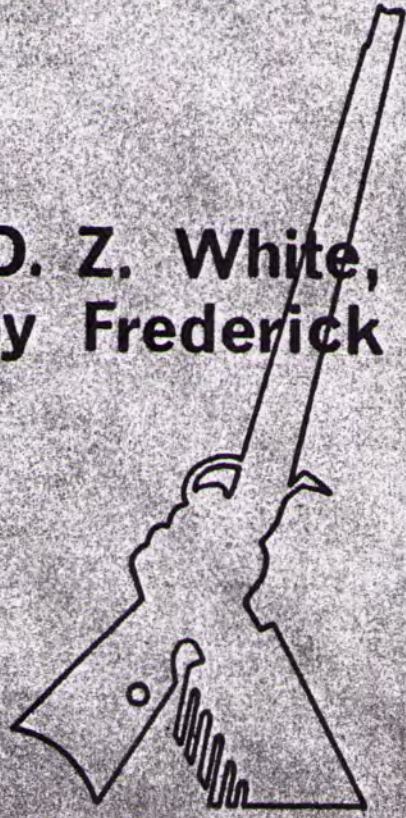


ROBERT APPEL, JR.

# HISTORY OF BRENHAM AND WASHINGTON COUNTY 1820 - 1900

by O. Z. White, PhD.  
edited by Frederick C. Cuny



History of Brenham and Washington County 1820-1900

By: O.Z. White, PhD.

Edited by: Frederick C. Cuny

This study was prepared and edited under the auspices of the Urban Renewal Agency of the City of Brenham, Texas, Cordis Tieman, Chairman

Portions of the material prepared herein were edited by Carter & Burgess, Inc. Engineers - Planners, Planning Consultants to the Urban Renewal Agency.

This report was prepared and edited in part through the assistance of a Federal Grant from the Renewal Assistance Office of the Department of Housing and Urban Development under the provisions of Title I of the Housing Act of 1949, as Amended.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Early History of Washington County Page 4

A Short History of Brenham 1843-1900 Page 11

Appendices

- I. Criteria for Designation of Structures of Historic or Architectural Significance
- II. Texas State Historical Survey Committee - Brenham Survey
- III. Dates Significant to Brenham
- IV. Official Texas Historical Markers in Brenham and Washington County.

Bibliography

## EARLY HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, TEXAS

Washington County, Texas lies in the southeastern part of the state about 90 miles east of Austin and 120 miles from the Gulf of Mexico. The Brazos River forms a natural eastern boundary as do Cedar Creek and Yegua Creek on the north. It is bounded on the north by Lee, Burleson, and Brazos Counties; on the south by Austin and Fayette Counties; and on the west by Fayette and Lee Counties. The area encompassed in the present Washington County is 611 sq. miles containing 392,320 acres of excellent agricultural land. With an elevation ranging from 200-350 feet above sea level, Washington County enjoys a mild and agreeable climate. The average yearly temperature is just under 70 degrees while the rainfall averages about 40 inches per year. In addition to its agricultural productivity, Washington County has mineral resources consisting of oil, gas, and some lignite, brick, clay, salt, and sulphur.

The geographical boundaries of Washington County have changed considerably since it was first organized in 1837. At one time it was one of the largest counties in the state. Due to the creation of other near-by counties, however, its land mass was gradually reduced over a period of years.

In 1840 the Texas Legislature transferred all the territory west of the Brazos River and north of Yegua Creek to Milam County. Today, Lee, Burleson, and Milam Counties comprise this territory. In 1841 the formation of Navasota County (now Brazos) made the Brazos River the eastern boundary of Washington County. Subsequent additions of Walker County (1846), Madison County (1853), and Lee County (1874) resulted in the reduction of Washington County to its present size.

Although the recorded history of the area once embraced by Washington County dates back to the beginning of the sixteenth century when adventurous Spanish explorers and military men spied out the land, the territory as a whole was primarily controlled by Indian tribes up to the early decades of the nineteenth century. Indeed, it was not until the arrival of Stephen F. Austin in 1821 that the land destined to become Washington County began to take on the features of an Anglo-Saxon culture.

Through the persistent efforts of Moses Austin, Spanish officials in 1820 granted permission for three hundred Anglo-Saxon settlers to establish a colony in the province of Texas. The elder Austin's death in 1821 left the burden of developing the colony to his son, Stephen. With a party of men Austin explored the area lying between the Colorado and Brazos Rivers and chose a section of land along the west bank of the Brazos as an ideal location for his first colonial adventure. Included in this territory was the ground which later became Washington County.

The plan of organization for the colony stipulated that each family-head was to receive 640 acres, his wife 320 acres, and each child 100 acres. Moreover, each slave holder was entitled to 80 acres for every slave in his possession. By December, 1821, the actual introduction of the original "Three Hundred" had begun. Included in this group were such names as Kuykendall, Cole, Gates, Gray, and Robinson. However, it was not until the heavy German migration which began in the late 1840's that any substantial permanent towns were established.

