

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC San Jacinto Battlefield

AND/OR COMMON

San Jacinto Battlefield

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 22 miles east of Houston on Texas 134

CITY, TOWN

Houston

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8th

STATE

Texas

CODE  
48

COUNTY  
Harris

CODE  
201

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME State of Texas, administered by Texas State Park and Wildlife Department

STREET & NUMBER

John H. Regan Building

CITY, TOWN

Austin

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Texas

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, Harris County Courthouse  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

301 San Jacinto Street

CITY, TOWN

Houston

STATE  
Texas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Battle of San Jacinto had been commemorated by Texans as early as the first anniversary but it was not until the 1850's that early efforts were first organized to appropriately mark the battleground. In the 1890's the idea of purchasing the entire battlefield and converting it into a State Park gained momentum and a chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas enlisted support for a legislative bill to provide funds. In 1897 the bill passed. Three years before, in 1894, James Monroe Hill led a committee of San Jacinto veterans to the battleground to delineate the exact location of the battle. His son George Hill correlated eye-witness reports and drew the map which formed the basis for the boundary. It took three years to complete the purchase of the property.

In 1936, under the impetus of the state centennial celebration, extensive "improvements" of the property began which included the construction of a towering monument with a museum at its base, a large reflecting pool and landscaped grounds. Today the battlefield exists within a maze of oil refineries, chemical plants and high tension wires. Because of this heavy industrial development, the land is subsiding rapidly, causing the reflecting pool to lose its rectangular form and the park area to become a marsh in several areas. Markers at various numbered points explain the battle and are illustrated on a map of the battleground which is included as sketch map A.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1836

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

General Sam Houston on April 21, 1836, won the decisive engagement of the Texas Revolution, the battle of San Jacinto, and insured the victory of the revolutionaries, and ultimately, the independence of the Texas Republic from Mexico. Independence paved the way for annexation by the United States, which in turn brought on the Mexican War and the acquisition by the United States of the entire Southwest and California.

## HISTORY

On March 2, 1836, Americans in Texas adopted a declaration of independence for the Republic of Texas, establishing General Sam Houston as Commander-in-Chief of all Texas forces. Before he could raise sufficient forces the Alamo had already fallen to Santa Anna. Realizing that his small army with meager provisions would provide no fight for the Mexican army, he chose to retreat to the Brazos River.

Santa Anna, after arriving too late in Harrisburg to capture the newly formed Texan government, turned north in pursuit of Houston's forces. On April 20, 1836, he took up his position where the San Jacinto River joins Buffalo Bayou, with open country to the left, the San Jacinto on their right, and the bayou before them.

On April 18, Houston intercepted a Mexican courier with dispatches that clearly revealed Santa Anna's plans. Houston began his move. Crossing south of Buffalo Bayou, Houston proceeded with a force of about 900 men to the vicinity of Lynch's Ferry, near the confluence of the San Jacinto River and the bayou. Houston's intelligence indicated a force of about 600 Mexicans faced his troops across the prairie, but for undisclosed reasons Houston waited while General Cos, a brother-in-law of Santa Anna, joined the Mexican forces raising the enemies strength to some 1,200 men.

Then on the afternoon of April 21, Houston prepared to attack the Mexican position which now offered them no road for retreat as the bridge on the only road across the Brazos, eight miles from the encampment, had been destroyed. At half past three, Houston gave the order to arm and assemble. The Texans formed a line of infantry extending about 1,000 yards, broken only by a battery of two cannons. Some 60 cavalry troops under the command of Mirabeau B. Lamar protected the Texans' right flank and guarded against a Mexican breakthrough to the prairie.

(Continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Continuance Sheet)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c. 455

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	5
2	9,9
9	8
0	3,2
2	9,2
2	7,0

B 

1	5
2	9,9
5	2,0
3	2
9,1	4,3
0	0

C 

1	5
2	9,7
7	4
0	3,2
9,2	9,7
0	0

D 

1	5
2	9,7
9	4
0	3
2	9,3
8	1,0

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

As the boundaries of San Jacinto State Park were set according to the best available historical information, the landmark boundary coincides with the state owned property as indicated on the U.S.G.S. map. and as held by the State as of May 15, 1975. The Battleship Texas and monuments and other physical apputenances do not contribute to the national significance of the landmark.

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Patricia Heintzelman, Architectural Historian, Landmark Review Project

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

5/15/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20240

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Landmark

Designated: 12/19/60

DATE

date

Boundary Certified:

DATE

Connelius W. White 5-20-76

Chief, Hist. &

DATE

Arch. Surveys

DATE

Boundary Reirmed:

Clayton A. Ragsdale 7/24/76

Acting Director, OAHF

date

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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While a slight swell in the terrain afforded the attackers cover to within 200 yards of the enemy, the complete surprise by which the Texans took the Mexican forces remains unexplained. The account of the action, extracted from General Houston's official report of the battle to the President of the Republic, David G. Burnet states: "Colonel Sherman, with his regiment, having commenced the action upon our left wing, the whole line, at the center and on the right advancing in double quick time, raised the war-cry, 'Remember the Alamo!' received the enemy's fire, and advanced within point blank shot before a piece was discharged from our lines. Our lines advanced without a halt, until they were in possession of the woodland and the enemy's breastwork--the right wing of Burleson's and the left of Millard's taking possession of the breastwork; our artillery having gallantly charged up within seventy yards of the enemy's cannon, when it was taken by our troops."

By Houston's official report, the battle lasted only 18 minutes. Mexican losses were 630 dead, 208 injured and 730 prisoners, while Texan forces lost only 9 men with 30 others wounded. Santa Anna was captured the following day dressed as a Mexican private and was held as a hostage against further Mexican attack. On May 17 the treaty was signed which brought the conflict formally to a close.

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