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**Thursday, December 16th, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.**

**“It’s a Wrap: The Year in Review.**

**An Overview of Houston Archeological Society Activities for 2021”**

**– Linda Gorski**

Please join us for the Houston Archeological Society’s final meeting of the year on Thursday, December 16th at 6:30 p.m. at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center, 1414 Wirt Road in Houston. Linda Gorski, HAS President, will present the annual “Year in Review” PowerPoint, highlighting the many projects that the Society has been involved in during 2021 including archeological surveys, excavations and other activities in and around the Houston area. The meeting is free of charge and open to the public. The meeting will kick off with our popular monthly “show and tell” at 6:30 and the program will begin at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will also include a special holiday themed snack buffet for members and guests. Please bring a holiday snack to share!

Gorski’s presentation will include HAS participation in shovel testing surveys and labs at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site, excavations at the Lone Oak prehistoric site in Colorado County, geophysical surveys on private property in San Felipe thanks to a grant from the Summerlee Foundation, and outreach programs such as Archeology Day at Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site, Diggin’ Old Stuff Day at Kleb Woods Nature Center, programs at several area schools and HAS participation in the Texas Archeological Society Field School in June and the Annual Meeting in October. She will also report on HAS lab activities, education programs, publications, and awards that the Society has received in 2021 and will give a preview of what HAS members can expect in 2022. Photos of many HAS members will be highlighted in this presentation so come and see yourself on the big screen! We will also offer this program virtually via Zoom for HAS Members only if you cannot attend in person.

Linda Gorski is serving her tenth term as president of the Houston Archeological Society. She is also a Texas Historical Commission Archeological Steward representing Harris County.

Parking at the Trini Mendenhall Center is free of charge. For more information about this program or about the Houston Archeological Society, please contact Linda Gorski, at [president@txhas.org](mailto:president@txhas.org)



**WISHING YOU HAPPY HOLIDAYS  
FROM THE WHOLE HAS TEAM!!!!**



## President's Message – Linda Gorski

HAS members –

As most of you know, we met in person for the first time in a very long-time last month (November 18<sup>th</sup>) at the Trini Mendenhall Community Center here in Houston. It was so good to see so many happy people in the audience!!!! We had a great turnout, and it was obvious to me that everyone missed being able to socialize in person during “the Covid years”. I hope you’ll join us for our last program of 2021 on Thursday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at Trini Mendenhall Center, 1414 Wirt Road, at 6:30 p.m. when I will give a presentation highlighting HAS activities in 2021. I know that some of you still do not feel comfortable meeting in person and that is understandable. So, we will continue offering our programs to members via Zoom as well as in person. HAS members will receive a Zoom link a week or so before the meeting.

I also want to thank everyone for helping us enjoy yet another amazingly successful year. Despite continuing restrictions due to Covid we broke our all-time high membership record and as I write this message (November 23) we now have 254 members!!!!

And as we close out 2021, I want to announce officially that after 10 years as president of this wonderful organization I will be retiring in 2022. Now that Rick is also retired, we plan to travel and spend more time with our family which is spread far and wide across the United States. It has been an absolute pleasure digging up Texas history with you – one trowel full at a time – for such a long time!!!! But we have so incredibly much talent in the Houston Archeological Society that it is time to tap into that resource. I hope that each and every one of you will work with the HAS Board in choosing the perfect candidate to lead this society in the future.

Merry Christmas, Y’all, from the Gorski Family!



*Linda*

# **Houston Archeological Society**

## **Monthly Meeting Minutes**

### **November 18, 2021**

**Welcome New Members and Guests to our meeting location at Trini Mendenhall Community Center, as well as via Zoom (Linda Gorski, President).**

**Treasurer's Report (Bob Sewell):** Bob reported amounts in the HAS checking and savings accounts. If any member is interested in more information about HAS finances, please see Bob. Additionally, HAS received a grant in the amount of \$15,000 from the Summerlee Foundation to cover the costs of a geophysical survey on Garden Lot 26. This money will likely be paid out at the end of this year.