The early organization of Washington County by the Mexican Government did not begin until 1824 following the successful completion of Mexico's battle to end Spanish hegemony. At that time the Mexican Congress passed

a "Constituent Act" uniting Coahuila and Texas since neither one was really populous enough to form a single state. In addition, the decrees provided that when Texas had grown sufficiently, it could be admitted into the Mexican Union as a separate state. However, because Saltillo, the new state capital, was inconveniently located for the majority of Texans, the Mexican government passed a colonization law in 1825 creating a political department of Texas with a political chief located at San Antonio de Bexar. In 1831 the Department of Texas was subdivided into the Departments of Bexar and Nacadoches. Due to increasing population a third division was made in 1834 by forming the district of Brazos with a capital at San Felipe de Austin. Not long after the citizens living along the Brazos north of San Felipe petitioned the political chief at San Felipe to approve the creation and organization of the "Municipality of Washington". The petition was approved in 1835. Under the Constitution of the Republic of Texas, adopted March 17, 1836, the Municipality of Washington was redesignated Washington County. As indicated above, its boundaries were established by an Act of Congress in 1837.

Due to shifting population in the pre-Civil War period there were several "ghosts towns" in Washington County. Some of these towns have disappeared completely while others are marked by the sites of a few weather-battered ruins. Jacksonville, named after Terrel Jackson, a wealthy settler in that area, was situated about three or four miles north of Chappell Hill. Utilizing the commercial advantages of the Brazos River, local residents built fine homes and erected places of business. However, no trace of the town can be found today.

Mount Vernon, the second county seat (1841-1844), located about six miles northwest of Brenham, had a courthouse, jail, and other public buildings. It is not clear exactly how large the town actually was, but references to churches, schools, and homes in addition to the public buildings suggest that it was of substantial size.

Before the Civil War Mustang was an important trading center about three miles east of Brenham. This was the home of "Mustang Gray", the famous Texas Ranger, from whom the town received its name. Mustang was also the temporary residence of W.B. Travis, famous defender of the Alamo, who practiced law in the Alcalde's Court in the 1830's.

About nine miles northwest of Brenham was Old Gay Hill once noted for its natural beauty and colonial refinement. In 1850 Rev. James W. Miller established Live Oak Female Seminary which flourished for several years until civil strife forced its doors to close.

On the west side of the Brazos, about fifteen miles south of Washington stood the town of Rock Island. During the early Republic Years Rock Island reportedly had a wealthy and cultured citizenry. It was also the home of Rock Island Academy, an institution which for years maintained a state wide reputation for academic excellence.

Tigertown (or Tiger Point) was located on one of the rolling hills of Washington County about six miles west of Brenham. Many important plantation owners had magnificent homes there. Today, however, nothing but rich farmland covers the site of this once active and bustling frontier town.

Union Hill was a border town on Yegua Creek about two miles northwest of the present town of Burton. After the Houston and Texas Central Railroad

was extended west from Brenham to Burton and Austin in the 1870's, the town went into an economic depression from which it never recovered. Of educational note was the Union Hill High School which was chartered on February 1, 1858.

Although these "ghost towns" are only names with a few scattered traditions, several early towns did survive and continue to function as municipalities today. The five most important civic centers of Washington County are: Brenham, Chappell Hill, Independence, Washington-on-the-Brazos, and Burton. The towns of Greenvine and William Penn are only of secondary significance.

Washington-on-the-Brazos has a unique place in the early history of the Texas Republic. In a blacksmith shop of that tiny village of one hundred inhabitants the Revolutionary Convention met on March 1, 1836 to draft a Declaration of Independence from the sovereignty of Mexico. Because of its location at the junction of the Brazos and Navasota Rivers, Washington-on-the-Brazos became the center of an extensive river traffic. The town became the first county seat of Washington County and served as the capital of the Republic when Sam Houston moved his government from Austin in 1842 fearing a Mexican invasion. President Anson Jones was inaugurated in Washington and carried on the functions of government there until the annexation convention was called to meet at Austin, July 4, 1845.

In spite of all these early indications of commercial importance and political significance, Washington-on-the-Brazos did not become a large and prosperous city. In 1848 local residents refused to grant the Houston and Texas Central Railroad Company permission to build through their town. Cut off from the benefits of the "Iron Horse" which had many advantages



over the slower and less certain riverboat transportation, Washington began to dwindle in population and commerce. Today its major attractions are its historical shrines and Washington Park, one of the leading parks in Texas.

Known in the pre-Republic days as "Coles' Settlement", Independence became one of the leading communities of East Texas being especially remembered as the first home of Baylor University. Because of its importance as a center of learning and culture, Independence early acquired the descriptive nickname, the "Athens of Texas". Under the auspices of the Baptist Church, Baylor University was chartered on August 1, 1845 with both male and female schools. Formal instruction began the following year with one teacher and a few students. The university expanded its activities up to the Civil War. Like all other institutions of learning, however, it suffered greatly from the confusion and depression of civil strife. In 1866 the male and female schools were placed under separate boards and under the able leadership of Dr. William Carey Crane, the university recovered and established itself as one of the leading educational institutions in the state. In 1866, when the male branch of the university moved to Waco and the Female College to Belton, Independence lost most of its raison d'etre. Only the crumbling ruins of once proud buildings remain as a monument to the "Athens of Texas".

