in detail below.

[3] From 1940 to 2008, what is now known as the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site was owned and operated by the State of Texas as a discontiguous unit of the much-larger Stephen F. Austin State Park, which is primarily recreational in nature and is located 1 mile to the northwest. In 2008, custody of the historic component (now known as the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site) was transferred from Texas Parks and Wildlife Department to the Texas Historical Commission. Texas Parks and Wildlife Department continues to operate Stephen F. Austin State Park.

Table 1. Previous Archeological Investigations

Date	Individual(s)	Company	Type of Work	Location	Comments	References
1964	J.P Jensen	State Building Commission	Site recording	Original town site		Jensen and Ralph 1969
1966	J. Dan Scurlock	Office of State Archeologist	Surface Collection	Near replica cabin	Artifacts curated at TPWD-Austin	
1969	Harold P. (Hall) Jenson Jr. and Ron Ralph	TPWD	Surface Collection	Within boundaries of State Historic site (41AU2); two areas now covered by embankment of FM 1458 and area next to Stephen F. Austin monument	Artifacts curated at TPWD-Austin	Jensen and Ralph 1969
1982	Unknown	Environmental Engineering Division, Texas A&M University	Survey	Brazos River	Located remains of San Felipe ferry boat sunk in 1972 after FM 1458 bridge built	Garrison and Tribble 1982
1983	Mark Denton	THC	Designation as State Archeological Landmark	State-owned portions of 41AU2	Privately owned portions of 41AU2 potentially eligible for inclusion as SAL pending approval from landowners	Denton 2011
1985	J. David Ing, Art Black, and Robert Rayburn	TPWD	Surface Collection; posthole excavation	Surface inspection of historic site's fence line and gopher mounds; posthole excavation in southwest corner of property		Ing 1985
1986 and 1987	Daniel Fox and Hayden Whitsett	Texas Water Development Board	Survey	Original town site based on Bradfield and Henson's 1970's research	Site 41AU2 rerecorded and expanded to include 148 acres of original townsite	Fox and Whitsett 1987
1987		THC	Eligibility for NRHP listing concurrence			
1995	Margaret Howard, Aina Dodge, Carlos Beceiro, Amy Ringstaff, and Paul Schuchert	TPWD	Survey with shovel testing	Two noncontiguous tracts of Stephen F. Austin Historical Park (17-acre historic section within San Felipe de Austin Historic site boundaries)	Recovered buried artifacts representing occupations extending from 1823-1836 as well as traces of prehistoric and later historic occupations	Howard et al. 1999

2002 - 2006	Marriane Marek	TPWD	Intensive background research, deed records, survey, shovel testing, excavations	Privately owned sections of 41AU2 and several locations within the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site	Identified Native American, Colonial, Republic of Texas, and later occupations within site boundary.	Marek 2011
2010	Carole Leezer, Julian A. Sitters, Josh Hamilton, Amy Benton, Sarah Scogin	Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS)	Shovel testing and test unit excavations	San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site-J. J. Josey Store (test units) and proposed interpretive sign locations (shovel tests)	Artifacts recovered from J.J. Josey store up to 90 cmbs, concentration between 50-60 cmbs. Modern disturbances, low volume of artifacts has reduced potential for intact deposits.	Leezer 2010

In October of 1995, TPWD archaeologists conducted investigations of the two noncontiguous tracts of the Stephen F. Austin Historical Park. Only the 17-acre tract referred to as the "historic section" is located within the San Felipe de Austin Historic Site boundaries.[4] The historic section was further split up into three survey areas: the lower terrace (3.5 acres near the river), dissected scarp (8.5 acres), and uplands (5 acres). A total of six shovel tests were excavated within the lower terrace, and a few historic artifacts mixed with modern debris were recovered up to 40 cmbs.[5] Within the dissected scarp, four shovel tests were excavated of which only one encountered historic artifacts. The artifacts were mixed with modern highway construction debris and thus determined to be in a disturbed context.[6] The 5-acre upland area consisted of a 1-acre tract in the southeast corner of park and a 4-acre tract in the southwestern corner of the park. A total of five shovel tests were dug within the 1-acre tract revealing a generally low density of artifacts.[7] The recovery from the 4-acre upland tract in the southwest corner was much more robust. Since the upland tract also contained the remains of the 19th century well, several surface scatters of historic artifacts, a replica cabin, and the J. J. Josey Store, more intensive investigations were carried out within that 4-acre section of the park.

In all, a total of 2,522 artifacts were recovered from 22 shovel test units representing occupations extending from 1823 to 1836 with traces of prehistoric and later historic occupation.[8] The distribution of buried artifacts suggested that the remains of several structures and activity areas were preserved within the historic section of the park. The artifacts recovered during the 1995 TPWD survey include 217 ceramic sherds, 143 shaped glass fragments, 1,978 pieces of building material, 55 other metal fragments, 96 pieces of charcoal, 43 bone fragments, 19 pieces of slag, and 1 slate fragment.[9] Shovel tests extended to depths between 30 and 100 cmbs terminating at clay bedrock, culturally sterile deposits, or when depth prevented further excavation utilizing shovels. Most of the historic artifacts could be dated and correspond to the 1823-1836 occupation of San Felipe.[10] It should be noted that a small quantity of artifacts were also

[4] Howard et al. 1999, 51.
[5] Ibid., 55.
[6] Ibid., 57.
[7] Ibid.
[8] Ibid., 81.
[9] Ibid.
[10] Ibid.

recovered within the park area dating to prehistoric, post-1836, and modern periods. Due to the limited quantity of pre-1823 and post-1836 artifacts, these occupations are not regarded as significant components of the site.[11]

Additional survey and shovel testing conducted in the lower terrace and dissected scarp areas of the park encountered no intact cultural remains. Historic accounts suggest the lower terrace area was used in the 1830s as a steamboat landing, for domestic/industrial activities, and/or as a firing position during the Texas Revolution, but no intact cultural deposits were encountered within the upper 90 cm.[12] The lower terrace area, however, is frequently flooded and cultural deposits may be buried under deep alluvial deposits or washed away downstream.[13] Furthermore, construction of a picnic area and roads in the 1940s may have further disturbed this area. The dissected scarp has been subject to continual erosion, disturbance from the construction of the FM 1458 bridge embankment in the 1970s, and dumping activities.[14]

The first investigations within the privately owned sections of site 41AU2 were conducted between 2002 and 2006 during the San Felipe de Austin Project led by Marianne Marek.[15] These investigations also covered numerous lots on state-owned land east of FM 1458 as well as lots 535, 536, 565, and 566 of the original town-site, which are located north of the J.J. Josey Store on state-owned land west of FM 1458. Intensive background and deed record research was conducted to identify the history of each lot within the town site from Colonial times to the present.[16] Following this, a pedestrian survey was conducted, with shovel testing to identify town lots with the potential to contain significant Colonial archaeological deposits.[17] These investigations identified Native American, Colonial, Republic of Texas, and later occupations within the larger boundaries of 41AU2.[18] Subsequent testing of selected town lots within 41AU2 demonstrated that intact Colonial deposits are present at the site.[19]

Marek's investigations uncovered the largest number of artifacts at lots 535, 536, 565, and 566 of the original townsite. At lot 535, which is believed to be the location of a store or storehouse and cistern, numerous types of ceramics were found along with bottle glass, Colonial brick, slate, cut nails, and metal fragments.[20] Lot 536 contained decorated pearlware, bottle glass, and slag.[21] Lot 565 is believed to have held a dwelling and kitchen in 1834 and numerous other buildings including a storehouse and stable by 1841.[22] Lot 566 had a dwelling and possibly a portion of a store building.[23] Shovel tests at lots 565 and 566 recovered transferware, stoneware, other ceramics, glass, Colonial brick, square nails, and other artifacts.[24] Lots 536 and 565 were found to be partially affected by erosion.[25]

In 2010, archaeologists from the Center for Archaeological Studies (CAS) excavated 13 small-scale test units and 5 shovel test units in advance of proposed improvements at the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site.[26] The test units were excavated around the J.J. Josey Store, proposed to be modified into a temporary visitors center, and the shovel test

[11] Ibid., 70.
[12] Moore, Michael R. "Historic Site," *San Felipe de Austin*, 55.
[13] Ibid.
[14] Ibid., 56.
[15] Marek, Marianne 2011 Volume I, 7.
[16] Ibid., 16.
[17] Ibid., 56.
[18] Ibid., 125.
[19] Ibid.
[20] Ibid., 48, 50.
[21] Marek, Marianne 2011 Volume II, 15, 16, 159.
[22] Marek, Marianne 2011 Volume I, 49.
[23] Ibid.
[24] Ibid.,50.
[25] Ibid., 50.
[26] Leezer 2010, 11.

units were excavated at proposed interpretive sign locations. The small-scale test unit investigations around the J.J. Josey Store recovered archaeological deposits associated with the occupation of San Felipe de Austin between 1823 and 1836. Artifacts were recovered down to a depth of 90 cmbs; however, the majority of recovered artifacts were concentrated between 50 and 60 cmbs.[27] The greatest amount of both architectural and household artifacts was recovered from the western side of the J.J. Josey Store and included ceramic sherds, glass shards, brick fragments, charcoal pieces, metal pieces, mortar, and clay and pieces of a coin bit (Figure 2).[28]

Integrity Analysis of Archeological Resources

The nineteenth century archeological resources have been somewhat disturbed over time by the development of the commemorative park in the twentieth century. This includes the 1970 construction of FM 1458, the former Nicholas Bravo Street, which crosses the site roughly north to south. Other disturbances include buried utility lines, erosion and flooding as well as the introduction of the commemorative items when the park was established. However, archaeological investigations in 1995, 2002-2006, and 2010 recovered numerous artifacts and structural remnants related to the 1823-1836 occupation proving twentieth century interventions have not completely destroyed the integrity of the archeological site. Approximately one-quarter of the district is developed and it is highly likely that artifacts and remnants of structures and/or features are extant in the undeveloped eastern portion of the park. A 1999 study by Howard et al. states that although high energy flood events may have washed out cultural deposits within the lower terrace areas, it is equally likely that cultural deposits may be buried under deep alluvial deposits.[29] As such, deeply buried cultural deposits may also be present within these areas of the park. Since much of the district is unexcavated, the integrity of its materials is largely unknown. However, the artifacts and building remnants found thus far had sufficient integrity to identify their characteristics and likely dates of construction.

Historic Resource Descriptions

Commemorative Obelisk (Resource ID1; Contributing)

The commemorative obelisk, unveiled during the park's dedication in 1928[30], is a pink granite obelisk on a three-part plinth. Atop the rectangular plinth base is a smaller rectangular block with inscriptions on all four faces. The east face states that it was erected by the school children of Austin County under the direction of county superintendent W.S. Smith; the north face names the Town Council members during its dedication; the south face names the members of the County Board of Educators; and the west face simply states, "1928." Above that is a vertical block with a smaller footprint. It too is inscribed on all sides. On its east face is a circular portrait of Stephen F. Austin. The south face has a timeline of events leading to the Texas Revolution, and the east face explains that San Felipe was founded by Stephen F. Austin as the capital of his colony in 1824. The west face contains a poem by Henderson Yoakum. Because of the narrow block on which it is inscribed, the line breaks are as such:

STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
EMPRESARIO
IF HE WHO BY CONQUEST
WINS AN EMPIRE AND
RECEIVES THE WORLDS

[27] Ibid.
[28] Ibid.
[29] Howard, Margaret et al, "Testing at the San Felipe de Austin Townsite (41AU2) and Archaeological Survey at Stephen F. Austin State Historical Park, Austin County, Texas." Texas Parks and Wildlife, 1999. Pg. 55.
[30] Moore, Michael R. "Developing the Historic Site, 1928-2008" *San Felipe de Austin*, 3.

APPLUASE HOW MUCH IS
DUE TO HIM WHO BY
UNCEASING TOIL, LAYS IN
THE WILDERNESS THE
FOUNDATION FOR AN INFANT
COLONY AND BUILDS
THEREON A VIGOROUS STATE.

The design of the obelisk reflects Classical and early twentieth century design trends. Pink granite is a native Texas stone and the exterior building material of the state capitol building in Austin. It is often used for monuments and buildings and has a distinctively Texan identity.

