

**2010**

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**The Rockport Pilot**

*Aransas County's  
Community Newspaper  
Since 1869*

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**ARANSAS COUNTY**

**HISTORICAL MARKER**

**GUIDE**



## To all with an interest in history...

The Aransas County Historical Society and the Aransas County Historical Commission welcome you to this newest edition of the *Aransas County Historical Marker Guide*. We hope you find it enjoyable and educational.

There are currently 38 State Historical Markers located in Aransas County, and we're working on more! The Aransas County Historical Society, the Aransas County Historical Commission, and the Aransas County Commissioners Court have taken a special interest in establishing these historical markers. The interest and assistance of the owners of these historic properties cannot be overlooked, and we thank them. We are proud to promote the history of our county.

One of the markers is at *The Rockport Pilot*. We thank them for their interest in the history of Aransas County, and for asking us to write this introduction. We hope that you enjoy reading this guide, and also that you visit every single marker to learn more about Aransas County.

You are invited to come to the Aransas County Historical Society's lab, located in Room 15 of the Rockport School (619 N. Live Oak), any Wednesday afternoon from 2 to 4 PM. We have copies of photographs of people and places of the past for you to enjoy. References (many are clippings from *The Rockport Pilot*) are available for your research in our reading area. We'd love to have you work with us as a volunteer while we collect archives, and plan events to share the County's history with the public. We also encourage you to share your photos and stories of Aransas County with us—and all who are interested. Join the Historical Society and enjoy history!

If you are interested in being on the Aransas County Historical Commission, which is an appointed position by the County Judge and Commissioner's Court, just let a commissioner or the judge know of your interest. Cards are also at the ACHS Lab or in the Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce Visitor's Center.

As you tour these markers, remember that yesterday is now a part of Aransas County History. We're glad you're here and making history.

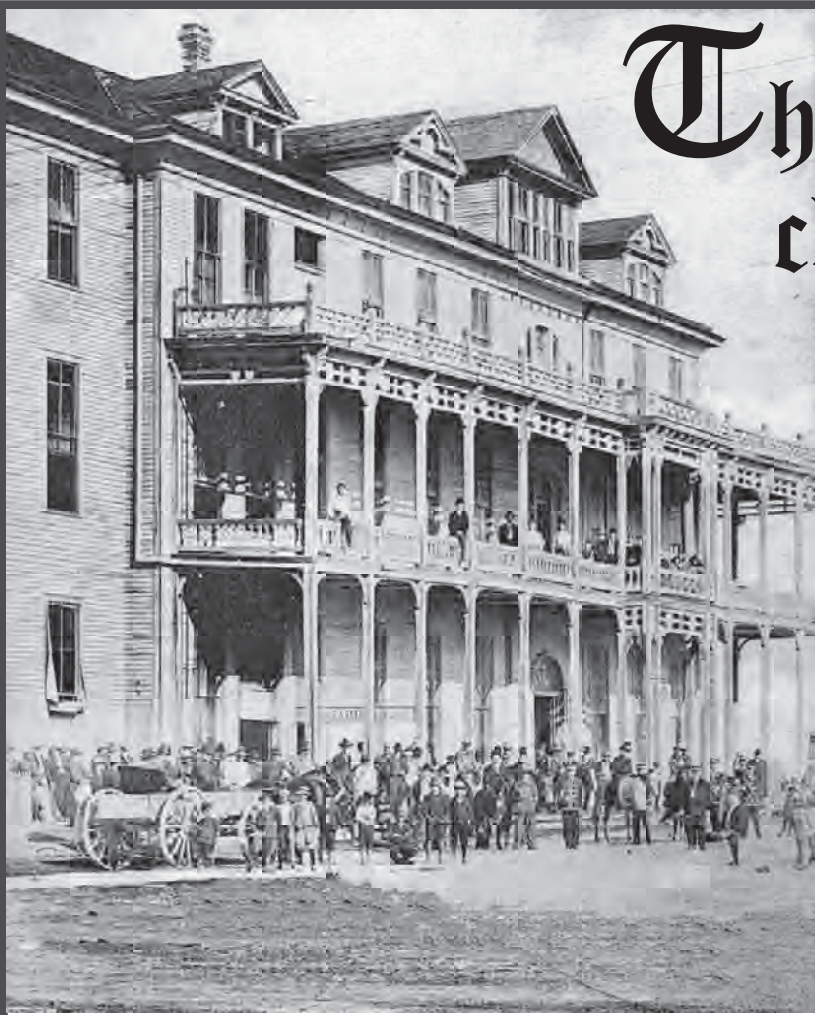


Janie Collier White, President  
Aransas County Historical Society



Pam Wheat Stranahan, Chairman  
Aransas County Historical Commission

Kam Wagert, Chairman  
Visionaries in Preservation  
Heritage Tourism Task Force

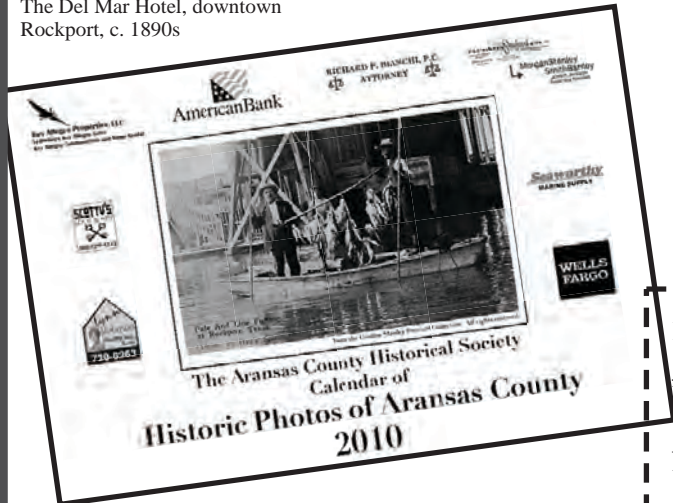


# There's a lot of classic history in Aransas County and you can be part of it!

## Join the Aransas County Historical Society today!

The Del Mar Hotel, downtown Rockport, c. 1890s

Membership brings you the quarterly ACHS Newsletter, great programs, access to the Society's History Lab, tours, and other great events that are both educational and fun!



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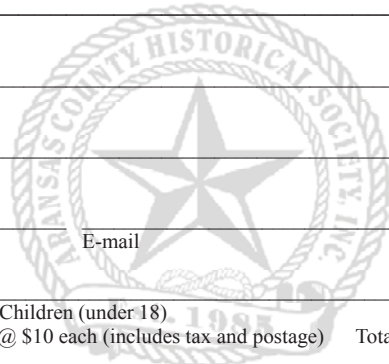
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Family: \_\_\_\_\_

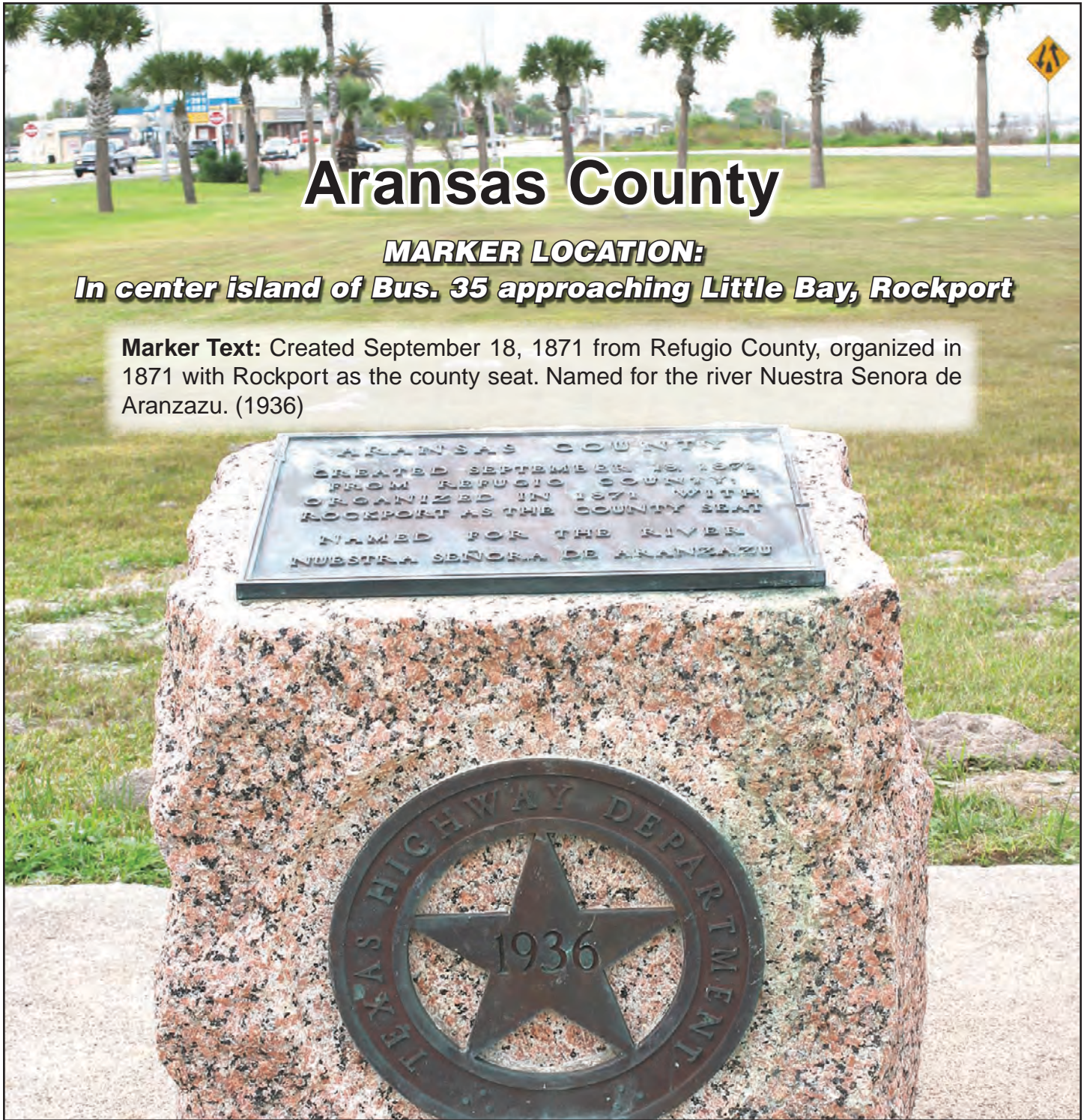
Spouse/Partner/Children (under 18)  
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**THE ARANSAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
P.O. BOX 702 - ROCKPORT, TX 78381 - ACHISTORY@SWBELL.NET







# Aransas County

## **MARKER LOCATION:**

***In center island of Bus. 35 approaching Little Bay, Rockport***

**Marker Text:** Created September 18, 1871 from Refugio County, organized in 1871 with Rockport as the county seat. Named for the river Nuestra Senora de Aranzazu. (1936)

ARANSAS COUNTY  
 CREATED SEPTEMBER 18, 1871  
 FROM REFUGIO COUNTY  
 ORGANIZED IN 1871 WITH  
 ROCKPORT AS THE COUNTY SEAT  
 NAMED FOR THE RIVER  
 NUESTRA SEÑORA DE ARANZAZU



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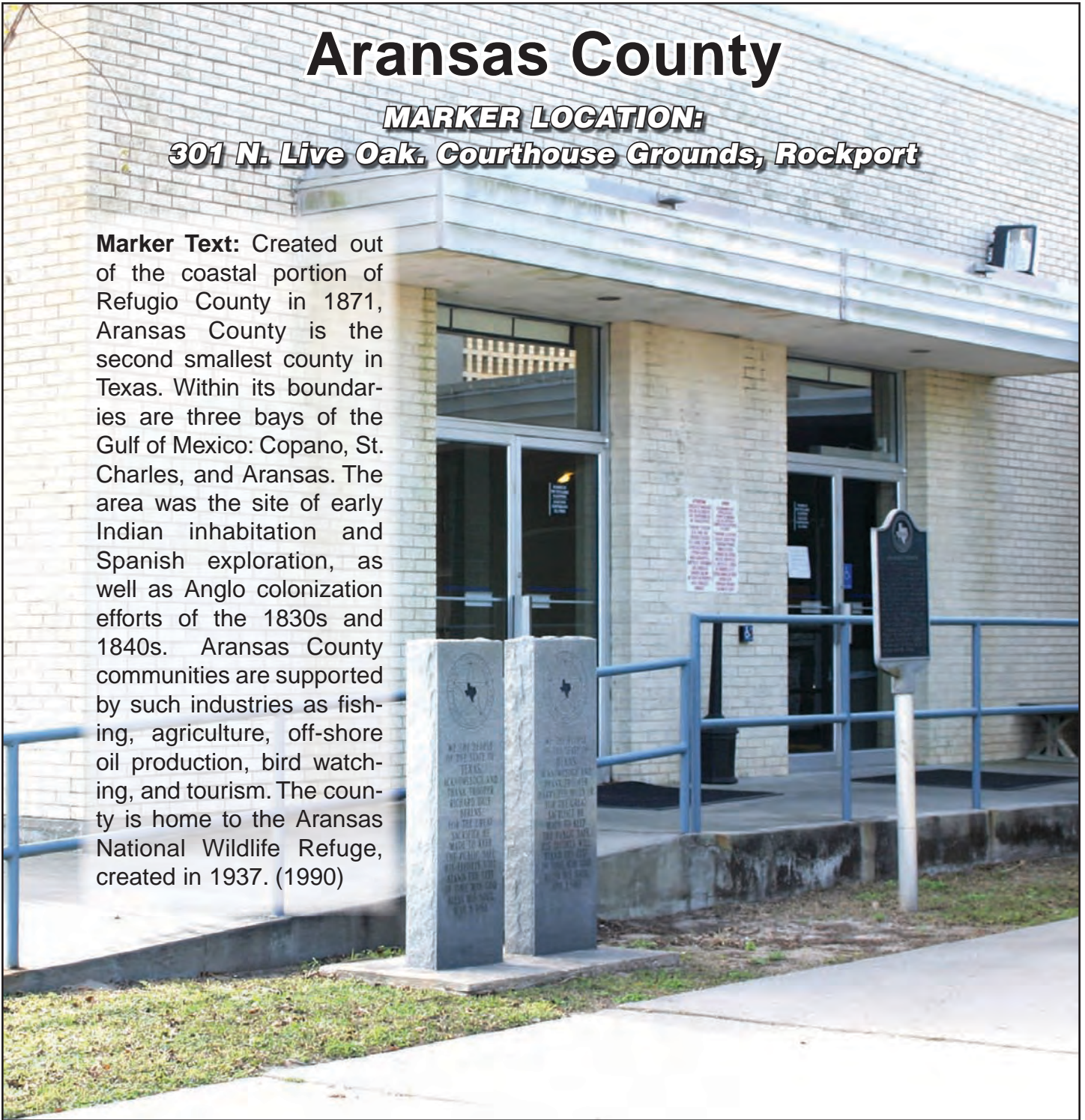