**Membership (Bob Sewell):** We have 249 members so far in 2021, just shy of our previous record of 250! Memberships for 2022 are due on January 1. If you joined in September or later this year, your membership will be good through 2022. If you are paying your membership renewal online, go straight to "Payments."

**Website (Bob Sewell):** There has been a wrinkle with the website when paying for memberships; otherwise, things are working well.

**Newsletter (Bob Sewell):** Thanks to everyone who has contributed an article to our newsletter. If you have a topic for an article dealing with Southeast Texas archeology, and need help with writing it, please contact Bob.

**HAS Hats:** The company producing the hats is still having supply-chain issues; hopefully this will be worked out soon.

#### **New Business:**

**Update on geophysical survey at San Felipe de Austin Garden Lot 26 (Linda Gorski):** Garden Lot 26 owner Kathleen Kelly, along with her son John, who are both present tonight, called HAS about a year ago concerning this property, which is formerly the home of Samuel May Williams, Stephen F. Austin's land agent and secretary. At first, the HAS group was made up of mostly stewards. Doug Boyd made a visit to the property and told the group to stop work and get a geophysical survey of the property done. The Summerlee Foundation awarded HAS a grant of \$15,000 to accomplish this, and it has just been completed by DR. Chet Walker of Austin, Tx. A professional archeologist will look at the results and make suggestions on where to look for possible features. One other interesting note: Stephen F. Austin, Gail Borden, and other notables lived on property adjacent to or very near Garden Lot 26.

**Reports and Journals (Louis Aulbach):** Copies of Report #36 entitled "The Lone Oak Site (41CD168): A 12,000 Year Occupation in Northern Colorado County, Texas" are still available in limited supply. Also, we are handing out publications tonight to all who have not received theirs. We are looking for articles for next year, so if you have one, please give it to Linda or Louis.

**December Program:** HAS President Linda Gorski will present "It's a Wrap: Overview of 2021 HAS Activities."

**Tonight's Program:** Dr. Dan Worrall presented on "The Lower Brazos Culture and Late Archaic Long Distance Trading Networks." Dr. Worrall is a fifth-generation member of his family to live in the Houston area. He holds a BA and PhD, both in geology, and spent his career in exploration geology research and basin studies for Shell Oil Company. Dr. Worrall has been a member of the Harris County Historical Commission since 2014. His second, and recently published, book entitled *A Prehistory of Houston and Southeast Texas: Landscape and Culture* is a map-based work that focuses on the natural landscape and Native American peoples who inhabited our area. Tonight's talk centered on the Late Archaic Brazos Culture living along the lower Brazos and Colorado Rivers who, as indicated by evidence from cemetery sites found in those areas, ethnohistoric research, and both oral and historical accounts, participated in a long-distance exchange of goods and ornaments was spiritually and culturally motivated.