Dedication Monument (Resource ID2; Contributing)

Resource ID #2 is the park's dedication monument installed in 1928 and unveiled during the dedication ceremony. It is a large pink granite slab with a smooth face and top and rusticated sides. Its top inscription reads,

SAN FELIPE MEMORIAL PARK
THIS PARK IS DEDICATED TO
THE MEMORY OF
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN
BY ORDER OF THE TOWN
COUNCIL OF SAN FELIPE
ROBERT KUNZE MAYOR–
W. J. FREDRICK TREAS
F. W. BANGEMAN SEC

Its front face lists the rest of the Austin County officials from 1928. Once again, Texas pink granite is used for a monument commemorating and important event in Texas history.

Bricker Monument (Resource ID3; Contributing)

John Bricker was the only Texian fatality in the April 7, 1836, battle at San Felipe. A monument to him was erected at the park in 1935. It is a rough grey granite slab with a bronze plaque that reads,

IN MEMORY OF
JOHN BRICKER
A PRIVATE IN CAPTAIN MOSLEY BAKER'S
COMPANY, WHO WAS KILLED JUST
ACROSS THE RIVER FROM THIS SITE
APRIL 7TH 1836 BY A SHOT FROM A
MEXICAN CANNON AND WAS BURIED
WHERE HE FELL. HE WAS BORN IN
CUMBERLAND COUNTY, PENN.
JANUARY 30TH 1791
THIS TABLET WAS ERECTED
BY HIS KINSMEN
APRIL 7TH 1935

Stephen F. Austin Statue (Resource ID4; Contributing)

Plans for a statue of Stephen F. Austin began during the Texas Centennial in 1936. Funds for the statue were allocated by the Commission of Control for Texas Centennial Celebrations and the statue was unveiled in 1938. It is a large bronze full-body portraiture of Austin by sculptor John Angel. The statue shows Austin seated, with legs crossed, gazing out across Texas. He sits on a pink granite pyramidal plinth designed by architect Donald Nelson. On the north face of the pyramid is an inscription commemorating his colony and leadership. It includes the statement, "NO OTHER STATE IN THE UNION OWES ITS EXISTENCE MORE COMPLETELY TO ONE MAN THAN TEXAS DOES TO AUSTIN." John Angel (1881-1960) was an English sculptor and studied at the Royal Academy. His sculptures are found in prominent churches in England (Oxford, Yorkshire, Exeter) and in the United States including St. John the Devine in New York, and East Liberty Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia.[31] Angel is the artist of the portrait sculpture (and columbarium) of William Marsh Rice, the founder of Rice Institute (now Rice University), that sits in the center of the campus quadrangle in Houston, Texas.[32]

Centennial Marker (Resource ID5; Contributing)

The Texas Centennial marker was erected by the state in 1936 during the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Texas' independence. The marker is a grey granite slab approximately 5 ½ feet tall with smooth front and back faces, rusticated narrow side faces, and a pointed top. All Centennial markers from 1936 were of grey granite and this design. A bronze star and wreath design near the top of the front face measures about 9 inches across. The marker's inscription reads,

NEAR THIS SITE STOOD
A TOWN HALL
BUILT ABOUT 1830
IN WHICH WERE HELD
THE FIRST AND SECOND CONVENTIONS
OF TEXAS, 1832 AND 1833,
AND THE CONSULTATION OF 1835
THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT FUNCTIONED
HERE UNTIL MARCH 2, 1836, WHEN THE
REPUBLIC WAS FORMED AT
WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS
THE BUILDING WAS BURNED WITH THE TOWN,
MARCH 29, 1836, TO PREVENT ITS FALLING
INTO THE HANDS OF THE ADVANCING
MEXICAN ARMY
ERECTED BY THE STATE OF TEXAS
1936

Town Well (Resource ID6; Contributing)

The Town Well is the only remaining Colonial-era resource at San Felipe. The well is filled with dirt and several feet of the cylindrical, brick-lined interior remain visible. The exterior of the well extends approximately three feet above ground and is encased in a thick non-historic concrete sheathing. A non-historic metal grate covers the well opening. Affixed to

[31] Smithsonian, *Archives of American Art*. John Angel papers 1912-1960, http://www.aaa.si.edu/collections/john-angel-papers-5809. Accessed October 12, 2015.
[32] http://www.askart.com/artist/John_Angel/70388/John_Angel.aspx. Accessed October 12, 2015.

the well is a small granite marker that reads, "THIS WELL WAS DUG BY THE AUSTIN COLONY IN 1824 AND RESTORED BY THE SEALY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN 1928." As Texas approached the Centennial celebration in 1936, there were many restorations across the state. Most were labeled "restorations" yet did not adhere to the contemporary historic preservation and materials conservation standards we use today. The word was used loosely, and typically the restoration process was not documented beyond its description as a "restoration." This is seen in the Town Well which preserves the original brick cylinder yet fills in the well and encapsulates the original brick in concrete, a treatment that would be considered today as too damaging to the original form, function, design, material and workmanship. It was, however, accepted practice at the time.

J.J. Josey Store (Resource ID7; Contributing)

The J.J. Josey Store, originally named the Crutcher Store, is situated close to its original location, though it has been relocated at least twice (see below). It was constructed after the fire that destroyed San Felipe during a period of sluggish regrowth. Although some sources say it was built circa 1847, deed records indicate that it may have been built in 1849 or 1850.[33] The store is a wood frame building with a shed-roofed porch and two sets of double entry doors along its front façade. The building has horizontal wood siding and simple turned wood porch posts. A single small wood sash window is located at the rear of the building's southeast elevation. A long, non-historic ADA ramp is connected to the building's front porch and non-historic handrails have been added to the porch step. The J.J. Josey Store currently functions as a visitor's center.

Although the Josey Store has been moved multiple times, it is not required to meet Criteria Consideration B for Moved Properties because it represents a only a small percentage of resources within the district.

The J.J. Josey Store has both an Official Texas Historic Marker (OTHM), also called a subject marker, and a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) marker. The former is dated 1962 and reads (in all capital letters):

> J. JOSEY GENERAL STORE – BUILT BY JOHN CRUTCHER IN 1847 ON THE PLAZA DE COMMERCIO IN SAN FELIPE, THIS WAS THE LAST STORE BUILT IN THE TOWN AFTER ITS 1836 BURNING BY MILITARY ORDER. PURCHASED IN 1867 BY DR. J.J. JOSEY, IT WAS IN CONTINUOUS OPERATION AS A STORE UNTIL 1942. THE BUILDING HAS BEEN RELOCATED A NUMBER OF TIMES. JOSEY, IN 1880, MOVED THE STORE ONE MILE EAST TO A NEW LOCATION ON THE TEXAS WESTERN NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD. IN 1962 THE STRUCTURE WAS RETURNED TO ITS ORIGINAL SITE AND RESTORED FOR USE AS A MUSEUM. IT WAS MOVED TO THE STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE PARK IN 1969.

The RTHL marker is dated 1967 and reads (in capital letters):

> JOSEY STORE MUSEUM – LAST STORE IN SAN FELIPE. BUILT 1847, AFTER TOWN'S 1836 BURNING BY MILITARY ORDER. MOVED 1 MILE EAST TO T.W.N.G. RAILROAD, 1880. MOVED BACK TO ORIGINAL SITE AND RESTORED, 1962. OPENED AS A MUSEUM, 1962, BY STEPHEN F. AUSTIN PARK ASSOCIATION.[34]

Stephen F. Austin Replica Cabin (Resource ID8; Noncontributing)

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[33] Moore, Michael R. "Rebuilding and Relocation," *San Felipe de Austin*, 9-10.
[34] The use of "restoration" is used loosely and does not meet contemporary standards.

Several replica cabins were constructed at San Felipe over the years. The cabin currently located in the district was built in 1976 and is located on what would have been the street between Lots 12 and 13 of the original town site. The cabin has a dogtrot plan with a central breezeway and two rooms. It is constructed out of round logs connected with dovetail notches. Chinking is found between each log. The house has a shed-roofed porch with log porch supports on its front (southeastern) elevation. The house and porch roofs are clad in wood shakes. On the front elevation of each of the rooms is a single wood window with exterior shutter and no window glass. A brick external chimney is located on each of the house's side elevations. Not yet 50 years old, and because the accuracy of its "replication" has not been determined, it is considered noncontributing to the district.

Flagpole (Resource ID9; Noncontributing)

A simple aluminum flagpole is located north-northwest of the obelisk. It is set in a concrete foundation. The flagpole displays both the U.S. and Texas flags.

Historic Resource Inventory (the entire property is considered one contributing site)

ID #	Name	Date of construction	material	Type	C/NC
1	Commemorative obelisk	1928	Pink granite	Object	C
2	Dedication monument	1928	Pink granite slab	Object	C
3	Bricker monument	1935	Grey granite	Object	C
4	Stephen F. Austin statue	1938	Bronze on pink granite plinth	Object	C
5	Centennial Marker	1936	Grey granite	Object	C
6	Town Well	1824	Brick and concrete	Structure	C
7	J. J. Josey Store	c. 1847	Wood	Building	C
8	Stephen F. Austin Replica cabin	1976	Wood	Building	NC
9	Flagpole	late 1970s	Aluminum and concrete	Object	NC

Integrity Analysis of Historic Resources

In addition to the district's significance as an archeological site, it has a long history of development as a commemorative park and public park.

The district's current integrity is defined as such:

- Location – The commemorative park was established at the site of the original San Felipe de Austin. Integrity of location is therefore high.
- Design – The design of the obelisk (ID1) and dedication monument (ID2), both in pink granite reference this native Texas stone and the building material of the state capitol. The overall design of the commemorative park has changed little since its dedication and subsequent addition of monuments in the 1930s as part of the Texas Centennial. Integrity of design is high.
- Setting – The setting at San Felipe de Austin as a commemorative park is high. It has changed little since the early twentieth century.
- Materials – The high quality of the materials used on the buildings, objects and structures in the park has resulted in the preservation of the original material with the exception of the replica cabin. Overall integrity of materials is considered good.
- Workmanship – The aspect of workmanship of the commemorative items is high.
- Feeling – The district's feeling in relationship to the commemorative period of significance from 1928-1966 is high as many of the original resources are extant and in good condition.
- Association – The district has a high overall integrity of association. It has been recognized as the site of San Felipe de Austin and a commemorative park for almost 100 years. The commemorative park has protected the site from development. The monuments within the district also ensure that the site will forever be associated with Stephen F. Austin, San Felipe de Austin, and the Texas Revolution.

Statement of Significance

San Felipe de Austin Historic and Archaeological District contains a large portion of the original townsite of San Felipe de Austin (San Felipe) – the capital of Stephen F. Austin's colony, and for a time, the seat of the provisional Government of Texas. The town was founded in 1823 by Stephen F. Austin and became his colony's social, economic, and political center. In the 1830s, San Felipe hosted political conventions critical to the Texas Revolution. Near the end of the Texas Revolution, General Sam Houston's army retreated through San Felipe after the fall of the Alamo. On March 30, 1836, the garrison defending the town burned it to the ground to prevent it being taken by the pursuing Mexican army. In the years that followed, San Felipe saw only limited reoccupation. A commemorative park was established at the site in 1928 to honor Austin and the townsite and its importance to Texas history. Establishment of the park has functioned to preserve historic archaeological resources from the era of Stephen F. Austin and the Texas Revolution and subsurface material remains largely undisturbed. San Felipe de Austin Historic and Archaeological District is nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion D at the state level of significance in the area of Archeology/Historic-Non-Aboriginal for its potential to provide important information about San Felipe de Austin, its past inhabitants, and its role in the colonization and ultimate independence of Texas. Its period of significance is 1823 to 1836, or the time period between the town's initial platting and its destruction during the Texas Revolution. It is also nominated for NRHP listing under Criterion A, in the area of Conservation for the early twentieth century development of the commemorative park honoring Stephen F. Austin and the townsite, also at the state level of significance, with a period of significance from 1928 to 1966. Because the commemorative function of this park is over fifty years old and possesses significance based on its own values, it successfully meets Criterion Consideration F.

