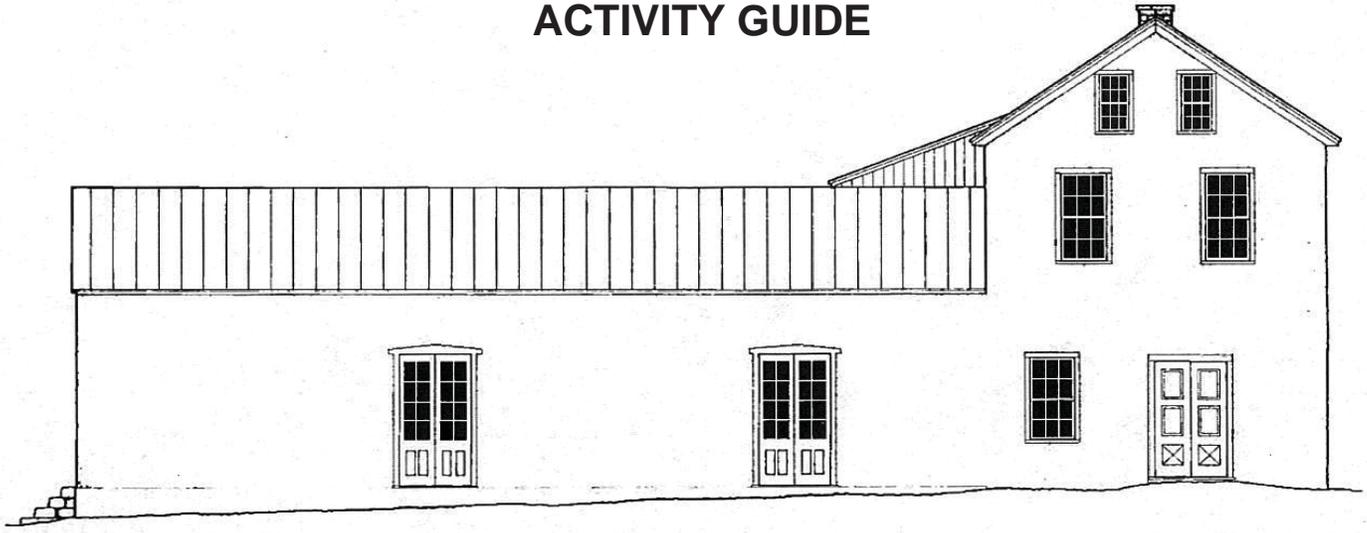


# LANDMARK INN

*state historic site*

## ACTIVITY GUIDE



### INTRODUCTION

Henri Castro was a successful Texas land **empresario**. He founded the Alsatian colony of Castroville in 1846. The town was located near the crossing of the Medina River and the road connecting San Antonio and El Paso. Many people passed through Castroville while traveling along this road. Cesar Monod was a Castroville **colonist**. He bought property just south of the river crossing around 1849. He built a one-story building that was both his home and a store. His store sold goods to local farmers and travelers along the San Antonio-El Paso Road. In 1853, John and Rowena Vance moved to Castroville from San Antonio and purchased the general store. Mr. Vance also operated a post office out of the store. The Vances added a second floor to the main building and began renting the new rooms to travelers. The building was renamed the Vance Hotel. In 1861, they also built a new family home on the site.

In 1854 George Louis Haass and Laurent Quintle built a **grist mill** by the river. They bought the land for the mill from the Vance family. Water from the Medina River powered the mill, which could also be powered by a **steam engine**. The mill ground the corn and other grain from local farmers into cornmeal and flour. Joseph Courand bought the mill, the store and the Vance Hotel by 1899. He added a steam-powered **cotton gin** near the mill. This allowed Mr. Courand to **process** the three main local crops: corn, wheat, and cotton.

Jordan T. Lawler bought the property from Mr. Courand in 1925. He adapted the mill to generate **electricity** around 1927. This brought the first electric lights to Castroville. He sold the **power plant** to the San Antonio Public Services Company in 1935. Mr. Lawler and his sister, Ruth, restored the main building in the 1940s. They renamed it the Landmark Inn. During World War II, they rented rooms to military families. Ms. Lawler gave the property to the state of Texas in 1974, but lived in the Vance family house until her death in 1990.

## VOCABULARY WORDS

Look at the words and their definitions below. They are also written in bold letters in the Introduction.

**Alsatian**— a person from the Alsace, a region in France that shares a border (and similar customs) with Germany.

**colonist** – a person who settles as part of a group in a country far away and keeps many customs of their homeland.

**cotton gin** – a machine for separating the fibers of cotton from the seeds.

**electricity** – electric current used as a source of power for modern machines or appliances.

**empresario** – (Spanish for “entrepreneur”) a person who was granted the right to settle in Mexican and Republic-era Texas in exchange for recruiting and taking responsibility of new colonists.

**grist mill** – a machine that grinds wheat, corn, and other grains into flour

**power plant** – the machinery for supplying power and the structure that houses it

**process** – to change raw materials into a form that can be easily used or consumed

**steam engine** – an engine that changes the energy of hot steam into mechanical power that can run machinery

## DOUBLE PUZZLE

Unscramble each of the vocabulary words below. Take the letters that appear in each box and unscramble them to uncover the final message.

