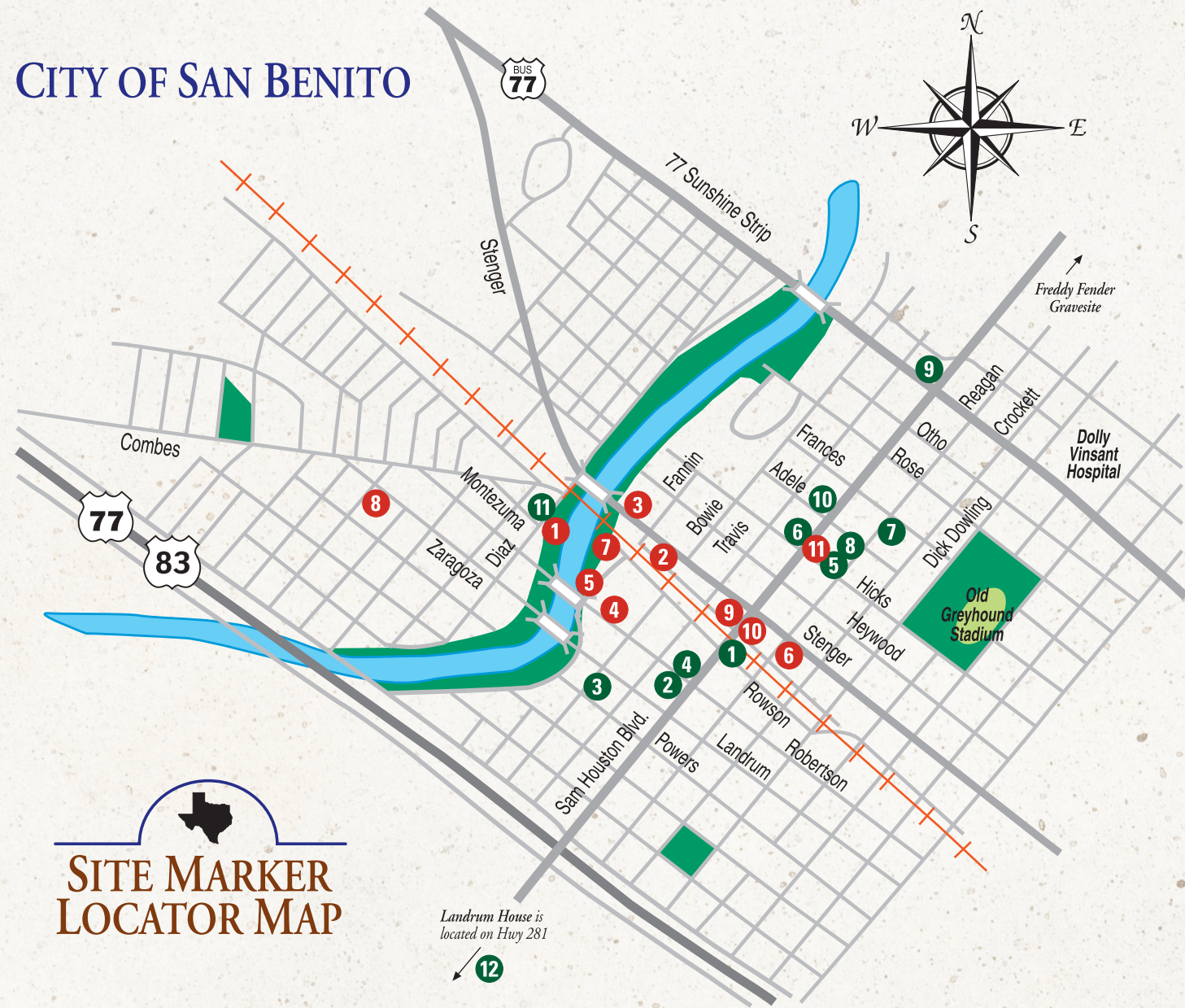


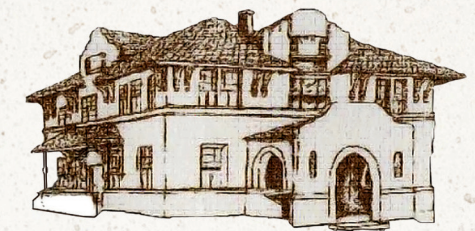
CITY OF SAN BENITO



SITE MARKER LOCATOR MAP

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. City of San Benito | 1. Resaca de los Fresnos |
| 2. San Benito Irrigation District #2 | 2. Alexander Marketing |
| 3. St. Benedict's Catholic Church | 3. Water Filtration Plant |
| 4. San Benito Bank & Trust Co. | 4. La Especial Bakery |
| 5. A.C. Purvis House | 5. Aztec Building |
| 6. San Benito Post Office | 6. Stonewall Jackson Hotel |
| 7. First Presbyterian Church | 7. Railroad Engineer's House |
| 8. All Saints Episcopal Church | 8. Fred Booth School |
| 9. Spider Web Railroad | 9. Farmers State Guaranty Bank |
| 10. Home of Col. Sam Robertson | 10. Smith-Reagan Building |
| 11. Getsamani Presbyterian Church | 11. First Methodist Church |
| 12. Landrum House | |

