

MP 2351

NPS Form 10-900

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Matagorda County Monument

Other name/site number: NA

Name of related multiple property listing: Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial

2. Location

Street & number: 1700 7th St., Matagorda County Courthouse grounds

City or town: Bay City

State: Texas

County: Matagorda

Not for publication: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 (X 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 (X 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

Signature of certifying official / Title: Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer
Date: 3/6/18
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:

- X 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: 4/19/2018

Matagorda County Monument, Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

	Private
X	Public - Local
	Public - State
	Public - Federal

Category of Property

	building(s)
	district
	site
	structure
X	object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	0	objects
1	0	total

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: RECREATION AND CULTURE: monument

Current Functions: RECREATION AND CULTURE: monument

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Other: Sculpture

Principal Exterior Materials: Stone/granite; Metal/bronze

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

Matagorda County Monument, Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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.
	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations: B (Moved Properties); F (Commemorative Properties)

Areas of Significance: Social History, Art

Period of Significance: 1937

Significant Dates: 1937

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

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion d is marked): NA

Architect/Builder: Josset, Raoul (sculptor); Page & Southerland (architects)

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 8-8 through 8-12)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheet 9-13)

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:

- 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

Matagorda County Monument, Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than 1 acre

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

1. Latitude: 28.982860° N Longitude: -95.969631° W

Verbal Boundary Description: The monument is on the north side of the Matagorda County courthouse grounds. The nomination encompasses only the monument and the ground upon which it stands, an area of approximately 4.5 square feet.

Boundary Justification: The nomination boundary is drawn to include only the monument itself. No other structures on the property have been evaluated for eligibility due to the specific focus of this theme (*Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial*).

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Bonnie Tipton Wilson, THC National Register Historian
Organization: Texas Historical Commission
Street & number: P.O. Box 12276
City or Town: Austin State: TX Zip Code: 78711-2276
Email: bonnie.wilson@thc.texas.gov
Telephone: 512-463-6046
Date: October 2, 2017

Additional Documentation

- Maps** (see continuation sheet MAP-14)
- Additional items** (see continuation sheets FIGURE-15 through FIGURE-17)
- Photographs** (see continuation sheets PHOTO-18 through PHOTO-22)

Matagorda County Monument, Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas

Photograph Log

Matagorda County Monument
Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas
Photographer: Gregory Smith
Date: February 14, 2018

Photo 1: Matagorda County monument erected for the 1936 Centennial—camera facing south

Photo 2: Detail view of bronze plaque with inscription—camera facing south

Photo 3: Detail view of bronze bas-relief figures designed by Raoul Josset—camera facing south

Photo 4: Rear view of Matagorda County monument—camera facing northwest

Photo 5: Matagorda County monument in front of Matagorda County Courthouse—camera facing southeast

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.

Matagorda County Monument, Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas

Narrative Description

The Matagorda County monument is an 8-foot-tall pink granite slab commemorative memorial with a bronze plaque, designed by architects Page & Southerland and sculptor Raoul Josset on the courthouse grounds in Bay City, Texas. Its design is representative of a monument sub-type that was used for fifteen Centennial county markers and conforms to the general memorial style and materials (Texas granite and bronze) used for most Centennial properties.¹ The base measures 3'9" wide, narrows by 1' at the top of the monument, and is 1'2" in depth; it has chamfered edges. Josset designed the 5-foot-tall bronze-cast panel attached to the face with a bas-relief sculpture that depicts French explorer Rene Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle meeting a Native American, likely a Karankawan, at the Texas Gulf Coast with a ship in the background; both are standing. La Salle's gloved left hand holds a sword hilt and the other is placed on his right hip. The Native American, dressed in a loin cloth, greets La Salle, and his braided hair is adorned with a single feather. Below the figures, the United States and Texas flags border a star encircled by a wreath of live oak and olive leaves. A marker inscription completes the plaque and five, 1.5" bronze sunflowers are evenly-spaced in a vertical line below it.

In 1937, the monument was placed on the northwest corner of the Matagorda County courthouse grounds, bounded by State Highway 35 (north), Avenue G (east), 6th Street (south), and State Highway 60 (west). In 1965, it was moved to its current location on the north side of the same of block. The monument faces SH 35 at the edge of a landscaped parcel; a broad sidewalk separates it from the right-of-way. Matagorda County retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Its integrity of location was adversely affected when the monument was relocated. However, the monument's orientation, setting, and environment are comparable to the historic location and compatible with the property's significance. The monument is inscribed as followed:

MATAGORDA COUNTY
EARLY HOME OF THE KARANKAWA INDIANS, LANDING PLACE OF
LA SALLE IN 1685 * * * * * SETTLED 1822-1836 BY COLONISTS OF
STEPHEN F. AUSTIN * * * * * THE MUNICIPALITY OF MATAGORDA,
ORGANIZED UNDER THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT ON MARCH 16, 1834,
BECAME, ON MARCH 17, 1836, MATAGORDA COUNTY, WHICH WAS
ORGANIZED IN JULY, 1837 * * * * * MATAGORDA, THE COUNTY SEAT,
1837-1894, BAY CITY 1894 *
IN MEMORY OF
JAMES CUMMINS, HOSEA H. LEAGUE, ELIAS R. WIGHTMAN, SETH INGRAM
HORATIO CHRIESMAN, WILLIAM SELKIRK, EARLY SETTLERS * * * * *
MARY S. WIGHTMAN HELMS, FIRST WOMAN TEACHER IN TEXAS * *
IRA INGRAM, SILAS DINSMORE, MEMBERS OF THE CONVENTION OF 1832▲
R.R. ROYALL, IRA L. LEWIS, CHARLES WILSON, DELEGATIONS TO THE
CONSULTATION * * * * * BAILEY HARDEMAN, SAMUEL RHOADES FISHER,
SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE * * * * * * *
GEORGE M. COLLINSWORTH AND THE MEN WHO SERVED UNDER

