

Joshua Houston Jr. Home



The Joshua Houston Jr. House was built in 1898 by Joshua Houston Jr. He built the house for his new bride and the house was totally complete October 11, 1898, the day Joshua Jr. married Georgia Carolina Orviss. It was a beautiful two bedroom Victorian home surrounded by a picket fence. At one point the kitchen & dining room was separate from the house. Joshua Jr., like his father, established a

blacksmith shop in back of the house. The Joshua Houston Jr. House is not yet recognized as a Historical Landmark. The Walker County Heritage Foundation is in the process of having the Joshua Houston Jr. home declared a Historical landmark.

The Walls Unit



The facility is operated by the Correctional Institutions Division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, administered as within Region I. The facility is the oldest Texas state prison, and opened in 1849. Although Texas' execution chamber is located at the facility, unlike similar facilities in other states, death row is not located here.

Death row (males only) was located here from 1928 to 1965, when they were moved to the nearby Ellis Unit. Escapes from the Ellis Unit led the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to relocate death row in 1999 to the Polunsky Unit, where it currently remains. The female death row is located at the Mountain View Unit in Gatesville. The Huntsville Unit is also known informally as the Walls Unit for its large brick walls around the prison. The prison itself serves as a pre-release facility that all persons incarcerated must go to before they are released.

Sam Houston Memorial Museum



The Sam Houston Memorial Museum is dedicated to the life & times of General Sam Houston, former Governor of Tennessee, victor over Santa Anna in the Texas War of Independence, first President of the Republic of Texas, Senator from the State of Texas and Governor of the State of Texas. The Sam Houston Memorial Museum is located at the corner

of Sam Houston Avenue and 19th St. in Huntsville, Texas. Within the perimeters of the museum are located the Sam Houston Woodland Home and the Steamboat House. Hours of operation are 9:00 am - 4:30 pm Tuesday through Saturday; noon - 4:30 Sunday. Telephone Number: 936-294-1832 or see www.shsu.edu/~smm_www.

Austin Hall at SHSU



Located on top of Capitol Hill-SHSU Campus. This building is the "oldest education building in continuous use west of the Mississippi River." General Sam Houston was in attendance of the cornerstone laying ceremony in 1851. Sam Houston Normal Institute was established in 1879 in the Austin College building. The building was recently restored

and once again the Austin College Building is the crowing queen of Capitol Hill. For more SHSU information of additional sites of interest, contact the Admissions Visitor Center at 936-294-1844.

Performing Arts Complex



Coming Fall 2010

The new \$38.5 million 91,976 square foot S.H.S.U. Performing Arts Center, under construction, features a recital hall of approximately 150 seats, a concert hall of approximately 800 seats, a centerpiece outdoor performance area, practice rooms for dance

and music, and offices.

Trompe l'oeil Murals by Richard Haas

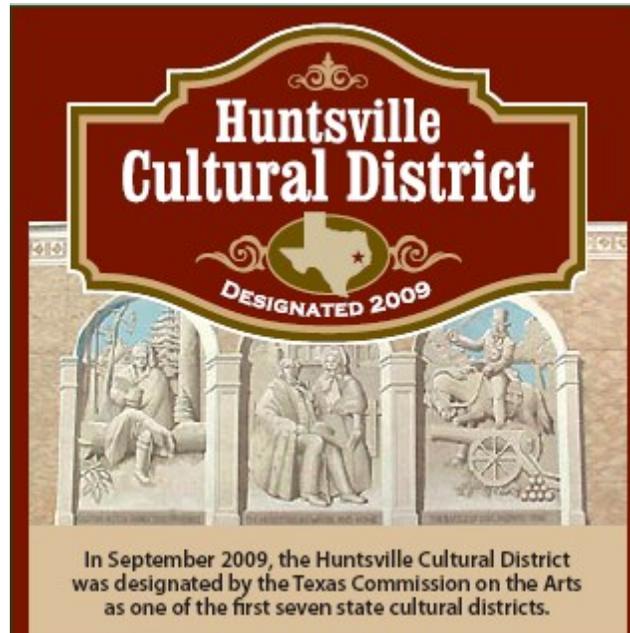


Richard Haas is a New York-based artist who has designed and executed public and private architectural murals since the early 1970s. His drawings, prints, gouaches, and models of buildings and cities have been included in over 150 exhibitions in the United States, Europe, and Asia and may be found in the permanent collections of many museums including the Museum of Modern Art, New York City, and the Walker Art Museum in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Richard Haas, in collaboration with architect Kim Williams of Austin, Texas, and under the coordination of Linda Pease of the City of Huntsville, has created a faux ruin and restored/embellished two theater facades, the County courthouse, the prison museum, and multiple store fronts. For more information call Linda Pease at 936-291-5422.

