

The proceeds of the gala will benefit

"SAVE THE SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND FUND,"

a project of the San Jacinto Battleground Association to preserve and restore the 1836 battlefield. Located 22 miles from downtown Houston and 35 miles from Galveston Island, this is hallowed ground for Texans and a historic cultural treasure deserving a secure future.



Call **713-237-8997** or email sjbafriends@earthlink.net

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175th Anniversary Salute • Battle of San Jacinto • Founding of Texas

BENEFITING
SAVE THE SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND FUND

FEATURING TEXAS MUSIC LEGENDS
Ray Benson and Asleep at the Wheel

2011 LEGACY OF SAN JACINTO HONOREE
Shell Oil Company

Tuesday, October 25, 2011 • 6:30 p.m

River Oaks Country Club
1600 River Oaks Boulevard
Houston, Texas

Response Card Enclosed

Dress Texan



Name (as you wish it to appear in printed materials)

Address City / State / Zip

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PLEASE RESERVE

- \$50,000 Presenter
- \$25,000 Benefactor
- \$15,000 Gold Sponsor
- Sponsor Tickets: \$1,000 \$500
- \$10,000 Silver Sponsor
- \$5,000 Bronze Sponsor
- Raffle Tickets (3 for \$50)
- Our check for \$ _____, payable to Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground, is enclosed.
- We cannot attend but will make a fully tax-deductible contribution of \$ _____.
- Please make this gift in honor/memory of _____.
- Please charge \$ _____ to: AMEX Visa MasterCard Discover

Name on Card

Card Number Exp. Date

Signature Date

GUESTS (Tables of 10)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

FORM MAY BE FAXED TO (281) 558-5876 OR MAILED TO:
Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground • P.O. Box 940536, Houston, Texas 77094-7536
To be listed in the Program, please return form by October 7th.



SAVE THE SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND FUND

Overview

SAVE THE SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND FUND is a statewide campaign for the preservation and restoration of the 1836 San Jacinto battlefield. In this sacred place, adjacent to the banks of Buffalo Bayou and today's Houston Ship Channel, the modern destiny of Texas began on April 21, 1836 with the Battle of San Jacinto. As the culminating event of the Texas Revolution, the battle resulted in independence from Mexico, the establishment of the Republic of Texas and ultimately the annexation of Texas to the United States.

Sadly, despite its pivotal importance in Texas history, the San Jacinto Battleground was listed as one of Texas' *Most Endangered Places* by Preservation Texas, Inc. in 2010.

SAVE THE SAN JACINTO BATTLEGROUND FUND was initiated in February 2010 by the San Jacinto Battleground Association d/b/a **Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground**. Within the **FUND's** first six months, **The Friends** secured an historic 19-acre tract that is original to the battlefield, just outside current borders of the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site.

The Friends' next objective is to begin restoration of the tract to its 1836 appearance. Plans include archeological research, signage, interpretive trails, and the reclamation of rare wildlife habitat and green space. The tract will be presented as a gift to the citizens of Texas in 2011, the 175th anniversary year of Texas Independence.

Goals of the Fund

The immediate goal for the **Fund** was to raise \$625,000 to purchase the historic 19-acre land tract and save it from pending commercial development. With the help of donors throughout the state, concerned foundations and a bridge loan provided by a Houston bank, the property was purchased by **The Friends** on July 29, 2010. The **FUND's** next goals are to raise \$450,000—\$100,000 to retire the bridge loan and \$350,000 to begin rehabilitation of the acreage with public and private partners in 2012.

Significance of the 19-acre Tract

In addition to its historic position in two major wars, the property is also among the last remaining wildlife environments on the Houston Ship Channel.

In 1836, the legendary Harrisburg-Lynchburg road traversed the property and was used by both the Texan and Mexican armies just prior to the battle. The road and property were also traveled by 5,000 colonists who were escaping Santa Anna in the Run-Away-Scrape. The acreage is unique because it has ties to both the Texas Revolution and the Civil War. Recent research shows that the land was a naval staging area for the 1863 Battle of Galveston, a major Civil War conflict, and the most important military event in Galveston's history.



In the late 1800's and early 1900's, the State of Texas acquired portions of the 1836 San Jacinto battlefield to form the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site. It became the first state park in Texas and is now a designated a National Historic Landmark. The 19-acre tract is original to the San Jacinto battlefield and had been recommended for state-purchase by the veterans of the battle. As years passed, the surrounding area became one of the most heavily industrialized in the country. The 19-acre tract was under continuing threat of development as prime "maritime/industrial property" since it is accessible by water and road. The purchase by **The Friends** literally saved this historic land for Texas.

Vision for Property Rehabilitation & Restoration

The natural setting of the property will be restored to reflect what our ancestors saw in the 19th century. Plans will include creation of a coastal prairie, tidal marsh, freshwater wetland, riparian and bottomland forests and enhanced wildlife habitat. Signage will be unimposing, leading guests to an interpretive trail, an area for classes and other educational components. The area will further ecological awareness and commemorate historic links with the Texas Revolution and the Civil War.

The Friends envision an agreement with Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD), Texas Historical Commission, universities and other partners for the management and reconstruction of the site. The project will be guided by a 1998 Master Plan for the San Jacinto Battleground endorsed by TPWD, the San Jacinto Museum and Battleship Texas Foundation and informed by recent archeological surveys.

The overriding goal is to provide an important demonstration project to preserve historically and environmentally sensitive green space for the area. The project will be conducted as a replicable model and catalyst for the eventual restoration of the entire San Jacinto Battleground.

MISSION OF THE FRIENDS

Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground was founded in 2002, initially to help TPWD establish a "Desirable Facility Boundary" for the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site. Since 2002, **The Friends** has acquired land within the "desirable boundary"—currently holding 27.5 acres and has already donated several tracts to the state. **The Friends** also has facilitated conservation agreements on behalf of TPWD and archeological surveys in cooperation with TPWD and the Texas Historical Commission.

By securing and preserving the battlefield landscape, **The Friends** is enhancing a neglected cultural treasure, preserving fragile habitat, and increasing green space in a highly industrialized area. **The Friends** work as stakeholders for positive change in East Harris County, 22 miles from Houston—the fourth largest city in the nation.

MAJOR DONORS

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