

Navasota Texas Historical Commission Listings:

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1. Joseph Brooks Home: 612 East Washington Avenue

Marker Number: 8566

Year Marker Erected: 1981



Marker Text: "A native of England, Joseph Brooks (1831-89) migrated to Texas with his wife Mary Ann (Farrer) (1833-1900) in 1853. After serving in the Civil War, Brooks moved to Navasota, where he survived an 1867 yellow fever epidemic and became a leading area lumberman. In the 1870s he had this home built for his family. Originally Victorian in design, it was modified with classical revival detailing in 1909-11 by the Brooks' daughter Mary Elizabeth Brooks Salyer.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark 1981

2. Evans House: 412 Manley Street

Marker Number: 8572

Year Marker Erected: 1991



Marker Text: Newlyweds John Thomas and Maude Martin Evans built this house in 1894 on land given to them by his mother. A ticket agent for the International and Great Northern Railway Company, Evans also served the city of Navasota as alderman and city treasurer. The typical 19th-century vernacular house features a gable roof, and a three-bay porch with elaborate balustrade, turned wood posts, spindlework frieze, and jig-sawn brackets.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark 1991

3. First Baptist Church of Navasota: 309 Church Street

Marker Number: 8574

Year Marker Erected: 1977

Marker Text: In the spring of 1860, six men formed this church, one of the first of any faith in the railroad town of Navasota. By fall there were 52 members, and growth continued. Services were held in the town's school-house, and then in a Methodist church, until the Baptists received a site as a gift from the Houston & Texas Central Railway, and built a small frame sanctuary about 1872. A permanent edifice of native stone was started after Mrs. A. E. Baten, wife of the pastor, drew plans in 1889. Funds came from members and nonmembers, sometimes as donations of cattle, and a 46' x 67' x 37' x 67' stone building with a steeple was completed in 1890. By 1925 more room was needed; a 2-story annex was constructed. Although a new, larger sanctuary was erected in 1955, the 1890 building is still used. In 1969, it was converted into a fellowship hall,

and after a disastrous fire the next year was restored in 1971. The congregation-- now numbering more than 900 members-- founded and financed one local mission that became self-supporting, and now underwrites another.

During the church's first 116 years, it has been served by 35 pastors

4. Old First National Bank of Navasota: 107 West Washington Avenue

Marker Number: 8576

Year Marker Erected: 1981



Marker Text: Local architect, contractor and stonemason James Davern and his brother-in-law C. C. Camp built this commercial edifice in the 1880s. Constructed of cement-covered stone rubble, it was remodeled with Renaissance Revival detailing in the 1890s, during the ownership of the First National Bank of Navasota. Occupied by the bank until 1952, it has also housed a hotel, offices, a telephone company, and a variety of stores.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark 1981

5. First Presbyterian Church of Navasota: 302 Nolan Street

Marker Number: 8577

Year Marker Erected: 1970



Marker Text: Organized in 1866, drawing members from old church at Washington, Texas. First building, erected in 1876, was replaced in 1894 by this Victorian edifice finely crafted in the taste of its English builders.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark 1970

6. First United Methodist Church of Navasota: 616 Holland Street

Marker Number: 8575

Year Marker Erected: 1984

Marker Text: The first worship services of the Methodist church in Navasota were held in 1853 in the community schoolhouse. The Rev. T. W. Blake served as part-time pastor for most of the antebellum and Civil War years. In 1866 the Houston & Texas Central Railroad deeded land at this site for use by the Methodist congregation. In that year, a frame building with shuttered windows was constructed for the fellowship. It was named Robert Alexander Chapel in honor of an early Methodist circuit rider in Texas. The chapel was also used by Navasota's Presbyterian congregation. In 1891 a rock building replaced the frame structure and was used until 1912, when a brick sanctuary was built. The current sanctuary was completed in 1959. Although the size of the congregation is relatively small when compared with that of other churches in the area, the First United Methodist Church of Navasota has served as host to the Texas Annual Conference of Methodist Churches. Throughout its history, this congregation has provided significant service and leadership to the community and has continued to uphold the ideals and traditions of its pioneer founders.

7. Foster Home: 1015 East Washington Avenue

Marker Number: 8578

Year Marker Erected: 1982



Marker Text: Mattie Brigance Foster, daughter of Grimes County settler Franklin Brigance, had this home built in 1900 shortly after the death of her husband. Incorporating elements of the colonial revival and shingle styles, the house is of cypress frame construction and features a multi-gabled roof. Its design is indicative of the movement away from the elaborate detailing of the Victorian era. The home remained in the Foster family for 60 years. Recorded Texas Historic Landmark - 1982
Incise on base: Sponsored by Salih M. Yilmaz, M.D., Ph.D.