History of San Felipe de Austin

Stephen F. Austin and the Colonization of Texas

The Spanish Colonial period (A.D. 1630–1821) can be characterized as the initial period of Aboriginal/European contact and European settlement in Texas. During this time, the region was inhabited by several aboriginal groups including the Coapite, Copane, Karankawa, and Orcoquizas.[35] The first Spanish expedition into the area was probably the expedition of Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca, following the failed 1527 Panfilo de Narvaez expedition. Throughout the mid-1700s, the upper Texas coast continued to be an area of contention between France and Spain until the 1763 Treaty of Paris clearly placed Texas within the Spanish realm. Most Spanish settlements in the area were abandoned by the early 1770s. Texas was still under Spanish control when the United States acquired Louisiana in 1803. Mexico gained independence from Spain and assumed its former territories in 1821. Anglo-American settlement began in earnest after 1824 when Stephen F. Austin received the first official colonization grant from the Mexican government to bring 300 Anglo settlers into the area.[36]

Stephen Fuller Austin (1793-1836) established the first successful Anglo American colony in the Mexican province of Texas and played an integral part in the struggle for Texas independence. Stephen F. Austin was born in Virginia, grew up in Missouri, and studied in Connecticut and Kentucky.[37] His early jobs were varied and included managing a lead

[35] Kleiner, Diana J. "LIBERTY COUNTY" *Handbook of Texas. Online URL:* http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcl08) [accessed May 11, 2012]. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

[36] Kleiner, Diana J. "LIBERTY COUNTY," *Handbook of Texas. Online URL:* http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcl08) [accessed May 11, 2012]. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.

[37] Eugene C. Barker, "AUSTIN, STEPHEN FULLER," *Handbook of Texas Online* (http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fau14), accessed March 08, 2015. Uploaded on June 9, 2010.

business, serving as adjutant of a militia battalion and as a member of the Missouri territorial legislature, land speculator in Arkansas, and circuit judge of the first judicial district of Arkansas.[38] In 1820, his father Moses Austin planned to start a settlement in Spanish Texas and traveled to San Antonio to obtain a grant from Governor Antonio María Martínez.

Initially, the governor denied Moses Austin's request for a settlement grant. Soon after, however, Moses had a chance meeting with his acquaintance Baron de Bastrop, who had a Spanish settlement in Louisiana.[39] The Baron de Bastrop was Felipe Enrique Neri from Holland, who, fleeing tax embezzlement charges, moved to Spanish Louisiana and changed his name to present himself as a Dutch nobleman.[40] He established a colony in Spanish Louisiana, then moved to Spanish Texas and established a colony there as well. He settled in San Antonio in 1806 and became involved in government work. The Baron de Bastrop spoke to Governor Martínez on Moses Austin's behalf, and because of this the Governor endorsed the colonization plans. Unfortunately, Moses Austin died before he could realize his dream, in June of 1821.[41]

Stephen F. Austin traveled to San Antonio after his father's death and received permission from Governor Martínez to start the colony under his father's grant.[42] Austin chose land on the coastal plan on the Brazos and Colorado rivers. He advertised the opportunity in New Orleans and began to attract new colonists. The plan had a temporary setback when Mexico won independence from Spain in September 1821 and the Mexican provisional government refused to honor the Spanish grant.[43] Austin traveled to Mexico City to meet with officials and ultimately his contract was confirmed via the Imperial Colonization Law of January 1823.[44] Under the law, Austin became an *empresario*, or agent, whose responsibility was to promote immigration into Mexico. As *empresario*, Austin would receive about 67,000 acres of land for every 200 families that he brought to his colony.[45] Austin obtained a contract in 1823 to settle 300 families in "an area he selected between the Lavaca and San Jacinto rivers."[46] He was awarded four additional contracts under the State Colonization Law ultimately allowing him to settle up to 2,000 families in Mexican Texas. Of all the *empresarios* in the area at the time, Austin's colony proved to be the most successful and densely populated areas of colonial Texas.[47]

Building San Felipe de Austin

Stephen F. Austin chose San Felipe as the unofficial capital of his colony in 1823. He had first seen the location during a scouting trip in 1821, when he noted the rich countryside with abundant timber and the tall bluff along the river that "affords a most beautifull [sic] situation for a Town or settlement."[48] Austin's instructives from Mexico City included the decree "Austin is hereby authorized to establish a Town...at the place best adapted within the Settlement...endeavoring to locate it so far as practicable, at the most central point of the lands distributed to the Colonists...the Governor of Texas, or his Commissioner, in conjunction with Austin shall designate and survey the ground where the said Town is to be founded, selling the building lots at the prices to be regulated by appraisers."[49] Austin and the Baron de Bastrop chose the

[38] Ibid.
[39] David B. Gracy II, "AUSTIN, MOSES," *Handbook of Texas Online* (http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fau12), accessed March 08, 2015. Uploaded on June 9, 2010.
[40] Moore, Richard W., "BASTROP, BARON DE," *Handbook of Texas Online* (http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fbaae), accessed March 08, 2015. Uploaded on June 12, 2010.
[41] Ibid.
[42] [42] Eugene C. Barker, "AUSTIN, STEPHEN FULLER," *Handbook of Texas Online.*
[43] Ibid.
[44] Arnoldo De León, "MEXICAN TEXAS," *Handbook of Texas Online* (http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/npm01), accessed March 08, 2015. Uploaded on June 15, 2010.
[45] Eugene C. Barker, "AUSTIN, STEPHEN FULLER," *Handbook of Texas Online.*
[46] Moore, Michael. Context study for the site, p. 9 (Context and Themes chapter)
[47] Ibid., 9.
[48] Moore, Michael R. "Colonial Capital," *San Felipe de Austin*, 2.
[49] Ibid.

site for the new town due to its excellent location on the defensible river bluff and because of an existing river crossing at that location—a ferry operated by John McFarland.[50] It was also near the Atascocito Road, a military road built by the Spanish in 1757 that crossed much of Texas.[51] The town was named after both Austin and Felipe de la Garza, commanding general of the Eastern Interior Provinces.[52]

Stephen F. Austin planned for his town to have a regular street grid with public plazas. Surveyor Seth Ingram laid out the town and lots according to Austin's design. Ingram marked off a rectangular grid of town lots with four public spaces: Commerce Square, Military Square, Constitution Square, and Campo Santo, the public cemetery.[53] The central town lots occupied approximately 350 acres, and northwest of those along Sweet Creek (now called Bullinger Creek) were over 600 acres of 12-acre garden lots. The surveying was complete by the end of 1823. The *vara*, the standard land unit measurement used across Mexican Texas, was developed at San Felipe by Austin, Bastrop, and Ingram. Streets were named with both Spanish and English words for trees, plants, water features and fruits, and for Mexican officials instrumental in the colony's formation.[54]

The first land grant in Austin's new colony was to the Town of San Felipe de Austin, for a *hacienda*, or five-league portion of land (about 22,000 acres), which the town would maintain as public.[55] The deed, which was granted on July 1, 1824, also dedicated the town's public spaces such as the streets, squares, ferry landing, and timber lands, and included specifications for where certain buildings would be constructed. Along Constitution Square would be a church, with its support buildings to the east. West of the square would be municipal buildings such as a town hall, courthouse, and jail.[56] A public market would be built along Commerce Square, and military barracks and storehouses would go alongside Military Square. Mexican colonization laws dictated that, among other improvements, streets should have shade and ornamental trees. To satisfy this requirement, chinaberry trees were planted along street edges. Today, descendants of these original trees still grow along the street grid of San Felipe.[57]

Despite the orderly arrangement of the town plat, the buildings were initially constructed in a haphazard manner. Austin was not able to officially sell tracts until almost a year after the platting, and buildings built during this time were naturally oriented toward the existing Atascocito Road.[58] The problem persevered. Members of a Mexican Boundary Commission who visited in 1828 observed that the village "consists, at present, of forty or fifty wooden houses on the western bank of the large river known as Rio de los Brazos de Dios, but the houses are not arranged systematically so as to form streets; but on the contrary, lie in an irregular and desultory manner," and that the "dwellings are scattered about after the manner of new Anglo-American towns. One finds at the most forty to fifty families, for most of the colonists live amid their fields."[59] The Atascocito Road essentially bisected the town plat diagonally, according to an 1830 article that said the "great road leading from New-Orleans to...Monclova, &c. passes through and divides the town into two nearly equal parts." A San Felipe resident wrote that the "town was strung along either side of the road something like half a mile."[60]

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[50] Charles Christopher Jackson, "SAN FELIPE DE AUSTIN, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online* (http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hls10), accessed March 08, 2015. Uploaded on June 15, 2010.
[51] L.W. Kemp, "ATASCOSITO ROAD," Handbook of Texas Online (http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/exa02), accessed March 9, 2015. Uploaded on June 9, 2010.
[52] Moore, Michael R. "Colonial Capital," *San Felipe de Austin*, 3.
[53] Ibid., 5.
[54] Ibid.
[55] Ibid., 7.
[56] Ibid.
[57] Ibid., 8.
[58] Ibid., 9.
[59] Ibid.
[60] Ibid.

Stephen F. Austin served as the colony's civil authority until an *Ayuntamiento*, or governing body, was formed in 1828 (see below). Before that time he was kept busy with both the responsibilities of managing the growing colony and its inhabitants and with the surveying and allocation of land to new colonists. Between the years 1824 and 1828 he sold 69 town lots and 26 garden lots in San Felipe, although the grantees are not known.[61] As *empresario*, he could donate lots to family members, those who helped form the town, and himself, so he distributed another 57 town lots and six garden lots in this manner. Austin kept blocks of six lots on both Commerce and Constitution Squares for himself, and also gave his brother J.E.B. Austin two lots on Commerce Square. Bastrop received two lots on Commerce Square and Samuel May Williams received two lots on Constitution Square and four lots west of Austin's Commerce Square block. Williams was Austin's translator, clerk, and assistant. He wrote deeds, kept records, and managed colonial affairs when Austin was traveling. Other lots were given to David McCormick, blacksmiths George Huff and William Stafford, and carpenters Elijah Roark, Mills M. Battle, and the partnership of J.H. Polly & William Organ. After the *Ayuntamiento* was elected in 1828, more town and garden lots were sold at several auctions through 1830, and additional garden plots were platted.[62]

Early buildings in San Felipe were log structures, built quickly with timber from the town's nearby woods. In 1823 new colonist Mary Rabb wrote that two men "bilt a hous in a weeak [*sic*][;] the house was made of logs," and in 1826 Austin wrote to his sister, "we Still live in log cabins—rather poor. . ."[63] Noah Smithwick, a one-time resident of San Felipe, recalled the town's early appearance in his *Evolution of a State*, written seventy years later: "town was still in its swaddling clothes when the writer made his advent therein in 1827. Twenty-five or perhaps thirty log cabins strung along the west bank of the Brazos River was all there was of it....The buildings all being of unhewn logs with clapboard roofs, presented few distinguishing features."[64] He described several of San Felipe's houses, as well as the business district: "Then came the Peyton tavern, operated by Jonathan C. Peyton and wife; the house was the regulation double log cabin. The saloon and billiard hall of Cooper and Chieves, the only frame building in the place, was next below the Peyton's [...] Whiteside Hotel, which differed from its companion buildings, only in point of elevation, it being a story and a half in height; through the center ran the regulation "passage," and at either end rose a huge stick and mud chimney." Elizabeth Bertrand also noted the town's appearance around 1830, writing, "There were very few houses anywhere to be found, and these few were of the rudest construction. The common log cabin, which now might be esteemed too poor a habitation for the lowliest plantation hand, was at that time a residence of regal proportions."[65] A visitor in 1831 also noted that the town had approximately 50 log structures, and one "very comfortable" frame building.[66]

Despite these recollections, hewn logs were used in construction of some San Felipe buildings in the 1820s. It is believed that carpenters J.H. Polley and William Organ operated a pit-saw on one of their two lots (lot 579) by the mid-1820s.[67] In 1825, Samuel May Williams bought a "frame house" from Tomas Westhal, and in 1827, builder Zadock Woods built a store for Nicholas Clopper on lot 17, "Eighteen feet square," and agreed to use "good sound strait [*sic*] Logs hewed […] with good flooring & strong sleepers & sills and good strong Gallery all well floored & covered."[68] Austin's own house was initially a log cabin, but by 1825 his receipts show that he had a "new house."[69] In 1827 this second house was substantially improved using lumber from a new sawmill located seven miles upriver from San Felipe.[70] The renovations retained the dog-trot floor plan but raised the ceiling height, added porches, created a half-story second floor, and added

[61] Ibid., 8.
[62] Ibid.
[63] Ibid., 11.
[64] Ibid.
[65] Ibid.
[66] Ibid.
[67] Ibid., 12.
[68] Ibid., 12, 16.
[69] Ibid., 13.
[70] Ibid.

new rooms with dressed siding and tongue and groove flooring.[71] In 1828 Austin rented the building to James Whitesides to operate as a tavern and hotel, which he did until 1831.[72] In 1830, another reference to a frame building occurred when storekeepers Perry and Hunter rented a "salt frame house," known today as a saltbox, for their store.[73]

Brick also began to appear as a building material in San Felipe. It is believed that brick production was not available until approximately 1830, when the *Ayuntamiento* offered William Morton a 12-acre tract adjacent to San Felipe, provided he established a brick yard on the land.[74] It appears likely that the brick yard was never established and residents made their own brick from local clay.[75] Also in 1830, Thomas Westall built a brick house, and Austin contracted to have a brick store built.[76] In 1832 the town well was improved by the installation of a brick lining and Austin had the wooden foundation footings at his house replaced with brick in 1833. New brick chimneys were also constructed, including one at the Perry and Hunter store in 1832.[77]

The Town Matures

In 1820, just prior to Mexican independence from Spain, there were only three sizable settlements in Texas: Nacogdoches, San Antonio de Béxar, and La Bahía del Espíritu Santo, which later became Goliad.[78] The governments of both Spain and Mexico experienced difficulties in trying to encourage their own citizens to move to such a remote area of the country. An 1806 census of the state estimated that the entire state had approximately 7,000 people.[79] However, the 1826 census of Austin Colony estimated a population of 1,800, growing to around 20,000 by 1831.[80]

By 1828 San Felipe had a population of about 200, which grew to 600 by 1835.[81] Commentary from 1828 noted that San Felipe was not as populous, "for most of the colonists live amid their fields."[82] However, the population of San Felipe vastly outnumbered the population of Gonzales, which had a population of just 75 as part of DeWitt's colony.[83] Nonetheless, the town was the political, economic, and social center of Austin's colony, and its maturation is evident in the changes that occurred after it was founded.