# Aransas County

## MARKER LOCATION:

**301 N. Live Oak. Courthouse Grounds, Rockport**

**Marker Text:** Created out of the coastal portion of Refugio County in 1871, Aransas County is the second smallest county in Texas. Within its boundaries are three bays of the Gulf of Mexico: Copano, St. Charles, and Aransas. The area was the site of early Indian inhabitation and Spanish exploration, as well as Anglo colonization efforts of the 1830s and 1840s. Aransas County communities are supported by such industries as fishing, agriculture, off-shore oil production, bird watching, and tourism. The county is home to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, created in 1937. (1990)



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# Aransas County Airport

## MARKER LOCATION:

***Beside the new terminal building at  
421 John Wendell Rd., Rockport***

**Marker Text:** This aviation facility developed out of a need during World War II for additional air training sites for U.S. Navy pilots. In 1942 the Aransas County Commissioners Court offered the Civil Aeronautics Administration the use of land in the county for an auxiliary military landing field. Voters approved a bond issue and accompanying tax to build the airport, and the county subsequently purchased 700 acres of land for that purpose. For the duration of the war, the site was leased to the navy, which practiced landing operations out of its regional air stations at Beeville, Kingsville and Corpus Christi. The airport since that time has served both military and public purposes. (2001)



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# Site of Aransas Hotel

**MARKER LOCATION:**  
**Austin and Main Streets, Rockport**

**Marker Text:** Built in 1889 by civic leader and politician John H. Traylor, the Aransas Hotel covered this city block. The three-story structure, a major tourist attraction in Rockport, had about 100 rooms and a massive open dining room with a 200 person capacity. Guests were entertained by orchestras, plays, a mounted bird display, and beach facilities. They could also cruise in Traylor's yacht, or tour in surreys from the livery stable. Remodeled and named the Del Mar in the mid-1890s, it was sold in 1910. Deteriorated by 1906 and unused during World War I, the hotel was destroyed by fire in 1919. (1996)



Inn style, in Rockport

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# Aransas Pass Light Station

**MARKER LOCATION:**  
*North side of SH 361 on  
 Lydia Ann Island, near  
 Port Aransas ferry landing*



**Marker Text:** Construction of 67-foot tower was started in 1855. The French lens was lighted in 1856, to mark natural Gulf pass to Aransas and Corpus Christi Bays by way of Lydia Ann Channel -- named for the daughter of the first keeper. During Civil War, Confederates (in 1863) buried the lens for safety before damaging the tower to avert use of light by Federal forces. The auxiliary structures were rebuilt after the 1919 hurricane. One of original Texas stations of U.S. Lighthouse Service (merged into the Coast Guard in 1939), this light was decommissioned in 1952 after pass shifted southward. (1973) INCISE ON BASE: Lighthouse not open to public. INCISE ON BACK OF MARKER: Restored in 1972 by Charles C. Butt.



## The Texas Maritime Museum & Gift Shop

*The Texas Maritime Museum is located next to Rockport Harbor  
 and is open TUE - SAT from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
 SUN from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Mondays*



1-866-729-AHOY (2469) • [www.texasmaritimemuseum.org](http://www.texasmaritimemuseum.org)





# Baylor-Norvell House

**MARKER LOCATION:  
617 S. Water Street, Rockport**



**Marker Text:** Located on the waterfront in a community that has survived many hurricanes, this house was built about 1868 by Dr. John W. Baylor. In addition to his medical practice Dr. Baylor owned a local meat packing business, ranched, and worked to bring a railroad to the county. Schoolteachers Elisha (1857-1933) and Irene (1865-1944) Norvell moved to Rockport from Goliad in 1888 and rented the house before buying it in 1890. Elisha also worked as an agent for the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad and was a realtor. Irene, a musician, sold the house in 1935. (1991)

## Grateful for Our Legacy From

**Irene Barton and Elisha Hundley Norvell  
Irene Norvell and Stephen Ford Jackson  
Neva Porter and Norvell Ford Jackson**

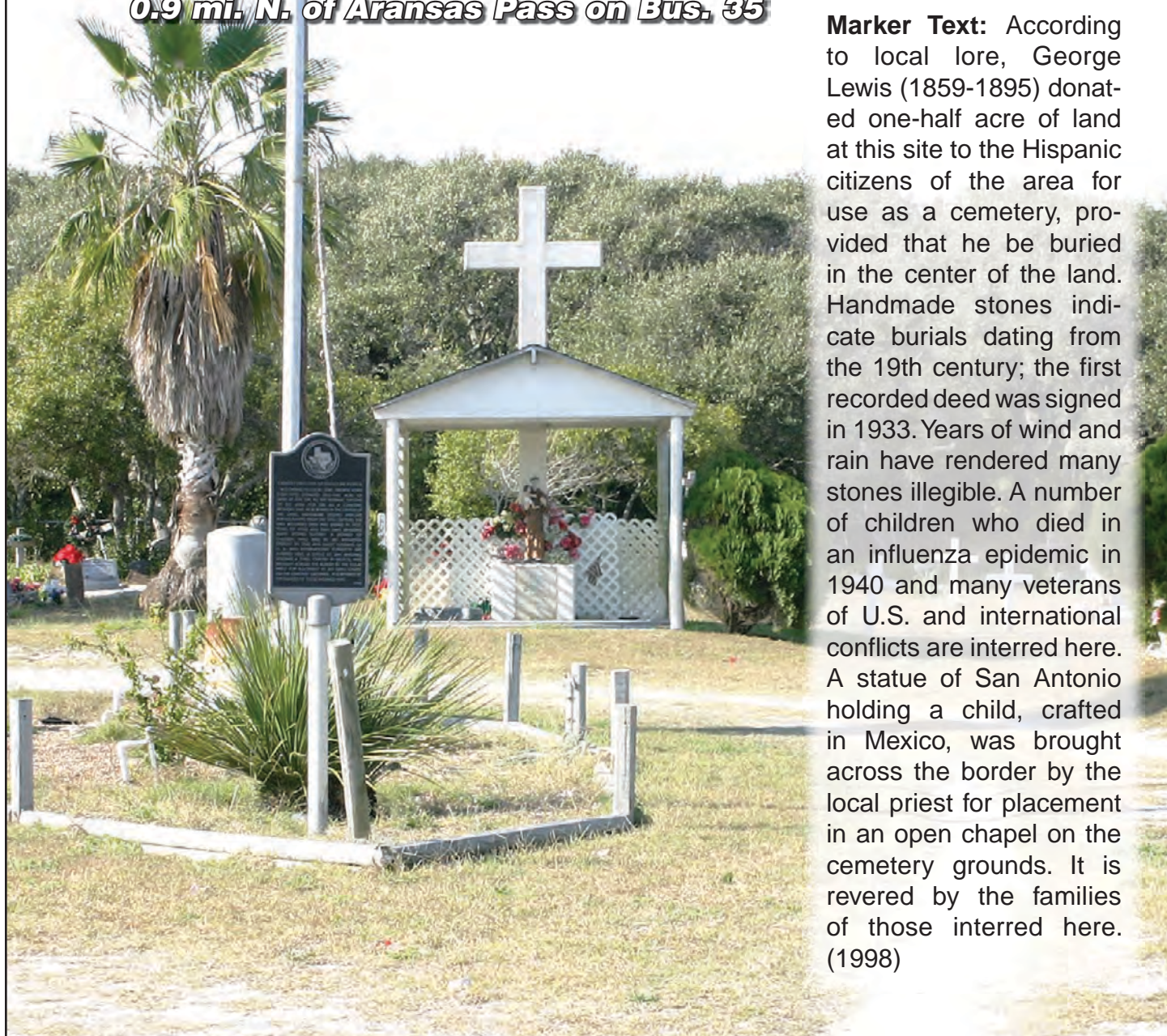
***Mary Lucille Jackson ♦ N.F. Jackson Jr. ♦ John P. Jackson ♦ Bobby Jackson***



# Cementerio San Antonio de Padua

## MARKER LOCATION:

**0.9 mi. N. of Aransas Pass on Bus. 35**



**Marker Text:** According to local lore, George Lewis (1859-1895) donated one-half acre of land at this site to the Hispanic citizens of the area for use as a cemetery, provided that he be buried in the center of the land. Handmade stones indicate burials dating from the 19th century; the first recorded deed was signed in 1933. Years of wind and rain have rendered many stones illegible. A number of children who died in an influenza epidemic in 1940 and many veterans of U.S. and international conflicts are interred here. A statue of San Antonio holding a child, crafted in Mexico, was brought across the border by the local priest for placement in an open chapel on the cemetery grounds. It is revered by the families of those interred here. (1998)

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*The Daughters of the Republic of Texas*

*Stenson-Simpson Chapter*

ROCKPORT-FULTON, TEXAS





## Fagan, John

***In Lamar Cemetery. From Rockport, take Highway 35 north about 7 miles to Park Rd. 13. Follow Park Rd. 13 east then northeast about 2.5 miles to Lamar Cemetery***

**Marker Text:** Soldier in the Texas War for Independence at Goliad, 1835-1836. Erected by the State of Texas, 1963.

ERECTED BY THE STATE OF TEXAS 1963  
AT GOLIAD TEXAS 1836  
WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE  
SOLDIER IN THE TEXAS  
JOHN FAGAN

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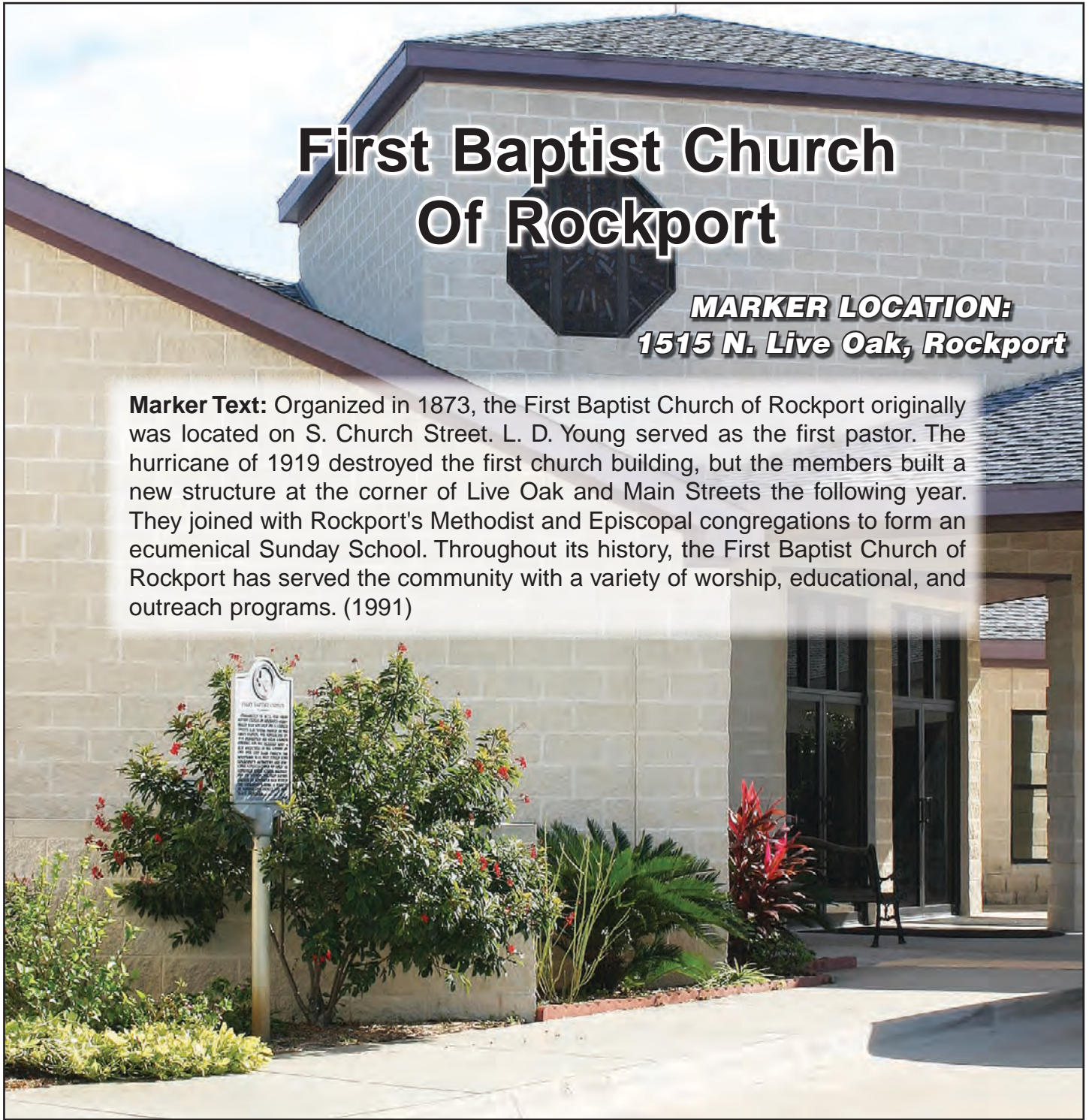
Jay Kaskie  
Attorney at Law



# First Baptist Church Of Rockport

**MARKER LOCATION:  
1515 N. Live Oak, Rockport**

**Marker Text:** Organized in 1873, the First Baptist Church of Rockport originally was located on S. Church Street. L. D. Young served as the first pastor. The hurricane of 1919 destroyed the first church building, but the members built a new structure at the corner of Live Oak and Main Streets the following year. They joined with Rockport's Methodist and Episcopal congregations to form an ecumenical Sunday School. Throughout its history, the First Baptist Church of Rockport has served the community with a variety of worship, educational, and outreach programs. (1991)



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Since 1978”*



TPCL #4328



# First Methodist Church of Rockport

**MARKER LOCATION:  
801 E. Main Street, Rockport**

**Marker Text:** The Methodist Church has been in existence in Rockport since about 1870. The Rev. H. G. Horton was assigned as pastor of the Rockport church in 1872. The original Methodist church building, erected at the corner of Live Oak and Bay Streets, was used by a number of other congregations until their own facilities were completed. The Methodists relocated to this site in 1914 and later built new structures to meet the needs of the growing membership. With an emphasis on educational programs, this church continues to be an integral part of the community. (1991)

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Compliments of a church couple.