¹ The Commission of Control for Texas Centennial Celebrations strongly suggested that Centennial historical markers, grave markers, monuments, and statue bases be made from Texas-quarried granite. Quarries in the Texas Hill County—in Fredericksburg, Kingsland, Marble Falls, and Llano—provided grey, pink, and red granite varieties for the commemorative projects. Though there are some instances where granite was sourced out-of-state or marble used instead, most Centennial memorials used Texas stone. The report *Monuments Erected by the State of Texas to Commemorate the Centenary of Texas Independence; the Report of the Commission of Control for Texas Centennial Celebrations*, includes material sources in its itemized descriptions of commemorative property types.

Matagorda County Monument, Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas

HIM DURING THE STRUGGLE FOR TEXAS INDEPENDENCE * * * * *
A.C. HORTON, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF TEXAS * * * THE
CITIZENS OF EARLY MATAGORDA COUNTY WHO CONTRUBUTED
TO ITS ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT * *
MATAGORDA COUNTY HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF
TEXAS CULTURE THE PIONEER WOMAN TEACHER MARY S. WIGHTMAN
HELMS, 1829, AN EARLY NEWSPAPER, 'THE MATAGORDA BULLETIN,' 1837,
FIRST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1839, FIRST BEQUEST FOR PROMOTION
OF FREE PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT OF IRA INGRAM, 1837 * * * * *
ERECTED BY THE STATE OF TEXAS 1936

Matagorda County Monument, Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas

Statement of Significance

The Matagorda County monument, erected by the State of Texas for the 1936 Centennial, is a granite and bronze historical on the Matagorda County courthouse grounds in Bay City, Texas. It is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the state level of significance under the multiple property submission *Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial*. It is eligible under Criterion A in the area of Social History as the product of a concerted statewide effort whereby state and local governments, a variety of private organizations, and individuals worked to commemorate historic persons and events important to Texas history. The monument is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of Art as a work by master sculptor Raoul Josset. It meets Criteria Consideration F (Commemorative Properties) as a work of art that reflects early 20th century interest in recognizing historic subjects throughout Texas, which culminated in the publicly-funded statewide Texas Centennial. The monument also meets Criteria Consideration B (Moved Properties) as a resource that was moved from its location on its original site to another location on the same property. Its setting, orientation, and environment on the modern courthouse grounds are comparable to its historic location on the same courthouse square. The period of significance for Matagorda County is 1937, the year it was erected.

A Brief History of Matagorda County²

The Republic of Texas organized modern Matagorda County, in the Coastal Plains region of southeast Texas, in 1836 out of the municipality of Matagorda, a large territorial expanse previously established under the Mexican government. The county's name—derived from the Spanish words *mata* (brush) and *gorda* (flat)—is locally assumed to mean “dense canebrake,” in reference to that which once was found by Spanish explorers along the shores of Matagorda Bay on the Gulf Coast in the 17th century. The first permanent settlements in Matagorda by non-native peoples was established by Anglo-Americans in Stephen F. Austin's colony in 1822. Before and during the Texas Revolution, the Matagorda area was represented in councils, conventions, and battles. After the war, Matagorda was one of the first 23 counties organized, with the seaport city of Matagorda as its seat. The county's first newspaper, the *Tribune*, appeared in 1837. In 1861, the county overwhelmingly supported secession from the Union and a Confederate fort was established in the area to protect Texas from Union gunboats offshore.

Matagorda County's economy suffered in the decades after the Civil War, but it was revived by railroad construction in the early 20th century. The New York, Texas, and Mexican Railway (1900), the Cane Belt Railroad (1901), and the St. Louis, Brownsville, and Mexico Railway (1905) established and expanded many towns, including Bay City, which was at the junction point of all three railroads. Voters elected to move the county seat to Bay City in 1894, and the Town Company office, which housed the printing press for the *Bay City Breeze* that was created to promote the new townsite, was among the first buildings completed. Between 1900 and 1920, the county's population more than doubled as immigrants were attracted to the diverse agricultural economy. Local success in rice farming was supplemented in 1901, when oil was discovered. Matagorda's petroleum industry continued to grow throughout the 20th century. Unlike other areas of Texas during the Great Depression, the county's population expanded in the 1930s, and in 1936—when the Matagorda County monument was erected—its citizens enjoyed relative prosperity.

² This section derived from Diana J. Kleiner, “Matagorda County,” in *The Handbook of Texas Online*, <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcm05>, accessed November 8, 2017; and Terri Myers, “Holman House,” Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas, National Register of Historic Places, 2010, 11-12.

