

PLAN OF THE TOWN OF AUSTIN.

5000 Varas make a League: *Surveying Austin's Colony*

SURVEYORS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**RENDEZVOUS
SEPTEMBER 13-16, 2023**

Join Us in Southeast Texas as the Surveyors Historical Society explores the origins of scientific surveying and land grants of Austin's Colony in Mexican Texas.

In 2023, San Felipe de Austin will commemorate 200 years since its founding by Stephen F. Austin. We are excited to host the SHS Rendezvous at this special time, and share the stories of the Austin's Colony Land Office and its important role in Texas settlement.

We look forward to hosting you.

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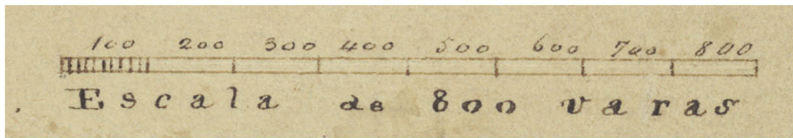
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**San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site
San Felipe, Texas**

Surveying Austin's Colony



Stephen F. Austin, the “Father of Texas,” founded San Felipe de Austin as his colonial capital in the fall of 1823. Austin was empowered as *Empresario* to settle American families in Mexican Texas, and offered a “League and a Labor” to his settlers. Surveying standards developed in surveying the town tract were continued by Austin’s surveyors who stretched their vara chains to measure, mark and plat more than 4.5 million acres of land for 1,200 grantees over the next 12 years.



The vara was the unit of measurement of land and remains the official unit for the State of Texas. The length of the vara was set at 33.4 inches, but later revised to the current standard of 33.33 inches. That small change reduced a League of land from 4,446 to 4,428 acres.



The historic site’s Museum galleries opened in 2018, and include a focus on surveying and the Land Office, including Austin’s original field desk.



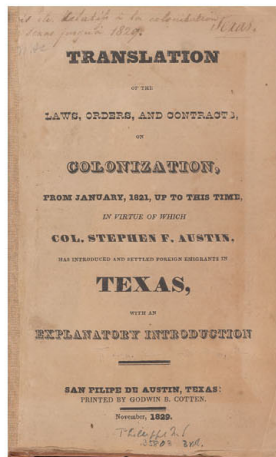
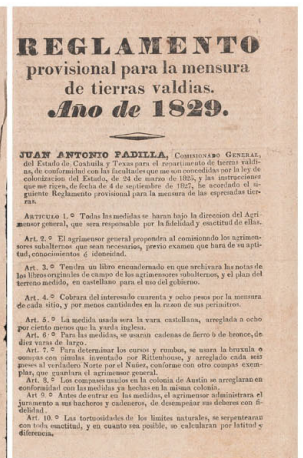
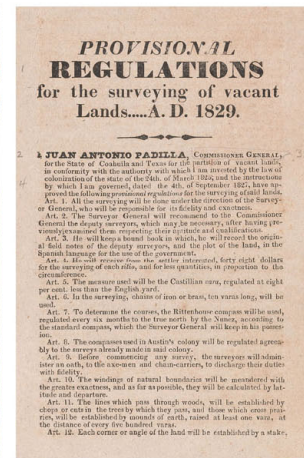
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The Villa de Austin



Next to the San Felipe Museum is an outdoor exhibit, the *Villa de Austin*, a reconstruction of one block of the town. Rendezvous participants will have the opportunity to explore and enjoy the *Villa*, including an after-hours reception on September 14.



The *Villa de Austin* includes a working printing office that interprets where the Austin printed his land grants, surveying regulations (above) and the first book ever printed in Texas, a translation of land laws (left). Come print your own copy of the Surveying Regulations.



GONE TO TEXAS!

Schedule (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

OPTIONAL PRE-CONFERENCE TOUR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

WELCOME RECEPTION/MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

MORNING SESSIONS AT HOTEL (SPOUSE/GUEST OPTIONS)

AFTERNOON SESSIONS/TOURS AT SAN FELIPE DE AUSTIN

AFTER-HOURS RECEPTION AT *VILLA DE AUSTIN*

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

MORNING SESSIONS AT HOTEL (SPOUSE/GUEST OPTIONS)

FIELD SESSIONS AT NEARBY PARK (BRING YOUR KIT)

EVENING RECEPTION, RAFFLE AND BANQUET

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2023

OPTIONAL POST-CONFERENCE TOUR

Conference Hotel

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT

HOUSTON KATY MILLS

25402 KATY MILLS PARKWAY

KATY, TEXAS, USA, 77494



Getting Your Bearings