As early as 1849 Chappell Hill, named after the settler Robert Chappell, was regarded to be an important trading point in East Texas. Just as the Baptists put Independence on the map with their educational institutions, so the Methodists brought prominence to Chappell Hill with their academic ventures. Chappell Hill College opened in 1852 as a private academy and

came under the jurisdiction of the Methodist Church in 1854. In 1856 it became strictly a Female College. The school continued to function at Chappell Hill until 1912 when economic factors forced the cessation of classes. In addition to Chappell Hill College the Methodist Church founded Soule University in 1856. In 1875 Soule merged with Southwestern University at Georgetown, Texas. Today the old Soule campus is a productive cotton field which gives no indication of the venerable university once located on that spot. In modern times Chappell Hill has survived as a small town with considerable rural trade.

The town of Burton came into local prominence when the Houston and Texas Central Railroad moved westward from Brenham after the Civil War. It played no important part in the early history of the county, however, either politically or educationally.

## A Short History of Brenham 1843-1900

In the history of Brenham the number "three" has a special significance. By a slim majority of three votes the residents of Hickory Grove community in 1843 adopted a new name, Brenham, in honor of Dr. Richard Fox Brenham, who had practiced medicine some years earlier in the near-by vicinity. Brenham had achieved fame as the martyr-hero of the ill-fated Mier Expedition of 1842-43. Heavily outnumbered by Mexican troops the small band of 300 Americans were defeated and imprisoned at the hacienda de Salado near Saltillo, Mexico. The desperate prisoners decided to make a break for freedom with Brenham offering himself as the lead man who would almost certainly meet with death. In the charge for freedom Brenham killed two guards and severely wounded a third before he lost his life. It was in tribute to his courage and self-sacrifice that the inhabitants of Hickory Grove renamed their community in his memory.

The number "three" was also important a year later when residents of Washington County decided to select a permanent county seat by popular vote. Mount Vernon (the present county seat), Independence, Turkey Creek, and Brenham hotly contested for the honor. No single community, however, could muster the required majority vote. Turkey Creek and Mount Vernon then withdrew from the race leaving the choice between Brenham and Independence. J.D. Giddings, a local lawyer, toured the county making speeches on behalf of Brenham extolling its virtues as the logical place for a centralization of county government. On February 4, 1844 voters selected Brenham by the slender majority of three votes as the permanent county seat. Utilizing 100 acres of land donated by Jessie Farral and James Hurt, Congress designated commissioners to survey the townsite and sell lots so that the nucleus of

a town could be quickly established. In the spring of 1844 Asa M. Lewis built the first home in Brenham and others quickly followed. Secure in its position of political importance, Brenham had future prospects which no other county town could ever hope to achieve.

Between 1844 and the beginning of the Civil War Brenham grew rapidly. Residents from other county towns, sensing that Brenham was a key commercial and political center, sold their homes and moved into the local area. Another wave of immigration brought industrious settlers from North and South Carolina, Virginia, Kentucky, and Tennessee. A heavy concentration of German and Polish immigrants also settled in and around Brenham between 1856 and 1883. Most of these newcomers became thrifty, industrious, and eventually prosperous citizens. The editor of the Brenham Daily Banner expressed his approval of Brenham's role as a "melting pot" of cultures and customs in 1873. "We are glad to see such a tide of immigration pouring into our county--Germans, English, and Americans from Alabama and Georgia--We rejoice to see them coming thus from all quarters. We like a mixed population; it is just what constitutes the American character as a cosmopolitan nation." (Brenham Daily Banner, January 25, 1873)

With the increase of population came also a building boom and commercial expansion. Ten years after becoming the county seat Brenham could boast of at least twelve thriving business establishments and a population of more than 250. When the Washington County Railroad extended from Hempstead to Brenham in 1860, however, the pace accelerated. Merchants invested capital and constructed many substantial places of business. When the first census of Brenham was taken in 1860 there were 600 whites and 300 blacks inhabitants. With the beginning of hostilities between North and South in

1861, Brenham suffered the same economic and political stagnation shared by so many other southern municipalities. It was not until military rule ended in Brenham in 1870 that any significant strides toward economic recovery and stability were actually taken.

During the so-called "Reconstruction" period following the Civil War, Federal troops were stationed on Brenham's eastern border. "Camptown", as older citizens call the eastern part of the city today, is a reminder of the days of army occupation. Relations between military officials and local were tense and strained. They reached a breaking point in 1866 when a group of soldiers reportedly set fire to the town and prevented townspeople from extinguishing the blaze before it got out of control. An ensuing struggle between the local newspaper editor and the camp commander only added to the bitterness and resentment engendered on both sides. An uneasy truce was maintained until the soldiers of the 17th Infantry marched out of town on May 21, 1870 to take up new quarters at Waco. Four years later the populace finally managed to elect Democratic candidates for the first time since the close of the Civil War. This brought the "Reconstruction" era formally to a close.