Matagorda County Monument, Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas

Matagorda County Monument

In October 1935, the Commission of Control for Texas Centennial Celebrations announced that Matagorda County was a one of dozens of Texas communities worthy of a Centennial monument. Their decision was based on a report compiled by the Advisory Board of Texas Historians, a three-member body whose recommendations for commemorative properties came from county applications and an internal survey of historically-significant places in Texas.³ The historians recommended the State appropriate Centennial funds to erect a monument “within the corporate limits of Bay City, Matagorda County... [and that it be made] of select Texas granite, bearing a bronze plaque on which shall be inscribed a brief history of Matagorda County. The monument shall not cost more than One Thousand Dollars, complete and erected in place.”⁴ Matagorda County organized a Centennial board to oversee local Centennial activity and to assist the Advisory Board of Historians on gathering historical information for markers. It is unclear, however, what role they played in deciding which subjects the Commission of Control chose to commemorate.⁵

The *Matagorda County Tribune* reported on local Centennial activity and published the Commission of Control’s intention to erect monuments and markers in the area. The article asked for citizens to organize and publicize dedication ceremonies for all Centennial-sponsored commemorative properties saying, “it is only by co-operation that we can make the occasion a success that our one hundred years of history warrants.”⁶ Until its dedication, however, no progress updates for the county monument were recorded in the *Matagorda County Tribune* or Bay City’s *The Daily Tribune*. Nevertheless, locals enthusiastically celebrated the state’s centenary with children’s pageants “depicting the romantic history of Texas,” a pilgrimage to the reportedly-oldest Protestant church in Texas at the town of Matagorda, and by attending nearby Centennial events.⁷

Planning and execution of the Matagorda County monument was overseen by the State Board of Control between February 1936 and June 1937. Its process began when the agency dispatched Webb Roberts to inspect sites chosen by Texas communities for Centennial monuments. Roberts approved Matagorda officials’ decision to place the *Matagorda County* monument at the northwest corner of the courthouse in Bay City.⁸ The spot, at the intersection of two state highways on the grounds of the county’s most prominent public building, would be conspicuous and accessible to passersby. Concurrently, the Board of Control solicited architects, artists, and monuments makers for bids to design and build the commemorative memorials. By August 1936, the agency awarded contracts to Austin architecture firm Page & Southerland, sculptor Raoul Josset, and J.W. Cearley & Sons Memorials of Yoakum, DeWitt County.⁹

³ Advisory board chairman Louis W. Kemp told the Commission of Control that “a survey of historic spots in all of Texas...is now under way,” in July 1935, but no details of the survey methodology exists. Letter, July 8, 1935, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas, Austin.

⁴ Texas, Commission of Control for Texas Centennial Celebrations, Advisory Board of Texas Historians, “Reports of the Advisory Board of Texas Historians to the Commission of Control for Texas Centennial Celebrations,” Texas State Library and Archives Commission, Austin, 19.

⁵ Kemp to J. Evetts Haley, February 21, 1936, Louis W. Kemp Papers, Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

⁶ “6 Centennial Markers for This County,” *Palacios Beacon*, November 7, 1935.

⁷ “Centennial Pageant to be Held at Girl Reserve Play Day,” *The Daily Tribune* (Bay City), February 29, 1936; “Hundreds to Join Caravan to Matagorda Tomorrow,” *The Daily Tribune* (Bay City), June 15, 1936.

⁸ “Monument Sites Will Be Visited,” *The Austin American*, February 23, 1936.

⁹ Draft versions of Centennial monuments show Page & Southerland began working with the Centennial Division in February 1936, but a contract was not signed until after June 2, 1936. Similarly, Josset’s state contract was signed in August 1936 but architectural drawings with his artistic mock-ups for plaques suggest he started working on the project at an earlier date. Minutes, Texas State Board of Control, Centennial Division, June 2 and August 28, 1936, Centennial Division, Texas State Board of Control. Archives and Information Services Division, Texas State Library and Archives Commission.

Matagorda County Monument, Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas

Page & Southerland designed several monument schemes for the Texas Centennial, including the one used for Matagorda County. Fifteen Centennial monuments used the same 8' granite slab template, and the architects worked with Josset to incorporate his individually-tailored bronze bas-relief plaque designs into blueprints for each project. For the nominated property, Josset chose to illustrate the historic landing of French explorer Rene Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle on the Texas Gulf Coast in 1685 and his encounter with the Karankawa.¹⁰ There are two known versions of the design that Josset submitted to the Board of Control for approval. In one version, the Native American is standing on high ground above La Salle whose bent legs suggest that he is climbing the illustrated peak. Josset revised the draft, at the Board of Control's request, to depict the men meeting face-to-face on level ground. The change to the figures' physical relationship suggests the board was interested in maintaining the widely-accepted Centennial message that Anglos were equal to, if not better than, Native Americans. Cearley & Sons Memorials constructed the approved version from Page & Southerland's blueprint out of pink Texas granite, and Josset was credited for casting the bronze.¹¹