8. R.B.S. Foster Home: from the intersection of SH 6 and SH 90 take SH 90 approximately 1.5 miles.

Marker Number: 8579

Year Marker Erected: 1968



Marker Text: Early Texas plantation home in architectural style of the Atlantic states. Malcolm Camp, wealthy cotton planter, built this structure in 1859, with lumber hauled from East Texas sawmills. High-ceilinged rooms are very large. Formal dining room in sandstone-lined cellar was unique. Had detached kitchen. Purchased 1883 by a leading local citizen, R.B.S. Foster (1848-1889), this was birthplace of his three children-- Georgia, Robert F and Nettie Rose. So stable is this locality that home was continuously occupied until 1966 by Fosters or their agents.

9. Site of Freeman Inn: 500 East Washington Avenue

Marker Number: 8580

Year Marker Erected: 1968



Marker Text: Built by Ira M. Freeman, 1856; way station and hotel for passengers on several stage lines through city. Two story pine building housed many travelers, among them, Sam Houston. Important visitors, officers stayed here in Civil War. Coaches and teams were kept in Freeman's barns.

10. The Giesel House: 113 Railroad Street

Marker Number: 8581

Year Marker Erected: 1977



Marker Text: Situated near the Houston & Texas Central Railroad Depot, this three-story stone building was erected in 1860 by R. H. Giesel (1833-1872) and his German-born wife Fannie (1828-1881) to house a restaurant and hotel. A two-story frame porch originally extended across the front of the structure. Giesel, a Confederate veteran, served as temporary mayor in 1867, when a yellow fever epidemic struck Navasota. Fannie Giesel renamed her restaurant "The Good Morning John" in 1871. She managed the business until her death in 1881. Later owners operated the hotel as "The Exchange" and "The Hoyle".

11. Rosanna Ward Grimes and Jesse Grimes

Marker Number: 8583

Year Marker Erected: 1965

Marker Text: Home of Rosanna Ward Britton Grimes (1803-1871) and Jesse Grimes (1788-1866). Signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the Republic of Texas; Member of the Congress of the Republic; State Senator; in his honor Grimes County was named.

12. Robert A. Horlock House: 1215 East Washington Avenue

Marker Number: 8590

Year Marker Erected: 1984



Marker Text: Alabama native Robert Augustus Horlock (1849-1926) came to Navasota in 1871. Here he became a prominent businessman and civic leader. He and his wife, Agnes (White), had this home built in the early 1890s. The house, which remained in the Horlock family for nearly 100 years, exhibits influences of the eastlake and stick styles of architecture. Prominent features include the corner porch, the arched windows with small gabled hoods, and the decorative woodwork.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark 1984

13. La Bahia Trail: Intersection of LaSalle Street and Brule Drive

Marker Number: 8595

Year Marker Erected: 1967

Marker Text: Originally an Indian trail through Southern Texas and Louisiana; known to Spanish explorers as early as 1690, when the De Leon Expedition passed this site on the way from Mexico to East Texas. With 115 men, 721 horses, 82 loads of flour, and other supplies, Alonso de Leon, Governor of Coahuila, and Father

Massanet, a Franciscan priest, entered the wilds of Texas. The purpose of the expedition was to discourage French encroachment from the north, as well as to explore, colonize, and Christianize the Indians. They followed the rugged trail from the present town of Refugio to Goliad and continued northeast to Navasota, probably following Cedar Creek through this town. Then they journeyed north until reaching the Neches River, where (near present Weches) they founded the Mission of San Francisco de Los Tejas. The church was called after the Tejas, or "Friendly" Indians, whose name was eventually given to the entire state. Although de Leon's party went no farther on the western section of the trail, known as Atascosito Road, the eastern section extended into Louisiana. In nineteenth century, the route gained importance as a cattle trail, the Opelousas Road, that moved Texas herds to market in the north and east.

14. Leake Building: 211 East Washington Avenue

Marker Number: 8597

Year Marker Erected: 1977



Marker Text: Originally a one-story frame business house built in 1873 by Walter J. and Julia C. Peterson, this structure was enlarged in 1885. Native sandstone walls and a second story were added. John Wesley Leake (1852-1940), a builder, horse breeder, and race track owner, bought the property in 1886. He and his descendants owned the building more than 80 years. The Victorian commercial structure has housed many important firms.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark 1977