Places to Stay in Huntsville

Best Western Inn & Suites.....	(936)295-9000
Comfort Inn & Suites.....	(936) 436-9600
Days Inn & Suites.....	(936) 438-8400
EconoLodge.....	(936) 295-6401
Holiday Inn Express.....	(936) 295-4300
La Quinta Inn.....	(936) 295-6454
Motel 6.....	(936) 291-6927
Super 8 Motel.....	(936) 730-8888
The Baker Motel.....	(936) 295-3761
University Hotel.....	(936) 291-2151
Oakview Manor.....	(936) 295-3352
The Whistler Bed & Breakfast.....	(936) 295-2834

Photos by Peter Mauss Esto: Murals by Richard Haas, Sam Houston Grave Site, Town Theater, The Walls Unit, Sam Houston Memorial Museum, Austin Hall , and Founders Park.



Tour Guide



Map Inside

Cultural districts are communities that reflect the art, culture, and history that shape a community's way of life.

Samuel Walker Houston Cultural Center



This museum is the first and only museum of its kind in Walker County and is dedicated to the collection, preservation, interpretation and dissemination of the history and culture of African Americans in Huntsville,

Texas and the nation. The photographic collection reflects African American achievement and participation in education, politics, etc.. For more information call 936-295-2119.

The Whistler Mansion



James Thomason, veteran of the War of 1812, settled in Huntsville in 1854. The house has had many architectural styles, from Victorian to Neo-classical design to Southern Colonial design. The home is now a bed

and breakfast inn, called "The Whistler," and was restored by a family descendent. The eight room house is recorded in the Historical Marker. For more information call (963)295-2834 or see www.thewhistlerbnb.com.

Sam Houston Grave Site



The Sam Houston grave site is located in the Oakwood cemetery. The Oakwood cemetery existed as early as 1846. Three graves were placed here that year. In 1847, Pleasant Gray, Huntsville's

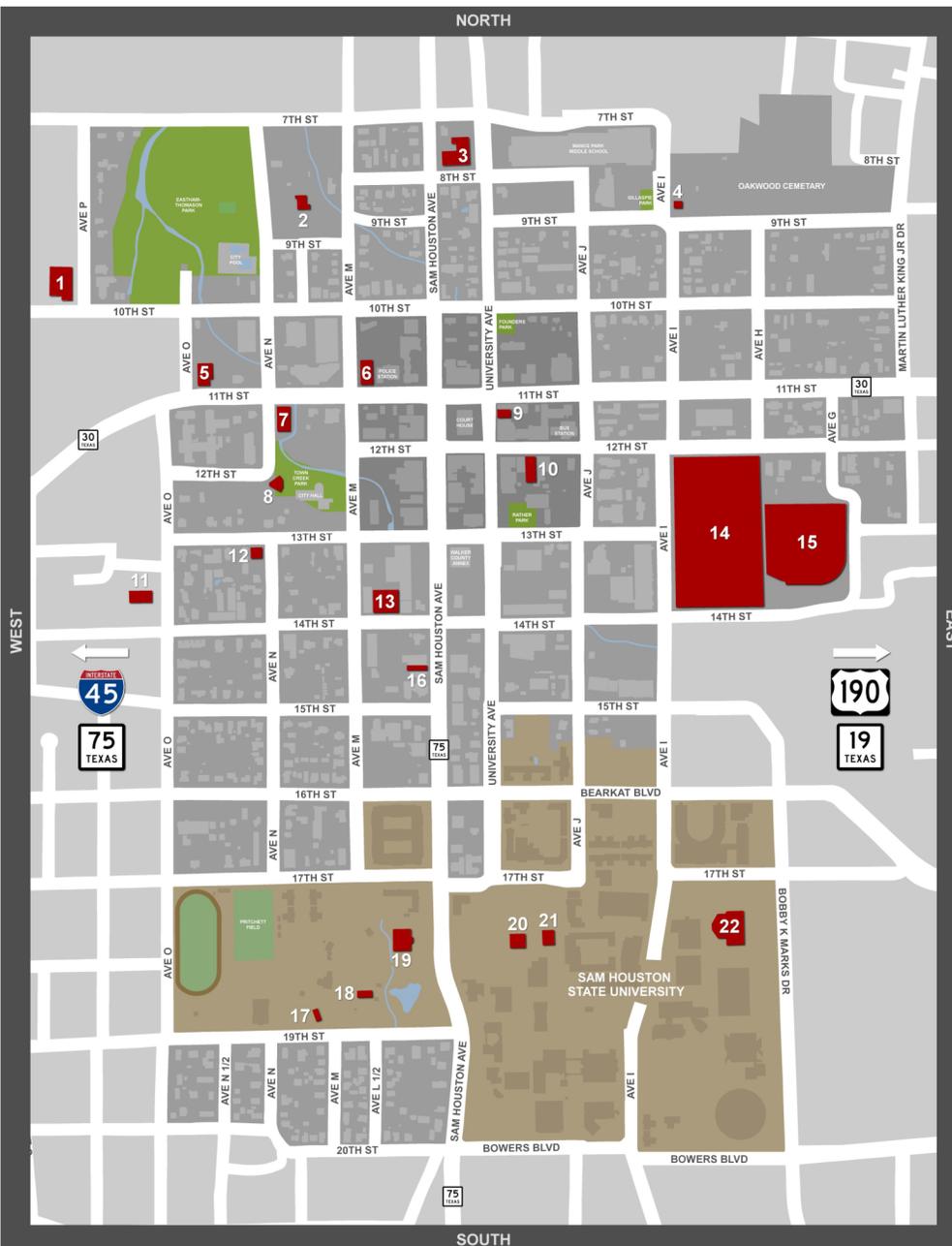
founder, ceded a 1,600-square foot plot at this site. The original tract has been greatly enlarged by other donations from local citizens. Numerous graves bear the death date 1867, when a yellow fever epidemic swept the country. Among the many famous persons buried here are Henderson King Yoakum, author of the first comprehensive history of Texas; state congressmen; and pioneer families. For more information contact Walker County Historical Commission at www.co.walker.tx.us/history.