In 1827 Austin asked the governor to establish an *Ayuntamiento* for his colony, since a settlement was entitled to one when its population reached 1,000.[84] His request was granted in 1828 and elections were held. The first *Ayuntamiento* took over authority for the colony in February of 1828, with Thomas M. Duke as *alcalde*, or chair, Samuel May Williams as secretary. The *Ayuntamiento* had difficulty securing funding for the construction of a permanent town hall or courthouse in which to meet and keep their records, and so rented a series of buildings in which to conduct business.

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[71] Ibid., 14.
[72] Ibid., 15.
[73] Ibid., 16.
[74] Ibid.
[75] Interview and email exchange with San Felipe de Austin site manager Bryan McAuley, May 2015.
[76] Moore, Michael R. "Colonial Capital," *San Felipe de Austin*, 3.
[77] Ibid., 17.
[78] Henson, Margaret Swett , "ANGLO-AMERICAN COLONIZATION," *Handbook of Texas Online* (http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/uma01), accessed October 15, 2015. Uploaded on June 9, 2010. Modified on September 23, 2015. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.
[79] "CENSUS AND CENSUS RECORDS," *Handbook of Texas Online* (http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/ulc01), accessed October 15, 2015. Uploaded on June 12, 2010. Published by the Texas State Historical Association.
[80] Ibid.
[81] Charles Christopher Jackson, "SAN FELIPE DE AUSTIN, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online.*
[82] Ibid., 26.
[83] Craig H. Roell, "DEWITT'S COLONY," *Handbook of Texas Online*.
[84] Moore, Michael R. "Colonial Capital," *San Felipe de Austin*, 20.

When the *Ayuntamiento* was established, Austin was freed from his governmental responsibilities, and he moved to his garden lots in approximately 1828.[85]

The *Texas Gazette*, one of Texas' first newspapers, began publication in September 1829 with Godwin B. Cotten as editor.[86] Cotton owned the town's only printing press for a while, so he also printed documents used by Austin and his agents, and a book of laws.[87] The *Telegraph and Texas Register* was also first published in San Felipe in October 1835 by Gail Borden and his partners.[88] The paper became the unofficial voice of the revolution. Its first edition reported on the Battle of Gonzales, and subsequent editions were printed almost weekly.[89] It also produced pamphlets, broadsides, and early Texas documents such as Declaration of the People of Texas (1835), Travis' letter from the Alamo (February 1836) and the Unanimous Declaration of Independence (March 1836).[90] In addition to printing the *Telegraph and Texas Register*, Gail Borden had succeeded his brother Thomas H. Borden as surveyor of Austin's colony, and stood in as colonial secretary when Samuel M. Williams was absent.[91] He would later invent a method for condensing milk in a vacuum and found the Borden Company.[92]

San Felipe also became a trading hub for the colony. By 1836, San Felipe had the second-highest amount of commercial trade in Texas after San Antonio.[93] Cotton plantations were established near San Felipe in the 1820s and cattle were raised on the lands around San Felipe.[94] Both keelboats and wagons shipped goods between the town and the coastal ports. Soon after the town was founded, numerous roads were built to link it to the rest of Austin's colony. Roads radiated out from the town and led to places like Brazoria, the Old Fort on the Brazos, Harrisburg, Victoria, and Matagorda.[95] Regular mail service began in 1826, and Samuel May Williams was named postmaster. Several postal routes converged at San Felipe and the town functioned as the hub of the Texas postal service[96] Furthermore, since the colony's land office was located in San Felipe, all new colonists seeking to settle in the colony had to come through the town to obtain titles to their land.[97]

The first school in San Felipe, the Austin Academy, was established in 1829 by Thomas J. Pilgrim. It had an initial enrollment of 40 students.[98] Pilgrim was a Baptist teacher who arrived in San Felipe in 1829 and started the first Sunday school in Texas at San Felipe; it was later discontinued since it violated one of Mexico's requirements that only Catholicism be practiced in the colonies.[99] Austin himself designed a large school building that could accommodate 100 students; however, when the Academy opened in 1829 it had not been built and classes were instead held in a "rude log cabin about eighteen by twenty-two feet" that had "several logs hewn on one side for seats."[100] A year later Pilgrim moved

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[85] Ibid., 17.
[86] Charles Christopher Jackson, "SAN FELIPE DE AUSTIN, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online.*
[87] Texas Historical Commission, "Printing Comes to San Felipe," Interpretive panel at site.
[88] Charles Christopher Jackson, "SAN FELIPE DE AUSTIN, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online.*
[89] Texas Historical Commission, "Dios y Libertad," San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site website (http://www.visitsanfelipedeaustin.com/index.aspx?page=769), accessed March 10, 2015.
[90] Ibid.
[91] Joe B. Frantz, "BORDEN, GAIL, JR.," *Handbook of Texas Online* (http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fbo24), accessed March 09, 2015. Uploaded on June 12, 2010.
[92] Ibid.
[93] Marek, Marianne. Historical and Archaeological Investigations at San Felipe de Austin, 3.
[94] Charles Christopher Jackson, "SAN FELIPE DE AUSTIN, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online.*
[95] Moore, Michael R. "Colonial Capital," *San Felipe de Austin*, 29.
[96] Charles Christopher Jackson, "SAN FELIPE DE AUSTIN, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online.*
[97] Marek, Marianne. Historical and Archaeological Investigations at San Felipe de Austin, 3.
[98] Charles Christopher Jackson, "SAN FELIPE DE AUSTIN, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online.*
[99] Samuel B. Hesler, "PILGRIM, THOMAS J.," *Handbook of Texas Online* (http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fpi20), accessed March 09, 2015. Uploaded on June 15, 2010.
[100] Moore, Michael R. "Colonial Capital," *San Felipe de Austin*, 24.

his school to the coast and a series of other teachers took over teaching duties for the next several years.[101] A priest, Padre Muldoon, was appointed to the colony and in anticipation of his arrival the *Ayuntamiento* purchased a building with two lots for a temporary church.[102]

Two taverns operated in San Felipe for several years, serving as both hotels and restaurants. The Whitesides Hotel was operated by James Whitesides in Austin's enlarged and renovated house. Whitesides rented it for use as his tavern from 1828 to 1831. Austin transferred ownership of the building to Anthony Butler around 1830, and after 1831 it was rented to a series of innkeepers.[103] The other tavern was the San Felipe Inn, also known as Peyton's Tavern, run by Jonathan and Angelina Peyton, some of San Felipe's first settlers. They opened it around 1825 and served breakfast and supper for 25 cents and dinner for 37 ½ cents, to daily and monthly boarders.[104] The Peyton's leased the tavern to John H. Connell in 1833.[105] The town also had a billiard hall, operated by Thomas Gay in the early 1830s.

San Felipe was also home to a number of merchants and stores. These were slow to establish, however. By the mid-1820s there were only one or two stores, and even in 1828 a visiting Mexican army officer wrote, "Two wretched little stores supply the inhabitants of the colony: one sells only whiskey, rum, sugar, and coffee; the other, rice, flour, lard, and cheap cloth."[106] However, the number of stores and merchants soon grew considerably, from two stores in about 1826 or 1827 to seven or eight in 1830.[107] Commerce in San Felipe involved established merchants operating their own stores in town, traveling merchants plying their wares, and partnerships where multiple mercantile businesses operated out of the same store.[108] Austin and his brother Brown Austin operated a simple store from about 1825 to 1827, Nicholas Clopper had a store in town from approximately 1826 to 1828, and Richardson & Davis operated a store as early as 1826 whose inventory "consisted of two or three barrels of whiskey, some sugar, coffee, salt, and a few remnants of dry goods."[109] Later stores seemed to stay in business longer. Researcher Michael R. Moore notes that business names often changed from fluid partnerships, but that the town's long-term merchants included Cooper & Cheeves (ca. 1828-1831), Nathaniel Townsend (1832-1836), W. C. White & Co. (1827-1836), George Huff & Co. (1831-1836), and Perry & Hunter (1831-1836).[110] Many other, more transient merchants also operated in the town throughout its existence.

San Felipe's Role in the Texas Revolution

Tensions grew between Mexico and its Anglo colonies in Texas beginning in 1829. Once source of contention was that the Mexican government felt that the Americans abused their settlement terms by not embracing Mexican law, converting to Catholicism, or freeing their slaves. This caused great concern among the Mexicans who began to take up arms in preparation of putting down their rebellious colonists.[111] The Mexican government was also threatened by the rising Anglo population in Texas and made several attempts to limit immigration from the United States. The tensions increased further with the passage of the Law of April 6, 1830, in which Mexico officially limited emigration from the United States, ended slavery, and restricted trade.[112] Skirmishes between the Texians, as colonists now called themselves, and Mexican troops occurred throughout 1831 and 1832.

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[101] Ibid., 25.
[102] Ibid.
[103] Ibid., 32-34.
[104] Ibid., 35; Texas Historical Commission, "Peyton's Tavern," San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site website.
[105] Ibid.; Texas Historical Commission, "Did You Know?" San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site website.
[106] Ibid., 38.
[107] Ibid.
[108] Ibid., 39.
[109] Ibid., 40-41.
[110] Ibid., 41.
[111] Arnoldo De León, "MEXICAN TEXAS," *Handbook of Texas Online.*
[112] Moore, Michael R. "Colonial Capital," *San Felipe de Austin*, 56.

In an effort to ease tensions and open lines of communication among the various Texas colonies, the San Felipe *Ayuntamiento* invited all Texas districts to a convention. Delegates from sixteen districts attended the convention, held in San Felipe in October 1832.[113] Stephen F. Austin was elected president of the convention. The attendees created resolutions including a request to repeal the Law of April 6, 1830, the desire that Texas separate from Coahuila to form its own state, and a request for a three-year tariff extension.[114] Other things discussed were ways to establish schools, organize a militia, and legalize the use of English in official documents.[115] These resolutions were never presented to the Mexican government, however. A second convention held in San Felipe in April 1833 discussed the same issues and created a proposed constitution that could be utilized by Texas should it be allowed to form its own state.[116] After the request for Texas statehood was denied, Austin wrote a letter encouraging local governments to begin planning for one anyway. Austin took the convention's petitions to Mexico City and was arrested on his way home for treason and held prisoner until July 1835.[117]

Continued opposition by the Texians put the Mexican army on alert. Mexican president Antonio López de Santa Anna Pérez de Lebrón (Santa Anna), despite being elected as a liberal in 1833, changed his tune by 1834 and declared that Mexico was not ready for democracy.[118] In a move toward virtual dictatorship, he sought to reorganize the state government and overthrow the existing Mexican federal constitution.[119] He crushed a rebellion in Mexico then turned this attention to the rebellion in Texas. In October 1835, Gen. Martin Perfecto de Cos and 500 men marched into San Antonio, decrying that he would force the Americans out of Texas.[120] Later Santa Anna and his general came across the Rio Grande with some 6,000 soldiers at their command.[121]

Stephen F. Austin was called in to attempt unity during the siege of Bexar during October to December of 1835 as Texians laid siege to Mexican troops. The Texians met in San Felipe again in November 1835 to discuss how to deal with the increasingly Centralist Mexican government and Santa Anna's October 1835 repeal of the Mexican constitution. Known as the Consultation, the meeting included delegates from the colonies. Various factions within the Consultation had different ideas of how to deal with Mexico, from cooperation to military rebellion. Although the Consultation did not declare independence, it established a provisional state government. The general tone of the Consultation leaned toward more Texan autonomy, but also to moderation and compromise, and in the end the meetings resulted in uncertainty.[122] Despite this, the Consultation was the first meeting in which the Texians organized a fledgling government of their own, one that would rule for five of the seven months of the Texas Revolution.[123] In March 1836, another convention was held at Washington on the Brazos. It was there that the delegates adopted a formal declaration of independence.

