

GONZALES TO SAN JACINTO

A TRAIL GUIDE TO THE SAM HOUSTON HISTORIC TRAIL



SAM HOUSTON AREA COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

**GONZALES
TO
SAN JACINTO**

**A Trail Guide
To The
Sam Houston Historic Trail**

Each year, hundreds of Boy Scouts and their Leaders take part in a unique experience. . . the retracing of the actual route followed by General Sam Houston during the Texas Revolution in 1836. It is our sincere hope that this trail guide will be helpful in providing not only trail information, but also historical data that will enable participants to more fully enjoy their experience. Even more, we hope that more Scouts and Leaders will be inspired to follow in Sam Houston's footsteps on the Sam Houston Trail.

THE SAM HOUSTON TRAIL

The Sam Houston Trail had its beginning in 1966, based on an idea conceived by Festus R. Carroll of Weimar, an avid historian and member of the District Committee of the Brahman District of the Sam Houston Area Council. Mr. Carroll's dream was a Boy Scout hiking the trail tracing the route of Sam Houston and the Texas Army during their retreat from Gonzales after the fall of the Alamo which culminated in the victory at San Jacinto on April 21, 1836.

Jack Montgomery, postmaster at Weimar, was asked to help survey the route and study the feasibility of this undertaking. As a member of the Texas State Historical Survey Commission and descendent of original settlers in Colorado County, Mr. Montgomery was uniquely qualified for this task. He had already done a great deal of research on the route and locations mentioned in various accounts of the Texas Revolution. With the assistance of J. S. Carson of Oakland, another descendant of Texas pioneers and owner of the land where Houston's forces once camped, he set out in early 1967 to map the route and obtain hiking and camping permission from various landowners along the proposed trail.

In the Spring of 1967, Mr. Carroll and Chuck Schwartzkopf, Brahman District Publicity Chairman and Manager of Radio Station KULP in El Campo, presented the trail idea to the Brahman District Committee, where it received an enthusiastic response. As a result, several Boy Scout Troops from Wharton, Colorado, and Lavaca counties hiked sections of the proposed trail, and added their endorsement of this opportunity to relive Texas history.

After the success of these initial efforts, the Sam Houston Trail was adopted as an official part of the program of the Sam Houston Area Council, and Virgil Smith was appointed Chairman of the Trail Committee, with August J. Hebert as the Professional Staff Advisor. During March and April of 1968, the Sam Houston Trail was operated for the first time. Trail sections ranged from 10 to 32 miles in length, and participating Scouts and Leaders were a part of the San Jacinto Day Celebration on board the Battleship Texas at the San Jacinto Battleground State Park. A total of nine (9) campsites were available for use by participating Troops.

1969 saw the Sam Houston Trail refined to basically the present format. Additional campsites were made available, and trail sections were redefined to about 10 miles in length. A new ceremony to open the trail was added at Gonzales, and the first trail patch was offered.

The year 1970 marked the "Third Annual" Sam Houston Trail Hike, and a tradition had been established. A new "mid-point" ceremony was added at Columbus that year.

Since 1970, the Sam Houston Trail has seen many improvements, but the basic trail format has remained the same. Now composed of a total of seventeen (17) sections, each approximately 10 miles in length, the trail stretches from Gonzales to New Kentucky, near Tomball. In addition to the traditional opening, mid-point, and closing ceremonies at Gonzales, Columbus, and San Jacinto, the trail also features ceremonies in Burnham's Ferry, near Weimar, Stephen F. Austin State Park at San Felipe, and Groce's Plantation on the Brazos, north of Burleigh. Awards, in the form of embroidered patches, are available for first through fifth year hikers, and a special "Founder's Award" is available for Troops. Detailed maps, with trail notes and historical information, make hiking the trail convenient for Scouts and Leaders. To lend historical accuracy, the trail operates progressively on the weekends between Texas Independence Day (March 2) and San Jacinto Day (April 21), starting in Gonzales on the first weekend in March and progressing eastward.

An awareness of our heritage is an important part of the Scouting program, and the Sam Houston Trail provides an opportunity to gain that awareness by literally walking in the footsteps of General Sam Houston and his men on their "retreat to victory" that forever changed the course of history on the North American continent.

THE SAM HOUSTON TRAIL

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Sam Houston Trail retraces the historic steps of General Sam Houston and his army as they retreated across Texas after the fall of the Alamo. Known at the time as the "Runaway Scrape", this strategic withdrawal gave Houston the time he needed to build his poorly trained and badly disorganized troops into an effective fighting force that was ultimately to win victory and independence for the Republic of Texas.

Our trail starts, as did Houston's, in the historic town of Gonzales, east of San Antonio. On March 2, 1836, the convention of representatives from all parts of Texas had declared its independence from Mexico, and, among its first actions, had appointed Sam Houston, former Governor of Tennessee, as Commander in Chief of the armed forces. In addition to 182 men under Colonel William B. Travis in the Alamo in San Antonio, these forces were made up of approximately 400 men at Goliad, commanded by Colonel James W. Fannin, and a group of about 375 recruits in Gonzales. The small force at the Alamo had been under siege by 5,000 soldiers of the Mexican army, under President Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, since February 23rd.

Houston arrived in Gonzales on March 11. Two days later three survivors of the Alamo massacre arrived, reporting that the Alamo had fallen on March 6, and the entire garrison was put to the sword, and that the Mexican army was, even then, marching toward Gonzales.

Houston, knowing that he could not face the disciplined and trained Mexican army with a handful of raw recruits, immediately ordered a retreat, and on the night of March 13, his entire force, accompanied by virtually all of the citizens of Gonzales, moved out, burning the town to deny its use to the Mexicans.

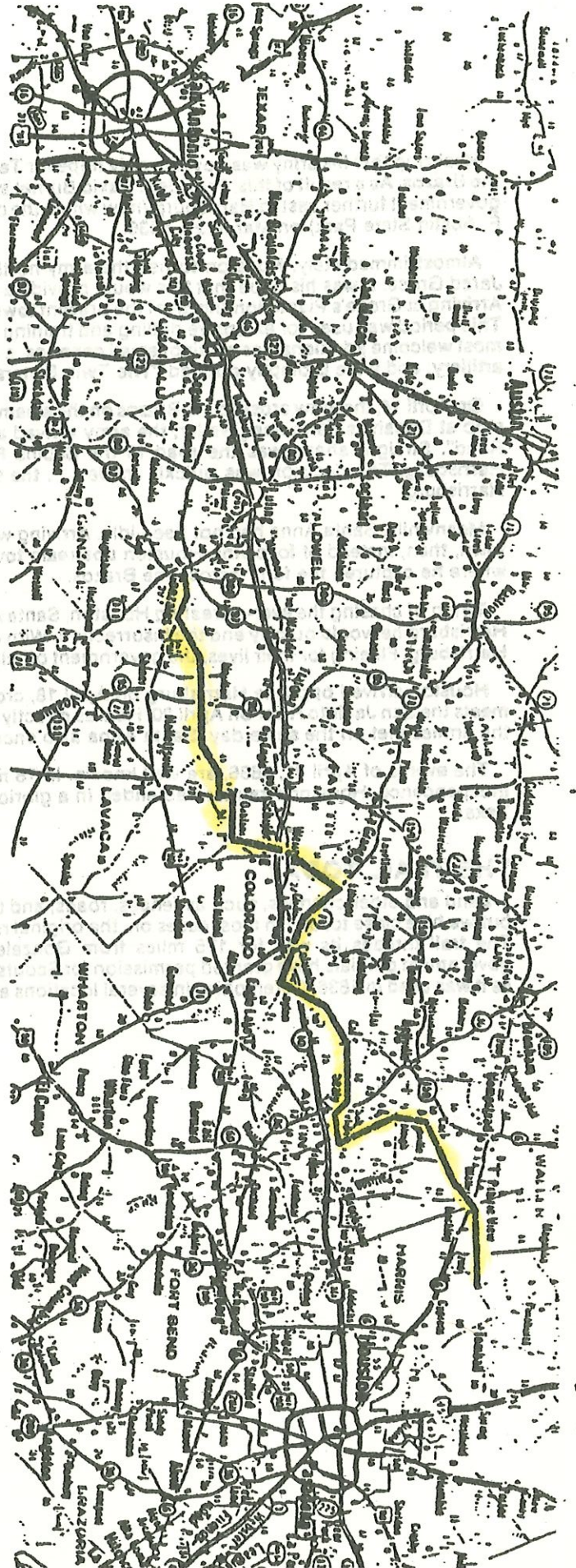
The first halt was called some 10 miles east of Gonzales, on the banks of Peach Creek, under a giant oak tree which still stands today, and is known as the "Sam Houston Oak".

Houston continued east, making brief stops at Daniels Farm on the Lavaca River (near the present town of Moulton) and at the Navidad River (near Oakland), before arriving at Jesse Burnham's Ferry on the Colorado (northeast of the present town of Weimar) on March 17, 1836.

Two days were spent in crossing the Colorado, using Burnham's Ferry. After everyone, soldiers and settlers, had crossed, Houston ordered the ferry burned, so that he would be cut off from the pursuing Mexican army. He then turned downstream, following the north bank of the Colorado to a spot known as Beason's Crossing (opposite the present town of Columbus), arriving on March 20. Two days later, the first elements of the Mexican army caught up.

On March 22, General Juan Sesma's strike force of about 700 soldiers arrived on the west bank of the Colorado, opposite Houston's army. Because the forces were about equal in size, many of Houston's officers wanted to recross the Colorado and attack. While considering this possibility, Houston received news that Fannin's Texas forces at Goliad had been annihilated by the Mexican army of General Jose Francisco Urrea, and that Santa Anna's main body of troops was enroute from San Antonio to the Colorado.

Continued on Back Page . . .



Realizing that his army was now the only hope for Texas, Houston ordered a further retreat toward San Felipe on the Brazos. As a result of this, President David Burnet and his cabinet left Washington on the Brazos and moved the government further east to Harrisburg (now within the city of Houston). Houston arrived at San Felipe (now Stephen F. Austin State Park) on March 28, 1836.

Almost immediately, Houston turned the army north and headed upstream for the plantation of his old friend Jared Groce. It was his hope that this would provide a sanctuary for his use in training and provisioning his army. Arriving at Groce's Plantation (north of the present town of Burleigh), Houston's army settled into camp for 2 weeks. This period was used for extensive drilling and training in battle tactics, as well as resupplying the army. One of the most welcome additions was a pair of small cannons, a gift of the people of Cincinnati. These were the Texans' only artillery, and were promptly dubbed "The Twin Sisters".

On April 14, the army crossed the Brazos on the steamboat "Yellowstone", and was again on the move. After a brief stop at Donaho's Farm near Waller, the army arrived at the place near New Kentucky known as "The Fork in the Road". Straight ahead was the road to the Sabine River, Louisiana, and safety. The "Fork" led southeast to Harrisburg. The decision was quickly made . . . the settlers headed for the border; the army turned south for Harrisburg.

Meanwhile, Santa Anna had not been idle. Arriving with his army at San Felipe on March 31, he had burned the town, then, instead of following Houston upstream toward Groce's, turned south to Fort Bend (now Richmond) where he captured the ferry across the Brazos.