15. Lee Tabernacle Methodist Church: 302 Teague Street

Marker Number: 8598

Year Marker Erected: unknown



Marker Text: This Methodist congregation was founded in 1860, and worshipped with the Baptist church in shared facilities in Navasota. A church building was erected in 1866 in what was called "Freeman's Town." The Methodist group was formally organized in 1876, and built a separate facility a few years later. This church building was erected in 1896. During construction, services were held in the basement until the sanctuary was finished. When the structure was completed, the congregation changed its name to honor the pastor at that time, The Rev. Edward Lee, becoming the Lee Tabernacle Methodist Church. Interior modifications have occurred over the years, including the restoration of the stained glass windows, the addition

of a choir room, and general remodeling, but the exterior remains essentially intact. A parsonage was added to accommodate the pastor. This church structure is a fine example of a Gothic revival design, featuring arched windows, a tower entry, stained glass windows, double wood paneled doors, and a gabled roof. The Lee Tabernacle Methodist Church continues to serve its dedicated members as it has for over 130 years in the Navasota community.

16. Mickelborough Building: 115 East Washington Avenue

Marker Number: 8601

Year Marker Erected: 1980

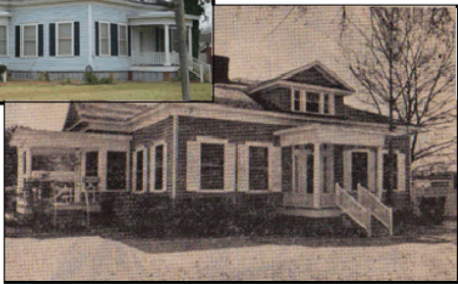


Marker Text: Eliza Johnson (d. 1876) had this building constructed in 1874 following a fire which destroyed several structures on the block. It was made of limestone rubble to comply with a city ordinance requiring all new construction to include fireproof materials. August Horst (d. 1920), a local investor, bought the property in 1877 and sold it two years later to his wife's brothers, E. P. and J. H. Mickelborough. Members of their families owned it until 1929. The building has housed a saloon, grocery, confectionary, ice cream parlor, and offices for attorneys and dentists.

17. Home of Lt. Gov. George D. Neal: 504 Church Street

Marker Number: 8604

Year Marker Erected: 1974



Marker Text: (Oct. 7, 1853 - July 13, 1916) Born in Amelia County, Va. The Neal Family moved to Washington County, Texas, in 1866. Neal, after attending Baylor University, was admitted to the Bar in 1876. He married Fannie C. Brooks in Oct. 1880, moved to Navasota in 1881, and purchased this residence in 1883. The couple had 3 children. Neal served as county judge, 1884-86; city attorney, 1888-96; and as a State Senator, 1896-1902. He was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1902 and 1904, serving with Gov. S. W. T. Lanham. Neal retired from politics in 1907 and returned here to practice law.

18. Norwood House: 207 Ketchum Street

Marker Number: 8605

Year Marker Erected: 1984



Marker Text: Built to serve as the first residence of Ewing and Mattie (Brosig) Norwood, this house was completed in 1898, while Ewing Norwood was president of the First National Bank of Navasota. Designed and built by local architect Ernest Lord, the home exhibits Queen Anne influences in the entry and porch detailing and features a depressed arch and a balustrade over the entryway. The house remained in the Norwood family for more than sixty years. Recorded Texas Historic Landmark 1984

19. Sangster House: 1113 East Washington Avenue

Marker Number: 8613

Year Marker Erected: 1974



Marker Text: Built in 1902 by Robert Andrew "Buck" Sangster (1878-1957), with part of the proceeds from a winning lottery ticket. Constructed in the Queen Anne revival style with classic revival elements on the exterior. Curly red pine woodwork decorates the 12-room interior. Ernest Lord (1860-1941) was the architect. The house was purchased in 1929 by Sangster's brother, W. W. Sangster, and it remained in the Sangster family until 1965.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark 1974

20. H. Schumacher Oil Works: 206 Duke Street

Marker Number: 8615

Year Marker Erected: 1974



Marker Text: Henry Schumacher (1832-1901), a native of Germany, opened one of the first cottonseed oil mills in this region in 1873, assembling the machinery with only the aid of an old encyclopedia.

The oil works produced cottonseed oil, meal, and cake, and processed about 1500 tons of seed per year. Schumacher was honored for his contributions to the cottonseed oil industry about 1883 with a dinner at the White House given by President Chester A. Arthur. The first mill burned in 1910, but was soon rebuilt, complete with modern machinery. The oil works ceased operation in 1954.

21. Henry Schumacher Home: 306 Duke Street

Marker Number: 8614

Year Marker Erected: 1974



Marker Text: Built by Henry Schumacher (1832-1901), a native of Germany who came to Texas in 1849. In 1866, after serving with the Texas Infantry in the Civil War, he settled in Navasota, was a charter member of the First Presbyterian Church, and about 1868, married Emma Louise Horlock. They had eight children. In 1873, Schumacher built this home and a cottonseed oil mill, for which he was well-known. He was president of the First National Bank at his death.