*Beth Kennedy for Diana Cooper, HAS Secretary*

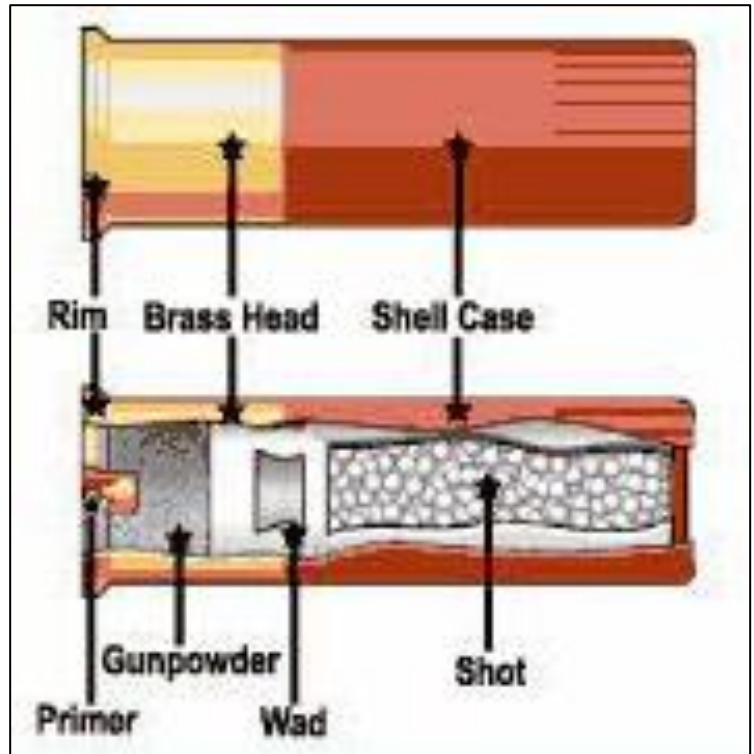
**Notes on Munitions**  
**Lead Shot and Beer**  
**Part 1 of 2**  
**By Tom Nuckols**

Lead Shot

In the earliest days of firearms, when all guns were smooth-bored, shot referred to any lead, spherical projectile, regardless of their size (diameter), and without differentiation as to the number of them fired simultaneously.

With the advent of rifling, the term “bullet” replaced shot in reference to single lead projectiles fired in a gun with a rifled barrel i.e., a rifle. Eventually, shot came to signify small lead projectiles with a diameter ranging from 0.04 inches to 0.23 inches, used to hunt birds and small game with a shotgun<sup>1</sup> (Nonte 1973: 222).

Each time a shotgun fires, it uses a lot of shot. When shot leaves the barrel of a shotgun, it spreads out. The person firing the shotgun, hopes that some of the shot will hit his target, whether it is flying or moving.



*Figure 1. Two pictures of a shotgun shell. Bottom picture is a cross-sectional view. From Greenstein (2007). The shell case is plastic. Before 1960, shotgun shells had paper cases. The brass head is also called a cup. Cups are often recovered on archaeological sites, as they are the remnants of what were once paper cased shotgun shells.*

Garry, states that the theory behind the use of shot is that it is easier to hit something with a handful of pebbles than with a single rock (2012: 177).

Originally, shotguns were muzzle-loaders. In the last quarter of the 19th century, breech-loading shotguns replaced muzzle-loaders. The ammunition used in breech-loading shotguns is a center-fire cartridge containing shot<sup>2</sup>, called the shotgun shell (Figure 1).

<sup>1</sup> Today, the term shot is used by the military to signify single projectile APC (armor-piercing capped) ammunition used in large caliber weapons.