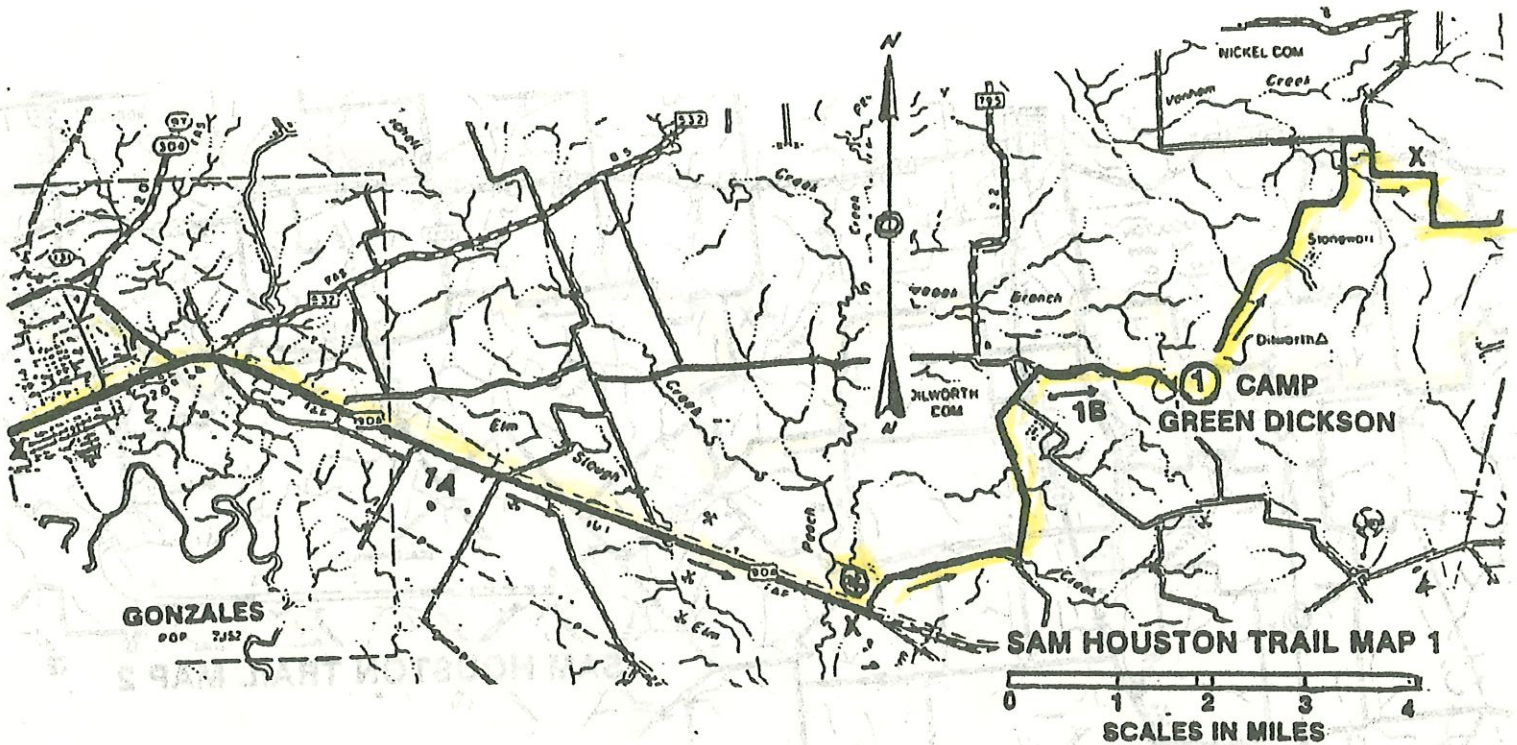
Tiring of chasing the ever-retreating Houston, Santa Anna determined that by capturing the real government at Harrisburg he would quickly end the insurrection. With a strike force of 800, he crossed the Brazos and advanced on Harrisburg. Fleeing for their lives, the government officials were barely able to escape by boat from Morgan's Point.

Houston arrived opposite Harrisburg on April 18, crossed Buffalo Bayou and went into camp where the Bayou meets the San Jacinto River on April 20. He was directly in the path of Santa Anna's return from Morgan's Point, and the armies met on the same day. Santa Anna also encamped for the night.

The events of April 21, 1836, are well known. In 18 minutes the Texans routed the Mexican army and secured independence. Houston's retreat had ended in a glorious victory and the birth of a new nation - the Republic of Texas.

THE TRAIL TODAY

Land and other changes, such as fences, roads, and towns, prevent an exact retracing of Sam Houston's march, but we hike close to, and in most cases on, the original route. Using gravel and paved roads, as well as hiking trails. The trail threads its way for 175 miles from Gonzales to New Kentucky Park. Private property owners and government officials have granted permission for Scouts to hike and camp along the trail at the same time of the year as it was used in 1836. Ceremonies in several locations along the route help to commemorate this historic occasion.



1A. GONZALES TO SAM HOUSTON OAK

The Sam Houston Trail begins at Texas Heroes Park, located at St. Joseph and St. Louis Streets, opposite the courthouse in Gonzales. It was from this area, having set the town on fire to prevent its use by the Mexican Army, that Sam Houston and the untrained Texas Army, accompanied by most of the Gonzales settlers, began their historic retreat on the night of March 13, 1836. Called by many the "Runaway Scrape", this withdrawal is now commemorated as the Sam Houston Trail.

Miles	Trail Directions
0.0	Texas Heroes Park, Gonzales go east on St. Louis Street.
2.0	US 90A. Bear right onto 90A.
7.0	"Maurin Quarry" Historical Marker on left.
9.0	Peach Creek Bridge cross third bridge to "Sam Houston Oak", historical marker on left.
9.4	Turn left onto dirt road between bridge and historical marker.
9.7	*Sam Houston Oak, located on the left in front of the old 2-story house. It was at this tree that Houston called the first rest stop on the morning of March 14.

Camp Green Dickson (1) is located 5.4 miles further along the trail, but the first trail section ends here.

1B. SAM HOUSTON OAK TO LA VIDA RANCH

Miles	Trail Directions
0.0	Sam Houston Oak. Continued north on dirt road.
1.5	T intersection. Turn left.
3.6	T intersection with white house on right. Turn right.
5.4	Camp Green Dickson, a camp of the Capitol Area Council, B.S.A., on your left at the northeast corner of the intersection. To continue trail, turn left and follow the road, passing the camp gate on your right.
7.7	La Vida Ranch main gate on left. Continue Straight.
9.0	Main road turns left. Go straight onto dirt road.
9.8	End of trail segment. Do not camp here, but return to Camp Green Dickson or another camping area open to you.

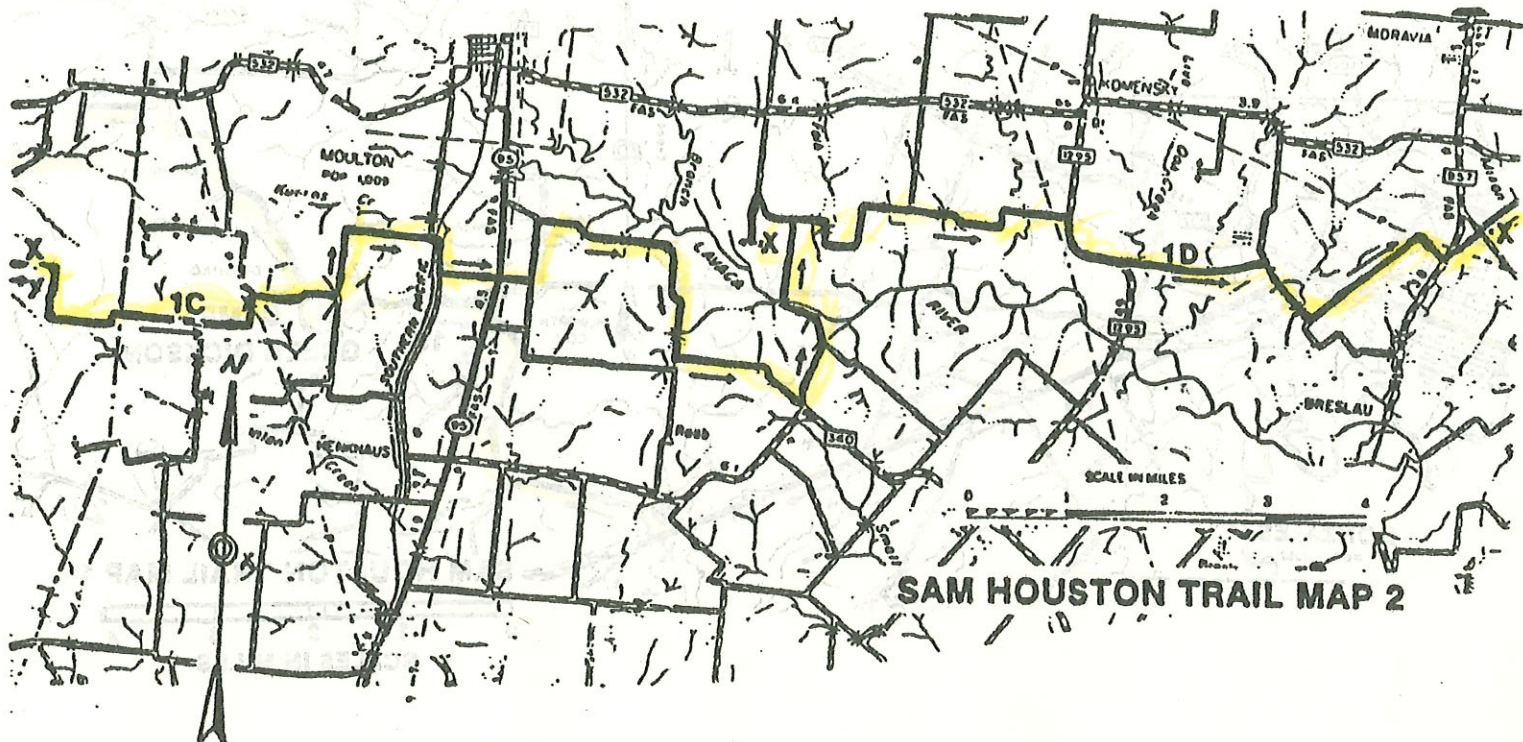
1 - CAMP GREEN DICKSON

This camp is the property of the Capitol Area Council, Boy Scouts of America, and is reached by following the trail route from Gonzales for 15.1 miles.

Drinking Water: Yes
 Firewood: Downwood Only
 Leave Campsite Clean

Important Note: On the first weekend in March, the Capitol Area Council allows Scout troops to camp at Green Dickson without a reservation. Any other time reservations are required and should be made by contacting:

Capitol Area Council
 7540 Ed Bluestein Blvd.
 Austin, Texas 78723-2399
 (512) 926-6363



1C. OMEGA RANCH TO LAVACA CROSSING

- 0.0 Omega Ranch on left.
- 2.1 Road on right. Go straight.
- 2.9 Road on left, in right curve, stay with main road.
- 3.9 T intersection with more-or-less paved road, turn left.
- 5.4 Paved road goes left, continue straight across railroad track. Road becomes dirt.
- 5.8 First road after RR tracks, turn left.
- 6.4 Cross Texas 85 with care. Continue past electric sub-station on right.
- 6.7 T intersection, turn left.
- 8.9 Yellow house on left at bend in road.

