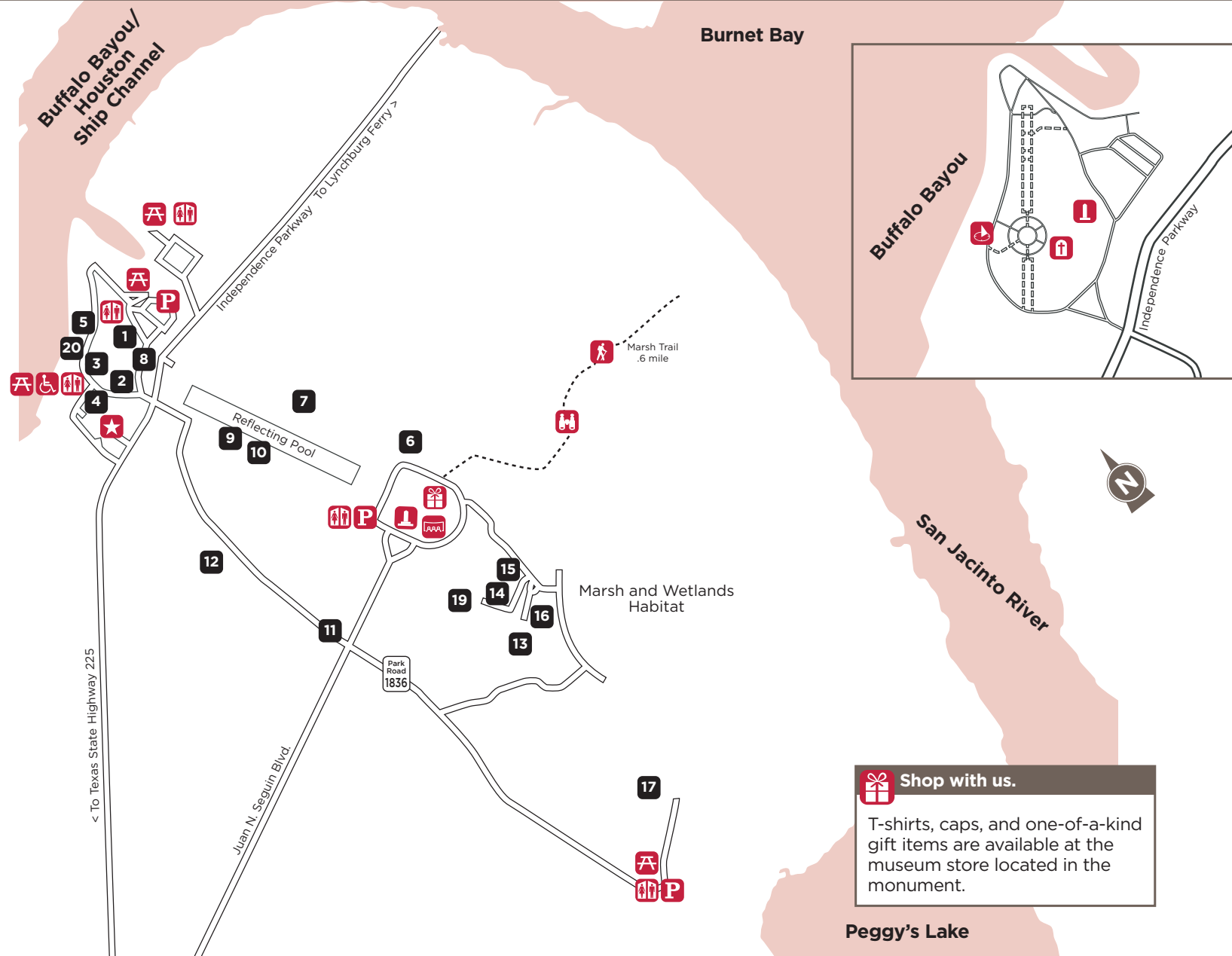


# SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND

## STATE HISTORIC SITE

**You can help us protect your historic site while having a safe and fun visit at the same time.**

- **Stay on the trails:** By doing so you not only protect yourself, but you also reduce impacts on wildlife, vegetation, and soil compaction.
- **Leave it where it lies:** Removal of artifacts, relics, and wildlife is prohibited. By leaving it in place, we ensure that the legacy of those who lived here before us remains unaltered for future generations.
- **Let everyone enjoy the wildflowers:** Picking flowers and other vegetation is prohibited. Every flower picked means fewer flowers the following year.
- **Stay hydrated:** Plan ahead and carry water with you. A water fountain is available at the monument.
- **Pet etiquette:** Please keep your pets on a leash and clean up after them.
- **Real Places Telling Real Stories:** Take advantage of the opportunities to explore Texas history at San Felipe de Austin, Fanthorp Inn, Acton, French Legation, Washington-on-the-Brazos, the Star of the Republic Museum, and Fannin Battleground state historic sites.
- **Take home something special:** Shop our museum store located in the monument for t-shirts, caps, books, and one-of-a-kind gift items.
- **Join us:** Become a volunteer at one of our state historic sites and help preserve Texas history for future generations.



### LEGEND

- Headquarters
- San Jacinto Monument
- Amphitheater
- Museum Store
- Restrooms
- Wheelchair Accessible
- Picnic Area
- Nature Trail
- Hiking Trail
- Parking
- Brigham Monument
- De Zavala Cemetery
- Sundial Plaza

**Shop with us.**  
T-shirts, caps, and one-of-a-kind gift items are available at the museum store located in the monument.

**San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site**  
3523 Independence Parkway S.  
La Porte, TX 77571  
281-479-2431

**San Jacinto Museum of History**  
1 Monument Circle  
La Porte, TX 77571  
281-479-2421

Discover the history of revolution and independence at

## THE STORIED SITES OF TEXAS



Visit any of our state historic sites

TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION  
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

storiedsites.com

### Main points of visitor interest

In March 1836, 19-year-old James Washington Winters joined General Houston's forces near the San Bernard River. He fought at the Battle of San Jacinto the following month. In 1901, 65 years later, Winters, accompanied by members of the San Jacinto Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, returned to the battlefield to identify key locations from that decisive battle. The spots were marked, first with temporary iron crosses, then in 1912 with large granite markers.