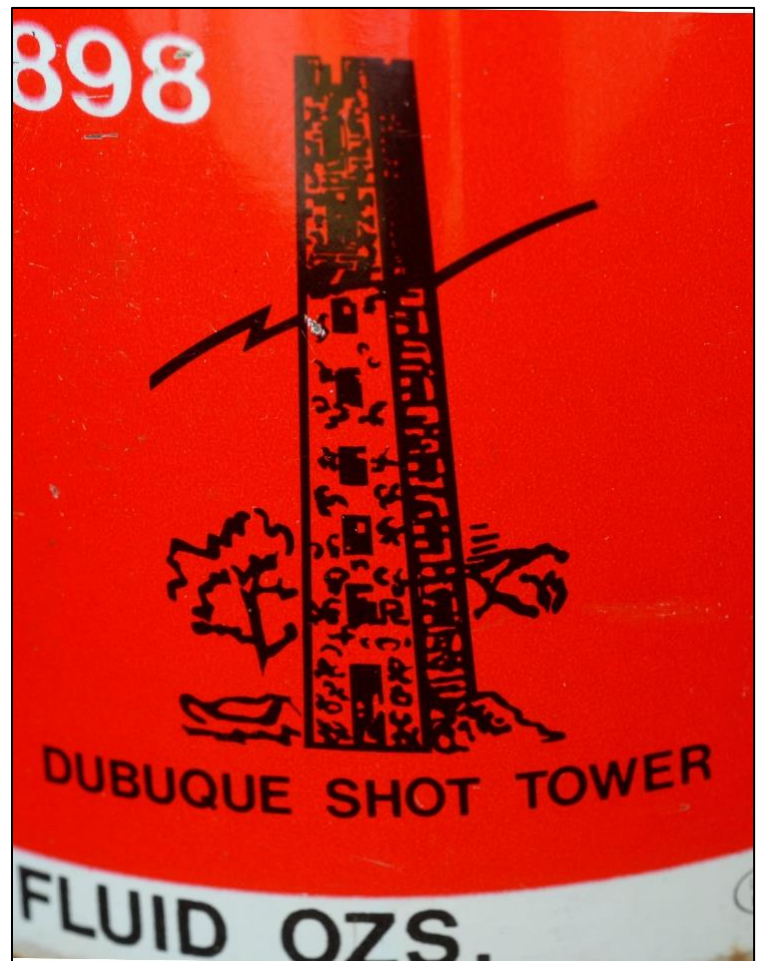
<sup>2</sup> Shotgun shells are also loaded with buckshot. Buckshot is shot with a diameter ranging from 0.24 inches to 0.36 inches. Buckshot is used for hunting larger game than that requiring shot.



## Beer

Many years ago, I took an interest in the history of beer. I also started a collection of breweriana. Breweriana refers to any beer related item containing a brewery or brand name, such as beer cans, beer bottles, bottle openers, beer labels and metal signs. I was particularly interested in metal signs advertising brands of beer that I could hang on the walls of my garage and old beer cans that I could place on shelves above my workbench.

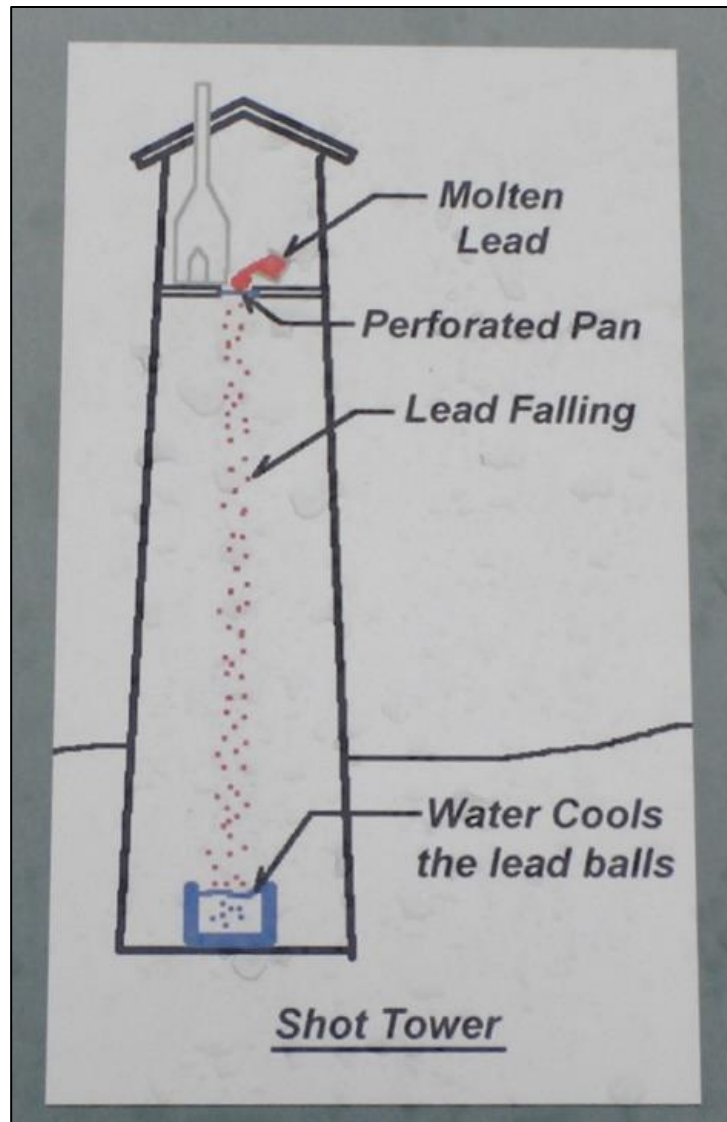
In an antique store, I bought a can of Dubuque, Star brand beer. The can, empty at the time of my purchase, had once contained beer brewed by the Joseph S. Pickett & Sons Brewery of Dubuque, Iowa. Two Dubuque, Iowa landmarks are depicted on the can, the Pickett Brewery and the Dubuque shot tower (Figures 2 and 3).