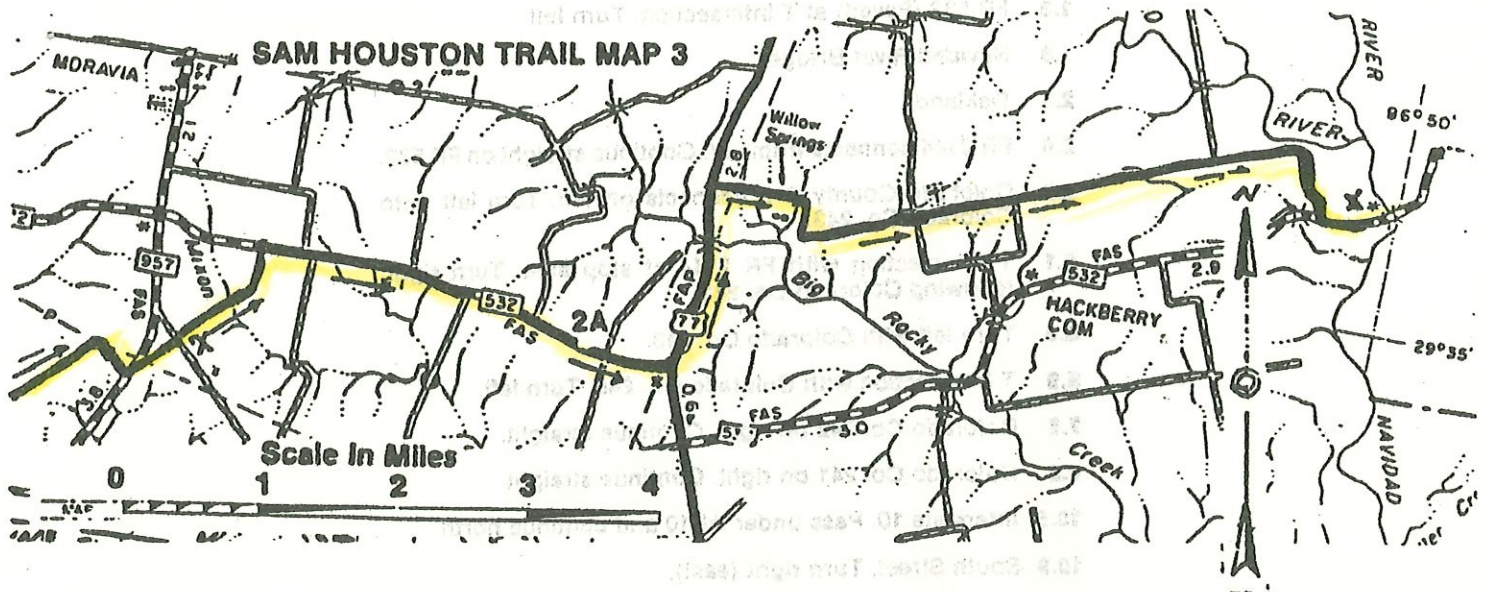
END OF THIS TRAIL SECTION. No Camping here. See Campsite page.

NOTE: The trail is not continuous at this point, due to the Lavaca River. To cross, continue south to the next road, then east, then north to connect with trail.

1D. LAVACA CROSSING TO OLD COTTON GIN SITE

- | Miles | Trail Directions |
|-------|---|
| 0.0 | Lavaca Crossing. Go north on dirt road. |
| 0.5 | Intersection with main road, turn right. |
| 1.4 | Bridge |
| 4.7 | T intersection with FR1295 at stop sign. Turn right. |
| 5.6 | First road on left, turn left. |
| 5.8 | Bridge out. Follow road around bridge to right. |
| 6.5 | Low Water crossing. |
| 7.0 | T intersection. Turn right. |
| 7.8 | First road on left. Turn left. |
| 9.5 | T intersection with FR957 at stop sign. Turn left then immediately right on to dirt road. |
| 9.7 | Old Cotton Gin site at concrete slab on right. |

END OF THIS TRAIL SECTION. NO CAMPING HERE.
See Campsite Page



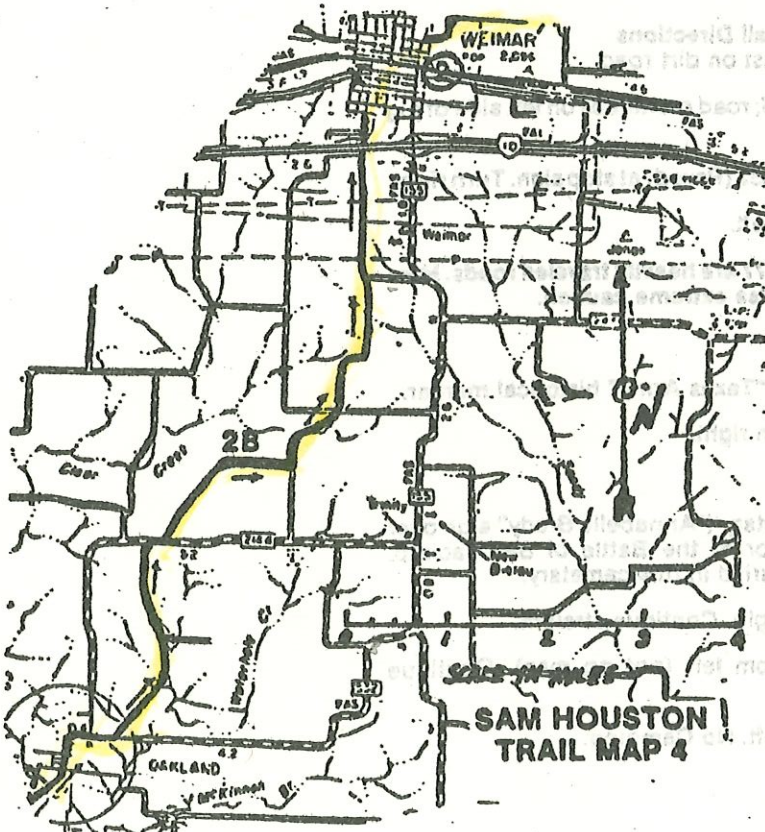
2A. OLD COTTON GIN SITE TO NAVIDAD RIVER

- | Miles | Trail Directions |
|---|---|
| 0.0 | Old Cotton Gin. Go east on dirt road. |
| 0.3 | Go straight across road; road continues on left side of pig farm on opposite side. |
| 1.3 | T intersection with FR 532 (Paved) at stop sign. Turn right. |
| 4.6 | US Highway 77. Turn left. |
| NOTE: Both FR 532 and US 77 are heavily traveled roads. Hike well off pavement and exercise extreme caution. | |
| 5.6 | Rocky Creek Bridge. |
| 5.7 | Rest area on left, with "Texas Army" historical marker. |
| 6.0 | Dirt road on right. Turn right. |
| 7.9 | Crossroad. |
| 8.0 | Andrews Chapel Cemetary ("Annabelle Brady" sign over gate.) The last survivor of the Battle of San Jacinto, Joseph Lawrence is buried in this cemetary. |
| 8.6 | Road connects from right. Continue straight. |
| 9.1 | Dirt road connects from left (not on map). Continue straight. |
| 10.2 | Road connects from left. No Camping. |

2B. NAVIDAD RIVER TO HILL MEMORIAL PARK

- | Miles | Trail Directions |
|-------|---|
| 0.0 | Navidad River. Go east on dirt road. |
| 1.3 | FR 532 (Paved) at T intersection. Turn left. |
| 1.8 | Navidad River Bridge. |
| 2.3 | Oakland |
| 2.8 | FR 2144 connects from left. Continue straight on FR 532. |
| 2.9 | Colorado County 243 connects on left. Turn left onto Colorado Co. 243. |
| 5.1 | T intersection with FR 2144 at stop sign. Turn right, following Colorado Co. 243. |
| 5.3 | Turn left with Colorado Co. 243. |
| 6.9 | T intersection with Colorado Co. 240. Turn left. |
| 7.8 | Colorado Co. 242 on right. Continue straight. |
| 9.2 | Colorado Co. 241 on right. Continue straight. |
| 10.5 | Interstate 10. Pass under IH-10 and continue north. |
| 10.9 | South Street. Turn right (east!). |
| 11.4 | Farm Road 155. Continue on South Street 1 block to |
| 11.5 | S. East Street. Turn left. |
| 11.9 | US Highway 90 (E. Main St.) in Weimar. |

To reach Hill Memorial Park (2), turn right and go east on US 90 for 0.3 mile to park entrance on left. Check in at park headquarters.



HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Navidad River Campsite is the exact spot of the "Camp on the Navidad" which was reached by the Texas Army on March 15. Artifacts of both Texas and Mexican armies have been found in this area. Directly across the road to the northwest is the site of the only direct encounter, other than San Jacinto, between Houston's army and Santa Anna's forces. This took place when the Texas Army encamped at Beason's Crossing on the Colorado. Advance Scouts of General Ramirez y Sesman's Mexican army, looking for Houston's forces, were ambushed by the Texas Army Scouts that Houston had set out to his rear to reconnoiter for the Mexicans. This minor engagement, probably involving no more than 10 on both sides, was a victory for the Texas Army.

Houston and his followers arrived at Burnham's Ferry on the Colorado on March 17. Two days were spent in getting everyone - soldiers and settlers - across the river, using the ferry boat operated by Jesse Burnham, who also had a trading post nearby. After crossing the river, Houston had the ferry burned to deny its use to the pursuing Mexican Army.

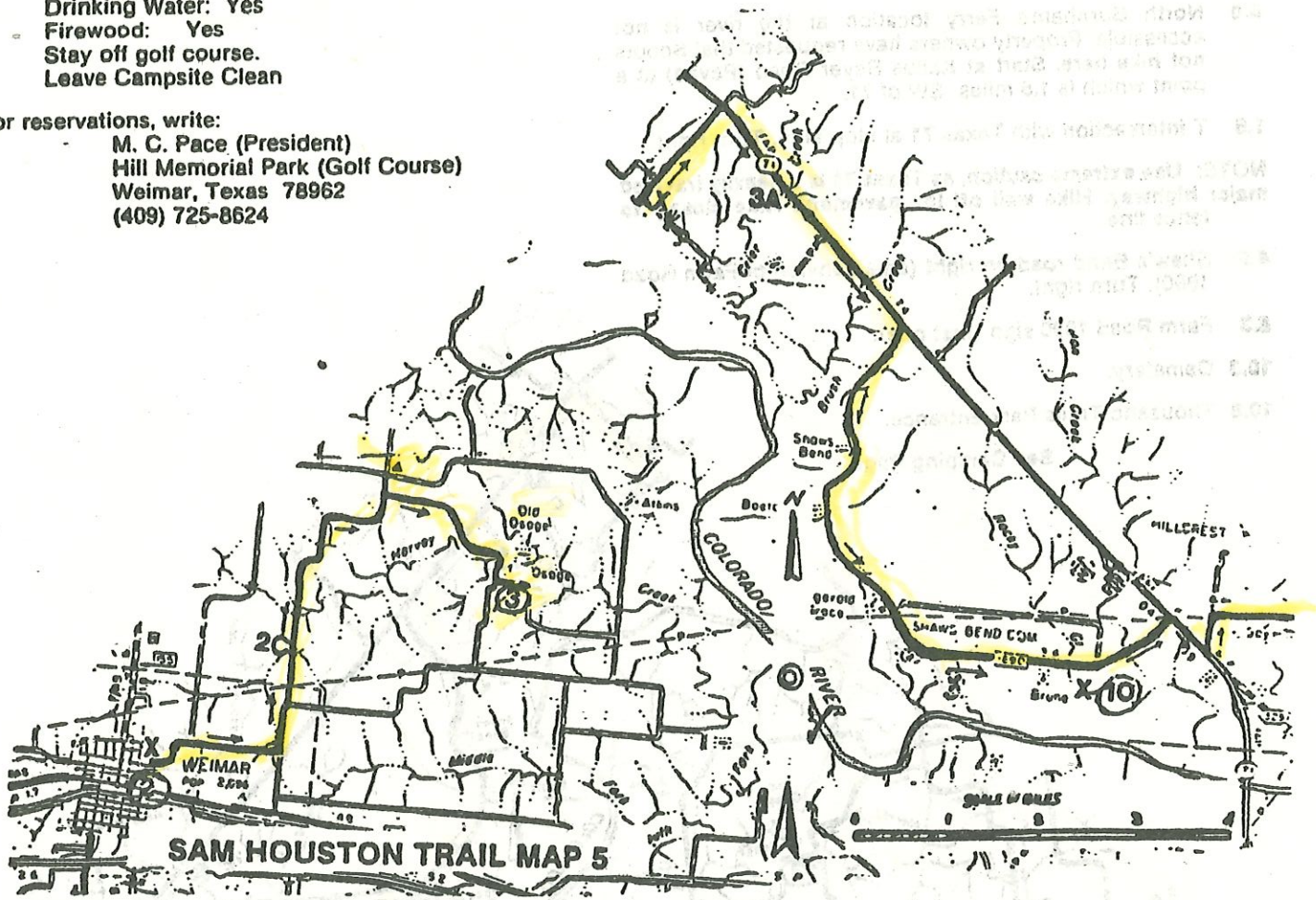
HILL MEMORIAL PARK

Hill Memorial Park (2) is located 0.3 miles east of Weimar on US 90 (E. Main Street) on the north side of the road.