Josset's designs were based on inscriptions supplied to him by the Advisory Board of Historians. Typically, the finalized marker text was the result of a collaborative effort between a local Centennial committee, which drafted the initial copy, and the advisory board chairman, Louis W. Kemp, who fact-checked and edited hundreds of inscriptions. The process produced marker text that varied in quality, a fact Kemp acknowledged when he wrote, "I, too, am disappointed with the thousand-dollar county markers as a whole, but some of them are worthwhile."¹² The marker provides an abridged version of Matagorda history and connects the county to each significant era of modern Texas history as interpreted by the Centennial, from 16th-century European exploration to the Texas Revolution. It memorializes early settlers and prominent citizens who were affiliated with Texas independence, and notes the establishment of its seat of government and other cultural institutions.¹³ On June 17, 1937, the *Palacios Beacon* reported that *Matagorda County* monument was finally standing. Although they gave no details of its dedication they suggested: "When in Bay City stop and look it over, you will enjoy reading the history contained therein and proud that such a marker has been placed in our county."¹⁴

In 1965, Matagorda County replaced its 1928 courthouse with a Modernist public building designed by the Houston architecture firm Rustay & Martin. Monuments on the property, including the nominated memorial, were removed for the duration of construction and re-incorporated in a new landscape design. Matagorda County was moved approximately 60 feet from the northwest corner of the grounds—at the intersection of SH 35 and SH 60—to the north side of the block, facing SH 35.

Raoul Jean Josset (1899-1957)¹⁵

"Frenchman by birth, American by law, and Texan by preference," Raoul Josset, the most prolific sculptor of Texas Centennial monuments, was born in Fours, Nièvre, France on December 9, 1899.¹⁶ Educated at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris and winner of the prestigious Prix de Rome, Josset also apprenticed under French sculptor Émile-Antoine

¹⁰ In 1936, historians had documentation of La Salle's storied journey to Texas, but they lacked evidence giving the precise location in Matagorda Bay for his landing and the site of the short-lived Fort St. Louis. Subsequently, the coastal counties of Victoria, Calhoun, and Matagorda claimed a connection to the French explorer. For more information about La Salle's storied voyage to, and misfortunes in, Texas, see tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fla04.

¹¹ Tom C. King, C.P.A., "Report of an Examination of the Texas Centennial, For the Period from March 24, 1934 to February 28, 1939," (Austin Office of State Auditor and Efficiency Expert, 1939) 82.

¹² Kemp to Dobie, August 4, 1937 in James Frank Dobie Papers, Dolph Briscoe Center for American History.

¹³ Schoen, 117.

¹⁴ "Centennial Marker Put on Courthouse Lawn," *The Palacios Beacon*, June 17, 1937.

¹⁵ Section adapted from *Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial*, 24-25.

¹⁶ "Raoul Josset Completes His 8-Foot Childress Memorial," *Dallas Morning News*, April 3, 1938.

Matagorda County Monument, Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas

Bourdelle (1861-1929). He immigrated to Chicago in 1927 and remained in the United States for the rest of his life. Josset's career gained momentum in the early 1930s, and his aesthetic, influenced by French Art Deco and classical sculpture, was popular to American architects. His early commissions in Chicago included architectural decorations on the Palmolive building (1929), the Carbon & Carbide building (1929), and at the Century of Progress International Exposition (1933).

During this period, he was introduced to architect Donald Nelson and the two collaborated on projects for Chicago's Century of Progress fair. On Nelson's recommendation, architect George Dahl invited Josset to Texas in 1935 to create commemorative statues for the Central Centennial Exposition at Fair Park in Dallas. The Texas Centennial was the most intensely-creative period of Josset's career. Upon completion of his commissions at Fair Park in 1936, the State Board of Control hired Josset to design monuments and statues for the statewide Centennial. In three years, he completed 35 monuments and 5 statues, all commemorating subjects in Texas history.

Josset's commissions slowed after the Centennial, and he briefly pursued work outside of Texas. He returned to Dallas permanently in 1948 to share a studio with a friend, Jose Martin. There he created his final works that included: a 75-foot-long stone bas-relief for the Nelson-designed Grand Lodge Masonic Temple in Waco (1949), statue of *St. Francis of Assisi* in Lubbock (1953), and a statue of *Sam Houston* for the Masonic Temple in Waco (1957). Just as he was enjoying renewed professional success, Josset died suddenly in 1957. He told friends that he felt Texans appreciated his talents, saying "Texans seek [art] with meaning and...they choose with an eye of permanence, thinking in terms of years, generations, maybe forever."¹⁷

Page & Southerland¹⁸

Louis C. Page, Jr. (1909-1981) and Louis F. Southerland (1906-1994) met at the University of Texas School of Architecture in 1930 and were roommates at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1933, Page & Southerland established their firm in Tyler, Texas with hopes that the nationwide depression would not affect the prosperous oil town. Unfortunately, as Southerland recalled, "the money was there but they weren't spending it on buildings."¹⁹ The partners closed the business and, temporarily, went their separate ways.

