

But, our claim to the establishment of Texas goes even deeper. In 1836, General Sam Houston and his small band of men defeated the powerful Mexican Army under the leadership of General Santa Anna on the San Jacinto Battlefield.

Following the battle, General Sam Houston took the Mexican General to a nearby cabin to draft the initial treaty documents securing Texas' independence from Mexico. This cabin, the home of Dr. George Moffit Patrick, was located in Deer Park on Buffalo Bayou, and a replica of the structure stands in our Heritage Park. Because of these significant events, Deer Park holds the distinction of being the true "Birthplace of Texas."

Read on to learn about the establishment of Deer Park, some of the historical assets visitors will find within and just outside of our city limits, and the ongoing efforts of the city's Historical Committee to safeguard our memories for decades to come.



*Replica of Patrick's Cabin, located in Heritage Park, 1410 Center Street.*

## Come explore our City's history today!

Heritage Park

1410 Center Street

Theater/Courts Building

1309 Center Street

Deer Park Public Library

3009 Center Street

Community Center

610 E. San Augustine

Deer Park Visitors Center

203 Ivy Avenue, Suite 700

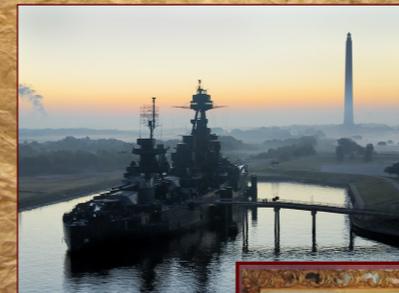
Call us to learn more -

Deer Park City Hall

281-479-2394



## Historical Committee



## Deer Park

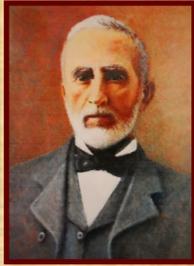
a 15-square mile city located in Harris County, is a thriving community in a location that gives citizens and visitors the benefits of small-town life with the amenities of the big city close at hand. But what makes Deer Park the "Birthplace of Texas?" Read on to find out.

With all its modern appeal, Deer Park would not be the city it is today without the rich history based in its own soil and in surrounding areas.

Before Simeon West founded the City of Deer Park in 1892, 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.

## Major Deer Park Events



**1892**  
Simeon Henry West  
founded  
Deer Park

**1895**

22" of snow in the Houston area

**1899**

Coldest day recorded – Eight degrees

**1900**

The Galveston Hurricane

**1919**

Deer Park Post Office discontinued

**1922**

Only four houses, an old schoolhouse,  
and an old hotel remain

**1928**

Shell built a refinery and Deer Park rebounds

**1929**

An election saved the Deer Park School  
System from being absorbed by the  
La Porte School District

**1938**

Deer Park welcomed Franklin D. Roosevelt  
when his train visited our city

**1940**

The census listed the population at 100  
residents

**1941**

The Shell Chemical Plant went into operation

**1948**

Deer Park voted to incorporate, and the vote  
passed 74 to 30

**1959**

Door-to-door mail delivery began

**1960**

Deer Park became a home rule city when  
voters adopted the Charter that provided for  
a City Manager form of government

## Heritage Park

1410 Center Street

### Patrick's Cabin

Following the Battle of San Jacinto, Sam Houston took the defeated Mexican General Santa Anna to a nearby cabin to draft the initial treaty papers, securing Texas' independence from Mexico.

The cabin was home to Dr. George Moffit Patrick, and was located on Buffalo Bayou where Dow Chemical in Deer Park is today.

In the Fall of 2007, a joint effort by the Beautification Committee and the Historical and Tourism Committee moved Patrick's Cabin to its more prominent and permanent location on Center Street in Heritage Park. At that time, modifications were made to the interior and exterior of the cabin to better capture what life was like at that time.

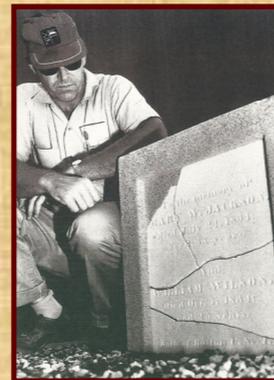
### Early Deer Park

#### Graves

Around 1928, surveyors came across a headstone for siblings Mary Jackson and William Wilson.

Around 1976, Shell contacted the Harris County Historical Commission and the City of Deer Park to make plans to move the gravesite. The Commission gave Shell permission to move the gravesite and any remains from the site at Shell to Dow Park.

A small cement casket of earth from the graves and the headstone were moved on March 7, 1977. The headstone was relocated to Heritage Park around 2008. It is Deer Park's oldest artifact and some historians believe it is the oldest marked grave in Harris County.



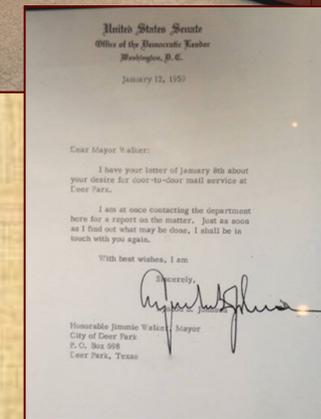
## Museum Cabinets - For Viewing Throughout Deer Park!

Throughout the City of Deer Park, visitors will find cabinets filled with historical documents, photos and items that shed light on the history of our area. The items on display were largely made available through citizen donations and continuous outreach by the Historical Committee.

At the Theater/Court Building, located at 1302 Center Street, items including original deeds and surveys from the city's establishment, photos of early families, information about Simeon West - the founder of Deer Park - and items detailing the long-standing partnership with industry, are on display.

At the Community Center, located at 610 E. San Augustine, visitors will learn more about the many organizations that have contributed to the city's culture.

The Deer Park Public Library cabinets – located at 3009 Center Street – detail the city's sesquicentennial celebration. Finally, the cabinets located at the Deer Park Visitors Center – in the Economic Alliance building at 203 Ivy Avenue – feature special artifacts from the San Jacinto Monument and the Battleship TEXAS.



The cabinets include photos, newspaper clippings and more, even a letter from President Lyndon B. Johnson.

## 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.

*Drafted during the Deer Park Historical Committee Strategic Planning Workshop – facilitated by Huntsville Mayor Mac Woodward, Curator of the Sam Houston Museum. Proposed March 12, 2015 by the Historical Committee and approved by the Deer Park City Council on April 7, 2015.*