Landrum House is located on Hwy 281



SAN BENITO HISTORY MUSEUM

Located in the Museums of San Benito
210 East Heywood, San Benito, Texas 78586
956.361.9991
www.sanbenitohistory.org

Visit historic sites around town. Learn about the people who were here before the railroad came. Read about the pioneer families who carved out a life in the last frontier, the Wild Horse Desert.

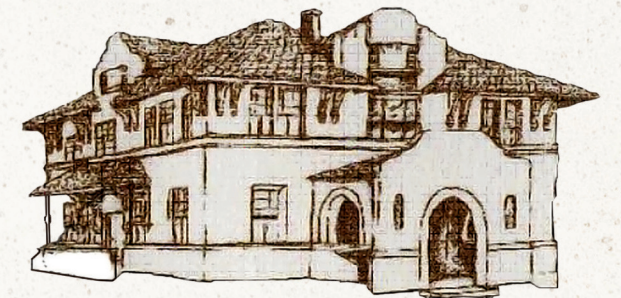
To become a member of the San Benito Historical Society, please call Tootie Madden at 956.399.6032 or Truella Haynes at 956.399.2704. Meetings are held each third Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at The Museums of San Benito offices at 210 E. Heywood.

MUSEUMS OF SAN BENITO & VISITOR CENTER

Open Thursday-Saturday
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
210 East Heywood, San Benito, Texas 78586



SAN BENITO HISTORICAL LANDMARKS



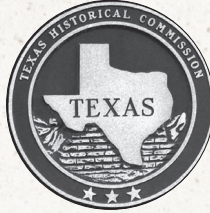
Original San Benito Land & Water Co. Building
Sketch by Jean Ann Mayhew

THE SAN BENITO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

City of San Benito
County of Cameron
State of Texas

Founded in 1904
Named and platted in 1907
Incorporated in 1911

HISTORICAL MARKER DESIGNATIONS IN SAN BENITO



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION MARKERS

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

1 **City of San Benito** - Founded by Col. Sam Robertson in 1904 on the Gulf Coast Railroad. The name honors Benjamin Hicks an early landowner. (RTHL 1971) At S. Sam Houston Blvd. & Missouri Pacific Railroad Crossing



2 **San Benito Irrigation District #2** - Mission revival style building built in 1910 stands as a reminder of the vital role of irrigation in Valley life. (RTHL 1982) 216 S. Sam Houston



3 **St. Benedict's Catholic Church** - Original church constructed in 1910, destroyed by fire in 1923, present building completed in 1925 (RTHL 1977) 351 S. Bowie



4 **San Benito Bank & Trust Co.** - Spanish colonial revival structure built in 1911 by founders, Scott and Alba Heywood. In early days flags flown from the building warned farmers of bad weather. (RTHL 1980) 198 S. Sam Houston Blvd.



5 **A.C. Purvis House** - Home of the first teacher and First Mayor, Mill owner and skilled craftsman, who built this home in 1911. Continuously occupied by descendants. (RTHL 1974) 441 N. Reagan St.



6 **San Benito Post Office** - Established in April 1907, this building completed in 1933 and serves nine communities in addition to San Benito. Dedicated as a Municipal Building in 2007. (RTHL 1993) 401 N. Sam Houston Blvd.



7 **First Presbyterian Church** - Built in 1934, the mission revival style edifice features arched gable parapets. Funded in part by a Federal Government loan, it is known as America's first Public Works Administration



church. (RTHL 1986) 566 N. Reagan St.

8 **All Saints Episcopal Church** - Second oldest Episcopal Church in the Rio Grande Valley. The original church constructed in 1911 was destroyed in the 1933 Hurricane and was rebuilt in 1934. (RTHL 2000) 499 N. Reagan St.