The end of military rule was the signal for the beginning of economic as well as political rejuvenation. As early as 1867 construction of new buildings had begun, but it was not until the 1870's that this had become a marked trend. As the local newspaper observed in 1871, "Bricks and mortar are steadily taking the shape of elegant business houses in Brenham, and the erection of fine dwellings is becoming a passion with our citizens." (Brenham Daily Banner, February 28, 1871) Between June 1878 and June 1879 102 new homes were constructed inside the city limits. Moreover, the population had increased from a meager 250 in 1854 to a respectable 4,200 in

1880. The business section of town contained many brick structures some of which were two and three stories high. In all there were more than one hundred and fifty business establishments most of which were in a prosperous condition.

An interesting sidelight to the Brenham "industrial complex" of the 1870's was a silk industry started in 1878 by C.F. Herbst. After several years of intensive experimentation, Herbst ordered 1,000 mulberry trees from Japan. Sample tests of his transplanted trees indicated that the silk had good color and a remarkably strong fiber. Difficulties in processing the product, however, forced Herbst to abandon his novel project. Because of this abortive industry, a suburb located in the southwest section of Brenham has been traditionally referred to as "Silkville".

More than any other single factor, however, it was the arrival of the railroad that brought economic strength and stability to Brenham. In 1871 the Houston and Texas Central Railroad completed its line as far west as Austin thus linking Brenham with that important city. In order to facilitate the transportation of livestock, the Santa Fe built a road from Galveston to Chicago. Near the end of 1879 the Bellville to Brenham section opened giving Brenham an important link with a major interstate railroad. In 1880 the Santa Fe started hauling freight from Brenham to Galveston which enabled Brenham farmers to send their goods directly to large markets for quick and profitable sales.

Life in Brenham in the post-Civil War period was characterized by a strong sense of community spirit and a stubborn streak of individualistic pride. Both qualities can be historically documented quite easily. The

community spirit is well illustrated in Brenham's early acceptance of Public Free Schools as absolutely essential to the future well-being of the country. When the 14th Legislature passed a bill on March 25, 1875, providing that public schools be financed by direct taxation, Brenham was the first Texas town to accept the plan and put it into operation. In 1878 a two-story brick building was erected by funds obtained from popular subscription. At that time the school system had 298 white pupils with 7 teachers, and 153 black students with 4 teachers. In 1880 there were approximately 700 pupils enrolled in the free schools approximately two-thirds of this number being white students.

Another example of community pride and cooperation was the annual Volkfest or Maifest, a spring celebration which was begun by the German citizens of Brenham in 1874. These peoples festivals stem back to ancient Teutonic religious ceremonies commemorating the passing of winter and the beginning of spring. In modern times, however, they have lost much of their religious significance and have become strictly social affairs. The pagentry of crowning king and queen, the beautiful floats, and convivial eating, drinking, and singing that constitute the Maifest, are constant reminders of the friendly community spirit that has existed in Brenham for nearly one hundred years.

Yet even in its "good old days" Brenham had to face problems not entirely unlike those confronting small communities today. The local paper during this period was filled with accounts of muggings, shootings, and rapes. Frequent attempts to close "Hells Half-Acres", the Brenham "red light district" invariably met with failure. The ladies of the street would dutifully pay their fines, promise to leave town, and return to their

usual haunts. Even among good-hearted citizens it was not always easy to maintain a measure of law and order. Several contemporary examples will illustrate this.

"A grand scrimmage took place near the post office on Tuesday evening between the city officers and a young man who was crazy from the effects of whisky. The drunken man whipped the whole crowd, including the county jailer. Whisky when not pure is a terrible enemy to mankind." (Brenham Daily Banner, February 19, 1875)

"Pistol serenades have become a nightly occurrence and it seems to peaceable citizens who do not enjoy this kind of music, that the city marshall and night police should make an extra effort to catch the musicians." (Brenham Daily Banner, October 31, 1880)

Even juvenile delinquency was not unheard of in those days.

"Nearly every small boy in town is provided with a box of tobacco, paper and lucifer matches, and the ease and speed with which they smoke cigarettes is astonishing. All physicans condemn the practice." (Brenham Daily Banner, June 12, 1880)

Old-timers were even plagued with the modern problem of traffic conjection in the downtown area.

"The manner in which Main Street is obstructed by vehicles of all kinds in front of and near the livery stable between Douglas and West Streets, is a nuisance and should be abated. The yard and not the street is the place for wagons." (Brenham Daily Banner, February 3, 1880)

Even the problem of pure food and drugs had to be faced. Not always did Residents have the paucky good humor of the local newspaper editor.

