

Huntsville Historical Trail



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Welcome to the Huntsville Historical Trail. As you travel through the trail, we hope that you have fun as you learn a little history of our town, including Sam Houston's connection to it. This trail is open to anyone but was designed with youth groups in mind such as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and church groups. To earn a patch, especially designed for this trail, you must complete the questions listed in this booklet and do a small service project at either the Josey Scout Lodge, Sam Houston Museum Complex or Oakwood Cemetery. Boy Scout and Girl Scout groups are also required to spend one night at either the Josey Scout Lodge or Huntsville State Park. Families and other individuals are encouraged to stay in one of Huntsville hotels.

The sites can be visited in any order, but the following is suggested. All the sites, except for the Sam Houston Statue and visitor's center, are within walking distance. If you decide to walk, you can park at the Josey Lodge (a total of approximately 4 miles to walk the trail and return to the Lodge) or at the Sam Houston Museum Complex (a distance of about 3 miles to return).

1. Sam Houston Statue and Visitor's Center:

N30°39.664'

W95°30.646'

Check out the statue of Sam Houston built by David Adickes. Take a picture of the statue to compare to another statue later on the trail.

(Turn left and head north on Hwy 75 and drive approximately 4.3 miles to the Josey Lodge.)



2. Josey Scout Lodge:

N30°42.544'

W95°33.106'

Scouting has a long history in Huntsville. If you do not stay overnight at the Lodge, contact us at info@joseyscoutlodge.org to possibly get a tour. If you are unable to get inside, walk around the Lodge and Caretaker's Cabin and check out the historical marker next to the parking lot.

(Walk or drive north on Sam Houston Ave approximately 0.5 miles to the Sam Houston Museum Complex.)

3. Sam Houston Museum and the Woodland Home:

N30°42.933'

W95°33.118'

Visit inside the museum and visit the buildings on the grounds, such as the Woodland Home, the Kitchen, the Law Office and the Steamboat House. There is a lot to see on the museum grounds. Take your time and look around. If you need a place to run around, check out Pritchard Field next to the Walker Education Building.

(Walk across Sam Houston Avenue to the Sam Houston Campus. This statue of Sam Houston is directly across from the Museum though it may be better to cross at one of the lights at 17th or 19th Street. Go up the stairs and go up the hill. The statue is near the Austin College building. The walk is probably about 0.1 mile.)

4. Sam Houston Statue on S.H.S.U. Campus and the Austin College Building:

N30°42.918'

W95°32.998'

Walk across the street from the Sam Houston Museum to Sam Houston State University Campus. This statue is next to the Austin College Building. While here, note the planet plaques along the sidewalk. They show the relative size and distance of the planets to each other. Also check out the Old Main site behind the Austin College building.

(Head north on University Drive about 0.6 miles to get to the Whittling Site on the NW corner of Sam Houston Avenue and 11th Street.)

5. Sam Houston's Whittling:

N30°43.434'

W95°33.083'

There are two whittling site historical plaques. The one you are looking for is on the corner of Sam Houston Avenue and 11th St. In the downtown area are some other historical plaques you might be interested in seeing. Just around the corner of 11th Street and University Ave is a mural that shows scenes of Sam Houston's life.

(The walk to the Gibbs-Powell House is approximately 0.1 miles west on 11th Street.)

6. Gibbs-Powell House:

N30°43.440'

W95°33.164'

Stop by and visit this early Huntsville home. Do you recognize one of the names of the house from an earlier stop? If the museum is open, take a tour.

(The walk to the Joshua Houston Plaque is about 0.2 miles. Walk north on Avenue M and turn left on 10th Street. Go two blocks and the plaque is across from Avenue O.)

7. Joshua Houston Historical Marker:

N30°43.514'

W95°33.354'

View this plaque to find out who Joshua Houston was.

(Continue west on 10th Street about 0.1 miles to the Rogersville Plaque.)



8. Rogersville Plaque/Wall of Faces/Samuel Walker Houston Cultural Center:

N30°43.511

W95°33.461

Look at the “Wall of Faces” and visit the museum if it is open.

(Founder’s Park is about 0.4 miles back in the direction of downtown on the corner of 10th Street and University Avenue.)



9. Founder’s Park:

N30°43.493’

W95°33.022’

This is the site where Pleasant Gray first settled and set up a trading post. This little park is hidden and probably not even visited by many Huntsville residents.

(The distance from here to Sam Houston’s Gravesite is about 0.3 miles. Go North on University Ave and turn right on 9th Street. Follow 9th Street about two blocks.)