- Drinking Water: Yes
- Firewood: Yes
- Stay off golf course.
- Leave Campsite Clean

For reservations, write:

M. C. Pace (President)
 Hill Memorial Park (Golf Course)
 Weimar, Texas 78962
 (409) 725-8624



2C. HILL MEMORIAL PARK TO BURNHAM'S FERRY

- | Miles | Trail Directions |
|-------|---|
| 0.0 | Main gate, Hill Memorial Park (2). Go west (toward Weimar) on US 90. |
| 0.1 | Turn right after passing "Weimar City Limit" sign onto N. Post Office Street. |
| 0.2 | Left onto E. Post Office Street. Go three blocks to |
| 0.4 | N. East Street. Turn right. |
| 0.7 | Bear right, following Colorado County 201-202 signs. |
| 1.2 | Colorado Co. 201 on left. Continue straight. |
| 2.2 | Colorado Co. 201 at T intersection. Turn left. (This sounds confusing, but it works!) |

- 2.7 Colorado Co. 204 on left. Turn left onto 204.
- 3.3 Bridge
- 6.0 Colorado Co. 201 (again)! Continue straight across 201 onto gravel road. Stop and read the "Burnham's Ferry" Historical Marker on right.
- 6.2 Go back across 201 on 204 to intersection of 208 on the left. Turn left.
- 8.2 Continue on 208 to Osage Park (3) and cemetery.

NOTE: The trail is not continuous at this point, due to the Colorado River. (The ferry was burned in 1836!) The nearest bridges are upstream on US 77 at La Grange and downstream on Texas 71 at Columbus.

3A. NORTH BURNHAM'S FERRY TO SHAW'S BEND

Miles

Trail Directions

0.0 North Burnham's Ferry location at the river is not accessible. Property owners have requested that Scouts not hike here. Start at Kallus Beyer Road (Paved) at a point which is 1.5 miles SW of 71.

1.5 T Intersection with Texas 71 at stop sign. Turn right.

NOTE: Use extreme caution, as Texas 71 is a heavily traveled major highway. Hike well off the pavement. Hike closely to fence line.

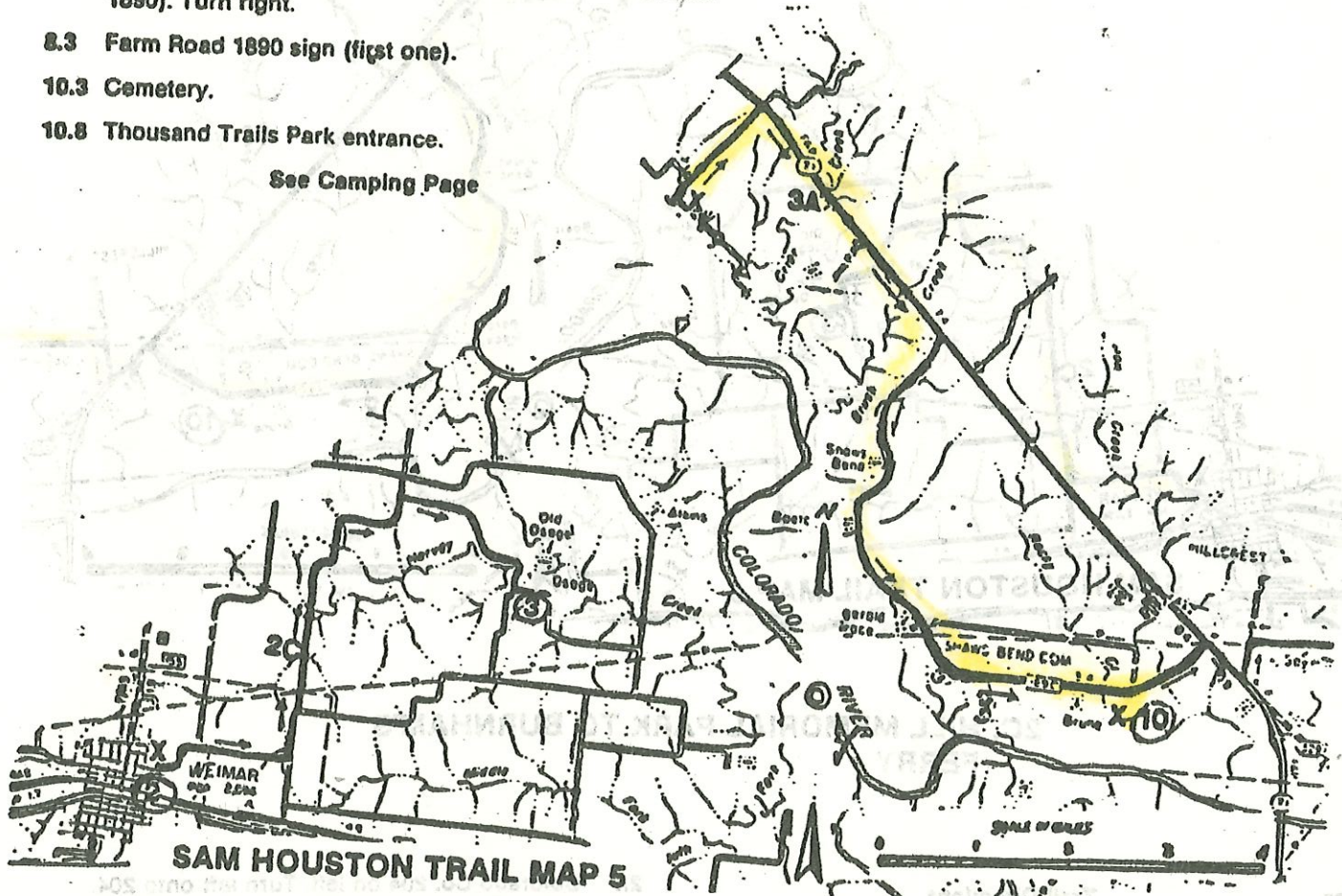
4.6 Shaw's Bend road on right (an extension of Farm Road 1890). Turn right.

8.3 Farm Road 1890 sign (first one).

10.3 Cemetery.

10.8 Thousand Trails Park entrance.

See Camping Page



OSAGE PARK (3)

This site is on Colorado County 208 about 2 miles from Burnham's Ferry marker on 201. There are 2 ceremonies scheduled here.

Drinking Water: Yes

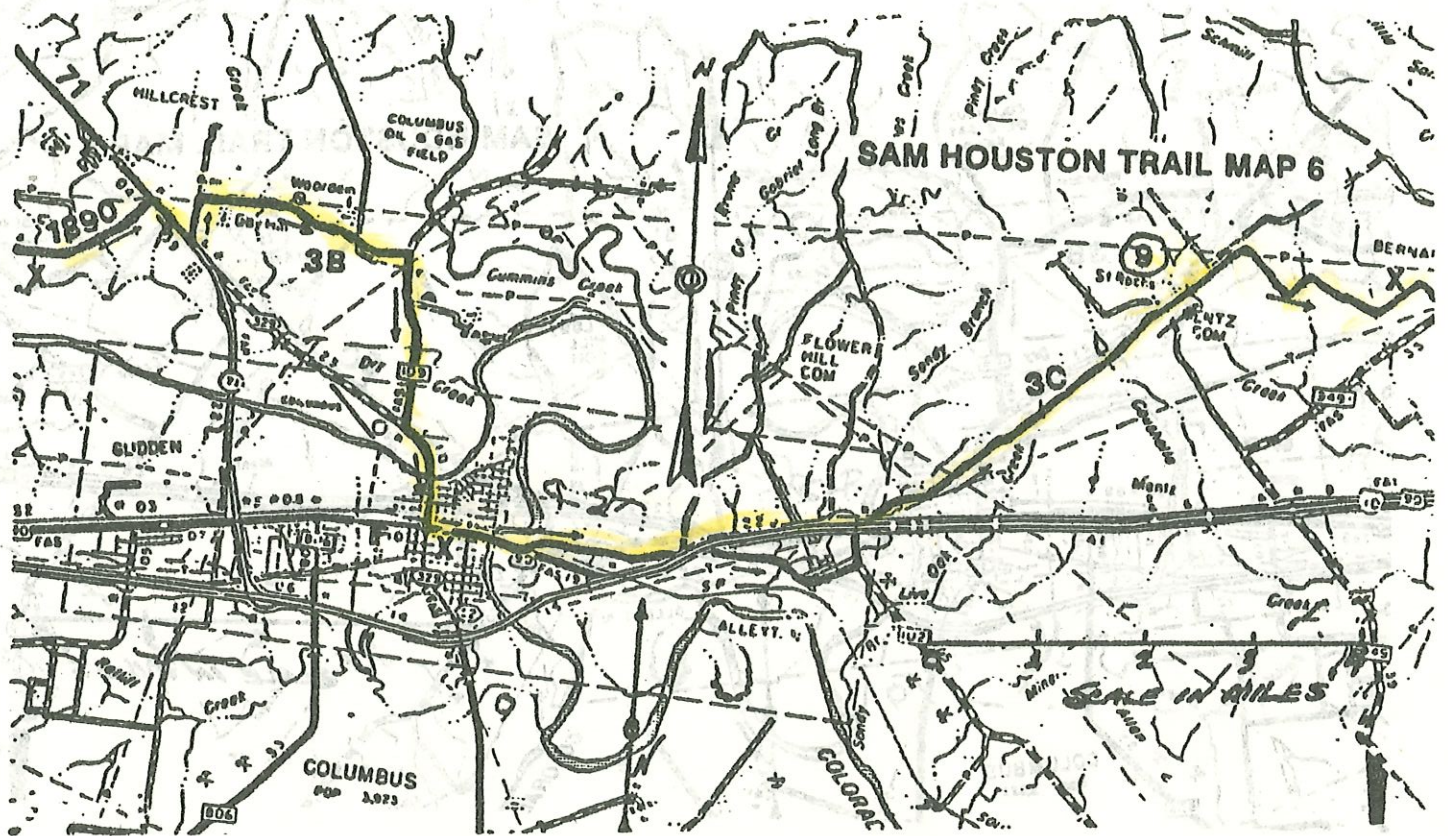
Firewood: Downwood only

Leave Campsite Clean

No reservations needed on trail weekend.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

After crossing the Colorado at Burnham's Ferry, Houston followed the river downstream to Beason's Crossing, arriving on March 20. Two days later, General Sesman with a part of Santa Anna's army arrived on the opposite (west) bank of the Colorado. Many historians think that Houston should have crossed over the river and given battle, but he chose not to do so. While at Beason's, Houston learned of Fannin's surrender at Goliad leaving Houston's force as the only armed body opposing the Mexicans. On March 26, Houston continued his retreat toward San Felipe and the Brazos River.