"Our city butchers are now furnishing better beef than they did a little while back, which is very consoling to the customers, but rather hard to the dentists." (Brenham Daily Banner, March 26, 1875)



As might be expected from all the foregoing, Brenham was not lacking in places where "liquid refreshment" could be readily purchased. In 1880 the Brenham Daily Banner reported that there were 27 establishments in town where liquor could be purchased by the drink. Although most establishments were respectable (or attempted to be), it was not always possible to control the customers. The visitor to Brenham could quench his thirst at the Casion, Walkers' Bar, Gerber's Bar, the Bar and Billiard, the O.K. Saloon, or Jake Neu's "Hole-in-the-Wall" on Ant Street (now Baylor Street). According to his advertisement, Jake had been "catering to the wants of a discriminating public for the past nine years and knows how to run a saloon." (Brenham Daily Banner, May 10, 1879)

For those who did not frequent saloons there were other types of entertainment. In addition to the local lodges and fellowship groups there were the weekly performances at the fashionable Opera House. Constructed in 1878 on Alamo and Park Streets, the Opera House cost \$25,000 and was considered to be one of the finest structures in the county. The coming of the railroad meant that performers of national reputation could put on one or two night stands. The Brenham Daily Banner announced a typical schedule for the early months of 1880.

Feb. 14	Weathersby Froliques
Feb. 26	The Wallace Sisters
Mar. 3	Rice's Evangeline
Mar. 4	The Great Wilhelm
Mar. 19	Nip and Tuck

Locals also enjoyed periodic visits of various travelling circuses with their dare-devil performers and terrifying animals. The appearance of "Buffalo-Bill" Cody in 1880 was long remembered by both young and old.

BRENHAM HISTORIC STUDY

APPENDIX NUMBER ONE

CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION OF STRUCTURES OF HISTORIC OR ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

It is the recommendation of the planning consultant that the city utilize the following criteria for the designation of historic or architecturally significant structures within the urban renewal areas:

1. Of Designated Significance

Buildings considered to be of national or statewide importance, selected for inclusion on the National Park Services Register of Historic Landmarks or designated by the Texas State Historical Society or by the Texas State Historical Survey Committee as an historic Texas landmark.

2. Of Local Architectural Value

Structures representing important examples of architectural styles representing the progressive development of types, style, and changes of taste, and which represent a contribution to the overall character of the area. Some of these structures may derive increased significance due to historic associations with persons or events in the city's past.

3. Of Value as Part of the Scene

Buildings dating mostly from the turn of the century that, while not in themselves examples of distinguished architecture, nevertheless, because of their scale, materials, increasing age, and other features, are important elements in the environmental character of the study area.

It is further recommended by the planning consultant that the criteria established by the Texas State Historical Survey Committee be adopted by the city for the designation and preservation of those structures deemed significant

by the city. This recommendation takes into account two factors. First, the criteria provides sufficient leeway to designate a wide variety of structures; and second, it is officially recognized by the state.

It is realized that not all structures can be included on the Texas Register of Landmarks, yet many fine structures in the city represent historic or architectural significance to the city. The city, therefore, should develop its own marker and so designate those structures of value to the local citizen body. The consultant recommends that those structures identified in the Historical Survey Committee report of September 4, 1969 be utilized as the base for designating those structures qualifying under Category 2 of the above recommended criteria.

In the designation of structures in the first two categories, an attempt should be made to identify but not mark those structures which provide visual continuity or add to the character of the marked structures. These buildings, of value as "part of the scene", should provide insulation to the designated structures from surrounding commercial and residential structures so that the present and future development of adjoining areas will not destroy the character of the marked buildings.

When designating the structures in the above categories, the city may ascertain certain density areas in which these buildings are located. Should this prove to be the case, the city should consider the possibility of creating an historic district under the auspices of a special committee to regulate the preservation of this district's character. An attempt should be made to preserve areas which have continuity established by buildings and landscape. The boundaries of an historic district should also be of sufficient size to insulate the district from surrounding adverse development.

TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE - BRENHAM SURVEY

APPENDIX NUMBER TWO

NON-COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES

1. Turnverein on the fairgrounds - West side of highway 36, bounded by Academy, Park Jeffries, and Burleson Streets. Octagonal raised wooden structure.
2. 204 West Main between Austin and Douglas (North Side). One story, Victorian, wood frame residence.
3. 206 West Main between Austin and Douglas (North Side). One story wood frame structure.
4. 208 West Main between Austin and Douglas (North Side). Two story wood frame, Victorian.
5. 805 Crockett Street between Muse and Gayhill (North Side). Two story wood frame, classic revival; fine detailing.
6. 509 East Academy, N.W. corner Ross at Academy. Two and one half Victorian wood residence with masonry carriage house.
7. B'Nai Abraham - on Park Street between Academy and Main (East Side). a raised wood structure.
8. Residence on Market Street between Vulcan and Academy at Sycamore (West Side). Two story, Victorian wood structure.
9. First Christian Church - Southeast corner of Batts at Cottonwood. Wooden structure with fine detailing.