22. Saint Paul's Episcopal Church: 414 East McAlpine Street

Marker Number: 8612

Year Marker Erected: 1974

Marker Text: In 1864, Bishop Alexander Gregg organized an Episcopal mission in Navasota that became a parish in 1866. Originally known as the Church of the Holy Comforter, it was renamed in 1870, when the church building from St. Paul's in Washington (7 mi. SW) was acquired and relocated to Navasota on land donated by the Houston and Texas Central Railway. The congregation completed a new church building in 1891. Throughout its history, St. Paul's has been actively involved in the community with worship, education, and outreach programs.

23. Steele House: 217 Brewer Street

Marker Number: 9408

Year Marker Erected: 1974



Marker Text: In the late 1800s, two brothers named Steele had large cotton operations near Navasota, at Allen Farm, and residences diagonally across this corner from each other. A. G. Steele (1853-1900) and wife Etta had this late Victorian home built in 1896 by contractor J. E. Watkins. Eastlake architectural features embellish the porches and entrances. Descendants lived here until 1970. the house now (1974) is owned and preserved by Syd and Margaret Van Wagner. Recorded Texas Historic Landmark 1974

24. Templeman House: 1403 East Washington Avenue

Marker Number: 8620

Year Marker Erected: 1987



Marker Text: Built in the mid-1890s for newlyweds Ward B. and Annie Foster Templeman, this home is reminiscent of Navasota's early cotton boom era. Originally a Queen Anne design, the house was bricked and modified in the early twentieth century to reflect elements of the Prairie School style of architecture.

Prominent features include its wraparound porch, multilight windows and doors, and copper-clad dome over a projecting corner turret.

Incise on base: Sponsored by Capt. and Mrs. W. T. Urquhart
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark 1987

25. Terrell House: 412 East Washington Avenue

Marker Number: 8621

Year Marker Erected: 1981



Marker Text: In 1897 Elizabeth Owen had this two-story residence constructed for her daughter Emmeline B. Terrell (b. 1849), the widow of local pharmacist Joel W. Terrell, II, who had died the previous year. In 1899 the home was purchased by John H. Mickleborough, a leading Navasota banker and businessman, and his wife Georgia. An example of Queen Anne styling, the Terrell House features intricate Eastlake ornamentation on the gallery and gable ends.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark 1981

26. Lewis J. Wilson Building: 100 West Washington Avenue

Marker Number: 8625

Year Marker Erected: 1980



Marker Text: A native of Connecticut, Lewis J. Wilson (1832-1895) moved with his parents to Grimes County in 1851. His father Samuel opened a general merchandise business in Anderson. Lewis managed the store until 1861 when he left to serve in the Civil War. After the war he returned to Anderson and opened a mercantile store in partnership with W. R. Howell and John Quincy Yarborough. They completed construction of this brick building in 1871 for a second establishment. Wilson was the sole proprietor by 1881 and continued to manage the business until his death.

27. Jesse Youens Home: 708 Holland Street

Marker Number: 8626

Year Marker Erected: 1967



Marker Text: Jesse Youens home built 1871 in style of Youens' home, "Tower Cottage", Dartford, Kent, England, occupied by his family continuously.
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, 1967

National Register:

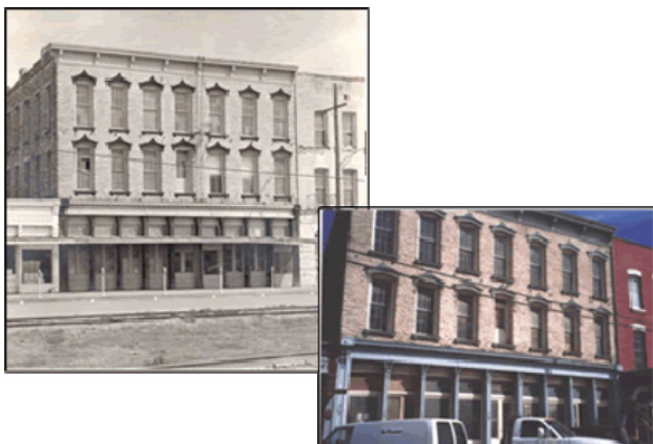
28. Navasota Commercial Historic District: Roughly bounded by LaSalle Street, Holland Street., 9th Street, and Brule Drive.

Date Listed: 1982



29. P.A. Smith Hotel: 111 Railroad Street

Date Listed: 1976



30. Steele House: 217 Brewer Street
Date Listed: 1978



Notes: This house is also listed with the Texas Historic Commission.

Sources:

<http://www.thc.state.tx.us/>

City of Navasota Library

<http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us>