Figures 2 and 3. Photos courtesy of Bryant Boutwell, Ph.D. (Author's neighbor).

## The Dubuque Shot Tower

The Dubuque shot tower<sup>3</sup>, constructed in 1856 (extant), was a building used to manufacture lead shot. In the top of the tower, molten lead was poured into a perforated pan. As the lead went through the holes in the pan, it fell, forming spherical balls that solidified. The balls were caught in a water tank located on the floor of the tower, causing them to be immediately cooled (Figure 4).



*Figure 4. Cross-sectional view of a generic shot tower. From Spude (2013).*

*Next month: Part 2. History of the Shot Tower.*

<sup>3</sup> See *THE HISTORIC DUBUQUE SHOT TOWER* @ <https://www.cityofdubuque.org/DocumentCenter/View/2526/Shot-Tower-Rehabilitation?bidId=>.

## References

Garry, Jim

2012 *WEAPONS of the LEWIS & CLARK EXPEDITION*. The Author H. Clark Company, Norman, OK.

Greenstein, Irwin

2007 Shotgun Shells. Shotgun Life Magazine @ <https://www.shotgunlife.com/shotguns/guns/shotgun-shells.html>. Accessed 11-2021.

Nonte, George C., Jr.

1973 *FIREARMS ENCYCLOPEDIA*. Harper & Row, New York, NY.

Spude, Bob

2013 DISCOVERING MINING HISTORY WITH THE MINING HISTORY ASSOCIATION @ <https://www.mininghistoryassociation.org/MinesofSpainTour.htm>. Accessed 11-2021.

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## **HAS Memberships for 2022 Are Now Due**

**We hope you will renew your membership in the Houston Archeological Society and maybe even give a membership as a gift to someone you know will enjoy digging up Texas history with us – one trowel full at a time. You can either pay your dues online at <http://www.txhas.org/membership.html> or download the membership form from <http://www.txhas.org/PDF/HAS%20Membership%20Form.pdf> and mail it to us with your payment.**

**Our membership is the best deal in town:**

**\$25 Individual membership**

**\$30 Family Membership**

**\$35+ Contributing membership**

**\$15 Student membership**

**Remember that benefits of your membership include the unique opportunity to dig with us at archeological sites in the area, work with us at our labs where we process artifacts from those sites, and your FREE copies of our current academic publications including HAS Reports and Journals. Please join us!!!!**

## The Louisiana Street Gully

by Louis F. Aulbach and Linda C. Gorski

The improvements and development of the banks of Buffalo Bayou in downtown Houston by the Buffalo Bayou Partnership over the past decade or so have enhanced public access to several archeological and historical features of the city. One of these features is a rather ordinary looking storm sewer outlet located under the Louisiana Street bridge (see Figure 1).