9 **Spider Web Railroad** - Started in 1911 eventually grew to 128 miles of track providing trackside loading facilities to remote farming areas through an intricate network of lines and spurs. (RTHL 1982) Corner of Sam Houston Blvd. and Business Hwy 77

10 **Home of Col. Sam Robertson** - Built in 1911 by Col. Robertson founder of San Benito and area entrepreneur. Built around an atrium. Second story was look-out for bandits. (RTHL 1979) 509 N. Sam Houston Blvd.



11 **Getsemani Presbyterian Church** - By 1909, pioneer Hispanic Presbyterians from Texas and Mexico had formed the first Presbyterian congregation in San Benito...an unusual occurrence within the predominantly Catholic Hispanic population. 140 Diaz St.



12 **Landrum House** - From the 1781 Concepcion de Carricitos grant from the King of Spain to Eugenio and Bartolome Fernandez as a fee for legal services to the heirs. Col. Stephen Powers of Brownsville gave the site to daughter Frances and husband James Lambert Landrum. They had daughters: Martha, Pauline and Frances. The house was completed in 1902. 20426 Hwy. 281



SAN BENITO HISTORICAL SOCIETY HISTORIC SITE MARKERS

1 **Resaca de los Fresnos** - San Benito Historical Society placed its first marker on November 6, 2004 at the intersection of the railroad and the Resaca de los Fresnos, marking the 100th anniversary of arrival of the



railroad in the Valley and the founding of San Benito. Located across from Getsemani Presbyterian Church. 100 Blk. Diaz St.

2 **Alexander Marketing** - This building was used for many years in processing and shipping fruit and vegetables. Vegetables processed here included broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, carrots, onions, endive, escarole, celery, peas, green bean, and bell peppers. Carrots were processed in the basement, one of the few which exist in San Benito. Note the citrus casting over the front door. 300 Blk. W. Stenger St.



3 **Water Filtration Plant** - Built in 1927, the historic San Benito Water Treatment Plant was the first fresh water system to serve the city. 420 W. Stenger



4 **La Especial Bakery** - Mexican immigrant Enrique Ornelas, Sr., bought this building and started La Especial Bakery in 1944 after his first bakery across the street was lost to a fire. Still family owned, La Especial is one of the most well known panderias in the Valley. Pan dulce, a slightly sweet type of pastry, comes in many shapes and flavors and traditionally eaten with coffee as a mid-morning snack or afternoon tea (merienda). 350 W. Robertson St.



5 **Aztec Building** - The Aztec Building was built by W.B. "Bill" Hinkley about 1925. It has housed an elegant restaurant "Sobre Las Olas", a dance studio, city hall and the USO club during WWII. Rooftop dances were held here. 402 W. Robertson St.



6 **Stonewall Jackson Hotel** - This 3-story hotel was built in 1927 by two businessmen named Jackson believed to be nephews of the General. It housed land seekers and was a social center for many years. Many original fixtures and period Spanish tile remain. 220 E. Stenger St.



7 **Railroad Engineer's House** - Originally built for the railroad engineer, this house is located by the Resaca and the railroad. The house can also be seen from Stenger St. behind the tall grain elevator and from the first Historical Marker across the Resaca. 485 W. Rowson.



8 **Fred Booth Elementary School** - Built in 1910 and named for former school board member and owner of Mont Meta Memorial Park (cemetery), this building has served as hospital, voting place, storm shelter and social gathering place. It is now the oldest Elementary School in the city. 845 Zaragoza St.



9 **Farmers State Guaranty Bank** - Built prior to 1910, FSG Bank is one of the first non-wooden structures erected in San Benito. It was next to the original location of the San Benito Land & Water Co. and the San Benito Hotel. Later it moved to the diagonal corner before closing during the Great Depression. It has served as Central Power & Light local & district offices and Dan Martinez' Shoes. 101 N. Sam Houston St.



10 **Smith-Reagan Building** - Built in the early 1900 this building has housed a bank, a real estate agency, the Port Isabel-San Benito Navigation District, attorneys' and doctors' offices. Insurance businesses have been operating here almost continuously. Inside the restored building is the original pressed tin ceiling, walk-in vault, unusual tiled fireplace and several of the original insurance company signs. Located at 148 N. Sam Houston St.



11 **First United Methodist Church** - On January 22, 1908, the Rev. C.E.W. Smith organized the First Methodist Church preaching here once a month at a one-room school before building at this site in 1910. In 1911, the Rev. W. N. Vernon became the first full-time pastor. Church women gathered here to make medical supplies and clothing for soldiers in World War I and II. A new sanctuary was built in 1931. 400 N. Sam Houston St.



SITE MARKER LOCATOR MAP

Please use the Site Map provided on this brochure to locate the markers. For more information please call 956.361.9991 or log on to www.sanbenitohistory.org