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[113] Ibid., 57.
[114] Ralph W. Steen, "CONVENTION OF 1832," *Handbook of Texas Online* (http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/mjc09), accessed March 13, 2015. Uploaded on June 12, 2010.
[115] Moore, Michael R. "Colonial Capital," *San Felipe de Austin*, 57.
[116] Eugene C. Barker and James W. Pohl, "TEXAS REVOLUTION," *Handbook of Texas Online* (http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qdt01), accessed March 13, 2015. Uploaded on August 7, 2010.
[117] Ibid.
[118] Wilfred H. Callcott, "SANTA ANNA, ANTONIO LOPEZ DE," *Handbook of Texas Online* (http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fsa29), accessed March 13, 2015. Uploaded on June 15, 2010.
[119] Eugene C. Barker and James W. Pohl, "TEXAS REVOLUTION," *Handbook of Texas Online.*
[120] Arnoldo De León, "MEXICAN TEXAS," *Handbook of Texas Online.*
[121] Eugene C. Barker and James W. Pohl, "TEXAS REVOLUTION," *Handbook of Texas Online.*
[122] Paul D. Lack, "CONSULTATION," *Handbook of Texas Online* (http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/mjc08), accessed March 13, 2015. Uploaded on June 12, 2010.
[123] Texas Historical Commission, "We, the People of Texas," San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site website (http://www.visitsanfelipedeaustin.com/index.aspx?page=768), accessed March 13, 2015.

The War for Texan independence was by this time fully underway. The Texians were outnumbered and overwhelmed at the Alamo and fell to Santa Anna's troops. On his way to overtake the town of Goliad, Mexican general José de Urrea captured Commander James W. Fannin and his troops at Coleto Creek and executed them in Goliad. The Mexican army also moved toward Gonzales. Sam Houston, major general of the Texas army, withdrew his troops to avoid being overtaken. On his way out of Gonzales, he burnt the town to keep it out of the hands of the Mexican Army. Citizens also fled, and as they traveled northward and eastward from San Patricio, Refugio, and points in between they were joined by others. This mass retreat became known as the Runaway Scrape.[124] General Houston's army retreated through San Felipe, and on the eve of March 29, 1836, the garrison at San Felipe evacuated the town and burned it to the ground.[125]

The Town Site in Later Years

After the burning of San Felipe, the government of the new Republic of Texas was forced to meet in Columbia, one of the few towns that had escaped destruction.[126] Many of San Felipe's former residents also chose to relocate to Columbia, and there were few attempts to rebuild the former colonial capital. In January of 1837 Stephen F. Austin's brother-in-law visited San Felipe and reported one small cabin and a ferry; in March 1837 William Fairfax Gray wrote that San Felipe contained "three or four miserable houses" as well as one nice home belonging to merchant William P. Huff.[127] Noah Smithwick saw San Felipe during the summer of 1837 and "contemplated the heaps of ashes that marked the historic spot; a few isolated cabins."[128] By September 1839, a traveler described the town as "an indifferent collection of a dozen or so mean wooden houses."[129]

San Felipe briefly served as the seat of Austin County. In 1837 the new county court met in the town, and in 1844 San Felipe was officially named the county seat. By 1848, however, the county's shape had changed and its population centers had shifted, and the seat was moved to the more centrally located town of Bellville.[130] In 1846, a traveler reported that San Felipe contained "five to six miserable, dilapidated log and frame buildings […] no activities or signs of life visible," but a resident recalled, "Our little town began growing some."[131] By 1850 San Felipe had a school and two stores, one of which was a general store run by John Crutcher.[132] The Crutcher Store was preserved and now serves as the visitor's center for the San Felipe State Historic Site. Although some sources say it was built circa 1847, deed records indicate that it may have been built in 1849 or 1850.[133]
San Felipe ultimately did not recover from its 1836 destruction. It continued to serve as a crossroads for some time due to the existing road network, postal routes, ferry landing, and steamboat stop at its location. Ultimately, however, much of the traffic and mail was routed through the new county seat, and river traffic grew less common due to the difficult conditions of the middle Brazos.[134] Between 1842 and 1859, the Corporation of San Felipe had only five recorded property sales, and there are no records of Town Council meetings prior to 1859.[135] In the late 1870s the town sought to establish a Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe rail line and depot, but failed, and a depot was ultimately built four miles out of town.[136] In 1881, however, San Felipe successfully attracted the Texas Western Rail Road Company with the assurance

[124] Eugene C. Barker and James W. Pohl, "TEXAS REVOLUTION," *Handbook of Texas Online.*
[125] Charles Christopher Jackson, "SAN FELIPE DE AUSTIN, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online*.
[126] Moore, Michael R. "Rebuilding and Relocation," *San Felipe de Austin*, 1.
[127] Ibid., 2.
[128] Ibid.
[129] Ibid., 3.
[130] Ibid., 6-7.
[131] Ibid., 8-9.
[132] Ibid., 9.
[133] Ibid., 9-10.
[134] Ibid., 11-12.
[135] Ibid., 12.
[136] Ibid., 16.

that 50 acres would be donated for a depot site as well as an additional 2,000 acres from the southeast side of town.[137] Negotiations for a suitable placement for the depot and rail line took place during numerous Town Council meetings between 1882 and mid-1884.[138] The final agreement stipulated that the town would donate 100 acres of land for the depot tract located south and southeast of the original town grid. This agreement also specified that any land not directly needed by the railroad would be sold and the proceeds share equally between the town and the railroad. The "New Town" addition to San Felipe was platted, and the blocks around the future depot site were envisioned as the new center of town. The lots were sold in 1885 and 1886, and businesses and residents migrated out of the original town site, now known as "Old Town," to the new San Felipe. The Crutcher Store building, now serving as J. J. Josey's General Store, was physically moved to New Town. The original town site, already struggling to regrow, was left largely vacant. Ultimately the Texas Western closed in 1896 and the entire town of San Felipe was bypassed by the new Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway. By 1910 the town had a population of only 206.[139]

Commemorating San Felipe de Austin and Stephen F. Austin

The approaching fiftieth anniversary of the Texas Revolution in 1886 inspired private citizens and lawmakers to begin efforts to protect and purchase sites relating to the Texas Revolution. In the early 1880s, the state purchased the long-neglected Alamo church in downtown San Antonio from the Roman Catholic Diocese and a ten-acre cemetery at San Jacinto where Sam Houston defeated Mexican General Santa Anna's army and won Texas' independence. In addition to purchasing these two historic sites, the state also erected official historical monuments to people of events of the Republic of Texas era at La Grange and on the Capitol grounds in Austin. State-sponsored efforts were limited in the nineteenth century, however, and so private groups such as the Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT) and the Texas Veterans Administration organized their local chapters and engaged on a statewide level to support the anniversary.[140]

The next phase of active commemoration began in earnest around 1910. During a very brief time, and under the direction of Governor Oscar B. Colquitt, the State of Texas took on an active role in the public commemoration of Texas history, specifically the events and individuals associated with Texas Revolution and the Republic of Texas era. State funds were allocated for the construction of new monuments, improvements at (the few) existing state-owned historic sites, and the acquisition of new properties of historical interest. By 1920, the state had made additional purchases or improvements at the Alamo and San Jacinto and also owned and maintained four additional state parks at Fannin, Refugio, Gonzales, and Washington-on-the-Brazos. All of these sites had an association with the Texas Revolution and/or the Republic of Texas.[141]

This upsurgence of interest in the period of Anglo American colonization of Texas was a Progressive-era movement in which Texans shaped the state's collective memory and constructed a historical narrative that "emphasized Texas as both a western and quintessentially American state whose identity sprang from the hardy pioneers who tamed the wilderness and defeated the Mexicans in the Texas Revolution."[142] This narrative portrayed the Texas Revolution and its participants as "harbingers of progress" and served Texans' desire to distance themselves from the Civil War. This effort to remake Texas' popular image and shape its citizens' collective memory relied on placing the story of the Texas Revolution not in the context of Southern expansionism, but rather in the context of Western movement—a context which emphasized

[137] Ibid.
[138] Ibid.
[139] Ibid., 19.
[140] Steely, James Wright. *Parks for Texas: Enduring Landscapes of the New Deal*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1999.
[141] Ibid.; also see Gregg Cantrell, "The Bones of Stephen F. Austin: History and Memory in Progressive-Era Texas," in *Lone Star Pasts: Memory and History in Texas*, ed. Gregg Cantrell and Elizabeth Hays Turner (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2007).
[142] Cantrell, 41. Note also that this activity took place during the Mexican Revolution, a time period in which a flood of Mexican refugees were pouring into Texas.

Americanism and patriotism.[143] Like other efforts to construct collective memory, Progressive-era Texans carried this out "through such activities as the writing and teaching of history, the celebration of holidays, the creation of art, the building of monuments and museums, and the preservation of historical sites," thus shaping a new identity and defining society's values.[144]

It is within this context that the very first efforts to publically commemorate the memory of Stephen F. Austin took place. In 1910, his remains were exhumed from the family plot in Brazoria County (during a very public ceremony) and reinterred in the State Cemetery in Austin. The three days between exhumation and reinternment were filled with public ceremonies in several communities between Brazoria County and Austin, as well as a lavish memorial service in the Senate chambers and a grandiose funeral procession to the State Cemetery, where Austin was buried on the "Hill of Heroes," the highest point on the grounds. Notably, children played central—almost ritualistic— roles in each of these ceremonies. Though it took nearly three additional years, the grave was finally marked by an elegant, nine foot bronze statue of Austin designed by renowned Italian-born sculptor Pompeo Coppini.[145]

The state continued to mark and commemorate the individuals and sites associated with this revolutionary- and republic-era period of history for almost another decade. By 1920, though, the focus began to shift from marking historic sites to ensuring Texas' citizens had access to public lands for recreation. National trends in recreation and park development, coupled with good-roads promotion efforts, led to the establishment of almost two dozen state parks in the 1920s, all designed with the purpose of providing Texans, particularly urban Texans, with the facilities to enjoy outdoor recreational opportunities.[146]

Locally, however, the San Felipe Town Council began discussing ways to preserve and commemorate the historic town site.[147] School superintendent W.S. Smith is credited for suggesting that the area around San Felipe's Commerce Square should be designated a memorial park.[148] In September 1927, the Board of Aldermen approved the establishment of a park in a 6-acre area around the "old Public Well," (ID6) the only remaining tangible evidence of the original colonial-era town.[149] After almost a year of negotiations, the San Felipe Memorial Park was established on August 22, 1928, to commemorate "the historic events associated with the said colony and […] patriotic services to Texas of Stephen F. Austin, as pioneer, patriot and statesman."[150] The San Felipe Park Association was formed to help with the development and ongoing support of the park.

Superintendent Smith and the county's school children raised funds for a monument, and it was dedicated along with the park on November 25, 1928.[151] The 1928 monument is a pink granite obelisk (ID1) commemorating Stephen F. Austin (Figure 1: 1928 photo of obelisk). Also installed on that day were a pink granite marker that dedicates the park in memory of Stephen F. Austin (ID2), and a granite marker noting that the historic well (ID6) was restored by the Chamber of Commerce.[152] From the very beginning, the Town Council offered to donate the park to State of Texas, but because the

[143] Cantrell, "The Bones of Stephen F. Austin;" also see Light T. Cummins, "History, Memory and Rebranding Texas as Western for the 1936 Centennial," in *This Corner of Canaan: Essays on Texas in Honor of Randolph B. Campbell*, ed. Richard B. McCaslin, Donald E. Chipman, and Andrew J. Torget (Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2013).
[144] Cantrell, 41.
[145] Cantrell, "The Bones of Stephen F. Austin."
[146] Steely, Parks for Texas.
[147] Moore, Michael R. "Rebuilding and Relocation," *San Felipe de Austin*, 20.
[148] Ibid.
[149] Moore, Michael R. "Developing the Historic Site, 1928-2008," *San Felipe de Austin*, 1.
[150] Moore, Michael R. "Rebuilding and Relocation," 20.
[151] Ibid.
[152] Moore, Michael R. "Developing the Historic Site, 1928-2008," 4-8.

newly-established State Parks Board was focused on developing recreational parks at the time and not “small parks of historical value,” the offer was repeatedly refused and the park remained a municipal property until 1940.