10. 408 East Sycamore between Shomberg and Ross (South Side). Two story, Victorian wood frame.
11. 515 East Main between Shomberg and Ross (North Side). Two story, Victorian wood frame.
12. 311 East Main between Shomberg and Ross (North Side). One story, Victorian wood frame.
13. 309 East Main, N.W. corner of Ross at Main. Two story, Victorian wood frame.
14. Residence on South Side of Lauraine at Sabine. One story, wood frame, classic revival; fine detailing.
15. 800 Pecan Street between Washington and Kober (South Side). Two story, Victorian wood frame.
16. 909 Tom Green Street, between Ledbetter and Chappell Hill (North Side). Two story wood frame.
17. North end of Woodson Street; Rural property (East Side). One story classic revival wood frame.
18. Southwest acreage, South Market at East Stone Streets. Two story wood and masonry classic revival. The J.D. Giddings House, 1870.
19. Northwest corner of Market and Tom Green Streets; 1304 South Market. One story, Victorian wood frame.
20. 703 Baylor; Southeast corner of Baylor at Gilder. Two story, Victorian wood frame.

21. Southwest corner of Houston at S. Austin. Two story, Victorian wood frame.
22. 304 College, north side between Day and S. Austin. Two story, Victorian wood frame.
23. Northwest corner of 3rd and Austin streets. Two story, Victorian.
24. 1301 Day Street; Southwest corner of Day and Charles Lewis. One story, Victorian.
25. Brenham Presbyterian Church - Southwest corner of Jackson and College Streets, wood frame.
26. Blinn College - Main Bldg., College Street between High and Green Streets, (North Side). Two story brick with red tile roof.
27. Southwest corner at the west end of Lubbock Street. One story, Victorian.
28. 900 South Austin; southwest corner of South Austin and College Streets. Two story, Victorian wood frame.

#### COMMERCIAL STRUCTURES

1. 106 Main between Douglas and Park Streets (North Side). Two story.
2. Brenham Waterworks, Southeast corner of Cook and South Austin. Two story brick.
3. Southwest corner of Market and Main Streets. Three story stucco on masonry.

4. Northwest corner of St. Charles and Alamo. Two story stucco.
5. Southwest corner of Main and St. Charles Streets. Two story stucco.
6. Barnhill Drugstore, south side of Alamo Street between Park and Baylor. Two story.
7. Jewelry store; Northwest corner Alamo and Park Streets. Three story structure.
8. Holleman-Reed; West side of Park between Main and Alamo Streets. Two story stucco.
9. Arnold's Cleaners; Northeast corner of Commerce and Baylor Streets. Two story stucco over brick.
10. Building on south side of Commerce Street between Park and Douglas Streets. Two story brick.
11. Building on northwest corner of Alamo and Douglas. One story building (Meat Market).
12. Gimmons Furniture; Northeast corner of Douglas and Alamo Streets. One story building.
13. 112 South Park Street; West side of Park Street between Alamo and Commerce Streets. Two story stucco on brick buildings with four arched bays. (Was Pankonien Battery Service).

14. East side of Baylor from Commerce street to the tracks inclusive plus the Paymaster feeds on the west side of Baylor Street.
15. Wood Co. Building; Northwest corner of the tracks and Park Street. 1886 two story building.
16. Southside of Commerce between Baylor and Park (except 104). Northside retain backs of buildings.
17. T.W. Lueckemeyer Shop - corner of the tracks and 1st Street. One story with good wood detailing.



## APPENDIX III

### DATES SIGNIFICANT TO BRENHAM

March 17, 1836	Washington County created
December 14, 1837	Washington County formally organized
February 4, 1844	Brenham becomes new county seat
May 22, 1846	Brenham Post Office opens
February 2, 1856	Charter granted for Washington County Railroad
May 29, 1858	Affirmative vote for incorporation of Brenham
June 19, 1858	First city officials selected for incorporated city
October 1, 1860	First trains on Washington County Railroad from Brenham to Hempstead
December 17, 1860	County vote in Brenham overwhelmingly in favor of secession from the Union
July , 1865	Company B, 17th U.S. Infantry begins military occupation of Brenham
September 7-8, 1866	Pillaging and burning of Brenham
May 28, 1867	Brenham Voluntary Fire Department formed
May 21, 1870	Military rule in Brenham ends
December 4, 1870	Germania Verein (German Social Club) formed
January 18, 1874	First Democratic candidates elected by local residents since end of Civil War
April 26, 1875	Resolution passed by City Council to initiate Free Public Schools
May 23, 1877	First recorded air flight (gas balloon "City of Paris") over Brenham
August 11, 1877	First Post-Civil War Militia organized (Brenham Greys)
September 4, 1877	Poll Tax Levy ordinance approved

April 24, 1880	Santa Fe Railroad handles first freight from Brenham to Galveston
March 28, 1883	First session at Mission Institute (Blinn College)
1884	City Water system approved
1901	Electric lights installed in Brenham
August 15, 1905	Oldest state bank in Texas (Washington County State Bank) organized
September 7, 1920	Commission form of government adopted in Brenham
June 8, 1937	Blinn College becomes the first Junior College in a county-wide district in Texas
August 14, 1947	Brenham Municipal Airport dedicated

## APPENDIX IV

### OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKERS IN BRENHAM AND WASHINGTON COUNTY

No. 1 - CITY OF BRENHAM. Founded 1843. Named for Richard Fox Brenham 1810-1843...Republic of Texas Patriot. Railway and Supply Center in Civil War. Blinn Memorial College founded here 1883. Center for farming, trade and manufacturing. Home of famous annual Maifest, colorful folk tradition. Historical sites marked. Erected by Texas State Historical Society 1964. Hwy 290 East, Loop 318 and U.S. 290.

