

**11** **Indian Mound**  
516 N. Main Street

The earliest human inhabitants of Nacogdoches were the Nacodoches Indians, members of the Caddo Confederacy. This mound, the single survivor of its kind in the immediate area, is an artifact of this ancient culture. It was doubtless much larger before soil-creep and other geologic actions, and possibly some human interference, caused it to be reduced in size. The Mound was preserved because it once hosted a large oak tree, and Tom Reavley, a longtime owner of the property, refused to allow archeologists to dig the mound for fear they would kill the tree. Eventually the tree died, and the present owner, Dr. Robert P. Carroll, allowed archeologist James Corbin to seek the meaning of the mound. He found it to be a true burial mound, c. 1250, containing artifacts appropriate to the Caddo culture. The Mound is the most substantial evidence of Indian habitation in the area. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**12** **The Old University Building**  
515 N. Main Street

Nacogdoches University received its charter from the Republic of Texas on February 3, 1846. It began holding classes elsewhere soon afterward, and occupied the structure that remains on Washington Square in the 1850s. It was called a "university" because it offered several subjects, not because it provided higher education. And it was rarely successful in a financial sense. At various times it was operated on a subscription basis by trustees, by the Roman Catholic Church, and by the Masons from Milam Lodge No. 2, and was once leased to Keachi College from Louisiana. During the American Civil War it was used as a hospital and quarters for Texans in the Confederate service, and after the war by Union troops. Afterward it became the property of the Nacogdoches school system, and is operated now as a museum by the Women's Federation of Clubs. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**13** **Durst-Taylor House**  
304 North Street

This building was the original home site of Anders De-Acosta, one of the original settlers of Nacogdoches under Gil Y'Barbo's leadership. From 1826-1870 the property changed hands several times, being owned by many prominent Nacogdoches citizens, including Thomas J. Rusk. In 1870 Lawrence S. Taylor, son of prominent resident and signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, Charles S. Taylor, bought the house. He and his wife Harriet Durst Trims lived in the house until their deaths. The house stayed in the Taylor family until 1989, when it was sold to the McKimsey Historical Foundation.

The current structure is an excellent example of a simple story and a half hall and parlor with engaged porch and shed rooms that was prevalent across the South from the 1820s to 1880s. Many of the artifacts recovered during an archeological excavation were objects from the period when Acosta had the house, some attesting to a pre-Civil War occupation. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**14** **The Roland Jones House**  
141 N. Church Street

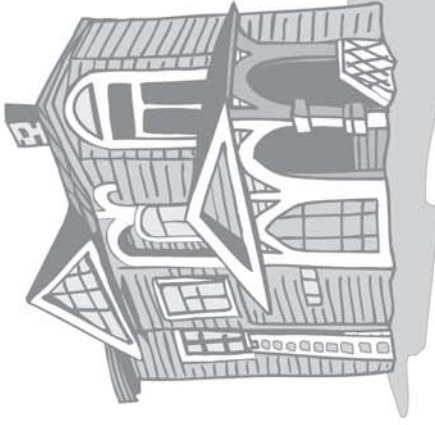
The Roland Jones House is the second structure to occupy this lot at 141 North Church Street. The first, owned by Henry Pratt Mathews, burned in the 1890s. Mr. and Mrs. Roland Jones occupied the house at the time of the fire, and they engaged noted architect Diedrich Anton Wilhelm Rulfs to design and build this prime example of Victorian architecture. It is perhaps the best known among the city's historic homes because of its high visibility in the downtown area. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**15** **Milam Lodge No. 2, A.F.&A.M.**  
129 N. Fredonia Street

Milam Lodge No. 2, (originally No. 40 under Louisiana registry), was founded in 1837 by John Henry Holland, Worshipful Master of the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. It was "set to work" simultaneously with McFarland Lodge in San Augustine and Holland Lodge in Houston, and the three soon formed the Grand Lodge of Texas. Haden Edwards served as the first Worshipful Master of the Milam Lodge, and its members included Thomas J. Rusk and Adolphus Sterne. Sterne was also the first Scottish Rite Mason in Texas. Milam Lodge opened in rented and donated facilities until the 1920s, when the present lodge hall was erected.