In the early 1930s, Texas began preparing for the Texas Centennial. Local and statewide efforts to preserve and protect historic sites related to the founding of Texas and its independence from Mexico were renewed with zeal. With a combination of state and federal funding, the Texas Centennial Commission placed more than 1,100 markers and monuments around the state to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Texas Revolution and the establishment of the Republic of Texas.

Additional improvements were made at San Felipe Memorial Park as part of this Centennial activity. Erected by his descendants in 1935 was a monument to John Bricker, the only Texian to die in the 1836 skirmish as San Felipe. A granite centennial marker was installed in the park to commemorate the 1832 and 1833 conventions, the Consultation of 1835, and the provisional government. In 1938, a bronze statue of Stephen F. Austin was unveiled at the park (ID4). The statue, designed by sculptor John Angel, shows Austin seated and gazing out across the landscape. It is one of only 20 statues commissioned as part of the Centennial celebrations. The first replica of Stephen F. Austin’s log cabin was also constructed during this period. The April 26, 1936, day-long Centennial celebration at the San Felipe Memorial Park attracted more than 10,000 visitors.[153]

After years of lobbying and negotiations, the State of Texas finally accepted the donation of the 14-acre San Felipe Memorial Park, as well as a parcel of about 650 nearby acres to be developed as Stephen F. Austin State Park, in 1939 (the deal became official in 1940). The legislative resolution focused exclusively on the "policy of the State of Texas to acquire title to beautify and preserve certain historical spots in the State of Texas where the most memorable events occurred." In December 1939, at the request of the State Parks Board, Regional Historian for the National Park Service Aubrey Neasham visited the site a reportedly stated that Texas “"really had something in San Felipe, that it was the starting point of the Republic of Texas and one of the key locations to be preserved." Neasham also praised the fact that the site was virtually untouched and stressed the potential for future archeological investigations. He recommended that the park continue to pursue efforts of additional land acquisition as a way to protect as much of the old townsite as possible.[154] Development in the 1940s of a picnic area included construction of an access road, picnic tables, fire places and a footbridge on the lower terrace near the river.[155] In 1951, a new replica log cabin was constructed to replace the deteriorated one built for the Centennial.[156]

The volunteer Park Association, founded in 1928, continued to host a variety of annual events in the historic park, as well as regular heritage education programs for local school groups. The State Parks Board, however, increasingly focused its attention and resources to the recreational unit of Stephen F. Austin State Park. In 1965, the Park Association acquired the historic Josey Store building, restored it, and negotiated an agreement with the State to locate it in the historic park and operate it as a museum.[157]

Four acres of land next to the San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site were ceded to the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation in 1970 for the construction of Farm-to-Market Road 1458 and in 1972, the FM 1458 road and bridge were constructed over the old ferry location.[158] Prior to this construction, it was determined that the J.J. Josey Store would need to be relocated. Parks and Wildlife archaeologists inspected the relocation site and noticed that the 1951

[153] Ibid.
[154] Ibid., 12-13.
[155] Howard et all. 1999, 10.
[156] Moore, Michael R. “Developing the Historic Site, 1928-2008,” 15.
[157] Ibid., 15-18.
[158] Howard, 10.

replica cabin already at the site, was in desperate need of repair.[159] The J.J. Josey Store (ID7) was moved back onto the property in 1970, to Lot 13 of the original townsite. This is close to its original location, which is believed to be on Lots 15, 52, 53, or 54.[160]

There have been a succession of replicas of Stephen F. Austin's cabins in the park: 1934, 1952, and 1976. The current replica, located on what would have been the street between Lots 12 and 13, was built in 1976 by Texas Parks and Wildlife after the J.J. Josey Store relocation. The previous replica cabin, built in 1951, was deteriorating and needed to be repaired or replaced; however, a Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD) staff archaeologist thought the funds would be better spent on building a more authentic replica cabin or relocating an original cabin from elsewhere.[161] There was much debate between the Park Association and TPWD regarding whether the new replica should be a round log cabin or a hewn cabin.[162] Ultimately, the Park Association won despite TPWD's objections to the inauthenticity of a round-log cabin.

By 1995, the picnic area had been razed and the remnants disposed of in the nearby woods.[163] The San Felipe de Austin park was managed by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department as a noncontiguous part of Stephen F. Austin State Park until the property was transferred to the Texas Historical Commission in 2008. The site is currently under the management of the Texas Historical Commission and was enlarged in 2011 with the purchase of about 80 additional acres of the historic townsite of San Felipe. Archeological investigations are ongoing, as are efforts to develop more comprehensive interpretive programming.

Summary of Significance

The large numbers of Colonial era artifacts found during previous archeological investigations (outlined in Section 7) solidify the argument for the district's significance under Criterion D. Future archaeological investigations have the potential to uncover detailed evidence of the streets, blocks and lots in the original townsite. Artifacts would likely relate to foundation footings, scatters, and ceramics that will expand the understanding of the domestic and commercial layout of the town and the types and locations of buildings and businesses present in San Felipe during the period of significance. Typically, written documentation focuses on the important events and minimizes daily activities and workers and laborers who are typically poorly documented in historic documents. Ongoing archeological investigations would enhance the understanding of groups not adequately represented in the historic record. This can further inform the understanding of the town's layout as per different immigrant groups, socio-economic factors, and whether commercial uses were grouped or scattered throughout the townsite.

The artifacts present at the site can also help interpret the lives of Stephen F. Austin and other important early Texans who lived and worked in the town. The fact that San Felipe was suddenly burned and deserted in 1836 further increases the site's potential, since the archaeological record that remains is essentially a snapshot in time—one that dates to the important period of Texas' creation. The past investigations at the site, while valuable, only represent a portion of the land area present within the district, and thus the San Felipe de Austin Archaeological District has a high potential to yield valuable information. The district derives additional significance under Criterion A in the area of conservation, as an early and important example of early 20th century efforts to preserve and commemorate the people and places integral to the Republic of Texas era. Because the commemorative function of this park is over fifty years old and possesses significance based on its own values, it successfully meets Criterion Consideration F.

[159] Moore, Michael R. "Developing the Historic Site, 1928-2008," 22
[160] Howard et al. 1999,40.
[161] Moore, Michael R. "Historic Site," *San Felipe de Austin*, 22.
[162] Moore, Michael R. "Historic Site," *San Felipe de Austin*, 23-24.
[163] Ibid.

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2015b "We, the People of Texas," San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site website (http://www.visitsanfelipedeaustin.com/index.aspx?page=768), accessed March 13, 2015.

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2015 "Did You Know?" San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site website.

Verbal Boundary Description

The San Felipe de Austin Historic and Archaeological District is located on the west bank of the Brazos River just north of the modern town of San Felipe in Austin County, Texas (MAP 1).[164] The district footprint is a seven-sided polygon with a large rectangular shaped portion (approximately 91 acres) on the east side of FM 1458 and a six acre backwards L-shaped on the west side of FM 1458 (MAP 2). The boundary of the western commemorative portion of the district includes the southern boundary of Lots 13-15 on the south, FM 1458 (formerly Nicholas Bravo St.) on the east, and the center of Guadalupe Victoria St. on the west. From there it doglegs and follows the northern boundary of Lots 566 and 565 and turns northward toward the river along the eastern edges of Lots 580 and 581 (MAP 3A). The rectangular-shaped eastern portion is approximately 91 acres and bounded by the river to the north and the eastern edges of Lots 550-551, 33-24 and the center of Lots 99 and 100 on the east. Park Road 38, formerly Second Street, is the southern boundary. The western edges of Lots 51, 82, 117 and FM 1458 form the western boundary on this side (MAP 3B). Approximately 51 acres of the original town site are located outside the district boundaries on private property (MAP 4). A survey from 1971 clarifies the western boundary lines (MAP 5).

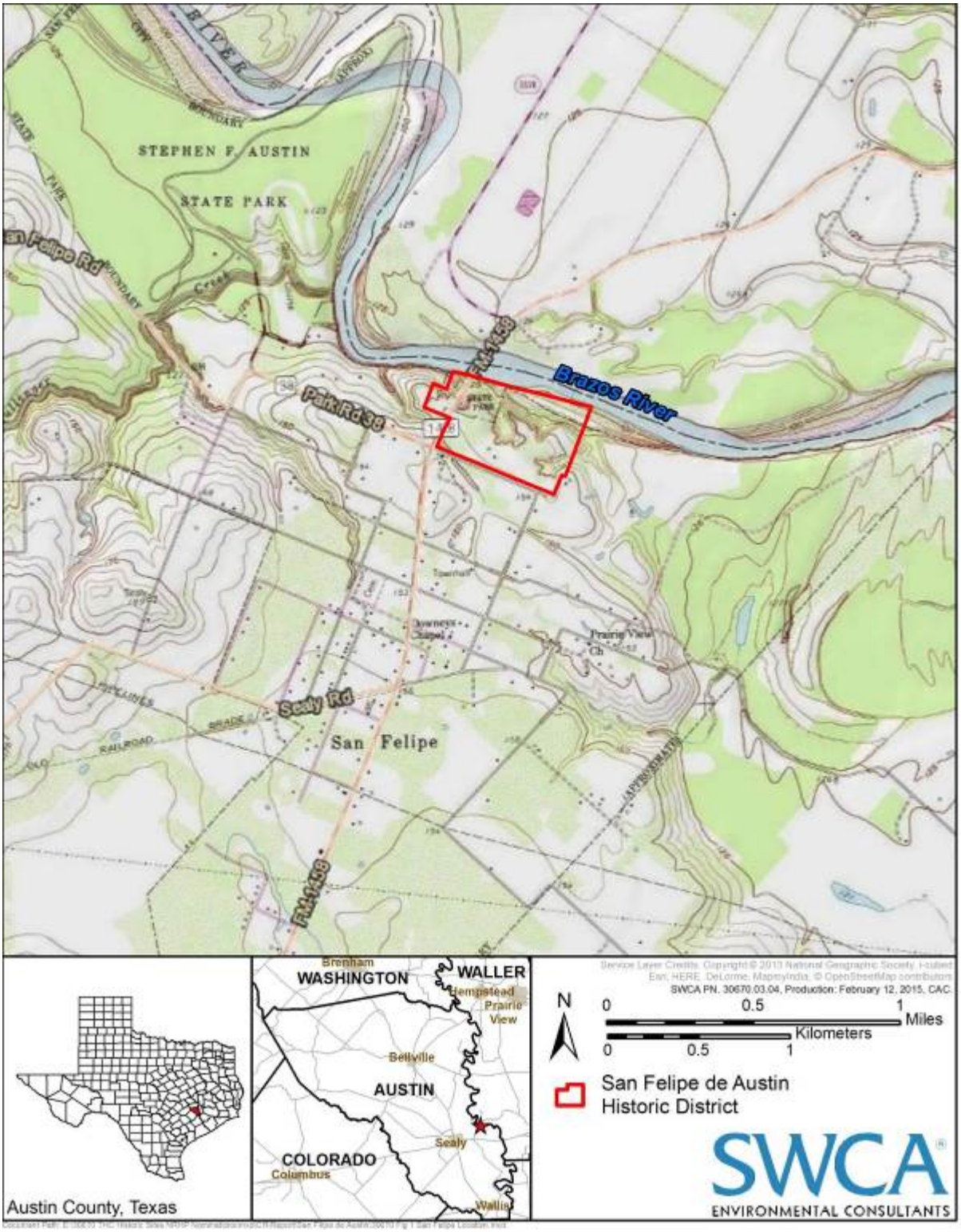
The western portion of the district includes Lots 13, 14, 15, 535, 536, 565, and 566 and half of Guadalupe Victoria Street of the old townsite plat. The remaining eastern portion of the district, east of FM 1458, includes the area between Commerce and River Streets, to the south and north respectively, and Nicholas Bravo (now FM 1458) and Manuel Mier y Teran Streets to the west and east of the original San Felipe town plan.[165] The entire district is located atop original town lots of San Felipe.