Today, these markers are a window into the past, a testimony to what Houston's soldiers thought about the battle.

They are not a perfect account. If they are a window, the glass is wavy and warped. Modern archeology disagrees with the precise location of several of the events, most notably the site of Mexican Colonel Juan Almonte's surrender (marker 17). Others were moved during the construction of the San Jacinto Memorial Monument (markers 6 and 10) and as the landscape changed (marker 20). They represent the memory and experience of the battle, but only of one man on one side.

Despite these limitations, however, the markers are a unique first-hand account of the Battle of San Jacinto. Follow them across the battlefield and see the battle through the eyes of the Texians who fought here.

**1. Site Twin Sisters April 20, 1836. Cannon Presented by Citizens of Cincinnati to Republic of Texas.** These two cannons, which fired six-pound cannonballs, were the only Texian artillery at the Battle of San Jacinto. They were named in honor of the twin daughters of Dr. Charles Rice, a passenger on the ship that brought the cannons to Texas.

**2. Burleson's Camp.** The bulk of Houston's fighting force was two regiments of volunteer soldiers, many of whom were recent arrivals from the United States. The First Regiment Texas Volunteers, eight companies under the command of Colonel Edward Burleson, formed the core of the infantry on April 21.

**3. Millard's Camp.** In addition to the volunteer regiments, the Texian army also had two companies of regulars under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Henry Millard.

**4. Lamar's Camp.** Colonel Mirabeau Lamar joined the army as a private in mid-April but was promoted to colonel and given command of the cavalry on the morning of April 21.

**5. Sherman's Camp.** Colonel Sidney Sherman commanded the Second Regiment Texian Volunteers, including James Washington Winters. Winters remembered Houston telling his camp he would "lead you into the fight, and if you whip them every one of you shall be a captain."

**6. Sherman's Advance: Left Wing of Infantry, April 21, 1836.** The Second Regiment fired the first shots on the 21st. Sherman and his men encountered Mexican troops near the marsh as they approached the Mexican camp and opened fire. Many of Sherman's soldiers only had time to fire once before they reached the Mexican camp.