Stroll along a

**Walking Tour**  
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Town in Texas

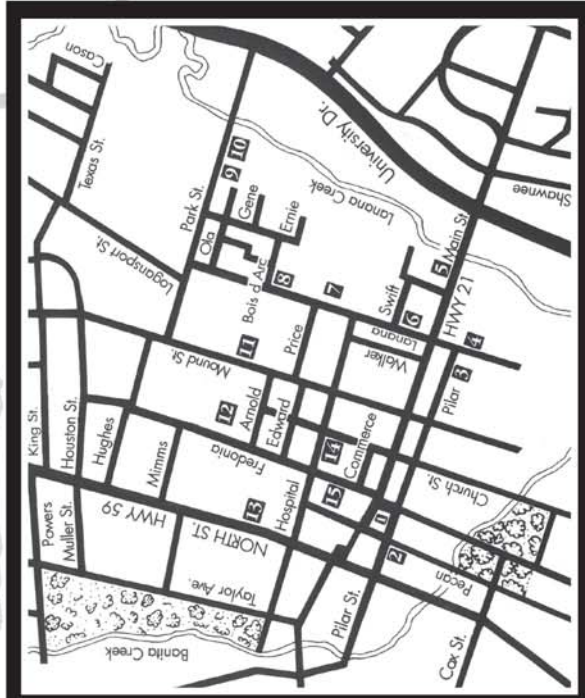


**Nacogdoches**  
the oldest town in Texas

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Written by: Archie McDonald, Ph.D.

Follow the  
Footsteps of  
**History**



## 1 The Plaza Principal 200 E. Main Street

The Plaza Principal, or square, testifies to Nacogdoches' Hispanic past. Cities established by the English or their descendants typically located the seat of local government in the center of the town square. Spaniards and other Europeans usually left the public square open for use as a market or gathering place, and located the seat of local government on one side of the square. Nacogdoches received designation as an official pueblo or town in 1779. The square was left open, and Antonio Gil Ybarbo, who had been designated the political chief of the area, established his headquarters in a Stone House that he erected on the north side of the square, adjacent to El Camino Real. Throughout the nineteenth century the square functioned as the Spaniards had intended: it became a gathering place for military musters, electioneering, and commerce, among other uses. In 1917 the federal government located a post office building in the center of the square, and later the General Services Administration conveyed the building to the City of Nacogdoches for use as a public library. In 1999 the building was renovated to serve as the city's visitor information center. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## 2 Charles Hoya Land Office 120 E. Pilar Street

The Hoya Building was erected in 1897 at the corner of South Pecan and Pilar streets as a repository of survey and land records for Nacogdoches County by Charles Hoya, son of Joseph von der Hoya. The architect was E. Rue of Houston. The Land Office was the first "fireproof" structure in Nacogdoches. Its double brick walls, with an air space between walls, steel reinforced ceiling and floor, and heavy, exterior iron window shutters provide evidence of the builder's intent upon security. Hoya operated a land business in the structure until 1926, when his son-in-law, J. Roy Gray, assumed the business and operated it until his death in 1966. Since then the building has housed an insurance agency, served as temporary facilities for Scripp's Drug Store after it suffered a disastrous fire in 1984, and more recently housed a computer software business. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## 3 New Orleans Greys' Bivouac Pilar Street

When the military phase of the Texas Revolution from Mexico developed in the fall of 1835, Adolphus Sterne of Nacogdoches traveled to New Orleans to recruit Americans to come to the aid of the Texans. He recruited two companies, known as the New Orleans Greys, and personally paid \$900 for their outfitting and transportation to Texas.

They traveled by boat up the Mississippi and Red rivers, then marched overland to Nacogdoches en route to San Antonio and Goliad. The Greys bivouaced on this site in early November 1835 because it

was near Sterne's home. Here they received a grand welcome from the town that included a banquet. Samuel Johnson provided the main dish of bear meat which was cooked and then draped with its hide and carried to the banquet table. Also gracing the table were generous portions of racoon, venison, other meats and vegetables provided by local hunters and farmers.

The Greys traveled on to join other soldiers at Goliad and the Alamo, where most perished. The bivouac area is located on the corner of Pilar and Lanana streets.

## 4 The Adolphus Sterne House 211 S. Lanana Street

Nicholas Adolphus Sterne was an important leader in the early history of Nacogdoches and Texas. Born in Koln (Cologne), Germany on April 5, 1801 to the parents of Jewish and Protestant (Lutheran) background, he immigrated to America in 1817 to avoid imprisonment into German military service. He arrived in New Orleans soon afterwards, where he affiliated with the Masonic order, especially the Scottish Rite. After becoming a backpeddler in the Mississippi Valley, where he first met Sam Houston, he came to Nacogdoches during the 1820s and settled here permanently in 1826. He built this house (c. 1830) for his bride, Eva Catherine Rosine Ruff, another German immigrant. They had seven children in this house. Sterne became active in the events of the Fredonia Rebellion (1826), and the Texas Revolution (1832-1836). He served as primary judge, postmaster, and in several of the congresses of the Texas Republic. He died in 1852.