# First National Bank of Rockport



**MARKER LOCATION:**  
*Corner of  
Austin Street & N. Bus. 35,  
Rockport*

**Marker Text:** Chartered on October 8, 1890, the First National Bank of Aransas Pass (now Rockport) was organized by a group of businessmen led by John H. Traylor, James M. Hoopes, George W. Fulton, Jr., James C. Fulton, and Richard H. Wood. Located at Main and Water streets, the bank played a vital role in Rockport's growth and development. Its name was changed to First National Bank of Rockport in 1903. After surviving both the 1919 storm and the Great Depression, the bank moved to new quarters across the street from its first location in 1958, and to this site in 1974. (1990)

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independent bank  
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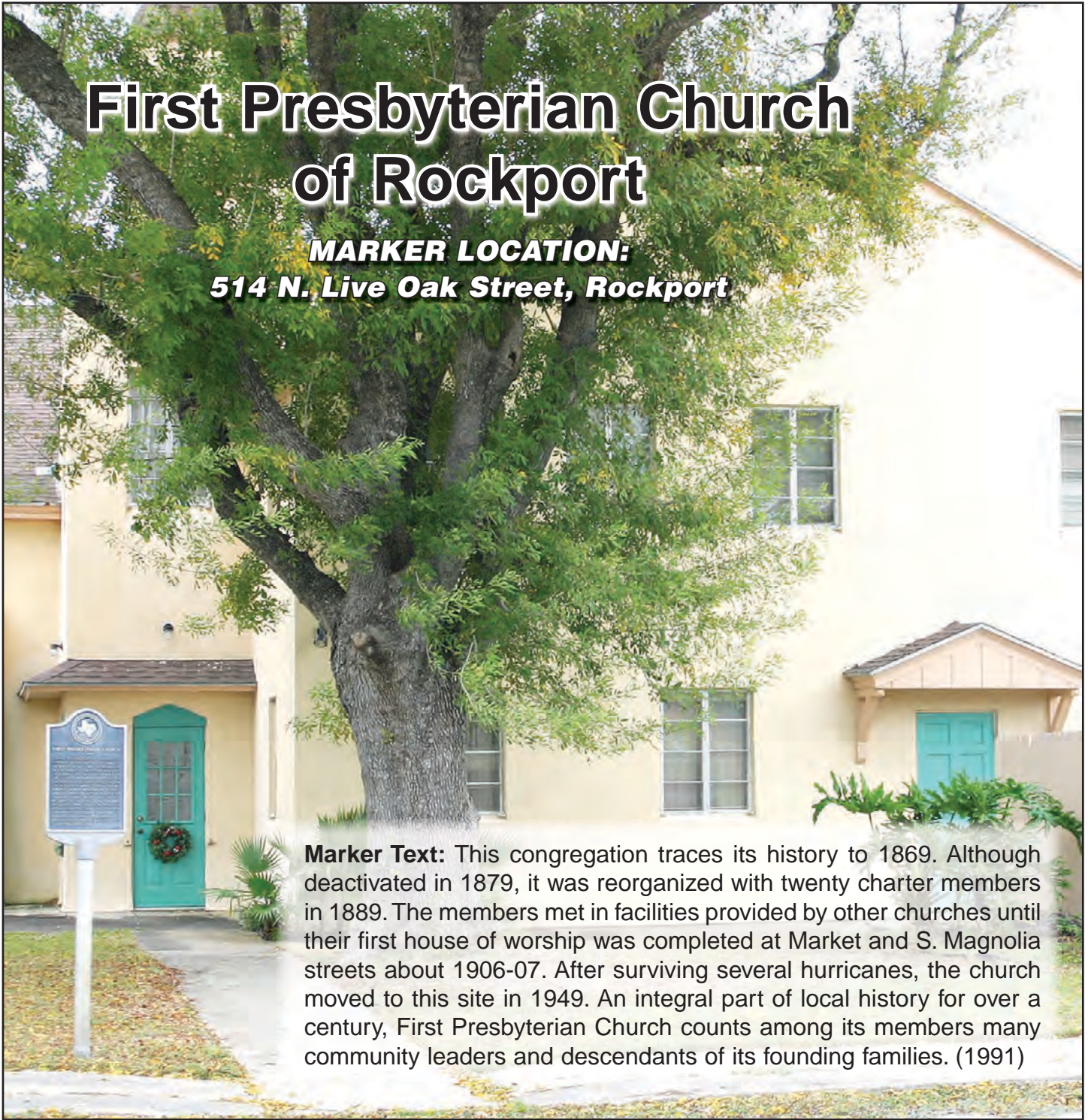
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# First Presbyterian Church of Rockport

**MARKER LOCATION:  
514 N. Live Oak Street, Rockport**



**Marker Text:** This congregation traces its history to 1869. Although deactivated in 1879, it was reorganized with twenty charter members in 1889. The members met in facilities provided by other churches until their first house of worship was completed at Market and S. Magnolia streets about 1906-07. After surviving several hurricanes, the church moved to this site in 1949. An integral part of local history for over a century, First Presbyterian Church counts among its members many community leaders and descendants of its founding families. (1991)



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# Frandolig Island

**MARKER LOCATION:  
1797 Bayshore Drive, Rockport**



**FRANDOLIG ISLAND**  
DUBBED "NINE MILE POINT" BY EARLY SETTLERS, THIS ISLAND WAS FIRST USED COMMERCIALY BY THE CUSHMAN MEAT PACKING COMPANY IN THE LATE 1860s. AUSTRIAN FRANZ JOSEPH FRANDOLIG, A HORSEMAN WHO HAD ORDERED CATTLE TO CUSHMAN & CO., HOMESTEADED PROPERTY AT THIS SITE WHEN THE COMPANY VACATED THE LAND IN 1878. FRANDOLIG AND HIS FAMILY ESTABLISHED A LARGE FIG ORCHARD, THEY SOLD THE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES IN ROCKPORT AND FULTON. FRANDOLIG ALSO KEPT A VINEYARD, WHERE HE PRODUCED AND SOLD WINE BY THE BARREL, AND BUILT A SALT WORKS. THE FRANDOLIG FAMILY SOLD THE PROPERTY BETWEEN 1901 AND 1903. THE SEVERE HURRICANE OF 1919 RETURNED THE ISLAND TO ITS NATURAL AND UNINHABITED STATE. IN 1958 THE LOCAL NAVIGATION DISTRICT BEGAN TO OFFER IT FOR DEVELOPMENT.

**Marker Text:** Dubbed "Nine Mile Point" by early settlers, this island was first used commercially by the Cushman Meat Packing Company in the late 1860s. Austrian Franz Joseph Frandolig, a horseman who had delivered cattle to Cushman & Co., homesteaded property at this site when the company vacated the land in 1878. Frandolig and his family established a large fig orchard. They sold the fruits and vegetables in Rockport and Fulton. Frandolig also kept a vineyard, where he produced and sold wine by the barrel, and built a salt works. The Frandolig family sold the property between 1901 and 1903. The severe hurricane of 1919 returned the island to its natural and uninhabited state. In 1958 the local navigation district began to offer it for development. (1999)

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1798 Bayshore on Key Allegro, Rockport, Aransas County, Texas  
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**Marker Text:** Located on Aransas Bay, the city of Fulton has a history closely associated with the fishing and shipping industry. The town was founded in 1867 by George Ware Fulton, whose mansion is an important local landmark. Schools, churches, and businesses were quickly established in the town. A one-room schoolhouse, built in 1886, was relocated and adapted for use as a city hall. In recent years tourism and commercial fishing and shrimping have become the city's most important economic pursuits. The city of Fulton was incorporated in 1978. (1988)



## Fulton

**MARKER LOCATION:**  
**Fulton Town Hall,**  
**205 N. Seventh Street,**  
**Fulton**



COMPLIMENTS OF ...

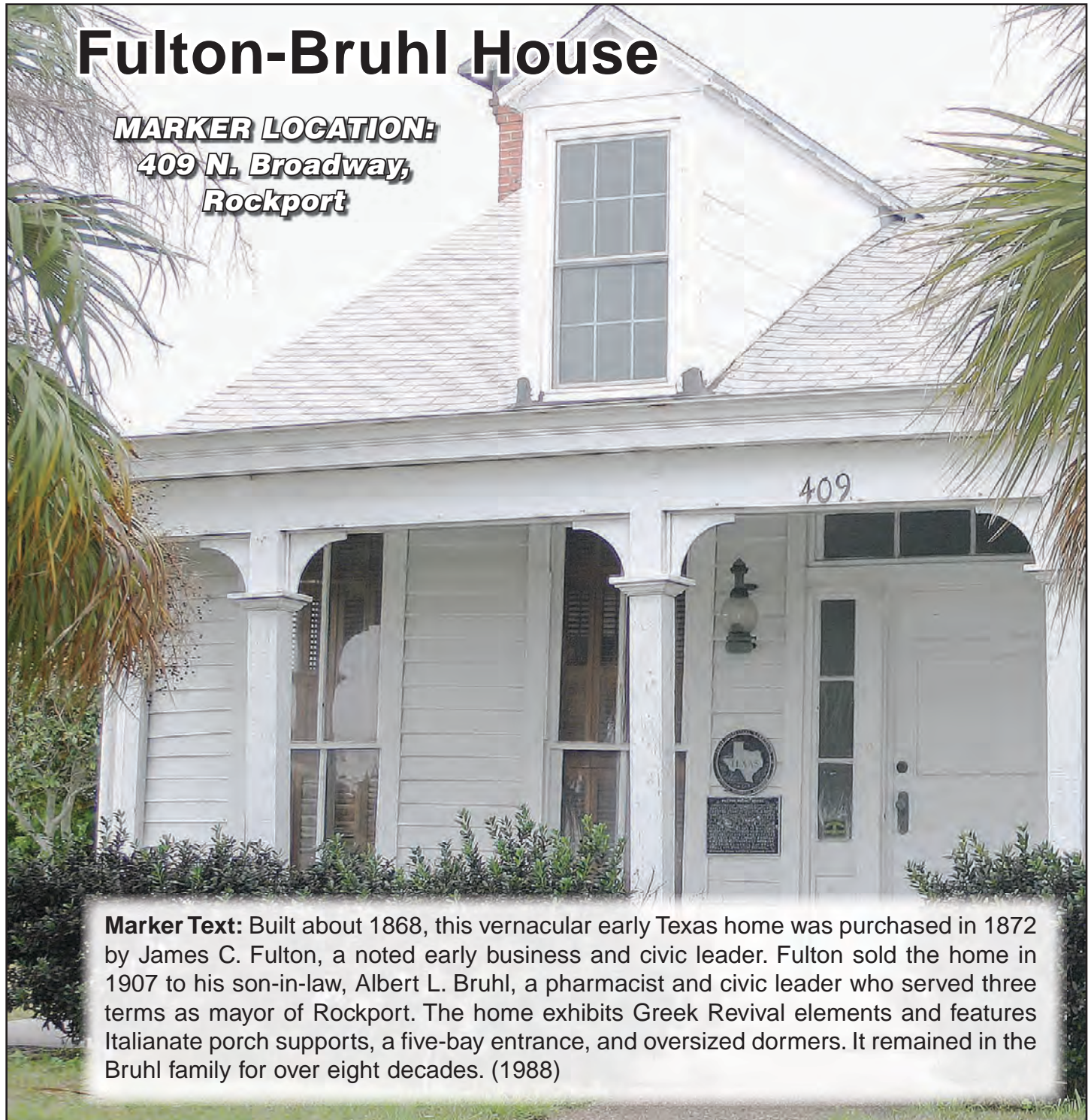
**The Town of Fulton,  
Mayor Russel Cole,  
and the Fulton Town Council**

**- Proud members of Aransas County -**



# Fulton-Bruhl House

**MARKER LOCATION:**  
**409 N. Broadway,**  
**Rockport**

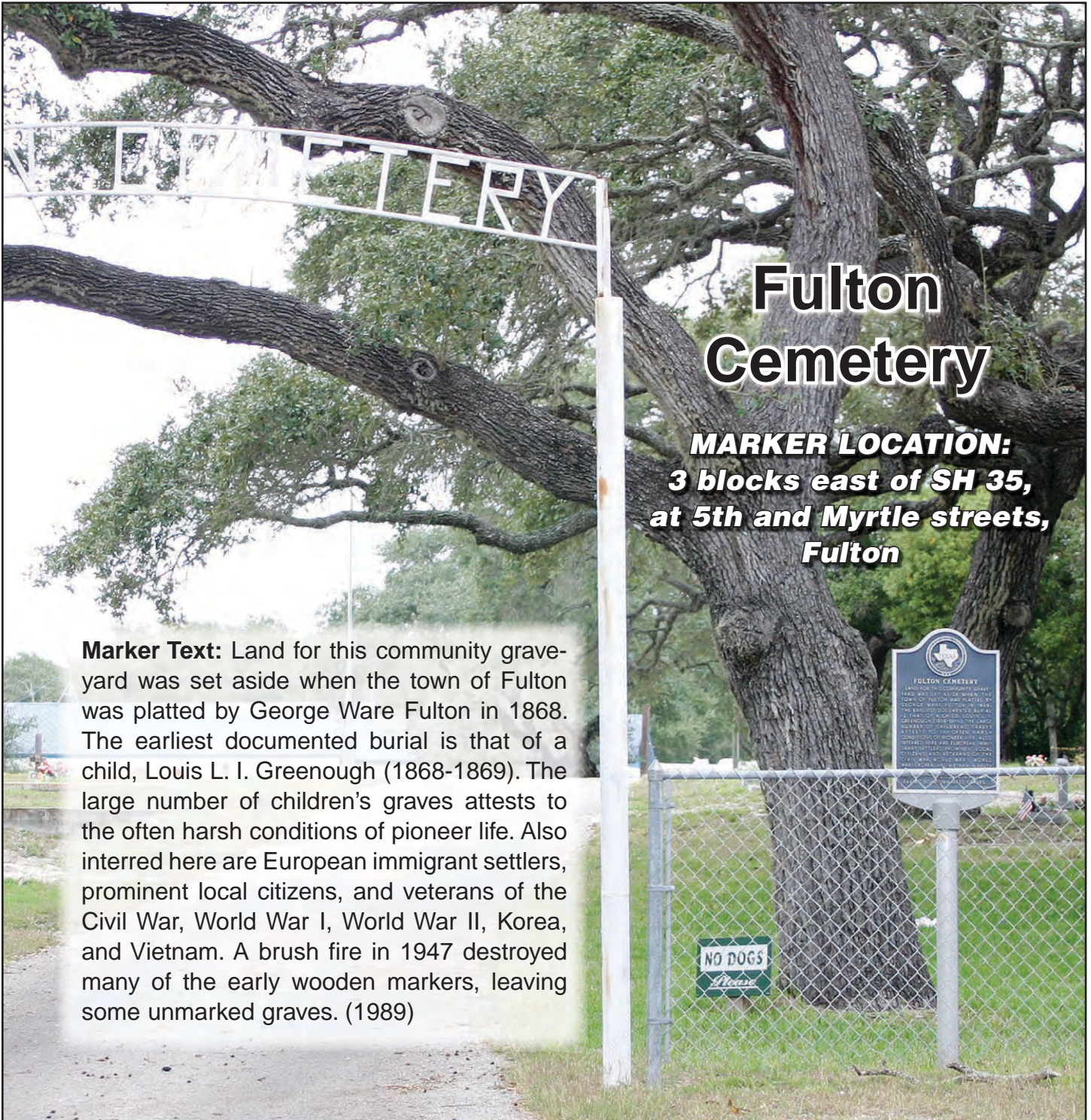


**Marker Text:** Built about 1868, this vernacular early Texas home was purchased in 1872 by James C. Fulton, a noted early business and civic leader. Fulton sold the home in 1907 to his son-in-law, Albert L. Bruhl, a pharmacist and civic leader who served three terms as mayor of Rockport. The home exhibits Greek Revival elements and features Italianate porch supports, a five-bay entrance, and oversized dormers. It remained in the Bruhl family for over eight decades. (1988)