Although the outlet structure is a modern construction of concrete and steel pipe, it is the only reminder of the historic gully that existed along the Louisiana Street right of way and the spring that flowed from the southeast corner of Preston Avenue and Louisiana Street. Historian Samuel O. Young provided the earliest and most descriptive report of the Louisiana Street gully in his 1913 publication:

*There used to be quite a large gully running from Preston Avenue to the bayou. My earliest recollection of this gully is of the spring that was at its head, near the southeast corner of Preston and Louisiana Street. As I recall it this spring was not much for beauty, though it was large enough to cause a standing mudhole on Louisiana Street. Going from Preston towards the bayou this gully widened rapidly and was quite an obstruction to travel by the time it reached Congress Avenue. It too has been filled and today not a trace of it remains.<sup>1</sup>*

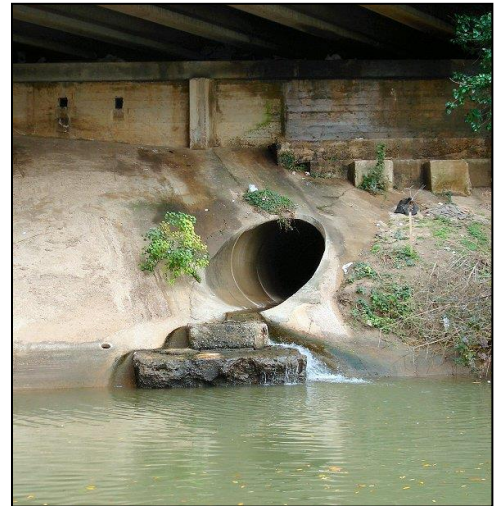


Figure 3: The Louisiana Street storm sewer outfall on the south bank of Buffalo Bayou near the west side the bridge (in a photo from 2008). (Photo: Louis F. Aulbach)

The Louisiana Street gully was one of several gullies that drained the downtown area of the city in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Many of the gullies were used as garbage landfills in the late 1800's while others were fitted with underground storm sewers and the street level landscape was filled in to provide the modern ground surface. The most notable of the storm sewer gullies was the Dry Gully of the Caroline Street right of way.<sup>2</sup> The storm sewer project of the Louisiana Street gully is less well known, but not necessarily less significant.

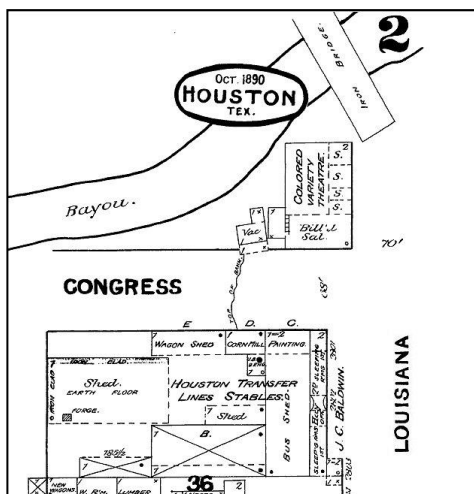


Figure 4: The structures of the Colored Variety Theater in 1890 were built on ground that lay below the top of the bank of the former Louisiana Street gully. (Sanborn Map of Houston, October 1890, Sheet 2)

About 1890, a variety theater was built on the northwest corner of Preston Avenue and Louisiana Street. Although the storm sewer had been installed in the gully by this time, the Sanborn map of 1890 indicates that the structures of the variety theater were constructed on low lying land below the top of the bank of the former gully (see Figure 2).

Although identified as the “colored” variety theater on the map, the establishment was properly called the Fashion Theater, located at 220 Louisiana Street. The Fashion Theater was operated by Robert L. Andrews, an African-American businessman, who resided in the building.<sup>3</sup> The shows at the variety theater consisted of dances, music, songs, and skits performed by a troop of African-American entertainers, much like the later vaudeville-style entertainment. A saloon was attached to the theater, and at times the variety shows became somewhat boisterous. The theater was referred to in one newspaper account as the “honka tonk” because of the loud and rhythmic music that later was known as ragtime. Interestingly enough, by the 1930's, the “honky tonk” music had become associated with American country music.<sup>4</sup>