3B. SHAW'S BEND TO COLUMBUS

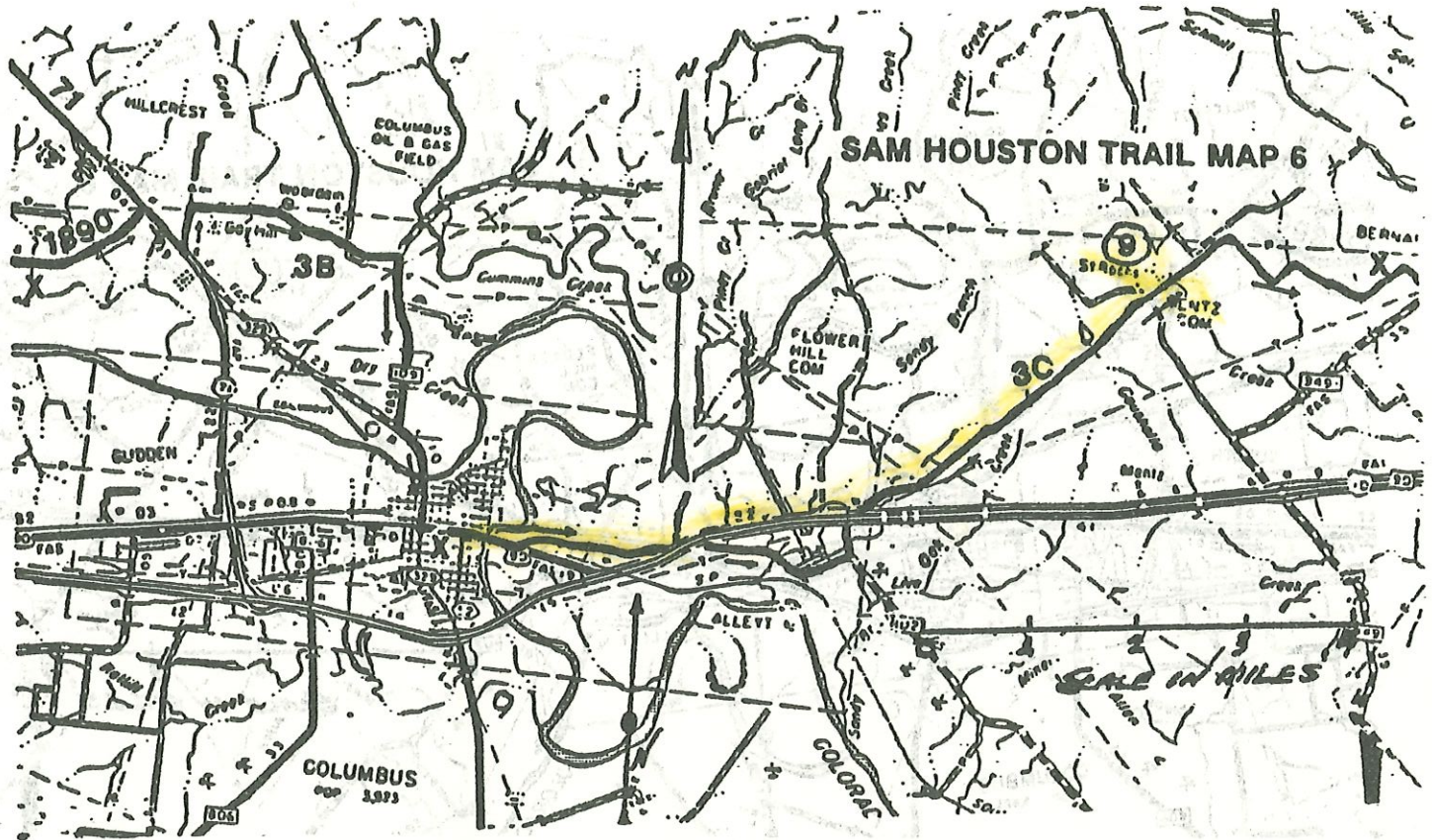
Miles

Trail Directions

- 0.0 Thousand Trails Park entrance. Farm Road 1890.
- 1.0 Texas 71. Cross road with care and hike well off the pavement. Turn right.
- 1.5 Schobel Road. Turn left and follow road back to right.
- 2.2 Gay Hill Cemetery on right.
- 3.0 Cities Service (OXY) plant on left at top of hill.
- 3.6 "Yield" sign as road connects from left. Go straight.
- 4.1 T intersection with FR 109. Turn right (south).
- 5.7 Texas 71 (again). Take a minute to read the "Colorado County" Historical Marker under the giant oak tree at the intersection. Turn left onto Texas 71.
- 6.3 Colorado River Bridge. Use extreme caution in crossing.
- 7.4 Preston Street. Third Street past bridge. Turn left.
- 7.5 Maigne-Walther House and Historical Marker on left at Preston and Live Oak.
- 7.7 Papenberg House and Historical Marker on right at corner of Preston and Bowie. Across the street to the left is log cabin Scout Houston of Columbus Scout Troop.
- 7.8 Travis Street. Turn right. On left in middle of block is Mansfield Library and Historical Marker.
- 8.0 Walnut Street (US 90). Be sure to visit the historic Colorado County Courthouse Square across Walnut to your right.

END OF THIS TRAIL SECTION

For Camping look at Thousand Trails Park or St. Roches Catholic Church at Mentz.



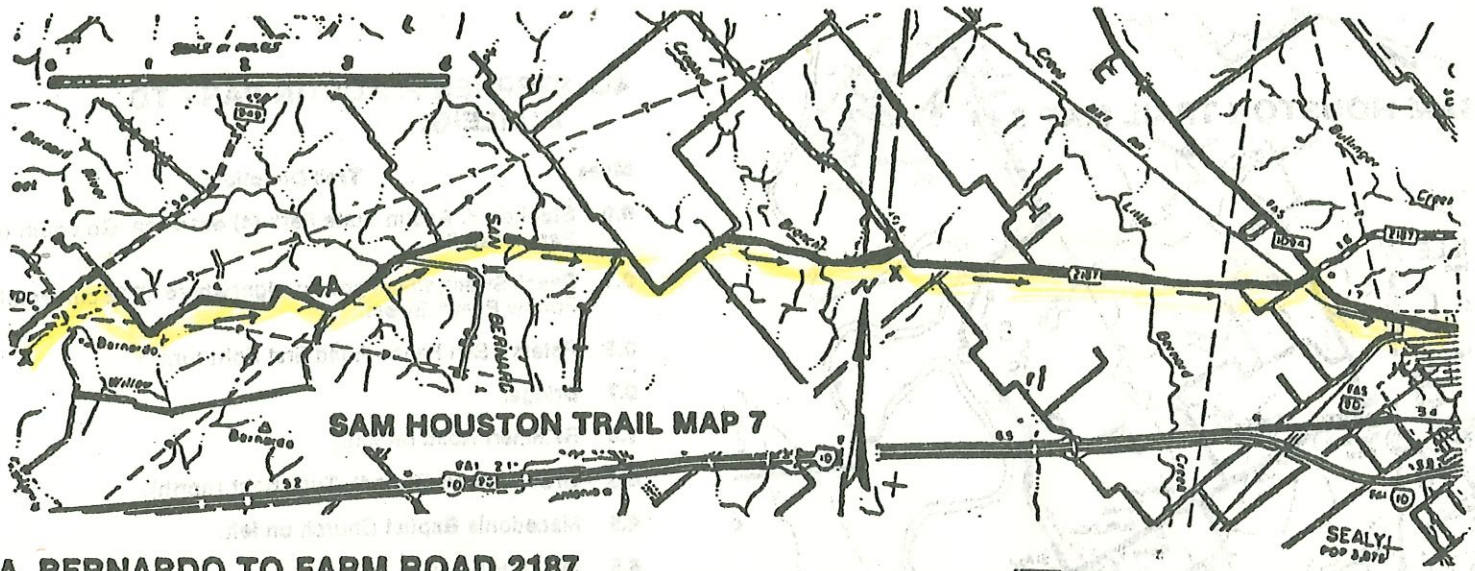
3C. COLUMBUS TO BERNARDO

This trail section begins at the northeast corner of Colorado County Courthouse Square, at the intersection of Walnut (US 90) and Travis, in Columbus. Be sure to visit the historic square before starting the trail.

- | Miles | Trail Directions |
|-------|--|
| 0.0 | Courthouse Square. Go east on Walnut (US 90). |
| 0.2 | Colorado River Bridge. Cross with care. |
| 0.4 | "Beason's Crossing" Historical Marker off the highway to the left. |
| 2.3 | Overpass on IH-10 on right. Turn right and pass under IH-10. Continue across the feeder road, bearing left onto the road behind the Shell Station. |
| 3.2 | Alleyton. The story of this historic town will be found on a Historical Marker a little further on. Continue through town. |
| 3.9 | T Intersection with Farm Road 102 at stop sign. Turn left. "Alleyton, C.S.A." Historical Marker is across road to on right. |
| 4.2 | Interstate 10. Pass over IH-10 and turn right onto the feeder road. |
| 4.4 | Road to Mentz on left, at the "Race Course" sign. Turn left. |
| 4.7 | Columbus Race Course on left. |
| 8.0 | Mentz Community, St. Roches Catholic Church and Cemetery on left. Continue straight. |
| 8.4 | Dietrich Lane - dirt road which goes straight as paved Freisburg Road goes left. Follow Dietrich Lane. |
| 9.6 | Wood Bridge. |

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

After crossing the Colorado at Burnham's Ferry, Houston followed the river downstream to Beason's Crossing, arriving on March 20. Two days later, General Sesma with a part of Santa Anna's army arrived on the opposite (west) bank of the Colorado. Many historians think that Houston should have crossed over the river and given battle, but he chose not to do so. While at Beason's, Houston learned of Fannin's surrender at Goliad, leaving Houston's force as the only armed body opposing the Mexicans. On March 26, Houston continued his retreat toward San Felipe and the Brazos River.



4A. BERNARDO TO FARM ROAD 2187

- | Miles | Trail Directions |
|-------|--|
| 0.0 | T Intersection with Farm Road 949 at stop sign. Turn left. |
| 1.1 | Enter Bernardo. |
| 1.7 | Lehrman Road (sign on left), marked by Brown Brick House on corner on right. Turn right. |
| 3.0 | White house with Barn on left. |
| 3.8 | Corrals on both sides of road. |
| 4.5 | Pavement Begins. |
| 4.6 | T Intersection. Turn left. |
| 5.2 | Bridge. |
| 5.3 | Kveton Road on right. Go straight. |
| 5.8 | Cat Spring Road on left. Continue straight. |
| 6.8 | Low water crossing. |
| 7.7 | Dirt road on right, then on left. Continue straight on paved road. |
| 8.8 | Meier Road on right. Go straight. |
| 9.0 | Wooden bridge. Dirt road goes straight, paved road goes right. Follow paved road. |
| 10.1 | Wooden Bridge. |
| 11.0 | Farm Road 2187 |

NO CAMPING HERE.