Sterne's home served as a gathering place for local residents and people of statewide significance. He hosted parties, political gatherings, and study sessions for a variety of early Texans, including Sam Houston, Thomas J. Rusk, and David Crockett. The property remained in family hands for some years after his death. Eventually it was acquired by the Von Der Hoya family, who conveyed it to the City of Nacogdoches during the 1950s for use as a library. It continues to house a children's library and books of Texana, as well as furniture from the Sterne and Hoya eras. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## 5 Lanana Creek Trail Main Street

Lanana Creek Trail is the fulfillment of a dream of Dr. Francis E. Abernethy, professor of English at Stephen F. Austin State University. The trail began as a United States Bicentennial project in 1976, and became a Sequitoennial project when Texas celebrated its independence from Mexico in 1986. Dr. Abernethy has invested hundreds of hours of labor (and quite a few hours donated from his friends), secured materials and labor from service clubs, and enlisted work crews from the City's Parks and Recreation Department to complete the trail from the campus of

Stephen F. Austin State University to the downtown area. A walk along the trail, which is accessible from several streets—including Oak Grove Cemetery—can transport a hiker from a city environment to near-wilderness conditions. And if you see any litter, pick it up—Dr. Abernethy is watching!

## 6 The Haden Edwards Inn 106 N. Lanana Street

When this parcel of land was bought by Emily Sophia Forbes in 1838, it was thought to be conveniently located and a prime piece of land. It was bordered by the El Camino Real on the South side, one mile from the Stone house located to the West, Lanana Bayou to the East, and the Oak Grove Cemetery to the North. The land along with three slaves was given as a dowry to Haden Harrison Edwards (son of Haden Edwards of the Fredonia Rebellion) when he wedded Sarah Forbes (daughter of Col. John Forbes, first judge of the municipality of Nacogdoches and Sophia Forbes). After the Texas Revolution, H.H. Edwards served in the first Congress of the Republic of Texas, and served in the first and eighth Texas Legislature after Texas was annexed into the United States. The original structure is thought to have been erected sometime around 1838.

Upon Sarah's death, the home was passed to her daughter Sarah Ellen Sparks who, in turn, traded with her brother Peyton Edwards for another parcel of land. Peyton Edwards was a lawyer and county treasurer for Nacogdoches County. He also served as a State Senator from 1876 -1879 and a presidential elector in 1884. In the 1890s the house was renovated by Dietrich Anton Wilhelm Ruff to its present style. After 1891 the home was owned by various families who had social influence in the community, from a doctor to a mercantile owner.

## 7 Oak Grove Cemetery Lanana Street

This may not be the oldest cemetery in Nacogdoches County, but it contains the remains of the greatest number of personages of historical significance. Buried here are four signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence, including Thomas Jefferson Rusk, Charles S. Taylor, William S. Clark, and John S. Roberts. Rusk also served as Secretary of War during the interim government created by the consultation and was one of Texas' first two United States senators. Also buried here are Haden Edwards, an impresario during the Mexican period; Captain Haden Arnold, who led a company during the Battle of San Jacinto; and Adolphus and Eva Sterne.

## 8 Zion Hill Baptist Church 324 Lanana Street

The Zion Hill (First) Baptist Church building, located on Lanana Street, was founded by the Reverend Lawson Reed in 1879. It is the senior black church of Nacogdoches, and its congregation now meets in a modern building located on Loop 224 East. The Reverend Reed began his ministry by preaching in a brush arbor, later occupied a building near Lanana Creek on land donated by Frank and Ella Walton, and eventually his congregation moved into this building in 1914. This building is the work of noted architect Dietrich Anton Wilhelm Ruff. It is a combined Victorian and Gothic Revival building, and in 1977 received a Texas Historical Commission marker.

## 9 "Eyes of Father Margil" Park Street

When the Spaniards established six religious missions in East Texas to convert the Indian population to Christianity and to serve as signposts to the nearby French settlements near Nacitoches, Louisiana, that East Texas was indeed Spanish, the ecclesiastical change of the missions fell to Fr. Antonio Margil (pronounced Mar-hee) de Jesus. Fr. Margil supervised all six missions, but is associated most of all with Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe de los Nacogdoches Mission because of a "miracle" he performed here. During a summer drought, Fr. Margil is said to have struck a rock in the dry creek bed twice, and water poured forth from both blows sufficient to sustain the mission until God filled the creek in His more conventional way. This has been accepted as a miracle by those of the faith. This marker, located on Park Street, testifies to this miracle.

## 10 The Black Cemetery Park Street

This cemetery for black citizens of Nacogdoches, located near Lanana Creek on Park Street, was established in 1879 when the Reverend Lawson Reed organized the Zion Hill Baptist Church. Frank and Ella Walton donated two acres to the church, which erected a house of worship on the site which served the church for 11 years. Church property was used as a burial ground for those whose race denied them access to Oak Grove Cemetery, located nearby. After the church was moved to new quarters on Logansport Street, the cemetery was allowed to grow up in weeds. Only a few years ago it was rescued from the privet shrubs and scrub growth that flourished along the creek. It is maintained by the City of Nacogdoches.