The Fashion Variety Theater was a short-lived enterprise. During the evening performances on February 21, 1894, a fire broke in the upper part of the second story of the wood frame building. One of the singers in the variety show, Lulu Taylor from San Antonio, ran back into the building to retrieve her trunk with valuables and money from her second-floor room. Tragically, she was overcome and did not survive. Her badly burned remains were discovered in the building. The building itself was a total loss. Owner Frank Dunn suffered a loss of \$5,000, and theater proprietor Robert Andrews lost \$2,000 worth of fixtures and equipment.<sup>5</sup>

The property at 220 Louisiana Street did not remain vacant for long. Situated near the downtown business district and adjacent to Grand Central Station, it was a good location for the hotel built by W. T. Boyle and his three sons on the site later in 1894. The two-story Hotel Boyle had fifty-three rooms situated on the banks of Buffalo Bayou (see Figure 3). However, the construction site on the banks of the bayou was precarious, at best, and in 1896, the city engineer reported to City Council that the sewer at the foot of Congress Avenue was in bad shape and the erosion was endangering the foundation of the Hotel Boyle.<sup>6</sup>

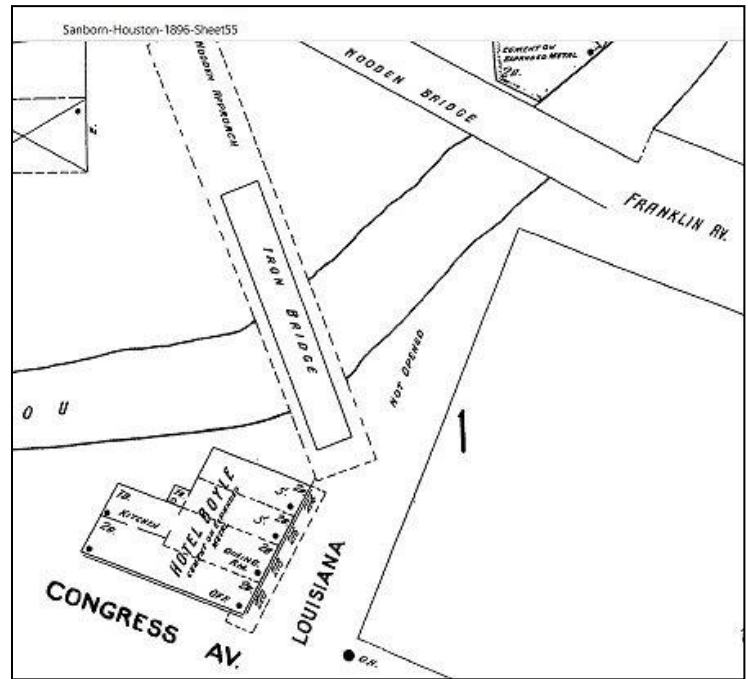


Figure 3: The Hotel Boyle was built at 220 Louisiana Street, on the banks of Buffalo Bayou, in 1894. (Sanborn Map of Houston, 1896, Sheet 55)



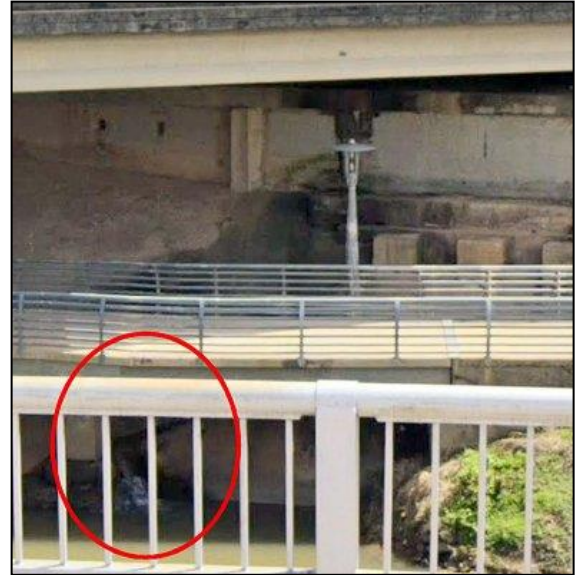
Figure 4: Heavy brush and trees clutter the site of the former Hotel Boyle in June 2008. The flow from the outfall of the Louisiana Street spring can be seen under the Louisiana Street bridge. (Photo: Louis F.