In 1935, they reopened in Austin and began looking for commissions. Page & Southerland responded to the Board of Control's 1936 bid to design schemes for Centennial markers and monuments. Although it was not a prestigious account for the young firm, the contract for 622 historical markers and 26 monuments paid well. Between February and November 1936, the young firm produced schemes for historical markers, grave markers, and monuments that the State Board of Control used to construct these Centennial property types. The two scheme sub-types for slab monuments—Type X and Y—are differentiated by size (8'-feet-tall versus 6'-feet-tall) and the style of bronze plaque. Type Y monuments, sometimes called "county monuments" for the subject of most of the markers, were adorned with individually-designed bronze bas-relief plaques. Josset designed a template for all plaques attached to Type X monuments. Plaques on both monument sub-types had individualized marker text. Page & Southerland's Centennial commission, a job outside their typical area of expertise, imparted a lasting contribution to the Texas cultural landscape.

There are few documents that record Page & Southerland's Centennial work, but other records show that 1936 marked the beginning of their productive careers.²⁰ In addition to many residential projects, they received two big

¹⁷ "Texas Mourns Tragic Loss of Raoul Josset, Sculptor," *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*, July 21, 1957.

¹⁸ Section adapted from *Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial*, 23.

¹⁹ "Louis Southerland Still Holding Fast to Drawing Pen That Paints Success," *The Austin Statesman*, December 29, 1947.

²⁰ Architectural drawings by Page & Southerland and Page Southerland Page are housed at the Alexander Architectural Archive at

Matagorda County Monument, Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas

commissions before 1940: the City of Austin Municipal Building (1937) and the Public Works Administration-funded Rosewood Courts public housing project (1938) in East Austin. Louis Page's brother George joined the firm in 1939 and, after WWII, Page Southerland Page moved to large commercial, medical, and public building projects as they continued their practice designing residential buildings. Their success in the 1950's and 1960's allowed Page Southerland Page to open additional offices in Houston (1973) and Dallas (1975). Today, the firm operates as Page and designs projects worldwide.

the University of Texas and the Austin History Center. The Texas State Library & Archives Austin has drafts of Centennial monuments and marker schemes drawn by Page & Southerland in February – June 1936. The only business records pertaining to their Centennial work is in the Texas State Board of Control, Centennial Division minutes and Tom C. King's audit report for the Centennial (see bibliography).

Matagorda County Monument, Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas

Bibliography

- Centennial Markers Collection, Records, Texas Historical Commission. Archives and Information Services Division, Texas State Library and Archives Commission.
- Garrec, Anne-Laure. "Fair Park, Dallas, 1936." French Sculpture Census. <https://frenchsculpture.org/dallas-fair-park-1> (accessed October 12, 2017).
- Kemp, Louis Wiltz, Papers. Archives and Information Services Division, Texas State Library and Archives Commission.
- King, Tom C. *Report of an Examination of the Texas Centennial for the Period from March 24, 1934 to February 28, 1939*. Austin: Office of the State Auditor and Efficiency Expert, 1939.
- Lagarde, Francois, ed., *The French in Texas: History, Migration, Culture*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2003, 287.
- Little, Carol Morris. *A Comprehensive Guide to Outdoor Sculpture in Texas*. Austin: University of Texas Press: 1996.
- Minutes of the Texas State Board of Control, Centennial Division, May 16, 1935 to December 31, 1937 and January 3, 1938 to August 15, 1939*. Texas State Board of Control records. Archives and Information Services Division, Texas State Library and Archives Commission.
- Page Southerland Page, Inc. "History," <https://pagethink.com/v/history/> (accessed October 12, 2017).
- ProQuest Historical Newspapers. www.proquest.com. *The Austin American Statesman*
- Readex, NewsBank Inc. www.readex.com. *Dallas Morning News*
- Reports of the Advisory Board of Texas Historians to the Commission of Control for Texas Centennial Celebrations, Majority and Minority Reports, October 1, 1935*.
- Texas State Historical Association. *Handbook of Texas Online*. (<https://tshaonline.org/handbook>)
- "Nelson, Donald Siegfried," accessed September 1, 2017. <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fnejz>.
- "Matagorda County," accessed September 1, 2017. <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fnejz>.

Matagorda County Monument, Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas

Maps

Map 1: Matagorda County, Texas



Map 2: Google Earth, accessed February 18, 2017
Latitude: 28.982860° N Longitude: -95.96931° W