10. Oakwood Cemetery and Sam Houston’s Gravesite:

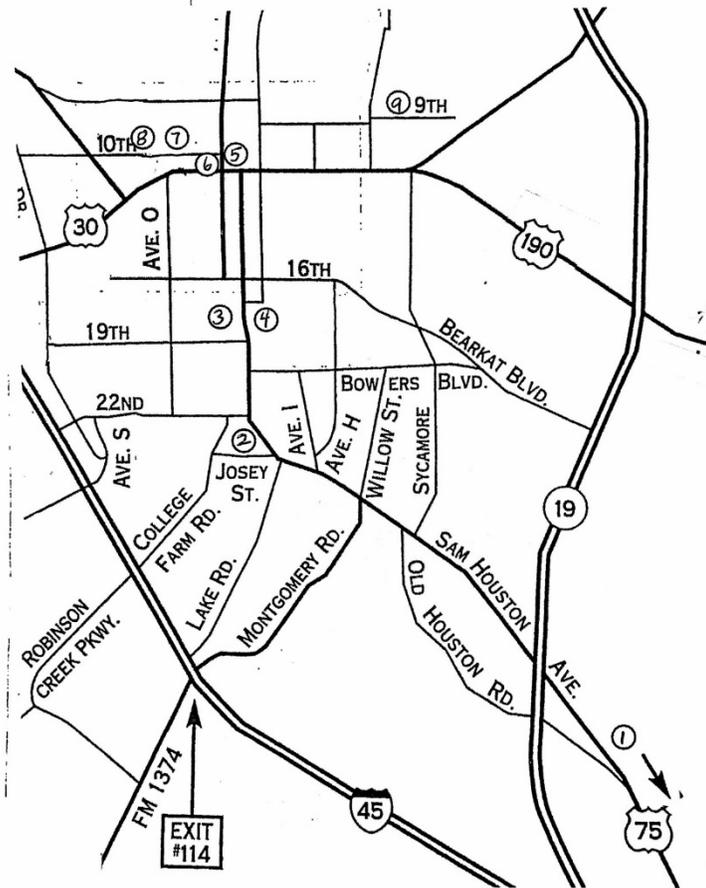
N30°43.594’

W95°32.839’

While visiting Sam Houston’s grave, discover some of the other historic plaques nearby.

(If you are walking back it is about 1 mile back to the Sam Houston Museum Complex and another 0.5 miles to the Josey Scout Lodge.)

Total walking distance following this route would be around 4 miles if starting from the Lodge and 3 miles if starting from the Sam Houston Museum Complex.



There are more historically important areas throughout Huntsville. Many of these are marked with historical markers. Two organizations that have an important part of history around the area are **Sam Houston State University** and the **Texas Prison System**. There is a historical plaque in front of the Walls Unit on 11th Street not far from Oakwood Cemetery. If you are in the area during the summer, you can watch a large bat colony as it leaves a warehouse at dusk across from the Walls Unit on Avenue I.

Two museums located next to each other that you may wish to visit while in the area are:

Texas Prison Museum:

491 State Highway 75N

(936)295-2155

:

H.E.A.R.T.S. Veteran's Museum:

463 State Highway 75N

(936)295-6935

This museum started out as a display in the window of one of the downtown businesses to honor local veterans. It has grown to include displays of each of the military branches and all the major wars. The museum's collection includes many military vehicles on the grounds.

Here are the requirements to earn the Huntsville Historical Trail Patch.

1. Visit each of the sites listed and answer the questions in this booklet. Small groups may work together to complete the questions and submit the answer sheet as a group.
2. Do a service project at either the Josey Scout Lodge, Sam Houston Museum Complex or Oakwood Cemetery.
3. Youth groups should spend at least one night at the Josey Scout Lodge or Huntsville State Park. To see about staying overnight in the lodge visit joseyscoutlodge.org/reservations.

Complete the next few pages of this booklet to fulfill the requirements to earn the patch. Directions to purchase or order the patch are at the end.

I. Huntsville Historical Trail Worksheet

The answers to these questions can be found by reading the historical markers you come across along the way.