No. 2 - CITY OF BRENHAM. Established in 1844, named in honor of Dr. Richard Fox Brenham, 1810-1843. Surgeon in the army of the Republic of Texas. Member of the army of the Mier Expedition. Killed at Salado, Mexico February 11, 1843. Erected by the Texas Highway Department 1936. Hwy 290 West 4.3 miles.

No. 3 - ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. Texas' 4th oldest Episcopal Parish. Founded May 2, 1848. Bishop G.W. Freeman. Rebuilt here 1965 and dedicated June 29, Bishop M. Richardson. Airline and Hillcrest Streets.

No. 4 - BLINN COLLEGE. Established March 28, 1883. Named Mission Institute. Methodist affiliated. Blinn Memorial College, 1889. Blinn College, 1936. Junior college rank 1927. Texas first county owned public Junior College June 8, 1937. "Erected with College Funds 1965."

No. 5 - GEORGE WASHINGTON PETTY. A San Jacinto Veteran born in Tennessee April 7, 1812. Died July 27, 1901. Erected by the State of Texas 1936. Prairie Lea Cemetery, Brenham.

No. 6 - FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH (N. Market Street). Organized December 20, 1846 as New Year's Creek Church at a school house in Allcorn area. Founders were Judge R.E.B. Baylor, W.W. Buster and Hosea Garrett. Rev. A.D. Fisher was chosen as the church's first pastor in 1847. In 1848 the year Baptist Convention was formed, Baylor University's first president, Rev. Henry L. Graves, became the pastor of this church. Church moved to Brenham 1853 and name was changed. A large sanctuary built in 1892 was destroyed by fire December 10, 1952. Church rebuilt and fellowship hall was added by June 1954. Official Texas Historical Marker 1967.

No. 7 - B'NAI ABRAHAM SYNAGOGUE (302 N. Park Street). Built 1893 for one of first Orthodox Congregations in Texas. Founded 1885. Still serves the community. Strict Hebrew worship with segregation of men and women, no instrumental music, dietary laws and total historic prayer book adherence. Texas Historical Marker 1965.

No. 8 - BRENHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY (Lusk Pk., N. Baylor). First in county. Founded 1901 and still maintained by Fortnightly Club, with county and city support. All housing has been donated. First call for books brought 1,000 volumes. In 1934 occupied present quarters built by the city. Official Texas Historical Marker 1966.

No. 9 - BRENHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT (City Hall East Vulcan). Two volunteer organizations, Brenham Hook and Ladder Co. and the Fire Protection Co., were started May 28, 1867 ostensibly to fight fires. In reality they were also military companies to suppress lawlessness until in 1874

Reconstruction ended. In 1875 a fire alarm bell and in 1880 a 50-gallon cistern were installed on Courthouse Square. The second steam fire engine in Texas was purchased in 1878. In 1881 firemen sponsored the first annual Brenham Maifest, then continued it 60 years. In 1884 they built for the event a pavilion in Firemen's Park. Texas Historical Marker 1965.

No. 10 - 100TH ANNIVERSARY BRENHAM BANNER - PRESS (1866-1966) 223 East Main. Founded Jan. 1, 1866 as weekly "Southern Banner" by Dan McGary and John G. Rankin, Confederate Veterans. For his independent policies Editor McGary was jailed that year; shop and near-by business burned. But paper survived. Became a daily in 1876. "Banner" was merged with "Press" in 1912 by George Neu. Mrs. Ruby Robertson on staff in 1912 and in 1917 became first woman in Texas to edit a daily. Jim Byrd, Production Superintendent, has been on force since 1921. Ben F. Blanton, a newspaperman since 1939, became editor and publisher on February 1, 1962. Texas Historical Marker 1966.

No. 11 - TEXAS CONFEDERATE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURTS (Courthouse Square). Composed of a Chief Justice (now County Judge) and four County Commissioners, these elected governing boards directed vital Civil War programs, provided arms, clothing, horses and saddles for troops from county. Gave aid to wartime factories. Obtained and distributed to soldiers' families scarce medicine, food, cloth, salt and cotton and wool cards. County patrols and Home Guards were set up in many counties and supplied lead, powder, gun caps to guard against the enemy, Indians and bandits. Funds were raised by issuing bonds and scrip and assessing a special war tax on property. Tax credits were given to citizens for contributions to soldiers' dependents. Unbranded cattle were gathered and sold to benefit orphans and widows. Rich,

Heavily populated Washington County through its Court financed hospital in Hempstead and Chappell Hill; contracted the making of Army uniforms; bought kegs of powder and held gun inspections to maintain home defences; printed County Scrip in 50¢, \$1, \$2, \$3 bills; established at Old Mt. Vernon a Camp of Instruction and in Brenham a Soldiers Home. Judges, Commissioners and other dedicated public officials did much to strengthen Texas' war effort. Official Texas Historical Marker 1965.