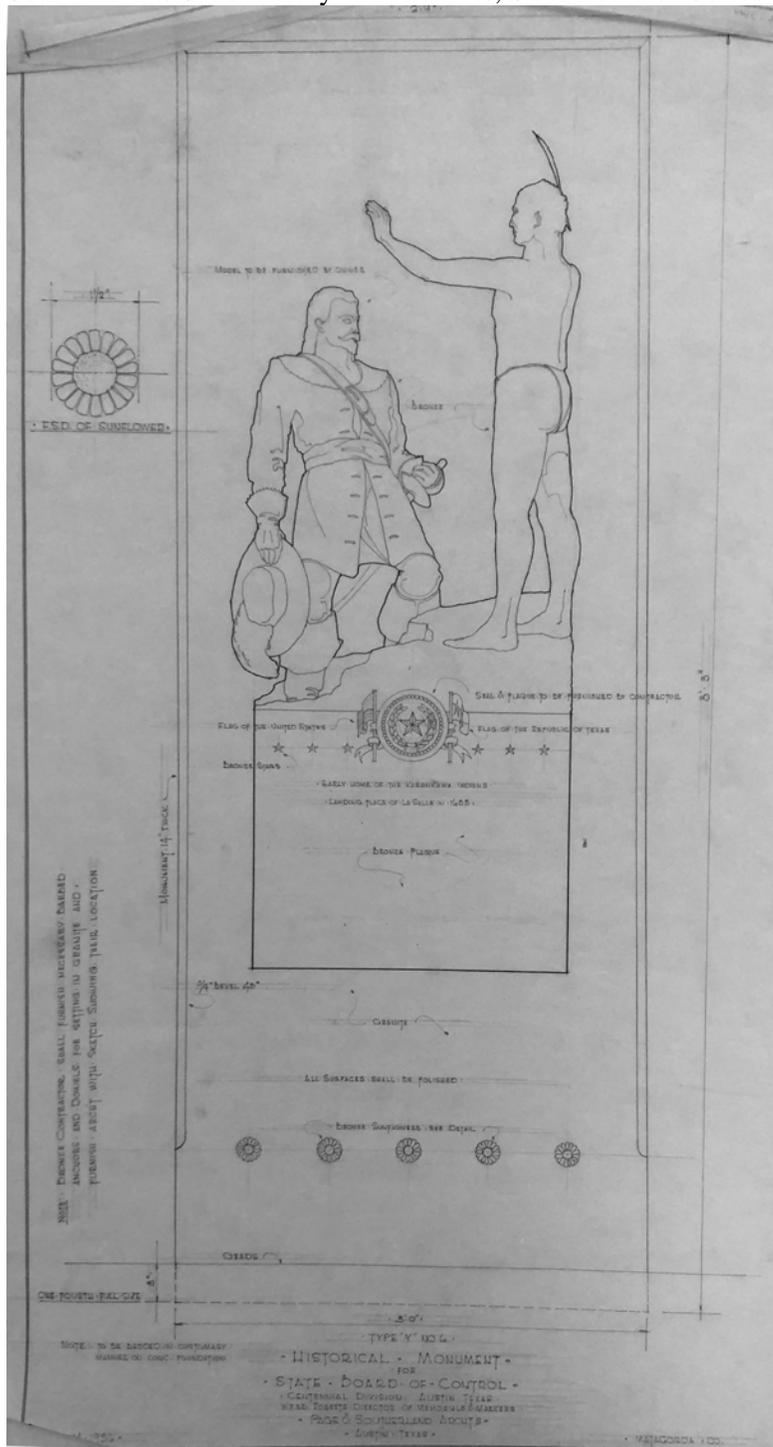


Matagorda County Monument, Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas

Figures

Figure 1: Draft version of *Matagorda County* Monument rejected by State Board of Control. Page and Southerland, Architects, July 14, 1936.

Source: Texas State Library and Archives, State Board of Control building records and contracts, CMC-41



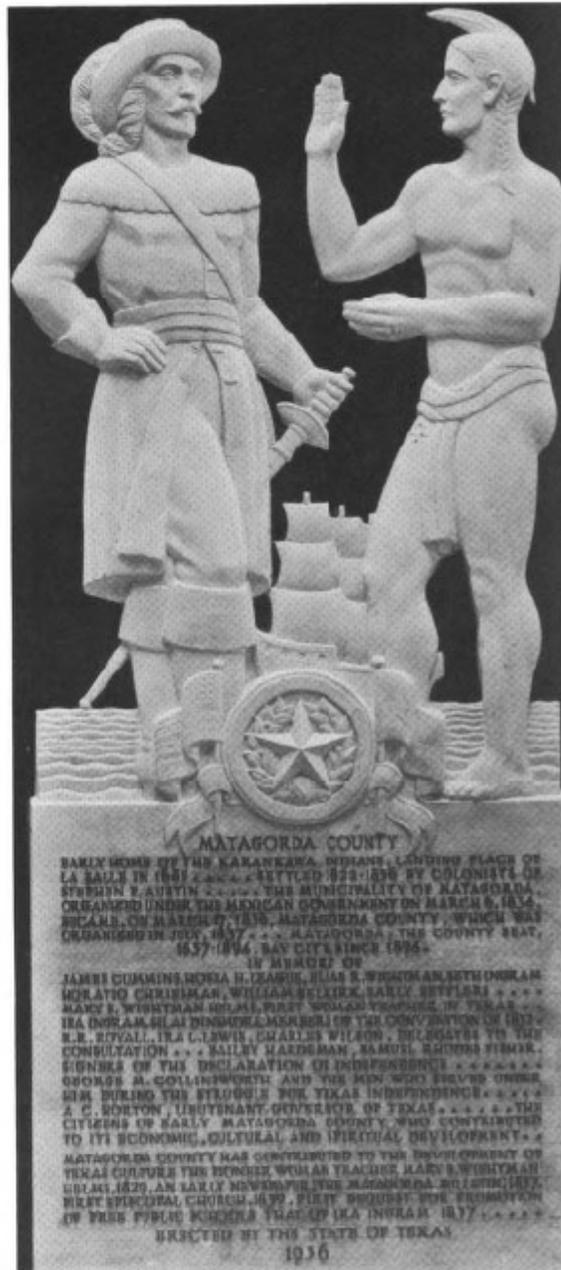
Matagorda County Monument, Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas

Figure 2: Matagorda County monument plate, 1938.