END OF THIS TRAIL SECTION

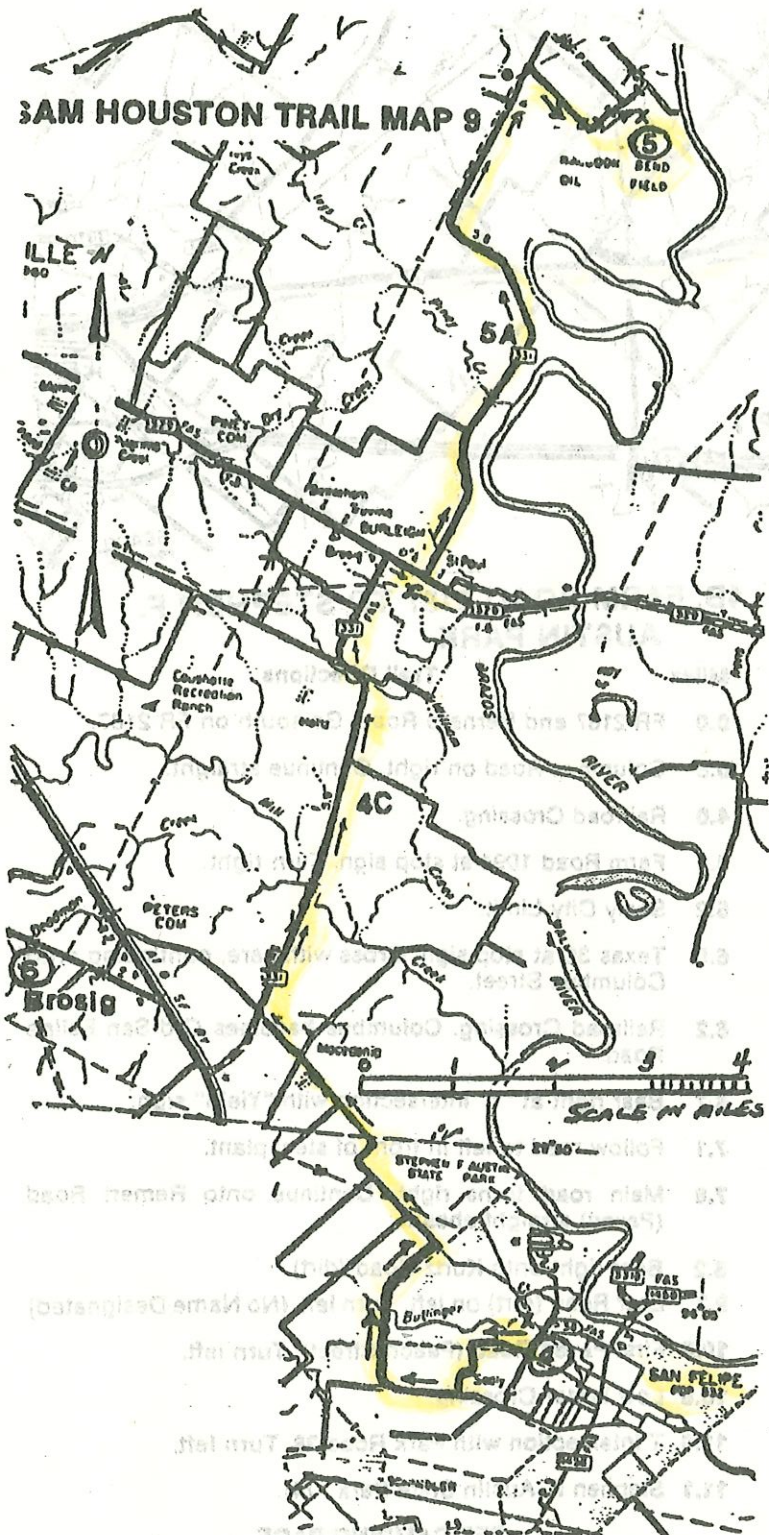
4B. FARM ROAD 2187 TO STEPHEN F. AUSTIN PARK

- | Miles | Trail Directions |
|-------|--|
| 0.0 | FR 2187 and Bernard Road. Go south on FR 2187. |
| 0.6 | Columbus Road on right. Continue straight. |
| 4.0 | Railroad Crossing. |
| 4.2 | Farm Road 1094 at stop sign. Turn right. |
| 5.2 | Sealy City Limit. |
| 6.0 | Texas 36 at stop sign. Cross with care, continuing onto Columbus Street. |
| 6.2 | Railroad Crossing. Columbus becomes Old San Felipe Road. |
| 6.7 | Bear right at "Y" intersection with "Yield" sign. |
| 7.1 | Follow road to left in front of steel plant. |
| 7.8 | Main road turns right. Continue onto Remert Road (Paved) straight ahead. |
| 8.2 | Bear right onto Kurtz Road (dirt). |
| 9.3 | Esar Road (dirt) on left. Turn left. (No Name Designated) |
| 10.5 | First Paved Road (Peach Street). Turn left. |
| 10.8 | Low Water Crossing. |
| 11.0 | T Intersection with Park Road 38. Turn left. |
| 11.1 | Stephen F. Austin State Park (4). |

SEE CAMPING PAGE



SAM HOUSTON TRAIL MAP 9



HISTORICAL INFORMATION

From San Felipe, Sam Houston led his army north along the Brazos to Groce's Plantation. The army badly needed provisions and training, and Groce's would provide an opportunity to obtain both. On March 29, Houston turned north. His old friend, Jared Groce, was one of Austin's original colonists, and had become quite wealthy with his plantation producing cotton, corn and cattle. The Texas Army remained here for 2 weeks, training, drilling, and re-arming.

While at Groce's Houston received two cannons, donated by the citizens of Cincinnati, which were promptly named the "Twin Sisters". They were the army's only artillery, and later were an important factor at San Jacinto.

On April 14th, the army, now much better equipped and trained crossed the Brazos River on the steamboat

4C. STEPHEN F. AUSTIN PARK TO BURLEIGH

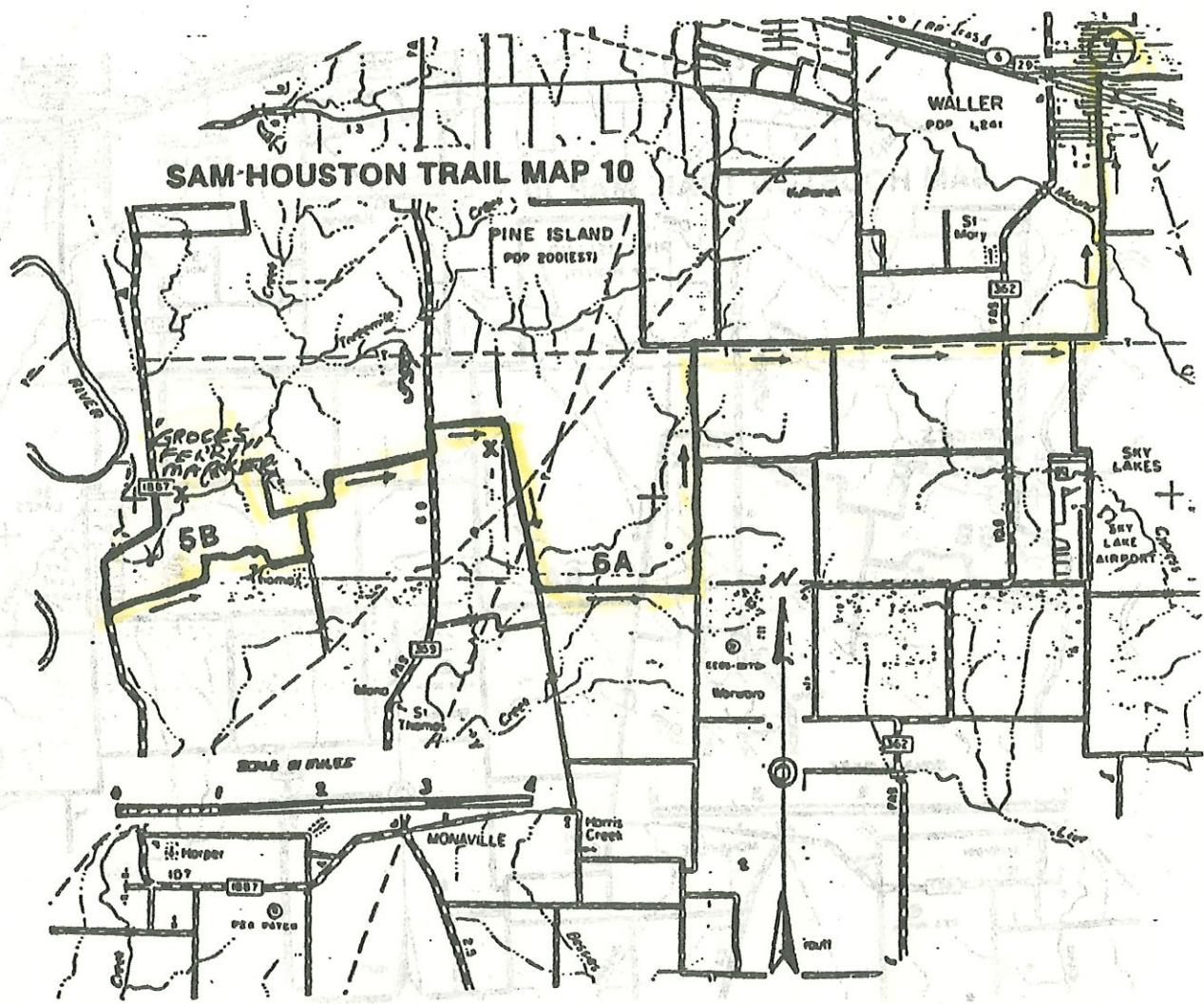
Miles	Trail Directions
0.0	Stephen F. Austin State Park (4) entrance. Go south on Park Road 38.
0.1	Peach Street, which goes straight where PR 38 curves left. Follow Peach Street.
0.3	Peters - San Felipe Road first right turn.
0.7	Bridge.
1.8	Remmet Road on left.
4.3	Grubbs Road (Paved). Turn right (north).
4.5	Macedonia Baptist Church on left.
5.5	Indian Hill Ranch on left.
5.7	Bridge. Dirt road begins.
6.8	Dirt road connects from right at "Lucas" sign.
8.6	Pavement Begins.
9.0	Bridge.
9.8	T intersection with Farm Road 331 at stop sign. Turn right.
10.9	Highway sign, "Camping", on right.
12.0	Enter Burleigh.
12.1	T intersection with Farm Road 529 at stop sign. Turn right.
12.5	Farm Road 331 turns north. Turn left (north) with FR 331.
12.8	Bridge.

END OF THIS SECTION

5A. BURLEIGH TO GROCE'S PLANTATION

Miles	Trail Directions
0.0	Burleigh. Go north on Farm Road 331.
0.5	River Bank Nursery on right.
1.6	Bridge.
4.0	Another Bridge.
5.3	"Lazy A Ranch" sign on right.
5.6	Electric Sub-Station on left.
5.8	Gravel road and Cattle Guard on right. Turn right onto road, cross Cattle Guard, and enter Raccoon Bend Oil Field. Stay on road.
6.3	Old Barn on left.
6.5	Cattle Guard.
7.3	Another Cattle Guard.
7.4	And yet another Cattle Guard. Gravel road connects from left. Bear right.
7.5	Turn left on Dirt road before next Cattle Guard.
8.0	Cattle Pens on right.
8.1	Groce's Plantation Campsite (5) Camp in this area, not closer to the river. Do NOT go on the high bluffs overlooking the river.