Compliments of

The Hunt Family





## Fulton Cemetery

**MARKER LOCATION:**  
3 blocks east of SH 35,  
at 5th and Myrtle streets,  
Fulton

**Marker Text:** Land for this community graveyard was set aside when the town of Fulton was platted by George Ware Fulton in 1868. The earliest documented burial is that of a child, Louis L. I. Greenough (1868-1869). The large number of children's graves attests to the often harsh conditions of pioneer life. Also interred here are European immigrant settlers, prominent local citizens, and veterans of the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. A brush fire in 1947 destroyed many of the early wooden markers, leaving some unmarked graves. (1989)

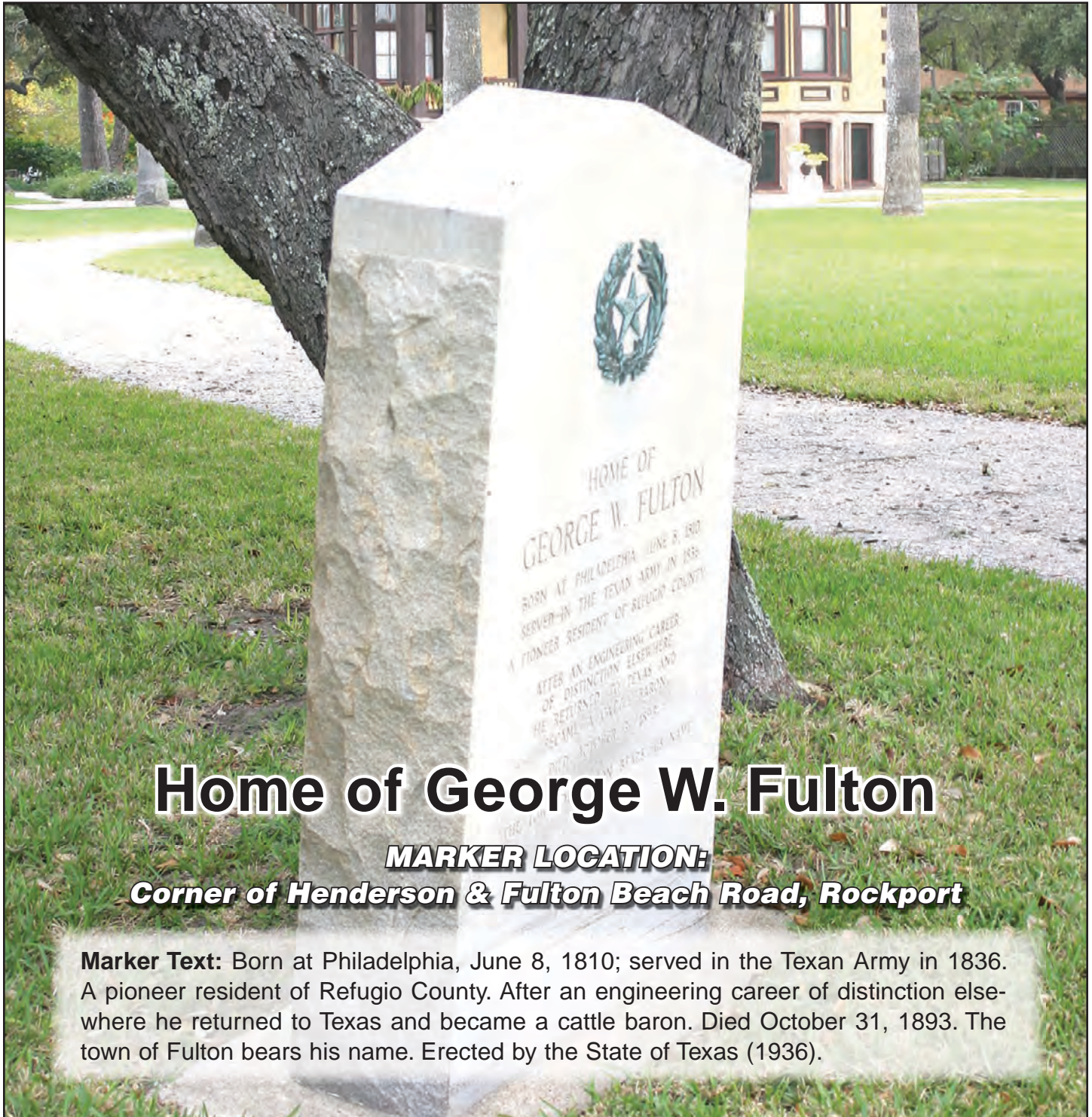
*In loving memory of*

*Alfred & Sarah Poch & Carle & Fred Heinsohn*



*Alfred "Bubba" Heinsohn and Kam Heinsohn Wagert*





## Home of George W. Fulton

**MARKER LOCATION:**  
**Corner of Henderson & Fulton Beach Road, Rockport**

**Marker Text:** Born at Philadelphia, June 8, 1810; served in the Texan Army in 1836. A pioneer resident of Refugio County. After an engineering career of distinction elsewhere he returned to Texas and became a cattle baron. Died October 31, 1893. The town of Fulton bears his name. Erected by the State of Texas (1936).

### *The Friends of the Fulton Mansion*

We are a not-for-profit organization created to support the activities of the Fulton Mansion. Join us for one of our many FREE events such as Music at the Mansion, May Fest, Christmas Caroling, and Movies at the Mansion.

Call 361/729-0386 for more information about the Friends of Fulton Mansion.





# Fulton Mansion

## MARKER LOCATION:

**Corner of Henderson & Fulton Beach Road,  
Rockport**

**Marker Text:** Built between 1874 and 1877 by George Ware Fulton (1810-1893) and his wife, Harriet Smith Fulton (1823-1910), this imposing residence was named "Oakhurst." The three-story French Second Empire style home is of plank wall construction, with a shell aggregate concrete basement and characteristic mansard roof. The house featured modern heating, ventilation, and plumbing systems and gas lighting. The Fulton family lived here until 1895. (1964)

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- ∞ Music at the Mansion
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- ∞ Christmas Caroling

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[www.visitfultonmansion.com](http://www.visitfultonmansion.com)





# Hagar, Connie

**Marker Text:** (June 14, 1886 - November 29, 1973) Born Conger Neblett in Corsicana, and married to Jack Hagar in 1926, Connie Hagar received early training as a musician. She and her sister became interested in birds and worked as volunteers with the U.S. Biological Survey. The Hagars moved to Rockport in 1935, shortly after Connie made her first visit here. She became a self-taught authority on Texas birds, and her expertise was sought by professionals and amateur ornithologists from around the world. In 1945 the Texas Legislature designated this waterfront property as the Connie Hagar Wildlife Sanctuary. (1990)



**MARKER LOCATION:**

***East of N. Bus. 35/Broadway Street "Y";  
city waterfront property facing Connie Hagar Wildlife Sanctuary,  
Rockport***

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# Heldenfels Shipyard

**MARKER LOCATION:**  
**1800 S. Church Street (Loop 70), Rockport**

**Marker Text:** Shipping industries flourished on the Rockport waterfront by the 1880s. Heldenfels Shipyard was established here on 12.9 acres in October 1917. Four 281-foot wooden cargo vessels were to be built for military use in World War I; the "Baychester" was launched on July 31, 1919, and the "Zuniga" on September 9, 1919. At the height of construction, over 900 men were employed at the shipyard. The need for ships fell as the war ended. Despite hurricane damage to the shipyard on September 14, 1919, the "Jasper" and the "Manchester" were completed as barges in 1920, ending this vital war contract. (1996)



*James L. Anderson, Jr.*

ATTORNEY AT LAW

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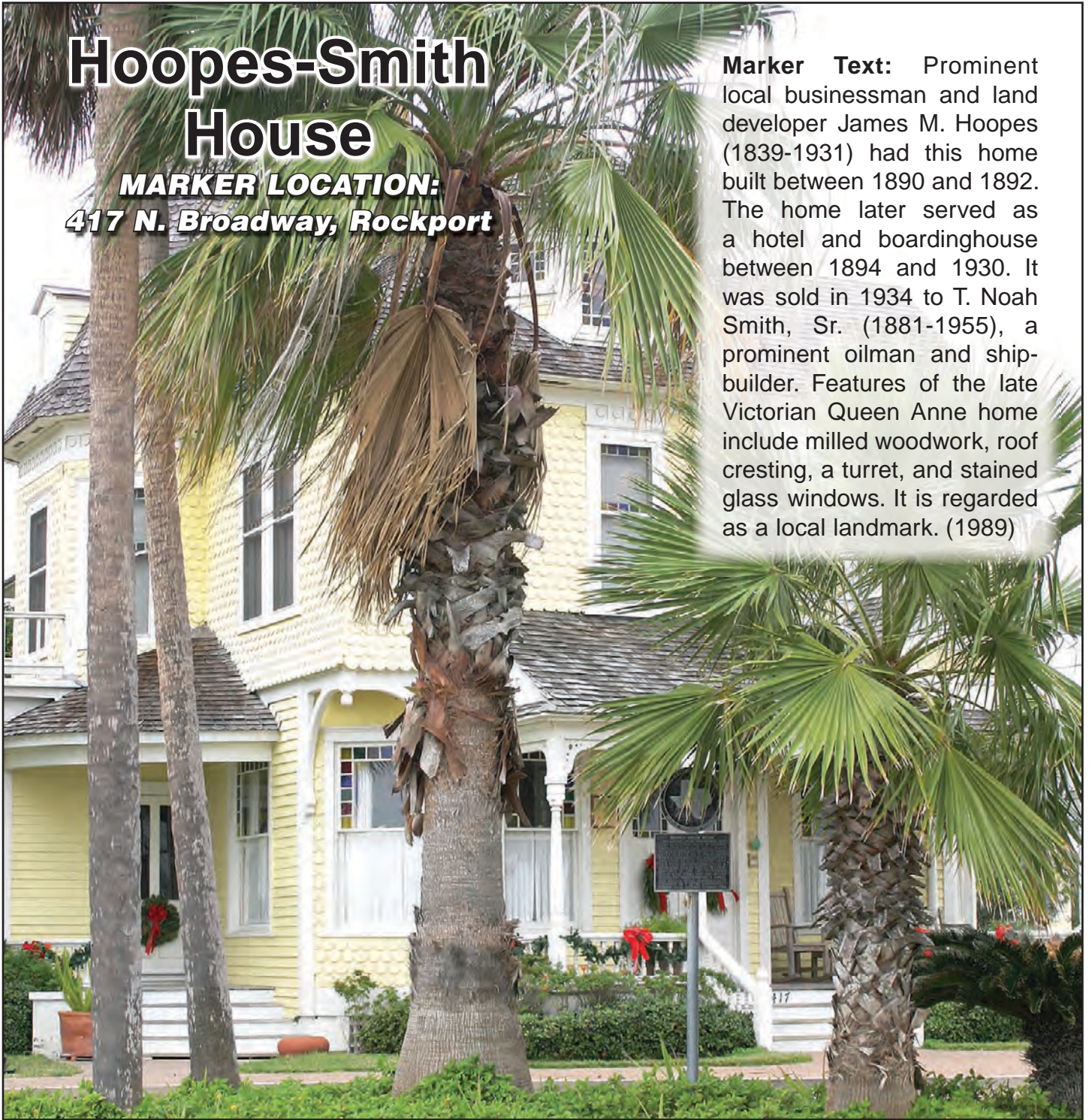




# Hoopes-Smith House

**MARKER LOCATION:  
417 N. Broadway, Rockport**

**Marker Text:** Prominent local businessman and land developer James M. Hoopes (1839-1931) had this home built between 1890 and 1892. The home later served as a hotel and boardinghouse between 1894 and 1930. It was sold in 1934 to T. Noah Smith, Sr. (1881-1955), a prominent oilman and ship-builder. Features of the late Victorian Queen Anne home include milled woodwork, roof cresting, a turret, and stained glass windows. It is regarded as a local landmark. (1989)



## Hoopes' House

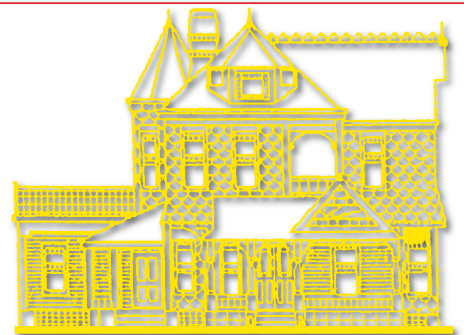
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# Lamar

**MARKER LOCATION:**  
**10 miles north of Rockport**  
**on SH 35, 1/8 mile north**  
**of causeway, (1/8 mile**  
**south of Park Road 13)**



SITE OF THE TOWN OF  
 L A M A R  
 NAMED FOR  
 MIRABEAU B. LAMAR  
 1798-1859  
 PRESIDENT OF THE  
 REPUBLIC OF TEXAS  
 1838-1841  
 ESTABLISHED IN 1838  
 MADE A PORT OF ENTRY IN 1839  
 SACKED BY UNION TROOPS  
 FEB. 11, 1864  
 SURVIVED UNTIL 1914  
 BUT NEVER FLOURISHED.