Source: Schoen, Harold. *Monuments Erected by the State of Texas to Commemorate the Centenary of Texas Independence*, (Austin: Commission of Control for Texas Centennial Celebrations, 1938), 117.

MATAGORDA COUNTY
 EARLY HOME OF THE KARANKAWA INDIANS, LANDING PLACE OF LA SALLE IN 1685 * * * * * SETTLED 1822-1836 BY COLONISTS OF STEPHEN F. AUSTIN * * * * * THE MUNICIPALITY OF MATAGORDA, ORGANIZED UNDER THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT ON MARCH 6, 1834, BECAME, ON MARCH 17, 1836, MATAGORDA COUNTY, WHICH WAS ORGANIZED IN JULY, 1837 * * * * * MATAGORDA, THE COUNTY SEAT, 1837-1894, BAY CITY, SINCE 1894 *
 IN MEMORY OF
 JAMES CUMMINS, HOSEA H. LEAGUE, ELIAS R. WIGHTMAN, SETH INGRAM, HORATIO CHRISTMAN, WILLIAM SELKIRK, EARLY SETTLERS * * * * * MARY S. WIGHTMAN HELMS, FIRST WOMAN TEACHER IN TEXAS * * * * * IRA INGRAM, SLAS DINSMORE, MEMBERS OF THE CONVENTION OF 1832 * * * * * R. B. BOWALL, IRA L. LEWIS, CHARLES WILSON, DELEGATES TO THE CONSULTATION * * * * * BAILEY HARDEMAN, SAMUEL RHOADES FISHER, SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE * * * * * GEORGE M. COLLINSWORTH AND THE MEN WHO SERVED UNDER HIM DURING THE STRUGGLE FOR TEXAS INDEPENDENCE * * * * * A. C. HORTON, LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF TEXAS * * * * * THE CITIZENS OF EARLY MATAGORDA COUNTY WHO CONTRIBUTED TO ITS ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT * * * * *
 MATAGORDA COUNTY HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEXAS CULTURE THE PIONEER WOMAN TEACHER MARY S. WIGHTMAN HELMS, 1829, AN EARLY NEWSPAPER, THE MATAGORDA BULLETIN, 1837, FIRST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1839, FIRST REQUEST FOR PROMOTION OF FREE PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT OF IRA INGRAM, 1837 * * * * *

[Courthouse Grounds, Bay City]



Matagorda County Monument, Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas

Figure 3: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1942. The red dot is the approximate historic location of the monument and the green dot is its approximate current location. It was moved in 1965.

Source: http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/sanborn/txu-sanborn-bay_city-1942-02.jpg

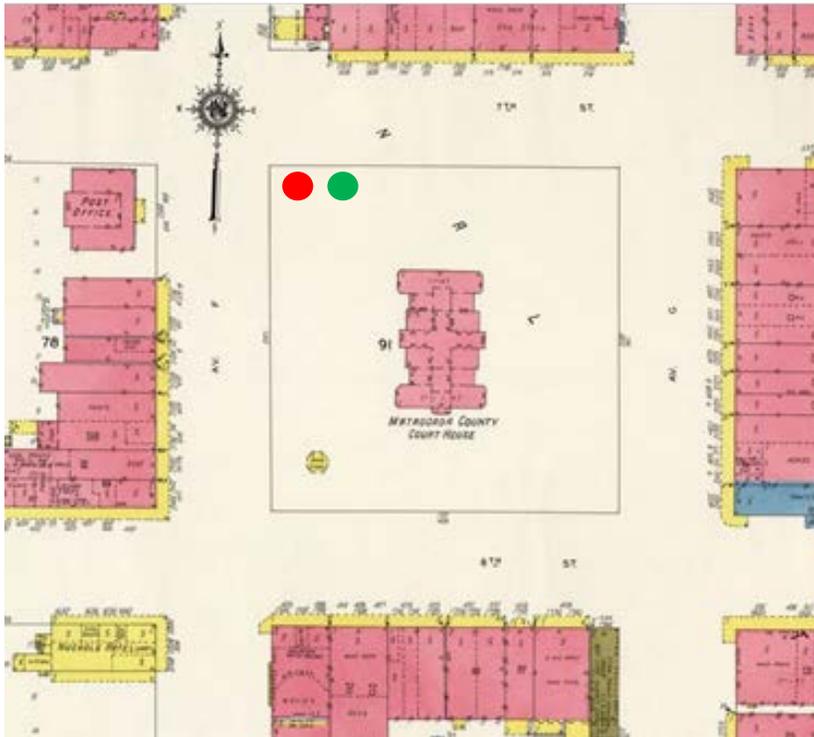


Figure 4: 1895/1928 Matagorda County Courthouse in background with nominated monument in foreground.

Source: Matagorda County Historical Commission, *Historic Matagorda County Vol. I* (Houston: D. Armstrong, Co., 1986).



Matagorda County Monument, Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas

Photographs

Photo 1: Matagorda County monument erected for the 1936 Centennial—camera facing south, February 14, 2018



Matagorda County Monument, Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas

Photo 2: Detail view of bronze plaque with inscription—camera facing south, February 14, 2018



Matagorda County Monument, Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas

Photo 3: Detail view of bronze bas-relief figures designed by Raoul Josset—camera facing south, February 14, 2018



Matagorda County Monument, Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas

Photo 4: Rear view of Matagorda County monument—camera facing northwest, February 14, 2018.