Boundary Justification

The San Felipe de Austin Historic and Archeological District includes all land currently owned by the State of Texas and included in the State Historic Site boundaries.

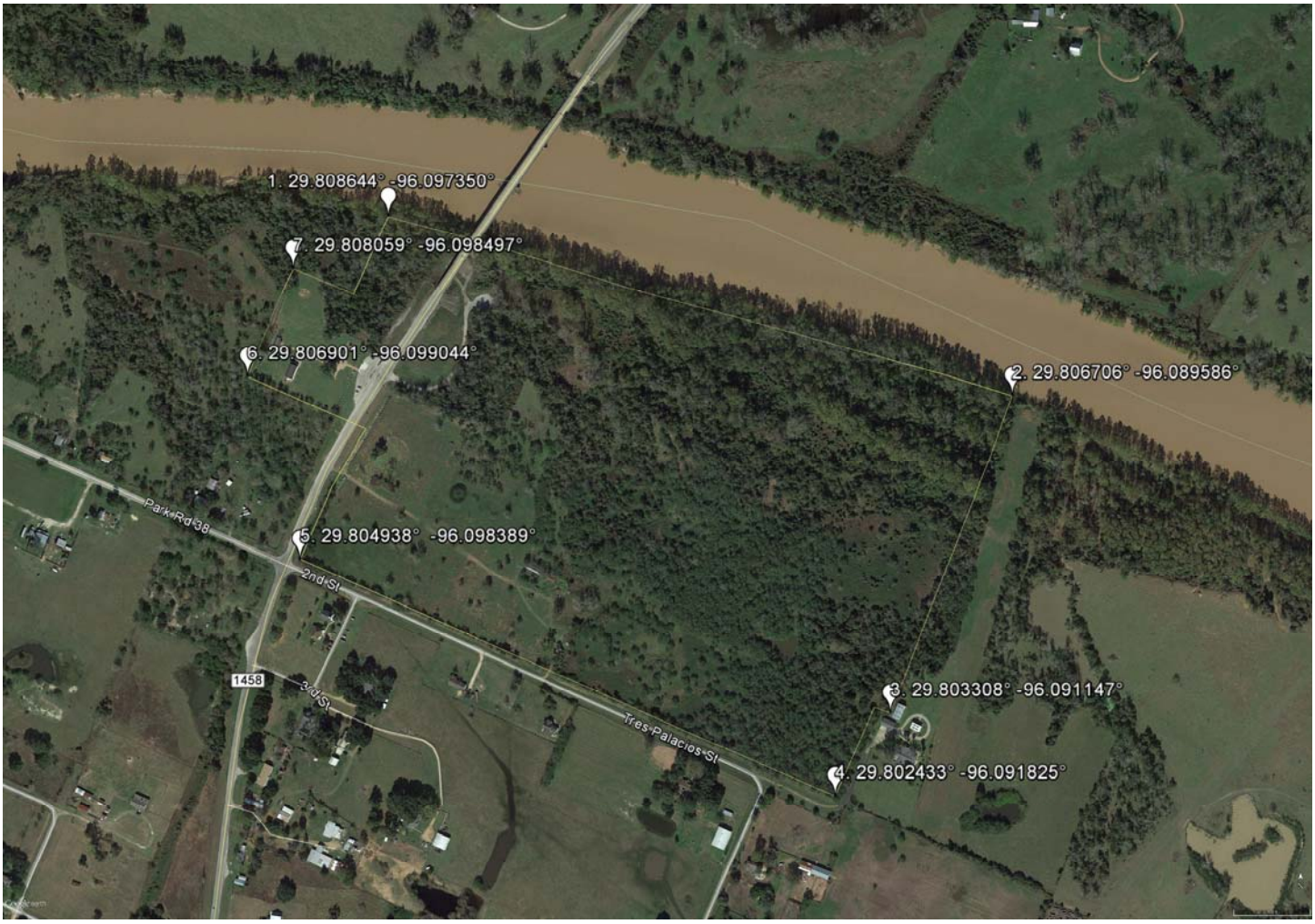
[164] The Brazos is a notoriously winding river that empties into the Gulf of Mexico in Brazoria County. In this location, it runs east-to-west and the historic town site is to the south of the river.

[165] The original streets of San Felipe are no longer extant or visible in this area. The streets do appear on interpretive panels throughout the park.

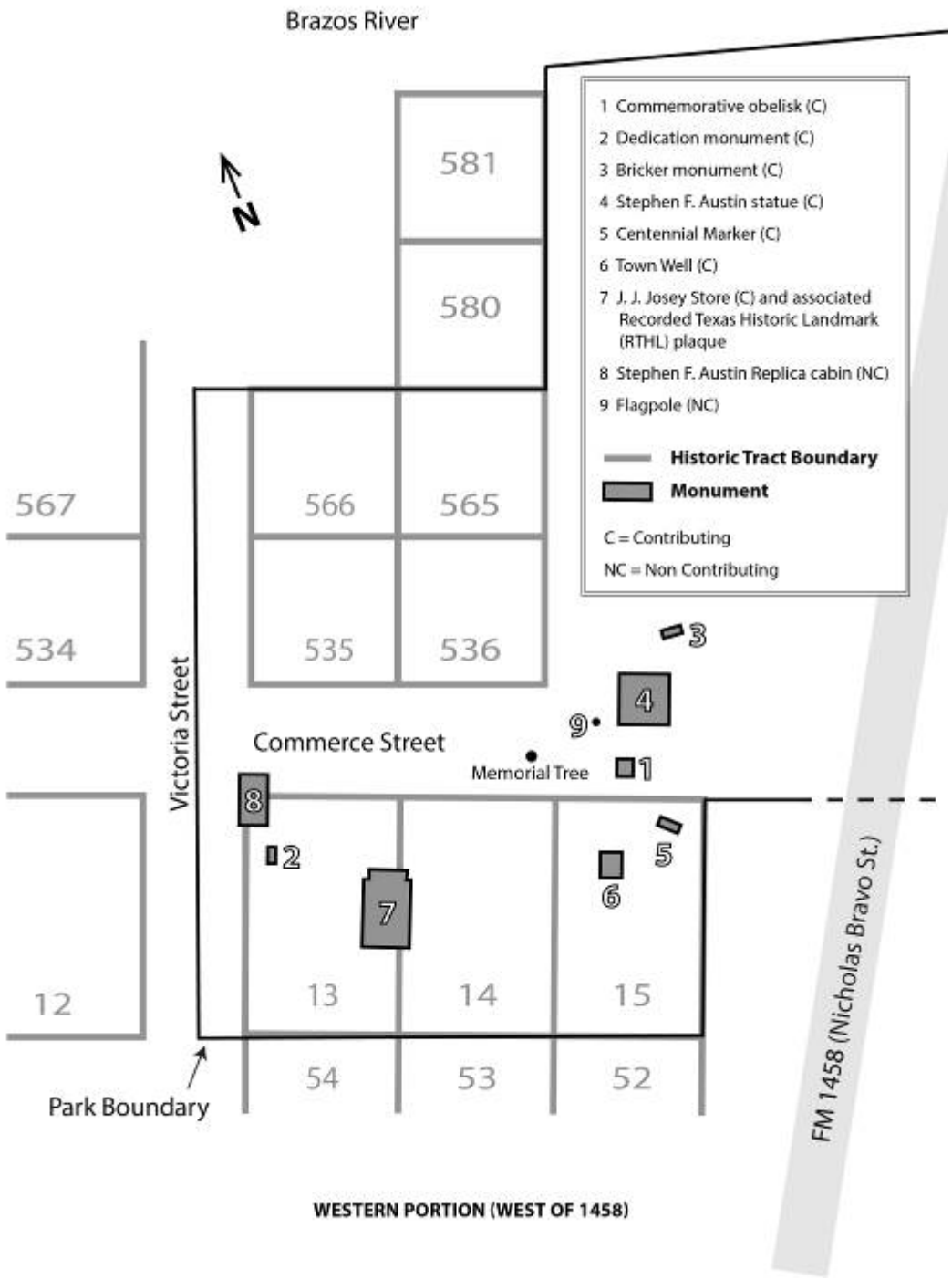


MAP 1 – San Felipe de Austin Historic and Archeological District, Location

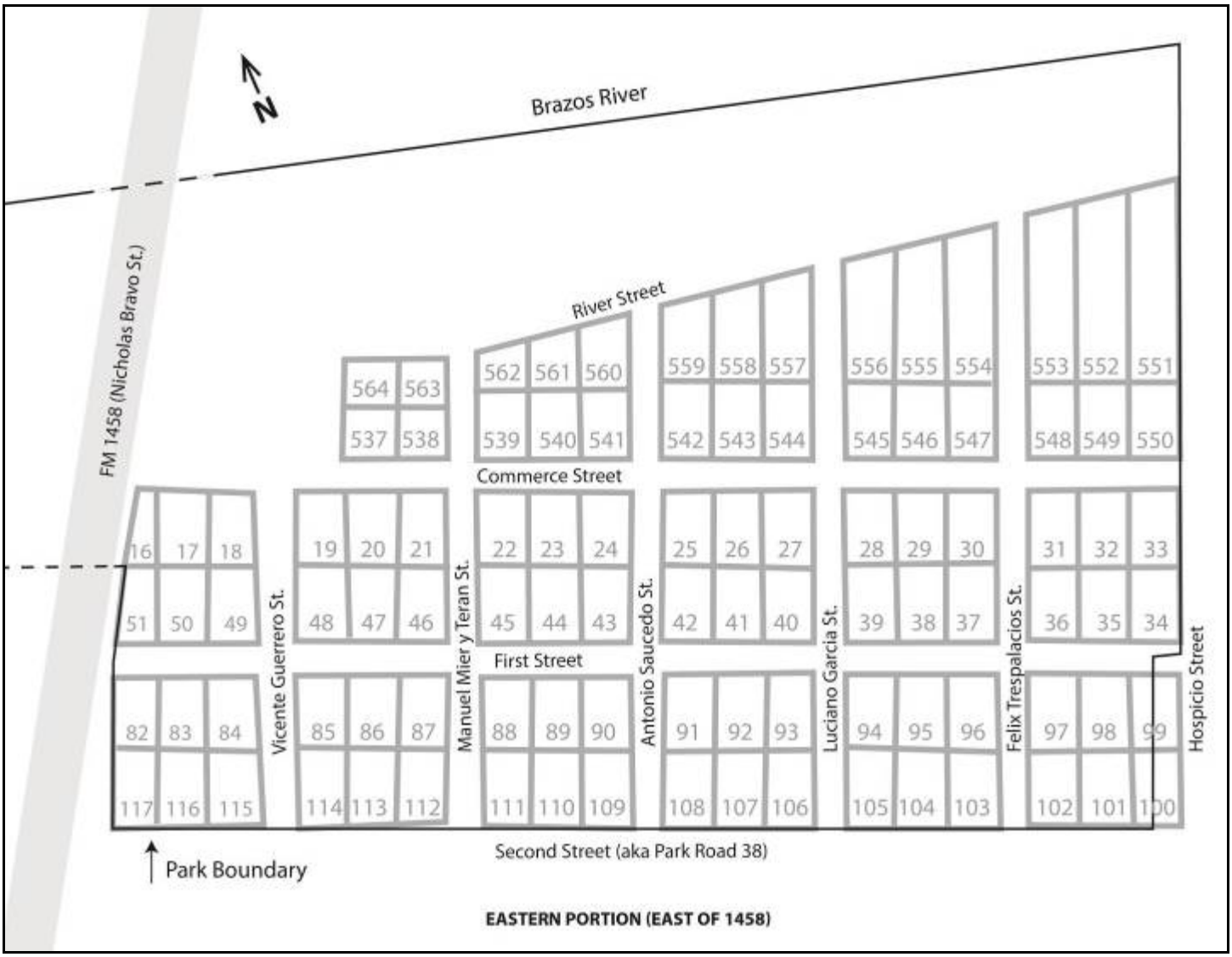
Source: Google Earth, accessed August 18, 2016



1. 29.808644° -96.097350°
2. 29.806706° -96.089586°
3. 29.803308° -96.091147°
4. 29.802433° -96.091825°
5. 29.804938° -96.098389°
6. 29.806901° -96.099044°
7. 29.808059° -96.098497°