Nevertheless, the Boyle Hotel continued to operate until 1928. At about 3:15 on the morning of December 11, 1928, the Boyle Hotel caught fire. R. W. Green, the hotel manager, awakened the thirty to thirty-five guests, and some of them escaped by jumping out back windows into Buffalo Bayou. Sadly, three men died in the fire. The two story, brick Hotel Boyle was totally destroyed.<sup>7</sup>

No new structures were built there after the 1928 fire. The channelization of the bayou during this same time made the tract of land unsuitable for commercial use. The site, in June 2008, was home only to trees, riparian vegetation, and stray trash (see Figure 4).

The recent improvements to the hike and bike trail along the south bank of Buffalo Bayou between Smith Street and Milam Street have greatly improved access to the historic sites in this section of the bayou. However, the construction of the elevated walkway has blocked the view of the Louisiana Street gully's storm sewer outfall (see Figure 5). Nevertheless, the Louisiana Street Spring waters continue to flow 365 days a year as a constant reminder of the forgotten history of this important site.

*Figure 5: The outfall of the Louisiana Street gully is largely hidden by the elevated hike and bike trail along the south bank of Buffalo Bayou between Smith Street and Milam Street. (Image: Google Maps)*



#### Footnotes

1. Young, Samuel O. *True Stories of Old Houston and Houstonians* (Galveston: Oscar Springer, 1913), 17.
2. Aulbach, Louis F. *Buffalo Bayou, An Echo of Houston's Wilderness Beginnings* (Houston: Aulbach Publishing, 2012), 365-367.
3. *Morrison & Fourmy's general directory of the city of Houston for 1894-95* (Galveston: Morrison & Fourmy, 1894), 89, 212.
4. Aulbach, 266.  
"Woman's charred remains." *Dallas Morning News*, February 22, 1894, page 2.  
"Accidentally shot / Foot mashed." *Dallas Morning News*, December 18, 1892, page 4.
5. Aulbach, 266-267.  
"Woman's charred remains."
6. Aulbach, 267-268.  
"Day at Houston." *Galveston Daily News*, Tuesday, June 16, 1896, page 5, Issue 84, column A.
7. Aulbach, 267-268.  
"Three men burn to death when flames raze Houston hotel." *Dallas Morning News* December 13, 1928.

# Houston Archeological Society

## Monthly Meeting Programs for 2022

### 6:30pm Third Thursday of every month

January 20th, 2022 – Louis Aulbach – **A Preview of Historical Archeology along Buffalo Bayou.**

February 17th, 2022 – Doug Boyd – Black History Month - **Finding Tom Cook: Archeological investigations of the Tom Cook Blacksmith shop in Bolivar (Denton County) Texas**

March 17th – Chris Kneupper, **Chronological and Archeological History of the Forts Velasco**

April 21<sup>st</sup> – Dr. Mary Prendergast – **A Zooarcheologists tour of the new Rice University Lab and the Bill McClure Faunal collection**

All **Houston Archeological Society** meetings are normally free and open to the public. However, due to the COVID-19 situation they are currently being conducted virtually for members only. For more information about HAS then visit our website at [www.txhas.org](http://www.txhas.org) or email [lindagorski@cs.com](mailto:lindagorski@cs.com). You can also join our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/123659814324626/>

Please submit articles for publication to *The Profile* Editor Bob Sewell at [newsletter@txhas.org](mailto:newsletter@txhas.org). Please submit articles for the January 2022 issue no later than 25th December, 2021.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ARCHEOLOGY IN THIS AREA, CONTACT THE FOLLOWING:

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