TESAM NIENEG

\_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_     \_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_

TIRSG LILM

\_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_    \_\_\_\_ \_  \_\_\_\_ \_

OCTNOT ING

\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_  \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_

WOPER PTLAN

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SCPESRO

\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_   \_\_\_\_ \_

CCEITETLYIR

\_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_  \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_  \_\_\_\_ \_

### Final Message:

The main building at the Landmark Inn was first used as a \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_ \_\_\_\_ \_ .

**IN YOUR OWN WORDS**

The Alsatian colonists who founded Castroville brought many traditions with them from their home country. Fill in the blanks below with your thoughts and feelings about your family's traditions and celebrations.

My favorite holiday or family celebration is: \_\_\_\_\_

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I like this day best because: \_\_\_\_\_

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My family celebrates by doing these special things: \_\_\_\_\_

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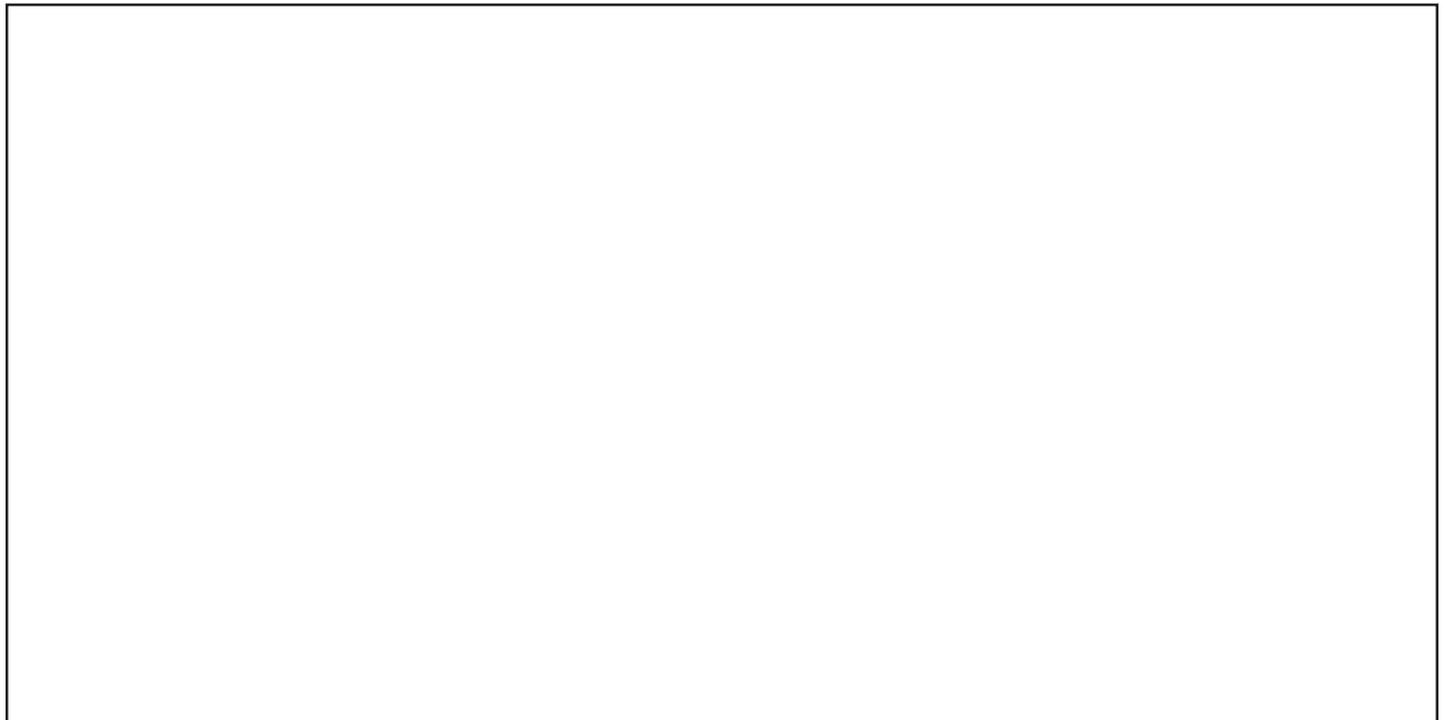
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We eat these special foods during a holiday or other celebration: \_\_\_\_\_

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Draw a picture of a family celebration at your home in the space below.



# TEXAS TRAVELS

The San Antonio-El Paso Road stretched for 650 miles and could take months to travel by stagecoach or wagon. What are some useful things that you think stagecoach travelers would have brought with them? Make a list of these items in the space below. Now, make a list of things you like to take on a long trip. Are any of these items the same? Use the items from your lists (and any others you think of) to fill in the diagram at the bottom of the page.

| Stagecoach Traveler | You |
|---------------------|-----|
|                     |     |
|                     |     |
|                     |     |
|                     |     |
|                     |     |