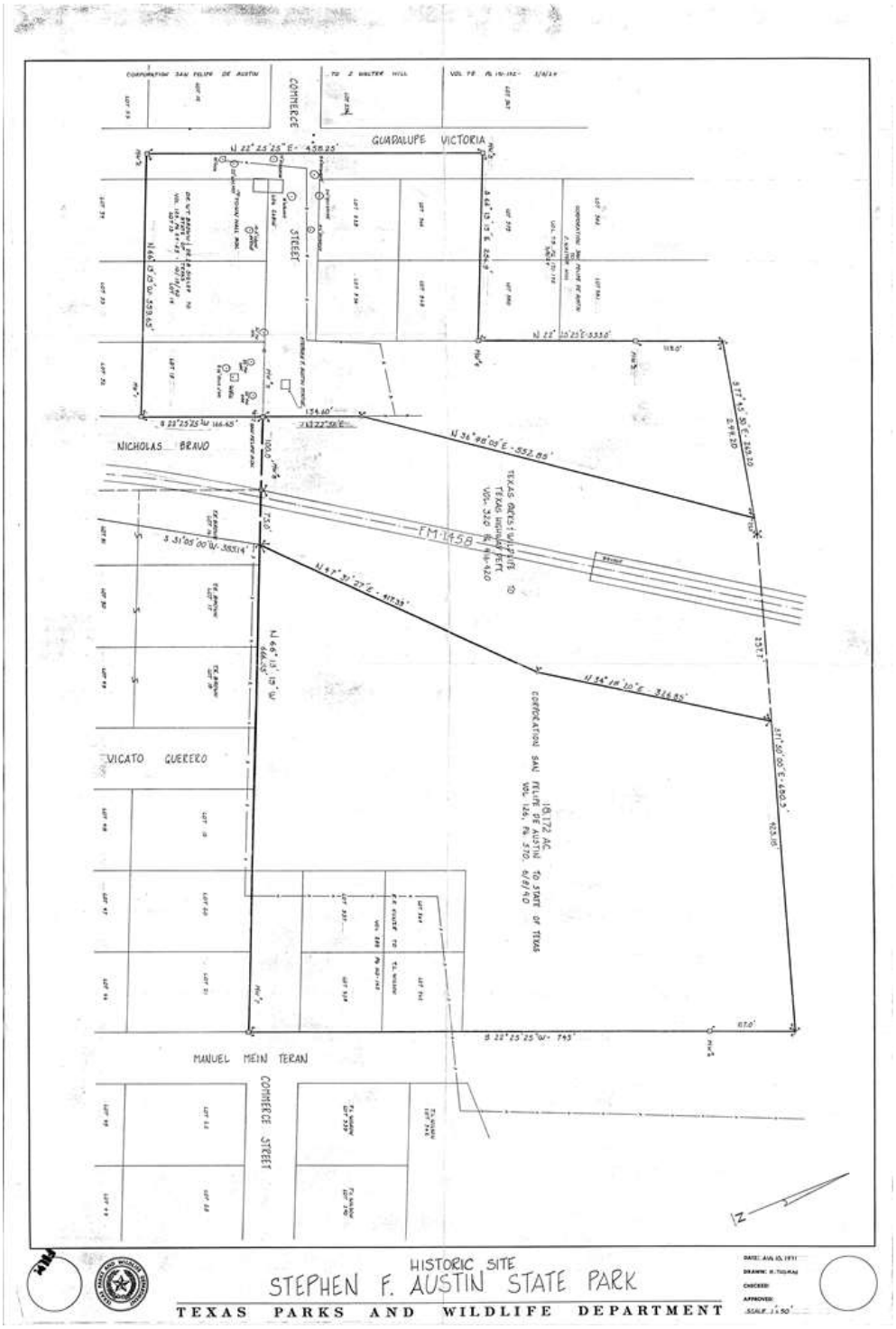


MAP 3A – San Felipe de Austin Historic and Archeological District, Site Plan for Western Commemorative Portion. The dashed line across FM 1458 indicates an easement for the roadway.

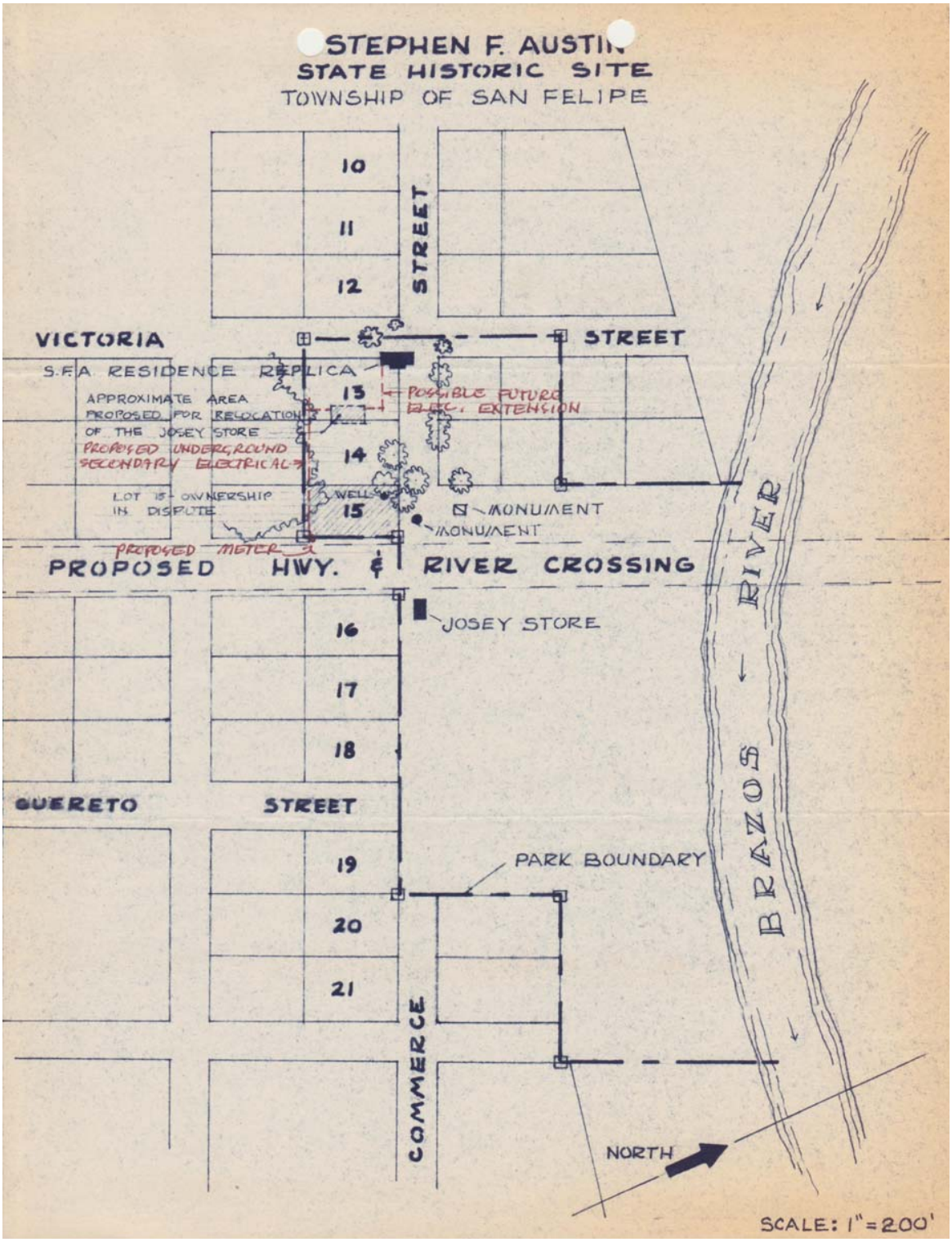


Map 3B - San Felipe de Austin Historic and Archeological District, Site Plan for Eastern Portion. The dashed lines across FM 1458 indicate an easement for the roadway.

MAP 4 – San Felipe de Austin Historic and Archeological District, Boundary with underlay original townsite lots.



MAP 5 – 1971 Survey of land owned by the state. Subsequent purchases have expanded the boundary to the east (see MAPS 3A and 3B).



Map 6. Map of San Felipe SHS ca. 1970 showing existing and proposed locations of the Josey Store Museum and proposed bridge location. Austin County files, State Archeologist Office, Texas Historical Commission.

Figure 1. 1928 photo of obelisk (ID1)

Figure 2. Image of coin bit found during archeological investigations on the site. NTS.

Figure 3. San Felipe well, 1904, Josey Museum Collection. Reprinted from Michael R. Moore, "Developing the Historic Site, 1928-2008."

Figure 4. Historic well in 1929 soon after being restored by Sealy Chamber of Commerce in 1928. Reprinted from Michael R. Moore, "Developing the Historic Site, 1928-2008."

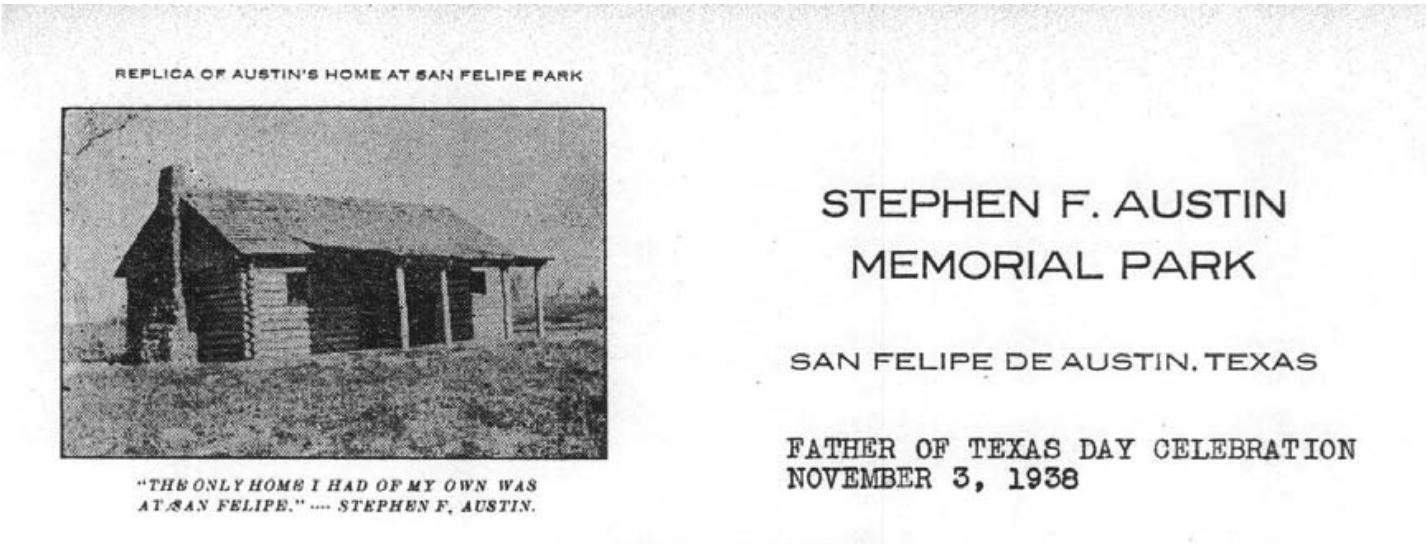


Figure 5. Letterhead of Stephen F. Austin Memorial Park from ca. 1935-1938 that George W. Hill cited as a deciding factor in the location of the 1938 Austin statue at San Felipe. Photograph from Stephen F. Austin Park Association file. Reprinted from Michael R. Moore, "Developing the Historic Site, 1928-2008."

Photographs
All photos share the following information.

Name of Property: San Felipe de Austin
City or Vicinity: San Felipe
County, State: Austin County, Texas
Photographer: Kristen Brown for SWCA Environmental Consultants
Date Photographed: October 2014

TX_Austin County_San Felipe de Austin_0001
Stephen F. Austin Statue, south and east elevations, view north

TX_Austin County_San Felipe de Austin_0002
Bricker Monument, southwest face, view northeast

TX_Austin County_San Felipe de Austin_0003
Centennial Marker, southeast face, view west

TX_Austin County_San Felipe de Austin_0004
Eastern portion of district (east of FM 1458), view northwest from near southeastern corner of district

TX_Austin County_San Felipe de Austin_0005
J.J. Josey Store, east and north elevations, view southwest

TX_Austin County_San Felipe de Austin_0006
Town site, view north/northeast from north of J.J. Josey Store

TX_Austin County_San Felipe de Austin_0007
Commemorative Obelisk, southeast elevation, view northeast

TX_Austin County_San Felipe de Austin_0008
Stephen F. Austin Replica Cabin, southeast elevation, view southwest

TX_Austin County_San Felipe de Austin_0009
Town Well, view south/southwest