No. 12 - WASHINGTON COUNTY, C.S.A. (Courthouse Square). Most populous County in state during Civil War. Center for production for, warehousing, transportation, communications. Had large Quartermaster Depot. Its wartime factories made spinning jennies, lumber, pots, ketties, wagons, army ambulances, government cotton was held in Brenham, one of 4 state depots. From here wagons and carts hauled it to Mexico to exchange for vital military and civilian supplies. Brenham, terminus of rail connections to Houston, was alive with troops, stagecoaches, freighters. Here early morning train was met by a pony express that took the "Houston Telegraph" at speeds of 8 to 10 miles an hour into Austin so that "Gazette" there might publish latest war news in State Capitol. Confederate paper shortage forced "Brenham Banner" to suspend publication. But in Washington, Mrs. Eva Lancaster did not skip an issue getting out "The Texas Ranger" while her husband and two sons spent four years fighting for the South. Cavalry, Infantry, and Artillery units from here fought on all fronts. Waul's Legion was organized and trained in County. Brenham was headquarters for Reserve Corps of Texas. General Jerome Robertson of Independence, led Hood's Brigade for 17 months. Texas Historical Marker 1965.

No. 13 - PAMPELL-DAY HOMESTEAD (409 West Alamo St.). Built 1844. Native pine and sand brick. Hudson River style front wing added in 1875 by T.J. Pampell, Civil War veteran, owner of store and mule-drawn street cars. Home of Pampells and Days for 3 generations. Owned by Mrs. Edwina Day Hallstein. Texas Historical Marker, 1966.

No. 14 - MILL CREEK FARM (Hwy. 290 West 7 miles). Original two story, four room home built by slave labor about 1831 for Alexander Bailey, an Austin Colony settler. Frame walls, floor of handhewn lumber are held by square nails. Still in use are old smoke house, four hand-dug wells, "wavey" glass panes in front windows, and hand-made stone chimneys. North of house made the front when Texas' first paved highway built past that side in 1920's. Texas Historical Marker 1966.

No. 15 - SITE OF OLD ST. ANTHONY HOTEL (East Main and Market St.). Center of Brenham hospitality for 122 years. Originally a two-story log stage depot adjoined by a log cabin complex called the Washington County Hotel. Changed owners several times through the years. General Sam Houston once stayed here while campaigning against secession. Renamed St. Anthony Hotel 1914 by new owners, Mrs. A.A. Hacker, who did extensive remodeling. Served as a transfer station for train passengers and as a bus terminal. Her hotel was noted for more than 30 years for its hospitality and annual Christmas Day open house and egg nog party. Texas Historical Marker 1967.

No. 16 - FIRST METHODIST CHURCH (408 N. Baylor Street). Brenham's first church. Was established year Brenham founded 1844. Early member R.B. Wells wrote and published "Christian Advocate," church magazine of Texas Methodists

here in 1846. By 1868 church had reached such stature that the Texas Methodist Conference met here. Group built Giddings Memorial Church in 1879 to honor J.D. Giddings, early settler who organized church. In 1939 merged with Fourth Street Methodist Church, German Methodist group which began in 1872 as new Mission Field German group established Blinn College in 1883. Texas Historical Marker 1968.



## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### I. Sources Consulted

#### A. Written Materials

- Biesele, R.L. The History of the German Settlements in Texas, 1831-61. Austin: Van Boeckmann-Jones Press, 1930
- Brenham Banner, Daily Banner, Banner-Press, etc. 1871-1969
- Crane, W.C. History of Washington County. Brenham: Brenham Banner-Press, 1939 (Reprint of speech given in 1876).
- Dietrich, W.O. The Blazing Story of Washington County. Brenham: Brenham Banner-Press, 1950.
- Hasskarl, R.A. Jr. Brenham Texas 1844-1958. Brenham: Brenham Banner-Press, 1958
- Meyer, A.H., et. al. Soil Survey of Washington County, Texas. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1915.
- Pennington, Mrs. R.E. History of Brenham and Washington County, Texas. Houston: Standard Printing and Lithographing Company, 1915.
- Richardson, T.C. East Texas: Its History and Makers, 2 vols. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1940.
- Schmidt, C.F. History of Blinn College, 1883-1958. Fort Worth: University Supply and Equipment Company, 1958.
- \_\_\_\_\_. History of Washington County, Texas. San Antonio: Naylor Company, 1949.

#### B. Personal Interviews

W.O. Dietrich August 19, 1969