



#20: Visiting the Humble Historical Markers

Humble has a rich history that has been preserved in many ways over the years. Reading about this history in books can sometimes make it difficult to "visualize" that history. It's always better to "immerse" yourself in it when you can. Not doing anything this weekend? How about going on a tour around Humble and visiting the various historical markers throughout the area? We have all kinds that are very educating and make for a very neat outing.

Start your journey at Moonshine Hill. There is a State Historical Marker at Moonshine Hill (on FM 1960, next to the electric power station). Moonshine Hill is the place where oil was first discovered in Humble in 1904. Try to picture this place back in the early 1900s, when there were oil wells as far as the eye could see as well as a huge tank farm run by the Texas Company (Texaco). On to the next marker: Go west on FM 1960, to the corner of FM 1960 Business (1st Street) and North Houston Avenue. This State Historical Marker celebrates Lambrecht's Artesian Well which started flowing at this spot in 1912. The city has preserved the well, but don't drink the water! It's no longer suitable for consumption.

Next, travel over to the Humble Cemetery at the corner of Isaacks Road and South Houston Avenue (Old Humble Road). This State Historical Marker tells a little history of the cemetery, which actually started out as the Dunman Family Cemetery back in the late 1800s. The south side of the cemetery was the location of one of the early schools in Humble, the West River School (1888-1909). The students moved to a new school in downtown Humble in 1909 and the cemetery bought the land a few years later. Can you imagine attending school next to a cemetery?!? While you are there, also read the marker honoring humble pioneering settler Joseph Dunman, an Alamo Rider. It's along the fence, just a few yards south from the state marker. The Dunman marker was erected by the Seth Hurin Bates Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas a little over a year ago. Next: Head toward downtown Humble to the corner of Main Street and Avenue G. This State Historical Marker celebrates the history of the First United Methodist Church of Humble, first founded in 1886.

For the next one, go north on Avenue G over to Higgins Street. Turn left onto Higgins until you get in front of the Charles Bender Performing Arts Center. Sitting in front of the Bender is the newest State Historical Marker for our town, having been erected just a few months ago. It honors the founding of Humble ISO 100 years ago. Back in 1919, the district office was located on this land, although Charles Bender High School wasn't there yet (it wasn't opened until 1930). If you look on the wall of the building just left and behind the State Historical Marker, you'll also see a marker about the Charles Bender High School building placed there by the City of Humble Preservation Committee. The next marker to see is on the other side of the tracks. But first, go one block west to the white building at the corner of Higgins Street and Avenue D. Here is another preservation committee marker honoring that building's past as the Humble Hospital (also known as the old Falvey Hospital). Now, continue west on Higgins Street and go over the railroad tracks. Turn left onto Bender Avenue and then take the next left onto Main Street. The State Historical Marker will be on your left, in front of the Lake Houston Chamber of Commerce. This marker celebrates the founding of the City of Humble as well as our founder, Pleasant Humble. The next stop will involve many markers, so you'll want to park for these. Go east on Main Street over the railroad tracks and park somewhere among the downtown buildings. The final State Historical Marker is located at the front of the Masonic Lodge (the building next to Humble City Cafe). The lodge was organized in 1908. They originally met at this

location on the second floor of the Humble State Bank building. The original building was destroyed in the 1912 fire. After the fire, Ross Sterling moved the Humble State Bank down to the corner.

Now, there are several markers that were placed by the City of Humble Preservation Committee to recognize the preservation of these buildings and the owners' contribution to historic Humble. I already pointed out two on Higgins Street, but the rest are right here in the downtown area: DeFee's Variety and Hardware Store (where Humble Camera is now located on Main Street just south of Avenue A); the Pangburn Building (now home of Humble City Cafe at the corner of Main Street and Avenue A); the Treadwell Building (now home of Lamp Monkey at the corner of Avenue A and Higgins Street); the Trees of Knowledge (in front of Green Tavern on Main Street between Avenues A and B); Dr. Panza rel la's Clinic (on Avenue B, just around the corner from the Old Humble State Bank); 323 Main Street (now home of Abundant Health and Wellness Holistic Center at the corner of Main and Avenue C); and the McKay Clinic (Avenue C, just around the corner from 323 Main Street).

Make a day of the tour and finish it off with a meal at one of our local eateries. Happy hunting!

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