Mexican Colonel Juan Almonte

**7. Burleson's Advance, Infantry, April 21, 1836.** Sherman's troops attacked before the First Regiment was in position, leaving them exposed to Mexican troops who now realized they were under attack. Burleson's men began taking fire as they crossed the small ridge separating the two camps.

**8. Advance under General Rusk, April 21, 1836.** Thomas Rusk, the Secretary of War, marched out with Sherman's troops, but doubled back to give Houston a status report once the battle began.

**9. Millard's Advance; Infantry, April 21, 1836.** The army's six-piece band marched with the regulars. Once the infantry was under attack, they began playing "Will You Come to the Bower?," a popular tune, but an unusual choice for a marching song. It was likely chosen because it was the only song all the musicians knew.

**10. Hockley's Advance; Artillery, April 21, 1836.** Following behind the infantry, the cannon crew started firing when they were approximately 200 yards from the Mexican camp and continued until the Texian infantry reached the breastworks, the chest-high barrier in front of the Mexican camp.

**11. Mexican Position, April 20, 1836.** Both armies reached San Jacinto on the morning of April 20. Winters recalled, "We no sooner got settled in our positions than the Mexicans opened fire on us with their artillery. There was more or less skirmishing all day." The Mexican troops withdrew by midafternoon with neither side having done much damage.

**12. Calvary Skirmish with Mexican Forces, April 20, 1836.** Under Sherman's command, the two sides clashed for a second time late in the afternoon. Sherman called for volunteers to capture the Mexican artillery. The attempt was not successful. Facing the superior Mexican cavalry, Sherman's men only barely made it back to camp.

**13. Mexican Breastworks; Cavalry Engagement Under Lamar, April 21, 1836.** Lamar's cavalry rode in advance of the army, approaching the Mexican camp from the right to draw their attention away from the exposed infantry.

**14. Mexican Cannon.** The Mexican camp was defended by a single nine- or twelve-pound cannon called El Volcán. During the battle, Mexican cannoners only managed to fire three times before a shot from one of the Twin Sisters destroyed the water bucket and the crew fled. El Volcán is commonly referred to as the Golden Standard in modern accounts of the battle.

**15. Mexican Breastworks.** The night before the battle, General Santa Anna ordered his men to build a breastwork to protect their camp. Winters described it as "composed of baggage, saddle bags and brush, in all about four or five feet high." The breastwork provided cover for the Mexican riflemen, but was useless once Texian soldiers reached the camp.

**16. Santa Anna's Camp.** On the evening of April 20, the Mexican army made their camp with the marsh and Peggy's Lake to their back and open prairie in front of them. Several of Santa Anna's officers questioned the wisdom of this location, concerns that proved well founded when panicked Mexican soldiers accidentally fled into the marsh and became trapped during their retreat.

**17. Almonte Captured and Greatest Carnage of Battle Occurred.** Once the Mexican camp was overrun, enraged Texians continued to hunt down and kill the fleeing Mexican soldiers. Winters remembered, "The Mexican infantry near the lake would jump in...but the minute they would raise their heads they were picked off by our men." Colonel Juan Almonte realized the only hope for survival was to surrender as a group, and so gathered a group of 200 men near Peggy's Lake and ordered them to surrender to a small Texian scouting party. Archeologists have located the actual site of Almonte's surrender roughly a mile south of here.

**18. Site of Vince's Bridge.** Nearby Pasadena. (Not on battleground.) Before the battle, Houston sent a group of scouts led by Deaf Smith to destroy Vince's Bridge, eight miles west of the battleground on the only direct wagon road to Harrisburg, preventing any escape. This is the only one of the markers not located on the battleground.

**19. Houston Wounded and Horse Killed Under Him in Battle.** Riding before his troops, James Winters recalled, "Houston had two horses killed from under him, and was on his third one before he passed the Mexican's [breast]works." The shot that killed his second horse also struck Houston, shattering his left ankle.

**20. Surrender Tree.** General Santa Anna escaped the battle, but was captured the next day and brought before an injured General Houston, who was resting under a live oak tree. In exchange for his life, Santa Anna ordered the remainder of his army to leave Texas, effectively ending the Texas Revolution. The Surrender Tree was washed into the Ship Channel in 1924 and the original marker was later replaced.