Name of Group: _____

From: _____

Leader: _____

Names of People in the Group

SAM HOUSTON STATUE AND VISITOR'S CENTER

1. How tall is the statue and when was it dedicated? _____

2. Who was Governor of Texas and was present during the dedication of the statue?

3. What prompted David Adickes to build the statue when he did?

JOSEY SCOUT LODGE

1. How old is the Lodge? _____

2. Who was Robert Josey? _____

3. How did the Gibbs Brothers help in building the Lodge? _____

SAM HOUSTON MUSEUM COMPLEX

Inside the Museum:

1. As a boy, what book did Sam Houston attribute to his adventuresome lifestyle?

2. What gift did Sam Houston's mother give to him after joining the military in 1813 and what was inscribed on it? _____

3. What was Sam Houston doing when he accepted Santa Anna's surrender at the battle of San Jacinto?

4. Where did Margaret Lea, Sam Houston's future wife, first see him?

5. What were Sam Houston's last words (spoken in one of the buildings you will be visiting outside on the grounds)? _____

Woodland Home, kitchen, law office and Steamboat House:

6. Which building on the museum grounds was Houston's "retreat from his growing family?"

7. As senator of Texas, what legislative issue was Sam Houston in favor of and supported to the dismay of the other southern senators?

8. Why was the kitchen built separate from the rest of the house?

9. When was the Woodland Home built? _____

10. How long did the Houston family live in the Woodland Home? _____

11. Name some of the structures that are missing today but would have been found on the grounds during Sam Houston's time?

12. Why did they sell the Woodland home? _____

13. Which building was Sam Houston's funeral held? _____

14. Why was the Steamboat House built and what was its final outcome?

SAM HOUSTON STATUE ON SHSU CAMPUS AND THE AUSTIN COLLEGE BUILDING

1. Name at least two differences in the way the artists depicted Sam Houston , here on campus, compared to the one at the visitor center: _____

2. Why did Sam Houston carry a cane? _____

3. Which hand do you think Sam Houston normally carried his cane? _____

4. What organization established Austin College and in what year? _____

SAM HOUSTON WHITTLING SITE

1. What was the last name of the brothers who owned the mercantile store next to where Sam Houston whittled? _____

GIBBS-POWELL HOUSE

1. What are some differences between this home and the three older homes found on the Sam Houston Museum Complex? _____

2. What is the age difference between this house and those? _____

3. How was this house used during the 1880's and 1890's? _____

JOSHUA HOUSTON HISTORICAL PLAQUE

1. Who was Joshua Houston? _____

2. What was the name of his son who later became a leader in education? _____

3. Name one or two accomplishments of Joshua Houston.

ROGERSVILLE PLAQUE AND THE "WALL OF FACES"

1. How did the former slaves show their new independence and that they were now a part of the community of Huntsville?

2. What is the title of the artwork, also known as “Wall of Faces?” _____
 3. Whose faces are depicted on the “Wall of Faces?” _____
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FOUNDERS PARK

1. Why did Pleasant Gray name the town Huntsville? _____
 2. What Native American Indian Tribe lived in the area? _____
 3. How long after Pleasant Gray settled here did it take for Sam Houston to move to town? _____
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OAKWOOD CEMETARY AND SAM HOUSTON’S GRAVE

1. What happened in 1867 that is similar to the events of 2020? _____
 2. Why wasn’t Sam Houston’s wife, Margaret, buried beside him? _____
 3. What error was made on the monument and how was it corrected? _____
 4. Can you find the names of some of the other prominent figures in Huntsville History that you have come across on your travels today that are buried here? _____
 5. Who built the wood coffin that Sam Houston was buried in? _____
-

II. Service Project

Here is the contact information for the three places a service project can be done. After doing the project, have someone from that organization sign below.

1. Josey Scout Lodge:

<https://www.joseyscoutlodge.org/support/service-projects>

2. Sam Houston Museum Complex:

Phone Number: (936)355-5526

3. Oakwood Cemetery:

Phone Number: : (936)577-2020

Wherever you do your service project, obtain a signature below:

(Organization)

(Signature)

III. Overnight (for youth groups)

We stayed overnight at _____ on _____.

Take this booklet to the Sam Houston Statue Visitor Center to purchase your patches or:

To order your patches, fill out the form below:

Leader's Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Contact Number: _____

Number of patches needed: _____

of patches _____ x \$ 4.00 = \$ _____ + \$3.00 (S&H) =

Total Enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to: **BSA Troop 114**

Mail Check and this form to:

Josey Scout Lodge

P. O. Box 8752

Huntsville, Tx 77340

Visit us at **joseyscoutlodge.org**.

The Huntsville Historical Trail is dedicated to Dr. Jerry McGee, a former professor of SHSU and Scoutmaster for Troop 114.

Acknowledgements:

Sam Houston Statue and Visitor Center

Josey Lodge Inc.

Sam Houston Museum Complex

And hotel accommodations: www.huntsvilletexas.com