**Marker Text:** Named for Mirabeau B. Lamar 1798-1859, President of the Republic of Texas 1838-1841. Established in 1838; made a port of entry in 1839. Sacked by Union troops Feb. 11, 1864. Survived until 1914 but never flourished. Erected by the State of Texas (1936)



## RICHARD P. BIANCHI P.C.

*Attorney at Law*

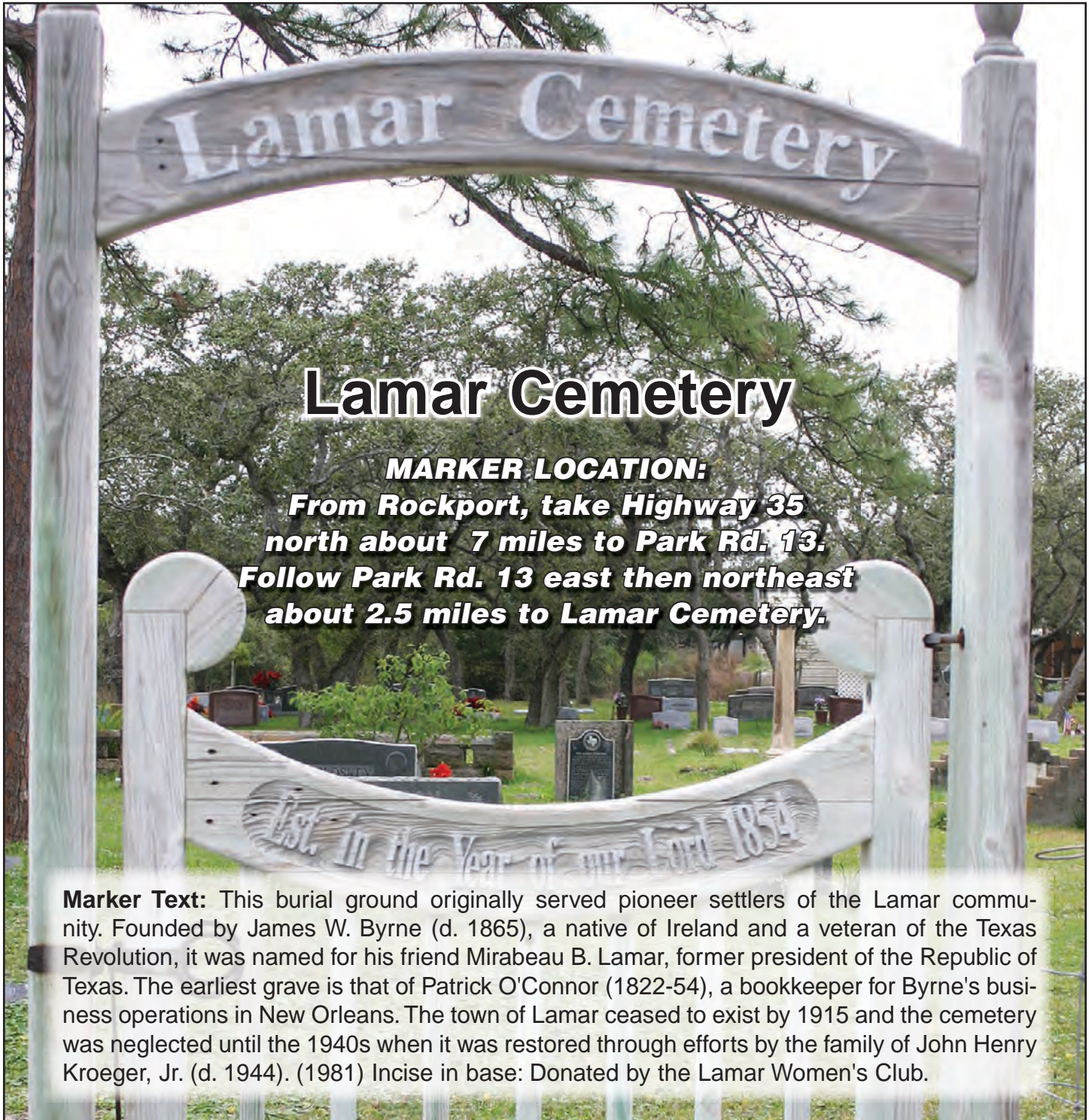
621 S. Fulton Beach Rd., Suite 110 • 361-729-5800

*Board Certified in Residential Real Estate • Texas Board of Legal Specialization*

*Former State District Judge • Member Rockport-Fulton Chamber of Commerce*

www.bianchilaw.com





# Lamar Cemetery

**MARKER LOCATION:**

***From Rockport, take Highway 35 north about 7 miles to Park Rd. 13. Follow Park Rd. 13 east then northeast about 2.5 miles to Lamar Cemetery.***

**Marker Text:** This burial ground originally served pioneer settlers of the Lamar community. Founded by James W. Byrne (d. 1865), a native of Ireland and a veteran of the Texas Revolution, it was named for his friend Mirabeau B. Lamar, former president of the Republic of Texas. The earliest grave is that of Patrick O'Connor (1822-54), a bookkeeper for Byrne's business operations in New Orleans. The town of Lamar ceased to exist by 1915 and the cemetery was neglected until the 1940s when it was restored through efforts by the family of John Henry Kroeger, Jr. (d. 1944). (1981) Incise in base: Donated by the Lamar Women's Club.



**ROCKPORT ABSTRACT**  
and Title Company, Inc.

*The Market Street Closing Office*

Providing Aransas County with the *Finest Full-Service Real Estate Closing Services!*

505 East Market Street • Rockport, Texas 78382

Ph: (361) 729-5442 • Fax: (361) 729-0668

**ESCROW OFFICER:**  
Fayenell Harrell

**CLOSING ATTORNEY:**  
James L. Anderson, Jr.

*An Independent Agent for:*  
STEWART TITLE COMPANY  
FIRST AMERICAN  
ALAMO/FIDELITY NATIONAL



# Site of Marion Packing Co.

**MARKER LOCATION:**  
**Fulton Beach Road & Chaparral Street,  
Fulton**

STATE OF TEXAS  
SITE OF  
MARION PACKING CO.  
THE RUINS OF THIS RENDERING VAT  
MARK THE LOCATION OF THE MARION  
PACKING CO. (SPELLED "MERIAM" IN  
SOME RECORDS), ONE OF THE DOZEN  
OR MORE MEAT PACKING PLANTS  
BUILT IN THE ROCKPORT-FULTON AREA  
IN THE 1860S AND 1870S TO PROCESS  
THE HUGE HERDS OF RANGE CATTLE  
THAT ROAMED TEXAS AFTER THE CIVIL  
WAR. HERE BEEF WAS DRIED, SALTED,  
OR PICKLED BEFORE SHIPPING. THE BY-  
PRODUCTS SUCH AS TALLOW, HIDES,  
HORNS, AND BONES WERE SENT TO  
EASTERN FACTORIES. LIKE MOST OF  
THE COASTAL PLANTS, MARION PACKING  
CO. FLOURISHED UNTIL ABOUT 1880,  
WHEN SHIPPING CATTLE TO NORTHERN  
MARKETS PROVED MORE PROFITABLE.  
(1976)

**Marker Text:** The ruins of this rendering vat mark the location of the Marion Packing Co. (spelled "Meriam" in some records), one of the dozen or more meat packing plants built in the Rockport-Fulton area in the 1860s and 1870s to process the huge herds of range cattle that roamed Texas after the Civil War. Here beef was dried, salted, or pickled before shipping. The by-products such as tallow, hides, horns, and bones were sent to eastern factories. Like most of the coastal plants, Marion Packing Co. flourished until about 1880, when shipping cattle to northern markets proved more profitable. (1976)



**Aransas County Historical Commission • 1919 Hwy 35 N, PMB #365, Rockport, TX 78382**

The role of the Aransas County Historical Commission (ACHC) is to coordinate and advocate for historical preservation in the county. Commissioners are appointed by the County Commissioner's Court. As a body the ACHC works with the County Commissioner's Court and the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to preserve the county's heritage for the use, education, enjoyment and economic benefit of present and future generations. Meetings are open to the public, held quarterly as posted by the County Clerk.

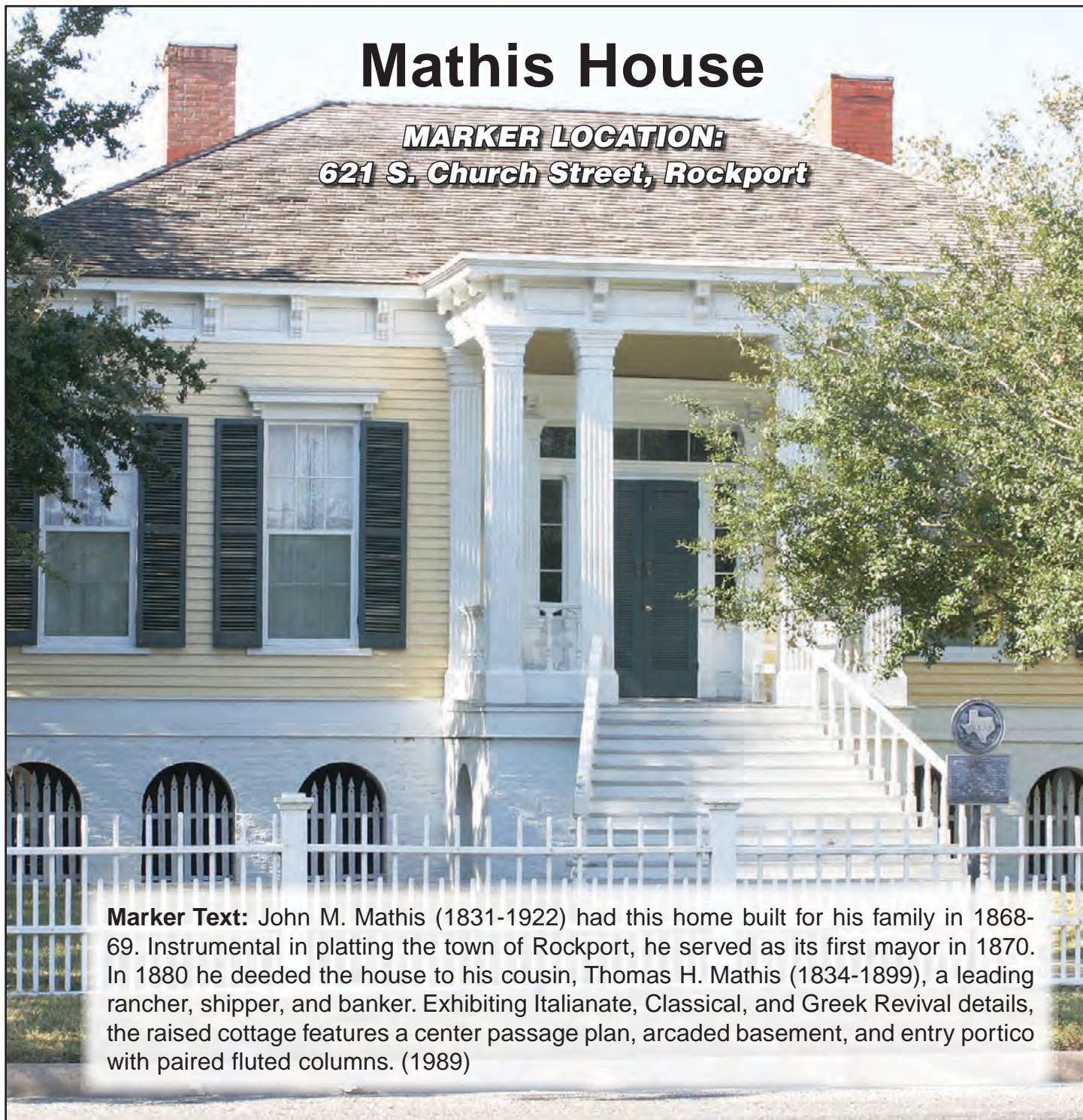
The ACHC is responsible for reviewing state Historical Marker nominations and Windstorm Exemption applications. If you would like to nominate a property for a Historical Marker or Windstorm Exemption, please contact the ACHC at the above address or at the County Judge's office.

For more information about the CHC go to [www.aransascounty.org](http://www.aransascounty.org), click on departments, then Historical Commission.



# Mathis House

**MARKER LOCATION:**  
**621 S. Church Street, Rockport**



**Marker Text:** John M. Mathis (1831-1922) had this home built for his family in 1868-69. Instrumental in platting the town of Rockport, he served as its first mayor in 1870. In 1880 he deeded the house to his cousin, Thomas H. Mathis (1834-1899), a leading rancher, shipper, and banker. Exhibiting Italianate, Classical, and Greek Revival details, the raised cottage features a center passage plan, arcaded basement, and entry portico with paired fluted columns. (1989)

*Maison* ... the allure of luxury

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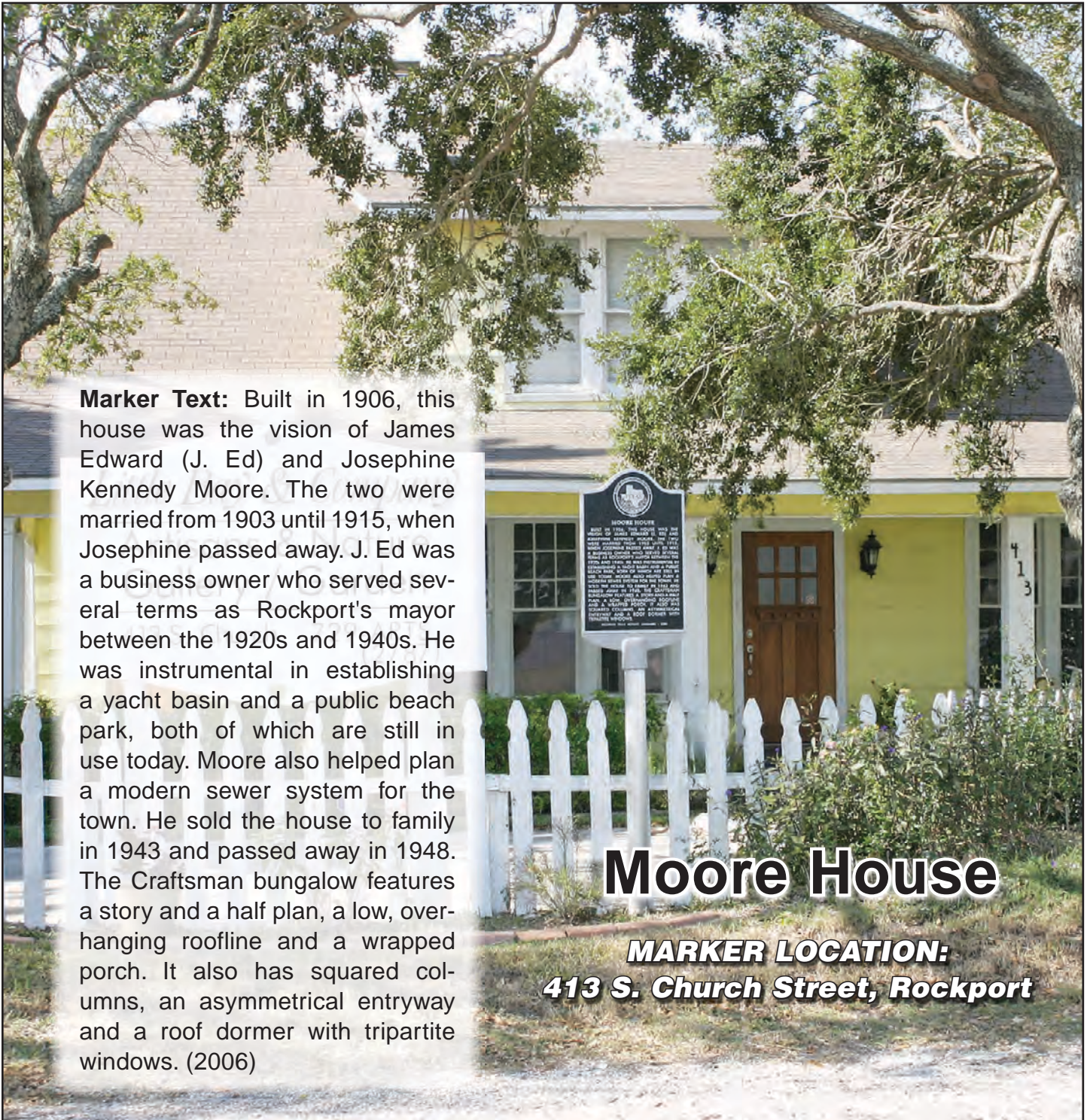
In the Loft at 1703 Hwy. 35 S. Rockport 729-3999

[www.steveakindesign.com](http://www.steveakindesign.com)



Photo by  
Reba Graham





**Marker Text:** Built in 1906, this house was the vision of James Edward (J. Ed) and Josephine Kennedy Moore. The two were married from 1903 until 1915, when Josephine passed away. J. Ed was a business owner who served several terms as Rockport's mayor between the 1920s and 1940s. He was instrumental in establishing a yacht basin and a public beach park, both of which are still in use today. Moore also helped plan a modern sewer system for the town. He sold the house to family in 1943 and passed away in 1948. The Craftsman bungalow features a story and a half plan, a low, overhanging roofline and a wrapped porch. It also has squared columns, an asymmetrical entryway and a roof dormer with tripartite windows. (2006)

**MOORE HOUSE**  
 JAMES EDWARD MOORE, MAYOR OF ROCKPORT, TEXAS, AND JOSEPHINE KENNEDY MOORE, HIS WIFE, BUILT THIS HOUSE IN 1906. THE HOUSE WAS DESIGNED BY JAMES MOORE AND IS A FINE EXAMPLE OF THE CRAFTSMAN BUNGALOW STYLE. THE HOUSE IS A TWO AND A HALF STORY HOME WITH A LOW, OVERHANGING ROOFLINE AND A WRAPPED PORCH. IT ALSO HAS SQUARED COLUMNS, AN ASYMMETRICAL ENTRYWAY AND A ROOF DORMER WITH TRIPARTITE WINDOWS. (2006)

# Moore House

**MARKER LOCATION:  
 413 S. Church Street, Rockport**

It doesn't matter if it is OLD or it is NEW... if it is Too **HOT** or it is Too **Cold** ...