The monument was moved from its historic location at the northwest corner of the courthouse block in current location on the north side of the same block in 1965.



Matagorda County Monument, Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas

Photo 5: Matagorda County monument in front of Matagorda County Courthouse—camera facing southeast, February 14, 2018



~end~



MATAGORDA COUNTY

EARLY HOME OF THE KARANKAWA INDIANS, LANDING PLACE OF LA SALLE IN 1665 . . . SETTLED 1822-1856 BY COLONISTS OF STEPHEN F. AUSTIN . . . THE MUNICIPALITY OF MATAGORDA, ORGANIZED UNDER THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT ON MARCH 6, 1854, BECAME, ON MARCH 17, 1856, MATAGORDA COUNTY, WHICH WAS ORGANIZED IN JULY, 1857 . . . MATAGORDA, THE COUNTY SEAT, 1857-1894 / BAY CITY SINCE 1894

IN MEMORY OF

JAMES CUMMINS, HOSEA H. LEAGUE, ELIAS R. WIGHTMAN, SETH INGRAM, RONALD, CHRISTOPHER, WILLIAM SELKIRK, EARLY SETTLERS . . . MARY S. WIGHTMAN HELMS, FIRST WOMAN TEACHER IN TEXAS . . . TRA INGRAM, SILAS DINSMORE, MEMBERS OF THE CONVENTION OF 1852 . . . R. R. RONALL, IRA L. LEWIS, CHARLES WILSON, DELEGATES TO THE CONSULTATION . . . BAILEY HARDEMAN, SAMUEL RHODES FISHER, SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE . . . GEORGE M. COLLINSWORTH AND THE MEN WHO SERVED UNDER HIM DURING THE STRUGGLE FOR TEXAS INDEPENDENCE . . . A. C. HORTON, LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF TEXAS . . . THE CITIZENS OF EARLY MATAGORDA COUNTY WHO CONTRIBUTED TO HIS ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT . . .

MATAGORDA COUNTY HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEXAS CULTURE THE PIONEER WOMAN TEACHER MARY S. WIGHTMAN HELMS, 1829, AN EARLY NEWSPAPER THE MATAGORDA BULLETIN, 1857, FIRST PRINCIPAL CHURCH, 1859, FIRST BEQUEST FOR PROMOTION OF FREE PUBLIC SCHOOLS THAT OF IRA INGRAM, 1857 . . .

ERECTED BY THE STATE OF TEXAS

1956





cricket

TIPS • TO

W
24 HOUR SERVICE

FINANCIAL

TERRY FARRAR CP



MATAGORDA COUNTY COURT HOUSE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Matagorda County Monument

Multiple Name: Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial MPS

State & County: TEXAS, Matagorda

Date Received:
3/9/2018

Date of Pending List:
4/2/2018

Date of 16th Day:
4/17/2018

Date of 45th Day:
4/23/2018

Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: MP100002351

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

Appeal

SHPO Request

Waiver

Resubmission

Other

PDIL

Landscape

National

Mobile Resource

TCP

CLG

Text/Data Issue

Photo

Map/Boundary

Period

Less than 50 years

Accept

Return

Reject

4/19/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The Matagorda County Monument is of statewide significance under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Social History and Art. Completed in 1937, the 8-foot tall pink granite slab with a bas-relief bronze sculptural plaque was the collaborative design effort of Raoul Josset (sculptor) and Page & Southerland (monument), who were responsible for many of the county monument projects. The monument represented a product of the concerted statewide efforts by state and local governments, a variety of private organizations, and individuals to commemorate historic persons and events important to Texas history under the Texas Centennial program. The Matagorda County project represented one of the Centennial program's typical "county monument project" property types (15). The monument's relocation did not materially affect its significance as it is still prominently sited on the grounds of the county's most prominent public building only a short distance from its original location and it is significant under Criterion C. The monument meets the Registration Requirements set out in the MPS cover.

Recommendation/ Criteria Accept NR Criteria A and C.

Reviewer Paul Lusignan

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2229

Date 4/19/2018

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories



TO: Paul Lusignan
 National Register of Historic Places
 Mail Stop 7228
 1849 C St, NW
 Washington, D.C. 20240

From: Mark Wolfe, SHPO
 Texas Historical Commission

RE: Matagorda County Monument, Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas (submitted under
Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial MPDF)

DATE: March 6, 2018

The following materials are submitted:

X	Original National Register of Historic Places form on disk. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the National Register of Historic Places nomination of the Matagorda County Monument, Bay City, Matagorda County, Texas. (Submitted under <i>Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial</i> MPDF)
	Resubmitted nomination.
X	Original NRHP signature page signed by the Texas SHPO.
	Multiple Property Documentation form on disk.
	Resubmitted form.
	Original MPDF signature page signed by the Texas SHPO.
X	CD with TIFF photograph files, KMZ files, and nomination PDF
	Correspondence.

COMMENTS:

- SHPO requests substantive review (cover letter from SHPO attached)
- The enclosed owner objections (do___) (do not___) constitute a majority of property owners
- Other:

