

Local Historical Markers

In 2014, the Historical Committee came up with a plan to produce its own type of historical designation by placing markers recognizing locations that were of importance to the city's early history, but may not be eligible for Harris County Historical Markers or Texas Historical Markers. To date, the committee has issued 4 of these historical markers:

- Oldest Business Est. 1955, Deer Park Lumber, 1600 Center Street
- One of the 1st Gas Stations, Circa Early 1950's, 2013 Center Street
- 1st Deer Park City Hall, 1950, Originally on Eighth Street, Structure Later Relocated to 822 Boston Street as a Residence
- Oldest Home in Deer Park, Est. 1928, 1218 James Street

Texas Centennial

In 1935, the Texas Legislature created the Commission of Control for Texas Centennial Celebrations in honor of the 100th anniversary of Texas' independence from Mexico. The state appropriated funds to promote significant historic events leading to the progress and growth of Texas, which included the placement of markers and monuments. In 1936, a Centennial marker was placed near the site of Dr. George Moffit Patrick's cabin on Buffalo Bayou. In 1948, the marker was moved to a nearby site when Rohm and Hass built a plant at the location. In 2009, Dow Chemical purchased Rohm and Haas.



Why is Deer Park the Birthplace of Texas™

In April 1836, Sam Houston and his forces decisively defeated the Mexican army, led by General Santa Anna, at the Battle of San Jacinto. After the victory, Houston, along with David Burnett and the Texas Cabinet, retreated to Dr. George Moffit Patrick's cabin, located along the banks of Buffalo Bayou in what is now Deer Park. It was here that the Texas army encamped, conducted cabinet meetings, and drafted the initial treaty papers that secured Texas' independence from Mexico. Today, the City of Deer Park proudly showcases a representation of Patrick's Cabin at Heritage Park. Due to these historic events, Deer Park holds the distinguished title of the "Birthplace of Texas," a registered trademark since January 2, 2007.



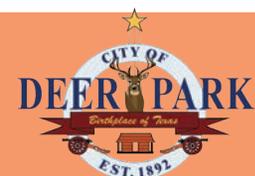
Museum Coming Soon!

As part of the City's ongoing commitment to preserve Deer Park's rich history, construction of a new 2,000 square foot city museum is underway. This museum will serve as a central hub for the city's artifacts, documents, and photographs, offering a comprehensive showcase of our community's history and heritage. Designed to become a cultural landmark, the museum will foster pride and deepen the understanding of Deer Park's past for future generations. The groundbreaking ceremony for the museum took place on March 20, 2025.

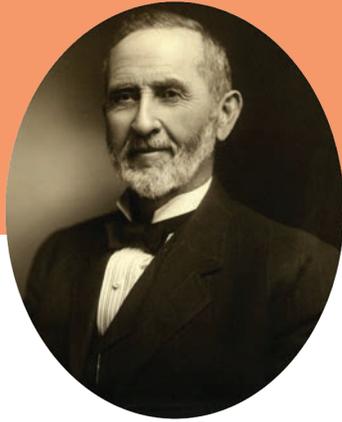
Historical Committee Mission Statement

To promote the collection, preservation and presentation of the history of the Deer Park community and the education of its vibrant past, while preserving memories for future generations.

The Birthplace of Texas™



Courtesy of the City of
Deer Park Historical Committee



Simeon Henry West (1827-1920)

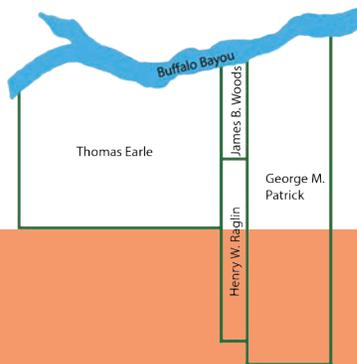
Simeon Henry West, a Yankee from Illinois, settled in the area

and visualized a city, recording a plat of the outlots of the town of Deer Park in December 1892. West

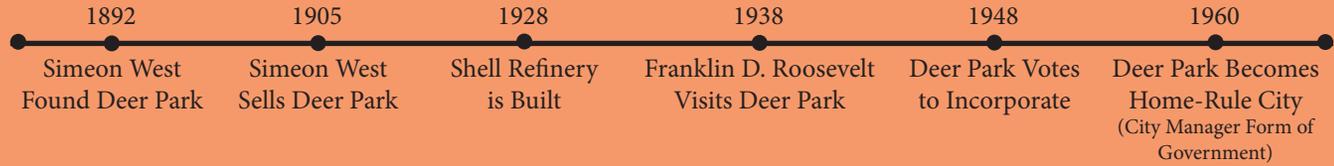
became a pioneer in Texas, stubbornly pursuing his dream of creating a city. Believing the area to be an excellent location for a town, he named it Deer Park after the large number of deer that roamed the coastal prairies.

The original land was granted to settlers by the Mexican government and the State of Texas between 1824 and 1839. In fact, two of the “Old Three Hundred,” settlers who received land grants from Stephen F. Austin’s first colony in Texas, owned the land that would become Deer Park.

Four Surveys of What Became Deer Park



Major Deer Park Events



Texas Historical Markers

Deer Park

Marker No. 10647, Located 1302 Center St. - Simeon Henry West settled here in 1892 hoping to develop the area into a farming and trading center. By end of year, he had purchased property and platted the town of Deer Park. In 1928, when Shell Chemical Company relocated here, a new period of growth began. Deer Park’s business district, churches, and schools were reestablished, and in 1948 the citizens of Deer Park voted to incorporate.

Texas Centennial Marker at Patrick’s Cabin

Marker No. 10752, Located 1410 Center St. - In 1935, the Texas Legislature funded the Texas Centennial Markers to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Texas’ independence from Mexico in 1936. The original 1936 Dr. George Moffit Patrick Centennial Marker was placed near the site of his cabin on Buffalo Bayou. In 2016, Dow Chemical contacted the City of Deer Park and asked if the city would be interested in having the marker placed near the historic representation of Dr. George Moffit Patrick’s Cabin at Heritage Park. In 2017, the Texas Historical Commission granted permission to move the marker to its current location.



Pratt Truss Bridge

Marker No. 11958, Located 1600 Georgia Ave. - A pin-connected truss bridge, characteristic of the popular style that once dotted rural Texas, this bridge is the last one in Texas built by the Clinton Bridge and Iron Co. of Iowa. As a result, the City of Deer Park applied for an official Texas Historical Marker for the Pratt Truss Bridge, which was approved on September 23, 1997. The commission stated that this 1891 bridge was significant to Texas history.



Early Deer Park Settlers

Marker No. 18931, Located 610 East San Augustine - Two of Deer Park’s early settlers were Mary Wilson Jackson and her brother William Wilson, both of Boston, Massachusetts. There is a record of William Wilson purchasing property from the Thomas Earle grant in what became Deer Park near what is now the Shell Refinery. The brother and sister were buried on the Wilson Property where the original gravestone site was discovered by Shell in 1928. This gravestone, no longer in its original location, can be found at Dow Park in Deer Park.