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# Port Bay Hunting and Fishing Club

**Marker Text:** Danish native Andrew Sorenson (1864-1941), established a reputation as a hunting and fishing guide in this area in the early 20th century. He bought 240 acres of land (.5 mi. W) in 1909 and in 1912 incorporated the private Port Bay Hunting and Fishing Club. Charter members included prominent citizens from Texas and the U.S. Adjacent waters teem with ducks and geese in season. Despite hurricane damage to club structures over the years and a reduction in size to 46 acres of land, the club continues to attract members who embrace the traditions of conservation and sportsmanship. (1991)

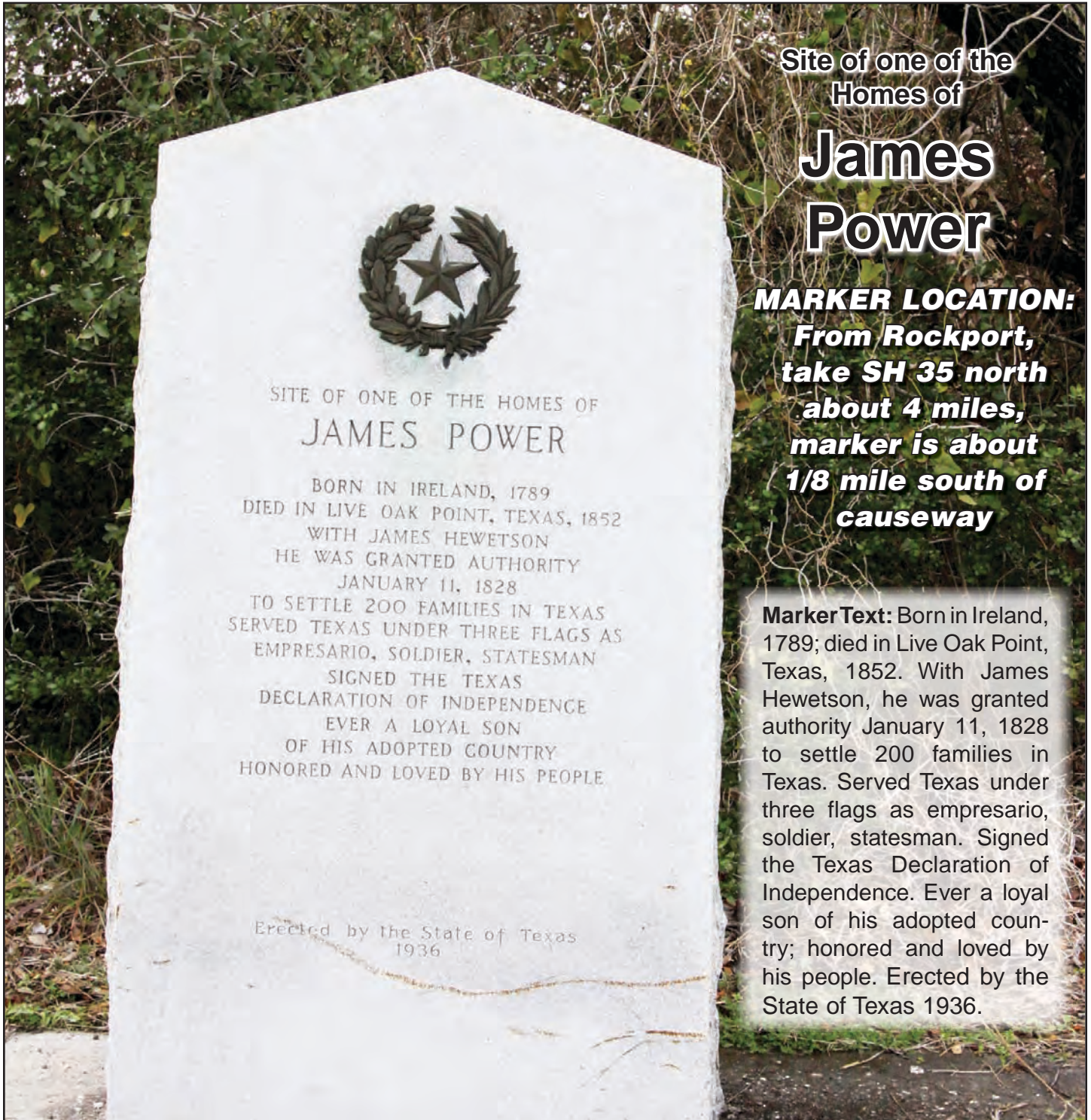
**MARKER LOCATION:**  
**From Rockport, take**  
**FM 1069 4 miles**  
**southwest to intersection**  
**with Port Bay Road**

Sponsored by **PORT BAY HUNTING AND FISHING CLUB**

[www.portbayclub.com](http://www.portbayclub.com)







Site of one of the  
Homes of

## James Power

**MARKER LOCATION:**  
**From Rockport,**  
**take SH 35 north**  
**about 4 miles,**  
**marker is about**  
**1/8 mile south of**  
**causeway**

**MarkerText:** Born in Ireland, 1789; died in Live Oak Point, Texas, 1852. With James Hewetson, he was granted authority January 11, 1828 to settle 200 families in Texas. Served Texas under three flags as empresario, soldier, statesman. Signed the Texas Declaration of Independence. Ever a loyal son of his adopted country; honored and loved by his people. Erected by the State of Texas 1936.



## ROCKPORT ABSTRACT and Title Company, Inc.

*The Market Street Closing Office*

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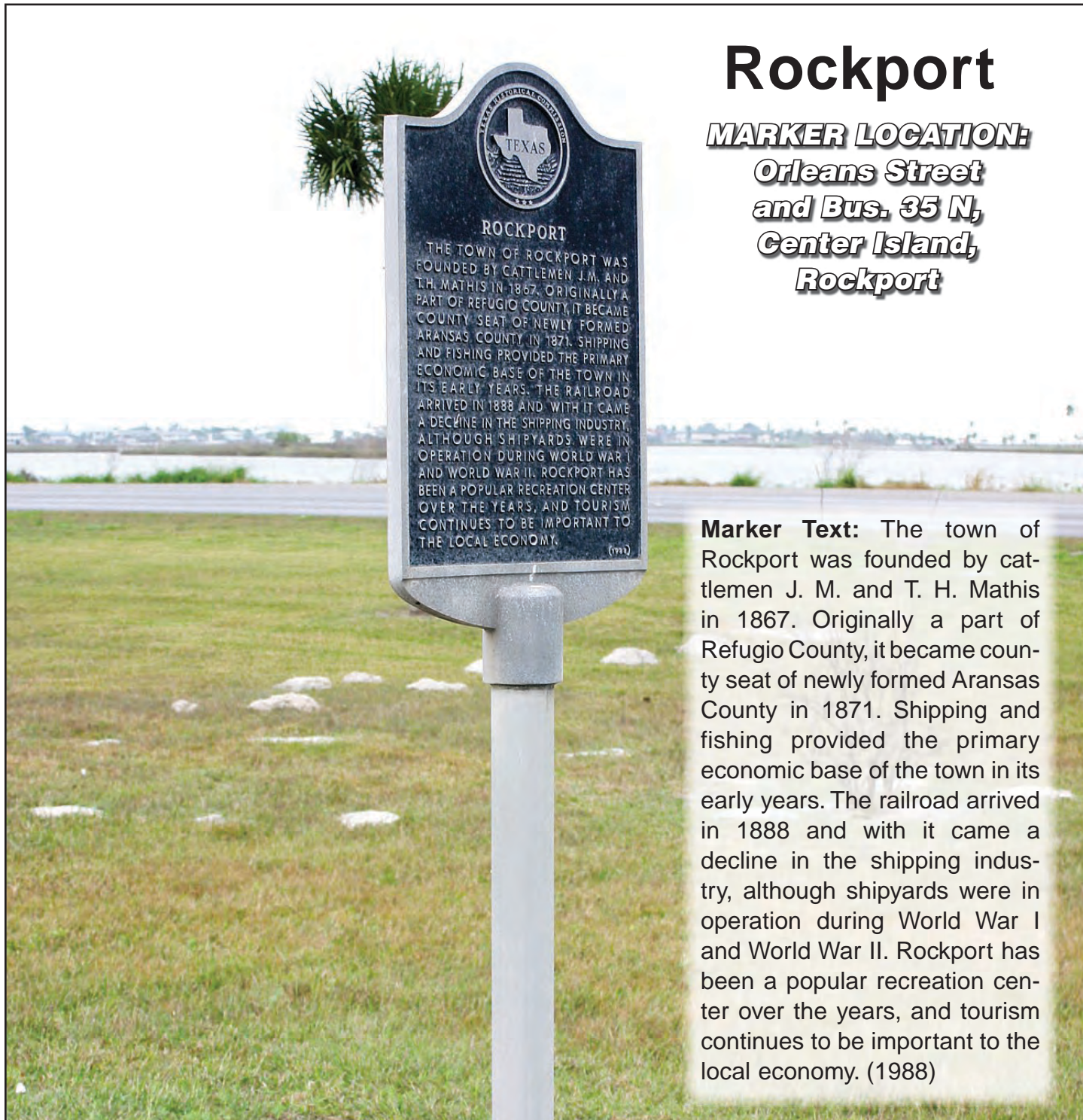
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*An Independent Agent for:*  
STEWART TITLE COMPANY  
FIRST AMERICAN  
ALAMO/FIDELITY NATIONAL





# Rockport

## **MARKER LOCATION:**

***Orleans Street  
and Bus. 35 N,  
Center Island,  
Rockport***

**Marker Text:** The town of Rockport was founded by cattlemen J. M. and T. H. Mathis in 1867. Originally a part of Refugio County, it became county seat of newly formed Aransas County in 1871. Shipping and fishing provided the primary economic base of the town in its early years. The railroad arrived in 1888 and with it came a decline in the shipping industry, although shipyards were in operation during World War I and World War II. Rockport has been a popular recreation center over the years, and tourism continues to be important to the local economy. (1988)

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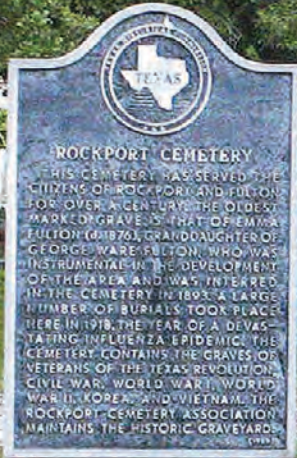
1-800-585-2256

361-729-1367



# Rockport Cemetery

**MARKER LOCATION:  
On Tule Park Road,  
1/4 mile east of N. Bus. 35,  
Rockport**



**Marker Text:** This cemetery has served the citizens of Rockport and Fulton for over a century. The oldest marked grave is that of Emma Fulton (d. 1876), granddaughter of George Ware Fulton, who was instrumental in the development of the area and was interred in the cemetery in 1893. A large number of burials took place here in 1918, the year of a devastating influenza epidemic. The cemetery contains the graves of veterans of the Texas Revolution, Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. The Rockport Cemetery Association maintains the historic graveyard. (1988)

SUPPORTING ARANSAS COUNTY AND ITS OUTSTANDING HISTORY ...



*The Daughters of the Republic of Texas*

*Stenson-Simpson Chapter*

ROCKPORT-FULTON, TEXAS





# Rockport Pilot

**MARKER LOCATION:**  
**1002 Wharf Street, Rockport**

The Rockport Pilot



**Marker Text:** The earliest newspaper in this area was "The Vaquero," published by Charles F. Bailey and Geraldo A. Beeman in St. Mary's in 1868. In 1869 Bailey moved to Rockport and founded "The Transcript," which continued in operation until 1886. Two years later "The Rockport Enterprise" began, and in 1916 it merged with the new "Rockport Pilot." Other local newspapers existed for short periods, but since its beginning "The Pilot" has been the area's primary news source, focusing on Aransas County issues and events. (1990)

## The Rockport Pilot

*Aransas County's Community Newspaper Since 1869*

1002 Wharf St. • Downtown Rockport • 361-729-9900

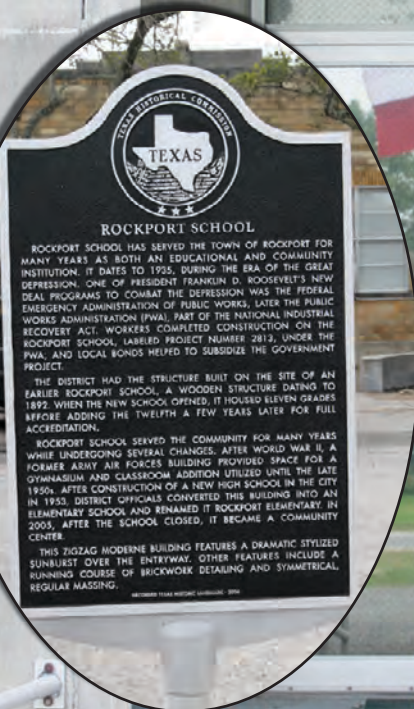
[www.rockportpilot.com](http://www.rockportpilot.com)



# ROCKPORT SCHOOL

## Rockport School

**MARKER LOCATION:**  
**619 N. Live Oak,  
Rockport**



**Marker Text:** Rockport School has served the Town of Rockport for many years as both an educational and community institution. It dates to 1953, during the era of the Great Depression. One of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal Programs to combat the depression was the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, later the Public Works Administration (PWA), part of the National Industrial Recovery Act. Workers completed construction on the Rockport School, labeled Project Number 2813, under the PWA, and local bonds helped to subsidize the government project.

The district had the structure built on the site of an earlier Rockport school, a wooden structure dating to 1892. When the new school opened, it housed eleven grades before adding the twelfth a few years later for full accreditation.

Rockport School served the community for many years while undergoing several changes. After World War II, a former Army Air Force building provided space for a gymnasium and classroom addition utilized until the late 1950s. After construction of a new high school in the city in 1953, district officials converted this building into an elementary school and renamed it Rockport Elementary. In 2005, after the school closed, it became a community center.