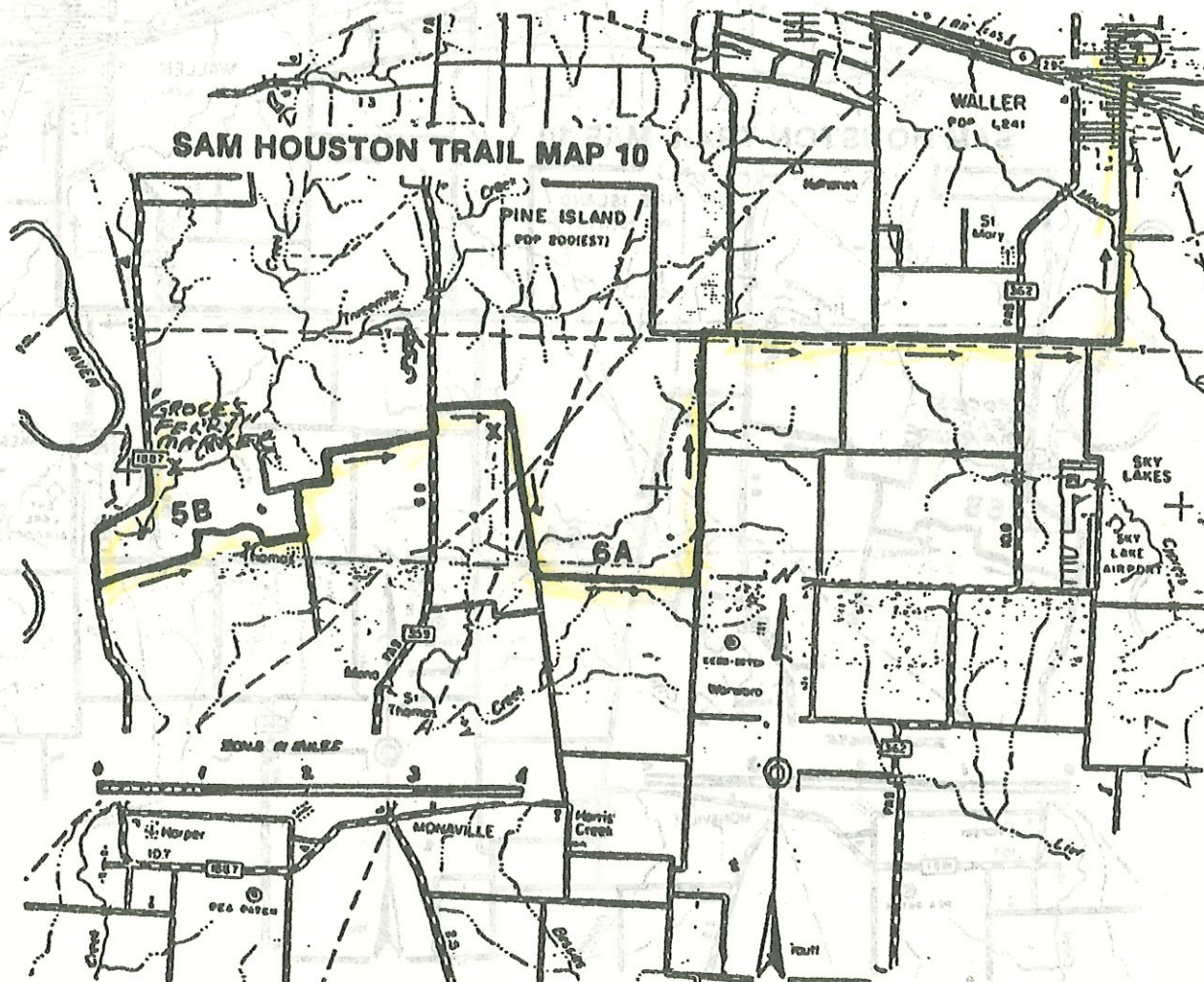
NOTE: The trail is not continuous at this point, due to the Brazos River. To cross River, go north on FR 331 to Texas 159



5B. GROCE'S FERRY TO BISHOP RANCH

- | Miles | Trail Directions |
|-------|---|
| 0.0 | "Groce's Ferry" Historical Marker. Go south on Farm Road 1887. |
| 2.6 | Bridge over Clear Creek. |
| 3.6 | Addie Gee Road (Paved). Turn left. |
| 6.0 | St. Thomas Cemetery on right. |
| 6.1 | Manix Drive (dirt) enters from right. Bear left, following Paved Road. |
| 6.5 | Groce Lane on left. Stay with main road. |
| 8.1 | T intersection with Farm Road 359. Turn left. |
| 8.4 | Menke Road on right, at "4G Ranch" sign. Turn right. |
| 8.1 | Schmidt Road on right, with Bishop Ranch straight ahead and to the left behind the mailbox. |

NO CAMPING



6A. BISHOP RANCH TO WALLER LIONS CENTER

- | Miles | Trail Directions |
|-------|---|
| 0.0 | Mailbox at Menke and Schmidt Roads. Go south on Schmidt Road. |
| 1.1 | Power Line Crosses Road. |
| 1.8 | Repka Road (Paved) on left. Turn left. |
| 2.3 | Bridge |
| 3.3 | T intersection at Cochran Road. Turn left (north). |
| 5.7 | T intersection at Betka Road. Turn right. |
| 6.0 | Cochran Road turns north. Continue straight (east) on Betka Road. |
| 8.8 | Farm Road 362 at stop sign. Continue straight across FR 362 toward Waller Country Club. |
| 9.4 | Penick Road connects from right. |
| 10.2 | Bridge |
| 10.6 | Another Bridge. |
| 11.5 | Enter Waller. |

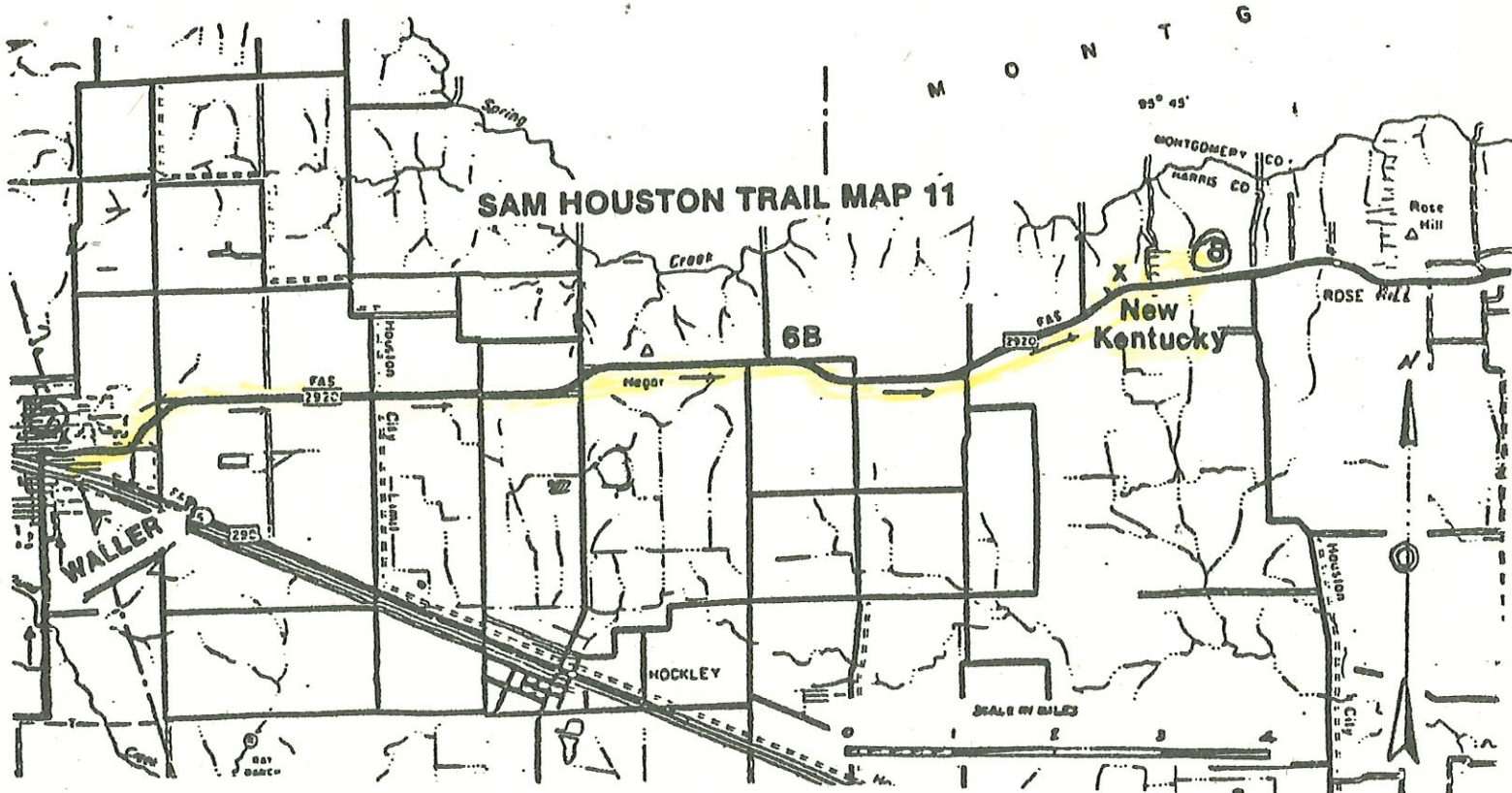
- 12.0 T intersection with Washington Street. Turn right onto Washington, then take the second road on the left across railroad tracks to ...
- 12.2 US Highway 290 at traffic light. Cross with traffic light onto Farr Street. Continue 3 blocks to ...
- 12.3 Taylor Street. Trail turns right here. End of this trail section. To reach Waller Lions Center (7), continue north (straight) on Farr to ...
- 12.6 Waller Street. Turn left and pass in front of Waller High School on right.
- 12.9 Waller Lions Center (7) across the bridge and to the left.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

From San Felipe, Sam Houston led his army north along the Brazos to Groce's Plantation. The army badly needed provisions and training, and Groce's would provide an opportunity to obtain both. On March 29, Houston turned north. His old friend, Jared Groce, was one of Austin's original colonists, and had become quite wealthy with his plantation producing cotton, corn and cattle. The Texas Army remained here for 2 weeks, training, drilling and re-arming.

While at Groce's Houston received two cannons, donated by the citizens of Cincinnati, which were promptly named the "Twin Sisters". They were the army's only artillery, and later were an important factor at San Jacinto.

On April 14th, the army, now much better equipped and



6B. WALLER LIONS CENTER TO NEW KENTUCKY PARK

To reach the start of this trail section from Campsite (7), go east on Waller Street to Farr Street. Turn right on Farr to Taylor. Total distance - 0.6 miles.

Miles	Trail Directions
0.0	Farr and Taylor Streets in Waller. Go east on Taylor.
0.2	Fields Store Road at stop sign. Go left, then right onto Waller - Tomball Road.
0.7	Farm Road 2920 at stop sign. Turn left and remain on FR 2920 for 9.7 miles to New Kentucky Park.
2.0	Binford Road
3.1	Kickapoo Road
4.2	Kermier Road
5.2	Hegar Road
6.4	Power Line Crosses Road.
6.7	Roberts Road
7.0	Nichols Road
7.8	A. J. Foyt Road on left; Becker Road on right.
8.9	Bauer Road
9.2	Fire Station
10.1	Roberts Cemetery Road
10.4	New Kentucky Park (No Overnight Camping).

END OF SAM HOUSTON TRAIL

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

At New Kentucky, Houston and his army came to what history has called "The Fork in the Road". The main road led to the Sabine River, Louisiana and safety, while the fork turned southeast toward Harrisburg. Houston knew from his Scouts' reports that Santa Anna, with part of his army, was even now dashing from the Brazos Crossing at Fort Bend toward Harrisburg in an attempt to capture President Burnet and revolutionary Texas government Houston had been running away from Santa Anna for miles, buying time to build and train an army which now numbered about 800. Which road would he take - Louisiana and safety, or Harrisburg and a fight?

Houston had the situation he had sought - Santa Anna, the self-styled "Napoleon of the West" with a force about equal to the Texas Army, and a long way from reinforcements. The settlers headed for the Sabine, the army turned south toward Harrisburg.

Houston arrived on the north bank of Buffalo Bayou opposite Harrisburg in the evening of April 18, 1836. Learning that Santa Anna had gone on to New Washington, Houston moved the army across the stream, and took up a position downstream at the San Jacinto River.

The battle which followed on April 21 was as short as it was significant. In only 18 minutes, the Mexican Army was destroyed, and Santa Anna's captured the following day insured the independence of the new Republic of Texas.

CAMPSITE DESCRIPTIONS

The only Camping locations where prior approval has been obtained by the B.S.A. are listed below. Do not Camp elsewhere without obtaining property owner's approval. These campsites are available during trail weekends. WRITE OR CALL FOR RESERVATIONS 45-60 DAYS IN ADVANCE AND WHEN YOU RETURN HOME, WRITE A THANK YOU LETTER TO THE PROPERTY OWNER.

1. **CAMP GREEN DICKSON**
This camp is a property of the Capitol Area Council Boy Scouts of America and is reached by following the trail route from Gonzales for 15.1 miles.

Drinking Water: YES
Firewood: Downwood Only
Leave Campsite Clean

Reservations not required for first weekend of the trail. Applicable for Section 1A., 1B., 1C., and 1D.

2. **HILL MEMORIAL PARK - Weimar**
Hill Memorial Park is located 0.3 miles east of Weimar on US 90 (E. Main St.) on the north side of the road.

Drinking Water: YES
Firewood: YES
Stay off Golf Course. Leave Campsite Clean.

For reservations, write:
Hill Memorial Park (Golf Course)
Weimar, Texas 78962
(409) 725-8624

3. **OSAGE PARK - Weimar**
This site is on Colorado County 208 about 2 miles from Burnham's Ferry marker on 201.

Drinking Water: NO
Firewood: Downwood Only
Leave Campsite Clean

No reservations needed on trail weekend. Applicable for Section 2B and 2C.

4. **STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE PARK**
The Park is reached by taking FR 1458 north from Interstate 10 to Park Road 38, then turning left at the Park entrance. Facilities include restrooms, drinking water, hiking trails and interpretive center. The State Historical Site where the San Felipe ceremony is held is just north of the intersection of FR 1458 and PR 38.

Reservations well in advance are required. Fees are required: (subject to change), they are currently:
Entry, per day: \$5.00 per vehicle
Campsite, w/water, per night per campsite: \$9.00
No more than 8 persons and 2 vehicles per campsite
Gathering of firewood is illegal.

For reservations, write:
Stephen F. Austin State Park
P. O. Box 125
San Felipe, Texas 77473
(409) 885-3613

Applicable for Sections 4A., 4B., and 4C.

5. **GROCE'S PLANTATION**
To reach the site, go north on Farm Road 331 from Burleigh for 5.9 miles to the electric substation on the left. Continue 0.2 mile to the first gravel road on right. Turn right, cross the cattle guard, and follow the trail directions to the site. DO NOT go onto the high bluffs overlooking the river.

Drinking Water: NO
Firewood: Downwood Only
Leave Campsite Clean

For reservations, write:
L. B. Woodley
1187 Remmert Road
Belville, Texas 77418

Applicable for Sections 4C., 5A., 5B.

6. **CAMP BROSIG**
Although it is not located directly on the trail, Camp Brosig a camp of the Sam Houston Area Council, is a good base of operations for hiking these trail sections. To reach Camp Brosig, go north on Texas 36 from I-10 (thru Sealy) for 6 miles to Trenchman Road on the left. Turn left and continue for 1.6 miles to the camp gate on the left.

Drinking Water: YES
Firewood: YES
Leave Campsite Clean

For reservations, write:
Camping Department
Sam Houston Area Council, B.S.A.
P. O. Box 52786
Houston, TX. 77052-2786

Applicable for Sections 4B., 4C., 5A., 5B.

7. **WALLER LIONS CENTER**
To reach site, pass through Waller on US 290 (west-bound) and turn north on Farm Road 362. Continue for 3 blocks to Waller Street. Turn right, and go one block to Lions Center on right.

Drinking Water: NO
Firewood: NO
Leave Campsite Clean

For reservations, write:
Waller Lions Club
3007 Waller Street
Waller, Texas 77484

Applicable for Sections 6A and 6B.

CONTINUED

8. NEW KENTUCKY PARK

New Kentucky Park is located on Farm Road 2920 9.7 miles east of Waller and several miles west of Rose Hill community, 6 miles north of US 290.

Drinking Water: YES
Firewood: NO
Leave Campsite Clean

NOTE: New Kentucky Park may be used for camping by the Boy Scouts only and only on the weekend for hiking section 6A and 6B.

Reservations are not required, but a call to Harris County Precinct 3 would be proper.

**9. ST. ROCH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
MENTZ COMMUNITY**

Exit I-10 at Farm Road 102 3 or 4 miles east of Columbus. The road to Mentz is on the North side of I-10 at the MENTZ and RACE COURSE signs. Follow the road (NNE) for about 4 miles to the church.

An alternate route would be to exit I-10 at Farm Road 949. Turn North. When FR 949 turns right, continue straight for approximately 2 or 3 more miles to the church.

Drinking Water: YES
Firewood: Downwood Only
Leave Campsite Clean

Check with someone at the church as to where to camp. For reservations, write to:

St. Roch's Catholic Church
c/o Henry Potter
Potter's Western Wear
Columbus, TX. 78934
(409) 732-2288

Applicable Sections are 3B and 3C.

**10. THOUSAND TRAILS PARK - Shaw's Bend
Community**

Thousand Trails Park is a member - only RV Park. They will allow Boy Scouts to camp in tent sites even though they are not members WHEN RESERVATIONS ARE REQUESTED BY MAIL OR PHONE AT LEAST 60 DAYS IN ADVANCE. It may be reached by taking Texas 71 north out of Columbus to Farm Road 1890 to the left off Texas 71. Thousand Trails is about 2 miles from 71 on 1890 on the left side.

Drinking Water: YES
Firewood: NO. --NO GROUND FIRES FOR COOKING OR CAMPFIRES. If you use charcoal, take a container of some type to hold your burning charcoal. Be prepared to carry out your ashes.

Fee: \$2.00 per camper per night payable in advance after reservations have been made.

For reservations, write to:

Thousand Trails
1474 Shaws Bend Road
Columbus, TX. 78934
(409) 732-8229

Ask for Nora Combs or Gus

Applicable for Sections 3A and 3B.

THE SAM HOUSTON TRAIL FOUNDER'S AWARD

Honoring the men responsible for the creation of the Sam Houston Trail, the Founder's Award is available to Boy Scouts Troops and Explorer Posts or Ships completing the following requirements:

- 1. Select one section of the Sam Houston Trail of special interest to the unit. Research all aspects of that section related to the Texas Revolution, including route followed by the Texas Revolution, including route followed by the Texas Army, events, and physical features. Prepare and submit to the Sam Houston Trail Committee a report showing the results of your research and citing appropriate references. All research and preparation must be done by Scouts. None by Adult Leaders.**
- 2. Hike the selected section, and submit a report of your hike, explaining how your observations related to the historical information contained in your research report.**
- 3. Hike one additional section of the Trail.**
- 4. Attend at least two of the Trail Ceremonies.**

In lieu of requirements 1 and 2, units may research, plan and conduct one of the Trail Ceremonies, submitting a complete research report, plans for the ceremony, and report of the ceremony. Use of these alternate requirements must be approved in advance by the Sam Houston Trail Committee.

Participation by a minimum of 50% of the youth members of the unit is required to meet requirements 2, 3, and 4.

SAM HOUSTON TRAIL FOUNDERS' AWARD APPLICATION

Troop/Post/Shlp: _____ District: _____

Council: _____

Chartered Organization: _____

Our unit has completed the requirements for the Sam Houston Trail Founders' Award as follows:

1. Research Report (Attached)
2. Trail Hike Report (Attached)

Date Hiked: _____ Participation: Adults _____ Youth _____

Registration On This Date: Adults _____ Youth _____

3. Additional Trail Section Hiked

From: _____ To: _____

Date Hiked: _____ Participation: Adults _____ Youth: _____

Registration On This Date: Adults _____ Youth _____

4. Ceremonies

Location	Date	Adults	Youth
(1) _____	_____	_____	_____
Registration On This Date _____			
(2) _____	_____	_____	_____
Registration On This Date _____			

Based on the information above and attached, our unit hereby makes application for the Founders' Award.

Signed: _____

Position: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (B) _____ (H) _____

Date: _____

THE SAM HOUSTON TRAIL

100% COMPLETION AWARD

In recognition of the participation of any Boy Scout unit (Troop/Team/Post/Ship) hiking the Sam Houston Trail, the Sam Houston Area Council establishes the 100% Completion Award to be presented after completion of:

1. Hiking (at any time, in any sequence) every section of the Sam Houston Trail from Gonzales to New Kentucky Park.
2. Attendance by the unit at each ceremony site (add sites where ceremonies have been presented during the dates hike by the unit)

Participation by a minimum of 50% of the active youth members of the unit is required for each section hiked and each ceremony attended.

SAM HOUSTON TRAIL 100% COMPLETION APPLICATION

Unit _____ District _____

Council _____

Chartered Organization _____

Our unit has completed the requirements for the Sam Houston Trail 100% Completion Award as follows:

1. We certify that Unit # _____ has hiked all individual sections of the Sam Houston Trail from Gonzales to New Kentucky Park, and
2. That Unit _____ has attended ceremonies at each location where ceremonies have been presented since our first trail hike.
3. Date First Section Hiked: _____
Date Last Section Hiked: _____

Based on the information above our unit hereby makes appreciation for the 100% Completion Award.

Signed: _____

Position: _____

Address:

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: Day _____ Night _____

The Sam Houston Trail Award

To qualify for this award, units must meet the following requirements:

1. Hike any one trail section.
2. Attend, if offered, one of the official trail ceremonies.
3. Abide by all trail rules.
4. Submit the completed report form and fees (see below).

Upon qualification, units may purchase one Sam Houston Trail Patch for each participant meeting the above requirements. Patches are available for First through Tenth year participation and ceremony participation.

Sam Houston Trail Report

Unit # _____
District: _____
Council: _____

Sam Houston Area Council
Boy Scouts of America
P. O. Box 924528
Houston, TX 77292

Our unit qualified for the Sam Houston Trail Award as follows:

Trail Section Hiked: (circle)

1A 2A 3A 4A 5A 6A
1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 6B
1C 2C 3C 4C
1D

Dates: _____

PATCH ORDER FOR CEREMONIES \$3.00

Patch total _____

1st Year _____
2nd Year _____
3rd Year _____
4th Year _____
5th Year _____

6th Year _____
7th Year _____
8th Year _____
9th Year _____
10th Year _____

PATCH ORDER FOR YEARS _____

Patch Totals _____

TOTAL PATCHES _____ @ \$2.50 each = \$ _____ enclosed.

Account Number: 1-6801-906-20