Wynne Home Arts Center



The Wynne Home structure is a nineteenth-century mansion given to the City of Huntsville by Samuella Wynne Palmer, individually and as Trustee of the Ruth Wynne Hollinshead estate. The Wynne Home Arts Center offers a wide

variety of arts and cultural programs tailored to the interests and needs of the community and its visitors: exhibi-



Huntsville Cultural District

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1 - Samuel Walker Houston Cultural Center | 12 - Joshua Houston Jr. Home |
| 2 - Whistler Mansion | 13 - Huntsville Public Library |
| 3 - Historic Huntsville High School | 14 - The Walls Unit |
| 4 - Sam Houston Grave Site | 15 - Prison Rodeo Site |
| 5 - Wynne Home Arts Center | 16 - Crazywood Studios |
| 6 - Gibbs-Powell Home | 17 - The Steamboat House |
| 7 - Huntsville-Walker Co. Chamber of Commerce | 18 - Sam Houston's Woodland Home |
| 8 - Jane Monday Amphitheater | 19 - Sam Houston Memorial Museum |
| 9 - Cabin on the Square | 20 - Austin Hall |
| 10 - Town Theater | 21 - Peabody Memorial Library |
| 11 - Kellogg-Pritchett House | 22 - Performing Arts Complex |



schedule of arts classes and workshops, field trips, outreach programs for special target groups, and docent-led tours of the Center's special exhibits for school groups, the general public and visitors to Huntsville. The facility is available for rentals. Telephone Number: 936-291-5424 www.thewynnehome.com

Gibbs-Powell Home



The house was built by Thomas Gibbs, one of Huntsville's earliest businessmen, who was often visited here by Sam Houston. The house is of classical Greek Revival Design and the grounds include the original cedar trees. The home is a Texas recorded historic landmark & Texas Archeological Landmark. The Gibbs-Powell House Museum is located on 1228 11th Street. For more information go to www.co.walker.tx.us/history.

Town Theatre



The Old Town Theatre served as a movie house from 1947 until 1974. After being converted to a manufacturing site for brooms and mops, it then welcomed a student dance hall for several years. In the mid-90's the exterior was reconstructed to its original appearance with box office and Richard Haas murals. In 1998, a vacant building was entering a four year process to become the Gibbs Centre for the Performing Arts. Almost 90,000 persons have attended all sorts of events since opening day in February 2002.

Cabin on the Square



The Roberts-Farris Cabin was built in the mid-1840 for Allen Roberts, a stepson who moved to Walker County to follow his stepfather, Hezekiah Farris, to the new state.

Roberts, the son of Hezekiah's wife, settled on a nearby land, and later gave the cabin to his half-brother, who moved into the small cabin with his wife and family. The Farris family later relocated the cabin on three different sites on the family land, disassembling and rebuilding the hewn logs. The cabin was finally situated on the property of Alton Farris, who rented the cabin out to tenant farmers throughout the years of the depression, including a couple who used it as their honeymoon cabin in 1939. The cabin was rescued in 2001 through the efforts of descendant Maggie Farris Parker, the City of Huntsville, and students from Sam Houston State University, who moved it to the town square as part of the Main Street Project. For more information call Main Street at 936-291-5920.