This zigzag modern building features a dramatic stylized sunburst over the entryway. Other features include a running course of brickwork detailing and symmetrical regular massing. (2006)



## Stewart is Aransas County.

**Stewart Title of Rockport, Inc.**

P.O. Box 1136 • Rockport, TX 78381

**805 FM 3036**

(Corner of Hwy. 35 N. & FM 3036)

361-729-5151 fax 361-729-5685

**Deborah Rozacky-Jordan,  
President**

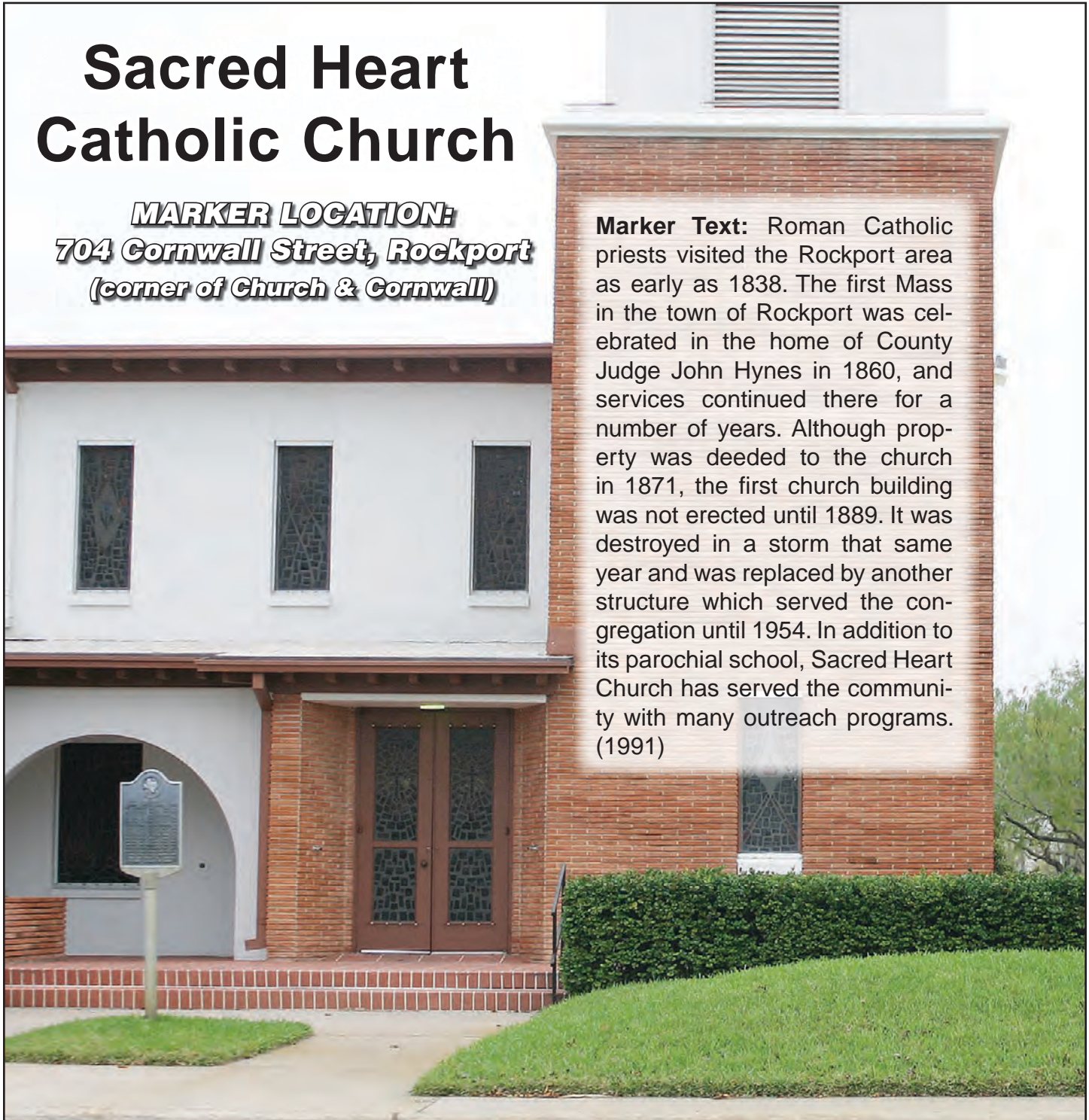
**stewart**  
title company of rockport



# Sacred Heart Catholic Church

**MARKER LOCATION:**  
**704 Cornwall Street, Rockport**  
**(corner of Church & Cornwall)**

**Marker Text:** Roman Catholic priests visited the Rockport area as early as 1838. The first Mass in the town of Rockport was celebrated in the home of County Judge John Hynes in 1860, and services continued there for a number of years. Although property was deeded to the church in 1871, the first church building was not erected until 1889. It was destroyed in a storm that same year and was replaced by another structure which served the congregation until 1954. In addition to its parochial school, Sacred Heart Church has served the community with many outreach programs. (1991)



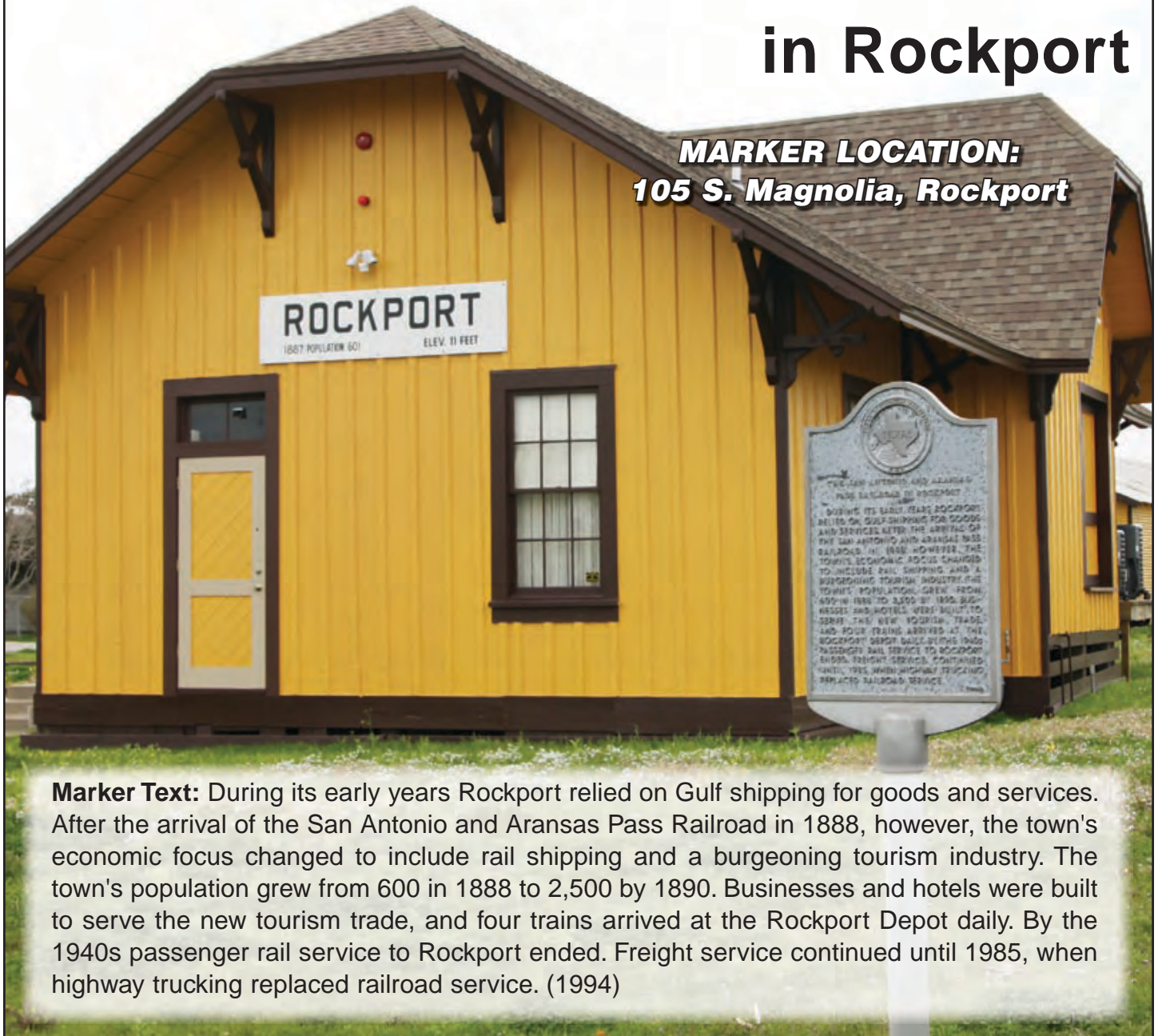
*Sponsored by*

*The Hynes Family*



# The San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad in Rockport

**MARKER LOCATION:  
105 S. Magnolia, Rockport**



**Marker Text:** During its early years Rockport relied on Gulf shipping for goods and services. After the arrival of the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railroad in 1888, however, the town's economic focus changed to include rail shipping and a burgeoning tourism industry. The town's population grew from 600 in 1888 to 2,500 by 1890. Businesses and hotels were built to serve the new tourism trade, and four trains arrived at the Rockport Depot daily. By the 1940s passenger rail service to Rockport ended. Freight service continued until 1985, when highway trucking replaced railroad service. (1994)



In 1985, concerned citizens created the Aransas County Historical Society to save and preserve the Stella Maris Chapel in Lamar. Today, we continue to identify and preserve the county's pre-history and history through documentation, publication, and public programming. Please join us! Annual memberships are only \$20 for individuals, \$30 for families. Email [achistory@swbell.net](mailto:achistory@swbell.net).

**The Aransas County Historical Society**

Box 702, Rockport, TX 78381

of Preserving our History



# Sorenson-Stair Building

**Marker Text:** Simon Sorenson, a native of Denmark, bought Brunner's Merchantile at this site in 1886. The building was originally two stories, rebuilt after an 1895 fire. The Sorensens received weather reports by telegraph, posted updates in the display windows and raised warning flags as necessary. Hurricane Celia damaged the building and stock in 1970. In 1978 the Estelle Stair Gallery and the Rockport Art Association were housed here. Stair nurtured the growing art community. The load-bearing masonry building features a distinctive five-bay brick façade, with brick entry arches and pilasters capped along the stepped parapet. (2008)

**MARKER LOCATION:**  
406 S. Austin Street,  
Rockport

*James L. Anderson, Jr.*  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

505 E. MARKET STREET • ROCKPORT, TX  
Ph: 361.729.5442 • Fax: 361.729.0668

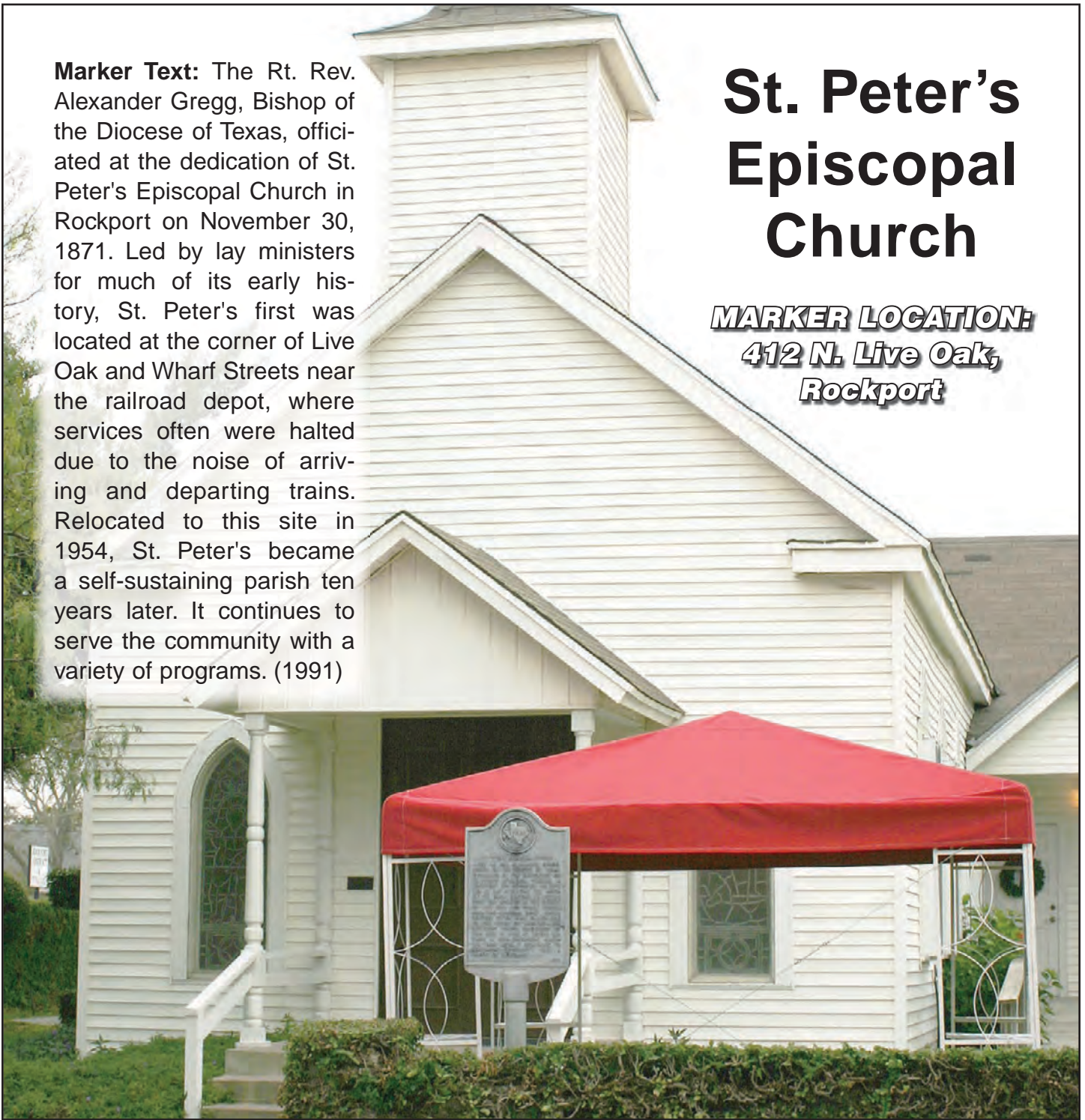




**Marker Text:** The Rt. Rev. Alexander Gregg, Bishop of the Diocese of Texas, officiated at the dedication of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Rockport on November 30, 1871. Led by lay ministers for much of its early history, St. Peter's first was located at the corner of Live Oak and Wharf Streets near the railroad depot, where services often were halted due to the noise of arriving and departing trains. Relocated to this site in 1954, St. Peter's became a self-sustaining parish ten years later. It continues to serve the community with a variety of programs. (1991)

# St. Peter's Episcopal Church

**MARKER LOCATION:**  
**412 N. Live Oak,  
Rockport**



In tribute to  
**Judy Sorenson Collier,**  
who remembered so much Aransas County history,  
and told it so well.

*Janie Collier White & Tom White*



# Stella Maris Chapel

**Marker Text:** Irish immigrant James W. Byrne (1787-1865), a veteran of the Texas Revolution, was an early settler of this area. He established the town of Lamar and, with his wife Harriet, sold land on Aransas Bay to the Catholic Church for a chapel site. Byrne engaged a French architect to design the structure, which was completed in 1858. Called Stella Maris (Star of the Sea) Chapel, it was built of shellcrete, a shell-aggregate masonry. An important link with the area's early Roman Catholic heritage, the chapel was moved to this site in 1986. (1986)

## **MARKER LOCATION:**

***From Rockport, take SH 35 north about 7 miles to Park Rd. 13 (just north of causeway). Then follow Park Rd. 13 east then northeast to Lamar Cemetery***



of Preserving our History

In 1985, concerned citizens created the Aransas County Historical Society to save and preserve the Stella Maris Chapel in Lamar. Today, we continue to identify and preserve the county's pre-history and history through documentation, publication, and public programming. Please join us! Annual memberships are only \$20 for individuals, \$30 for families. Email [achistory@swbell.net](mailto:achistory@swbell.net).

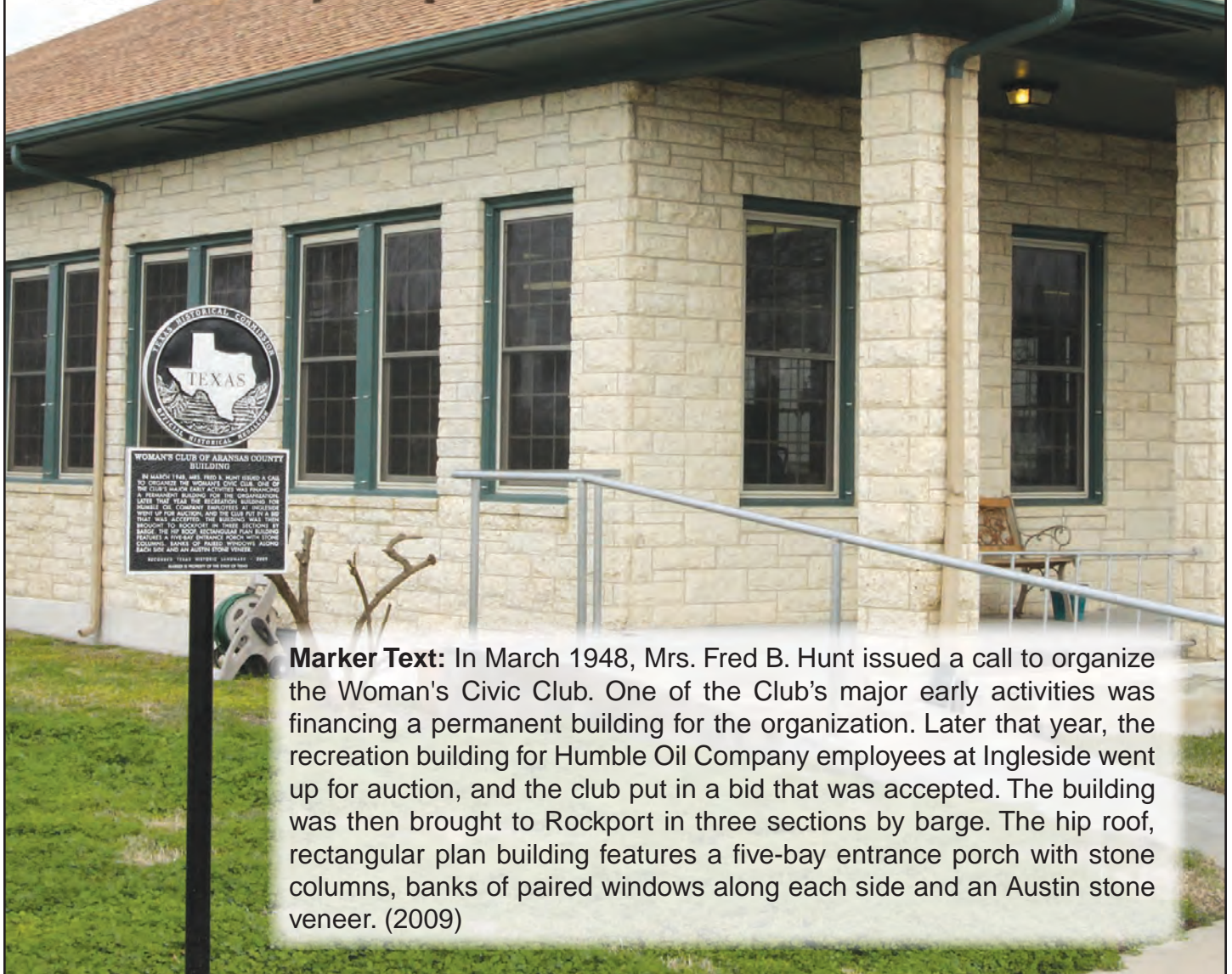
**The Aransas County Historical Society**

Box 702, Rockport, TX 78381



# Woman's Club of Aransas County Building

**MARKER LOCATION:  
1104 E. Concho, Rockport**



**Marker Text:** In March 1948, Mrs. Fred B. Hunt issued a call to organize the Woman's Civic Club. One of the Club's major early activities was financing a permanent building for the organization. Later that year, the recreation building for Humble Oil Company employees at Ingleside went up for auction, and the club put in a bid that was accepted. The building was then brought to Rockport in three sections by barge. The hip roof, rectangular plan building features a five-bay entrance porch with stone columns, banks of paired windows along each side and an Austin stone veneer. (2009)



## VISIONARIES IN PRESERVATION (VIP)

is a state-wide initiative sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission with the Aransas County Historical Commission and the Aransas County Historical Society.

We held a series of public workshops and talks in 2009. Action plans related to Heritage Tourism, Historic Survey, Private Enterprise, Public Policy, and Education & Communication resulted. Join us in our efforts for historic preservation.



# The Aransas County Quiz

*Test your knowledge of Aransas County history.*

- 1.** The famous Fulton Mansion has another name. It is:
  - A. Oak Crest
  - B. Windswept Oaks
  - C. Oakhurst
  - D. Oakhill
- 2.** The U.S. president who camped in Rockport in 1845 while commanding an army protecting the Texas border from Mexican invasion was:
  - A. James K. Polk
  - B. John Tyler
  - C. Zachary Taylor
  - D. Theodore Roosevelt
- 3.** The fierce Karankawa tribes who lived here many years ago used \_\_\_\_\_ to keep the mosquitoes away.
  - A. Bear grease
  - B. Alligator grease
  - C. Deer tallow
  - D. Fish oil
- 4.** Where is the original Fulton school bell?
  - A. Fulton Elementary
  - B. In the Fulton Post Office
  - C. At the Fulton Town Hall
  - D. Nobody knows
- 5.** Rockport's famous "bird woman" was:
  - A. Connie Mack
  - B. Connie Hagar
  - C. Connie Frances
  - D. Connie Fulton-Roosevelt
- 6.** The word "Aransas" is thought to have come from:
  - A. A French fort
  - B. A Spanish palace
  - C. The Spanish name for a river
- 7.** Probably the oldest home still standing in the Rockport area today is the:
  - A. Hoopes-Smith house
  - B. Fulton Mansion
  - C. T.H. Mathis home
  - D. Baylor-Norvell home
- 8.** One myth about the Lamar Cemetery is that \_\_\_\_\_ is buried there.
  - A. Samuel Clemens
  - B. Samuel Colt
  - C. Samuel Taylor Coleridge
  - D. Samuel Cartwright
- 9.** Rockport's famous "yellow house" at the "Y" is the:
  - A. Mathis house
  - B. Tom O'Connor house
  - C. Leopold Bracht house
  - D. Hoopes' House
- 10.** How old is The Big Tree?
  - A. 100 years
  - B. 1,000 years
  - C. 500 years
- 11.** Stella Maris means:
  - A. Star Bright
  - B. Star of the Sea
  - C. Star of the Coast
  - D. Star of the Morning
- 12.** Rockport's first mayor was:
  - A. George Fulton
  - B. James Moore
  - C. John M. Mathis
- 13.** The names below were former names of Rockport except:
  - A. Rocky Point
  - B. Aransas Pass
  - C. Aransas City
- 14.** Frandolig Island was called this by early settlers:
  - A. Rattlesnake Island
  - B. Nine Mile Point
  - C. Half Moon Bayou
- 15.** Rockport was originally part of \_\_\_\_\_ County.
  - A. Refugio
  - B. Nueces
  - C. San Patricio
  - D. Goliad
- 16.** The famous, endangered bird that winters at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge is the:
  - A. Sandhill Crane
  - B. Whooping Crane
  - C. Little Brown Crane
  - D. Siberian Crane
- 17.** A famous pirate who built a fort on San Jose Island & is said to have buried treasure in the Rockport area was:
  - A. Louis de Aury
  - B. Blackbeard
  - C. Captain Hook
  - D. Jean Lafitte
- 18.** "Paws and Taws" are terms taken from:
  - A. Shrimping
  - B. Sailing
  - C. Square Dancing
  - D. Shipbuilding
- 19.** The three-story luxury hotel in Rockport which burned to the ground in 1919 was the:
  - A. Bayside Inn
  - B. Del Mar Hotel
  - C. La Playa Hotel
- 20.** The first railroad which brought tourists to Rockport in the early 1900's was the:
  - A. South Texas Railroad
  - B. San Antonio-Aransas Pass Railroad
  - C. San Antonio-Rockport Railroad
  - D. Coastal Bend Express
- 21.** John Fagan was a soldier in the battle at:
  - A. The Alamo
  - B. Goliad
  - C. El Copano
- 22.** When was Fulton incorporated?
  - A. 1968
  - B. 1978
  - C. 1988
- 23.** Rockport's famous old courthouse was the only one in the U.S. built in the \_\_\_\_\_ style of architecture.
  - A. Gothic
  - B. Moorish
  - C. Greek Revival
  - D. Neo-classical
- 24.** A reminder of the hurricane of 1919 still stuck in a tree behind the Fulton Mansion is:
  - A. part of the hull of a shrimp boat
  - B. a street sign
  - C. a windmill fan
  - D. the carcass of a dead cow
- 25.** The first newspaper in Rockport was:
  - A. The Rockport Transcript
  - B. The Rockport Enterprise
  - C. The Rockport Pilot
  - D. The Rockport Pirate Log



# Other Historical Points of Interest

**Goose Island State Park** - Civilian Conservation Corps remnants. Contains picnic sites, shelters, camping and RV sites, boat launch, group pavilion, playground, bird walks, wetlands pond and nature trails. Take SH 35 north to Park Road 13 and follow signs.

**Big Tree of Lamar** - A giant live oak, charter member of the Live Oak Society. More than 35 feet in circumference at a point four feet above ground level, with a crown spread of 89 feet, the top branch is 44 feet above ground level. Said to have been a council tree for the Karankawa Indians. Take SH 35 north and follow signs to water.

**Schoenstatt Convent and Chapel** - A Catholic retreat and teaching center. Mass on Sunday mornings. Chapel is replica of one in Germany. Take SH 35 north to Park Road 13, turn right and watch signs.

**Paws & Taws Convention Center** - Home of square dance club. Community Center. Built by volunteers in 1965. Located on north end of Fulton Harbor.

## Central Area Historic Homes and City/County Offices:

- **509 South Live Oak** - This home was originally built in 1880 in Oklahoma, a community two miles south of this location. It was moved by barge when Oklahoma failed. The home was the birthplace of the first child born in Aransas County, David Rockport Scrivener, (b.1868) who with his wife lived here for many years.
- **203 North Magnolia** - The R.H. Wood home was built in the winter of 1867-68. His son, William W. Wood, was born here in 1871. Col. John H. Wood, father of R.H. Wood, was one of the founders of Rockport and a leader in the cattle industry.
- **902 Cornwall** -The L.M. Bracht home was also built in Oklahoma in 1881 by F.C. Finney, the developer. The Brachts moved the home here in 1889. The R.M. Bracht home at Magnolia and Concho was built in 1885. It was remodeled after Hurricane Celia (1970) & again after a 1985 fire.
- **910 Concho** - One of the homes that A. Bruhl, a prominent druggist, owned is now located at 910 Concho after being moved from the corner of Allen & Nopal streets.

The County Courthouse, Tax Assessor/Collector's office, Fire and Police Departments & Aransas County Library are in the 300 blocks of Live Oak & Church streets. The City Hall is at the corner of Pearl & Market streets.

**Site of Rockport Yacht and Supply Co.** - Also known as RYSCO, was a world supplier of crew and supply boats, shrimp, fish & oyster trawlers and specialty boats. A portion of the shipyard was formerly the Rice Shipyard, which built sub-chasers & rescue ships during World War II.

**Simon Michael School and Gallery of Fine Arts** - At 510 East King Street is a nationally acclaimed art school and gallery.

**The Rockport Center for the Arts** - The blue building is the home of the Rockport Art Association, Inc. This was a home originally built in 1890 and located at 901 Broadway. It was donated to the Art Association by Tom O'Connor in 1982. Open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday 1 to 4 p.m.

**Veteran's Memorial** - Located at the corner of Austin Street and South Navigation Circle. Dedicated November 11, 1984, it honors Aransas County veterans and lists those who gave their lives in World War II, Korea and Vietnam, with separate markers honoring women veterans and prisoners of war (POWs).

## South Area Historic Homes on Church Street:

Several homes from the 1880s and 1890s.

- **702 South Church** - The small tin-roofed building was once the Methodist parsonage.
- **712 South Church** - The gray home was built in the early 1890s, abandoned about 50 years later, and recently restored.
- **717 South Church** - The blue home across the street was built in the late 1880s by Charles Bailey. He was the owner of the first newspaper in the county and also owned an over-the-water pavilion. The home stayed in the family until the mid 1970s.
- **801 South Church** - The two-story gray home was originally built on Austin Street in 1874 by Judge Hynes. It was moved to this location in 1906 and the second story was added. Cypress and Louisiana pine were used in the construction. The home was restored after being damaged by Hurricane Celia in 1970.

One block west of the Bailey home is a city park where Zachary Taylor's army camped on the way to Mexico in 1845.

**Texas Maritime Museum** - Explore the rich maritime heritage of Texas - from Spanish exploration to the delights of coastal fishing and more. Exhibits, art & artifacts, models, hands-on displays and fun.

## QUIZ ANSWERS (from page 42):

**1. C, 2. C, 3. B, 4. A, 5. B, 6. C, 7. D, 8. B, 9. D, 10. B, 11. B, 12. C, 13. C, 14. B, 15. A, 16. B, 17. D, 18. C, 19. B, 20. B, 21. B, 22. B, 23. B, 24. C, 25. A**

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Kent Ullberg's *Rites of Spring*,  
photographed by Ray Owens



Sandy Scott's *Off Port Bow*



Est. 1969



Jesús Morales' *Lighthouse Fountain*

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Charles Umlauf's *Uccelli*



Leo Osborne's  
*Return of Ancient Wisdom*

*Proud to be part of Rockport's history!*



The Bruhl-O'Connor Home

