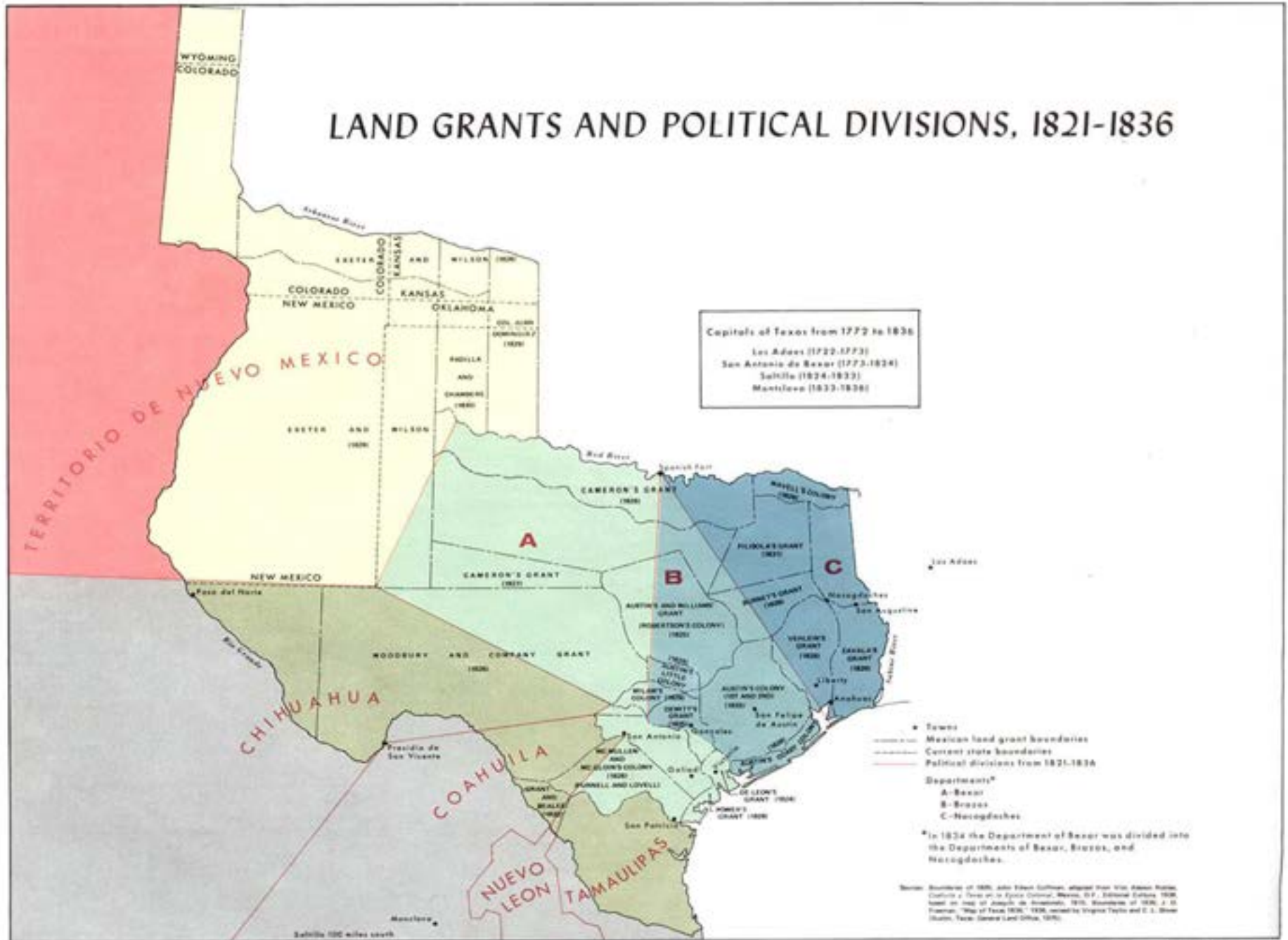


## A Prehistory of Houston and South East Texas, Dan Worrall



# LAND GRANTS AND POLITICAL DIVISIONS, 1821-1836







Charles Willy Alpine, a.k.a. Road Warrior of McKee





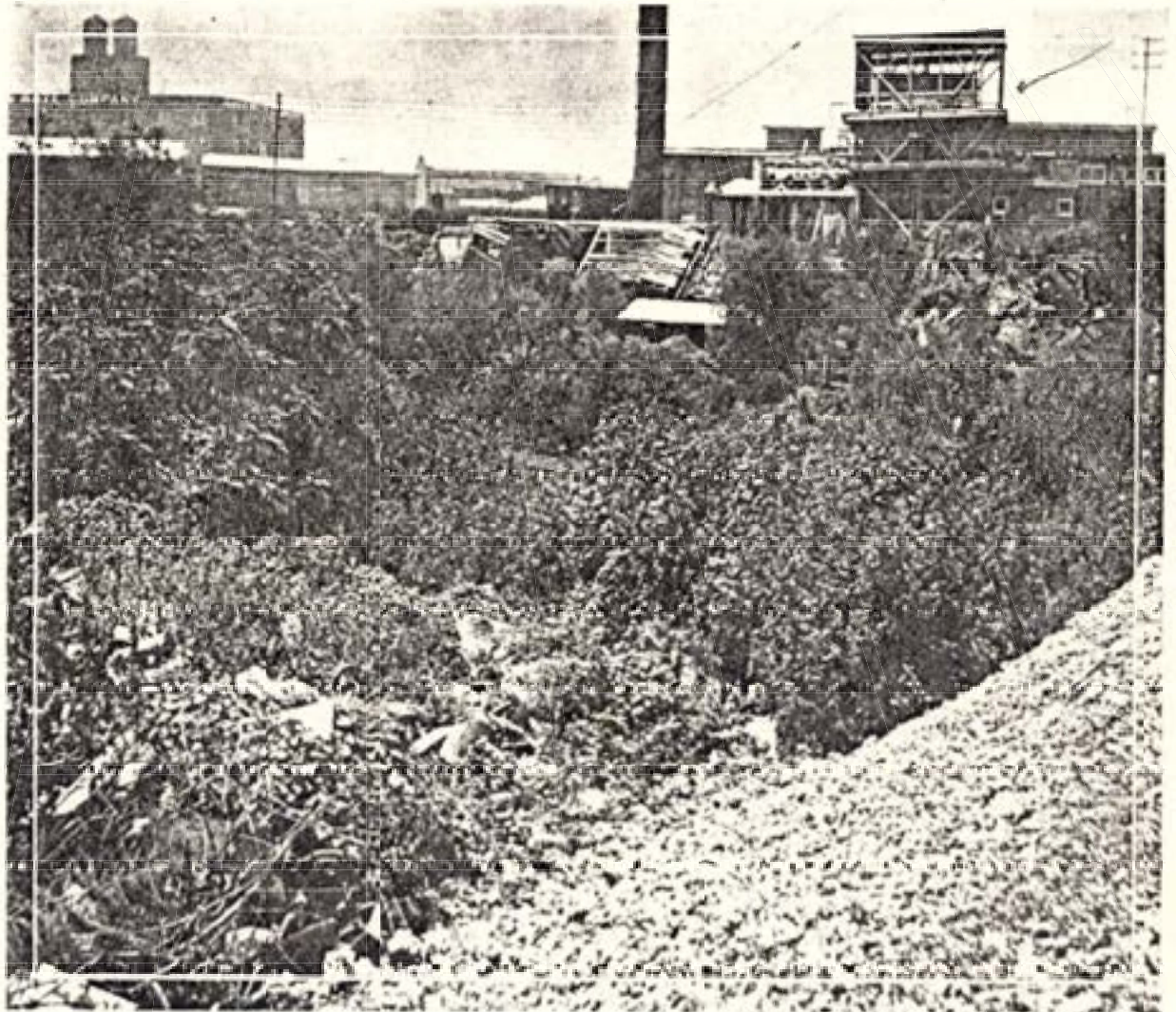
# FROST TOWN HISTORY WALK

## FROST TOWN – A NEIGHBORHOOD IN TRANSITION



# Along Railroad and Bayou

*From the McKee Street Bridge in the heart of the city, one looks over into Buffalo Bayou and sees —this! Into a natural banking of beautiful trees and shrubs there has been dumped all manner of trash, and in the background is seen the tumbled remains of some nondescript temporary structures. A little money, well spent, and a little effort, wisely planned, would make of this a beauty spot.*









# A Barrio History Walk

Harris County Precinct Two



- 1** Frost Town Addition
- 2** El Barrio del Alacron
- 3** Schrimpf's Field
- 4** Moody Addition
- 5** Settlement House/Rusk School
- 6** Gable Street Power Station
- 7** Site of Citizen's Electric

- 8** Crystal Ice & Fuel Co. and Bayou Compress Co.
- 9** Dixon Carwheel
- 10** Fort Humbug
- 11** GH&H Junction Rail Bridge
- 12** Texas and Western Narrow Gauge
- 13** HB&T Strauss Bridge
- 14** McKee Street Bridge

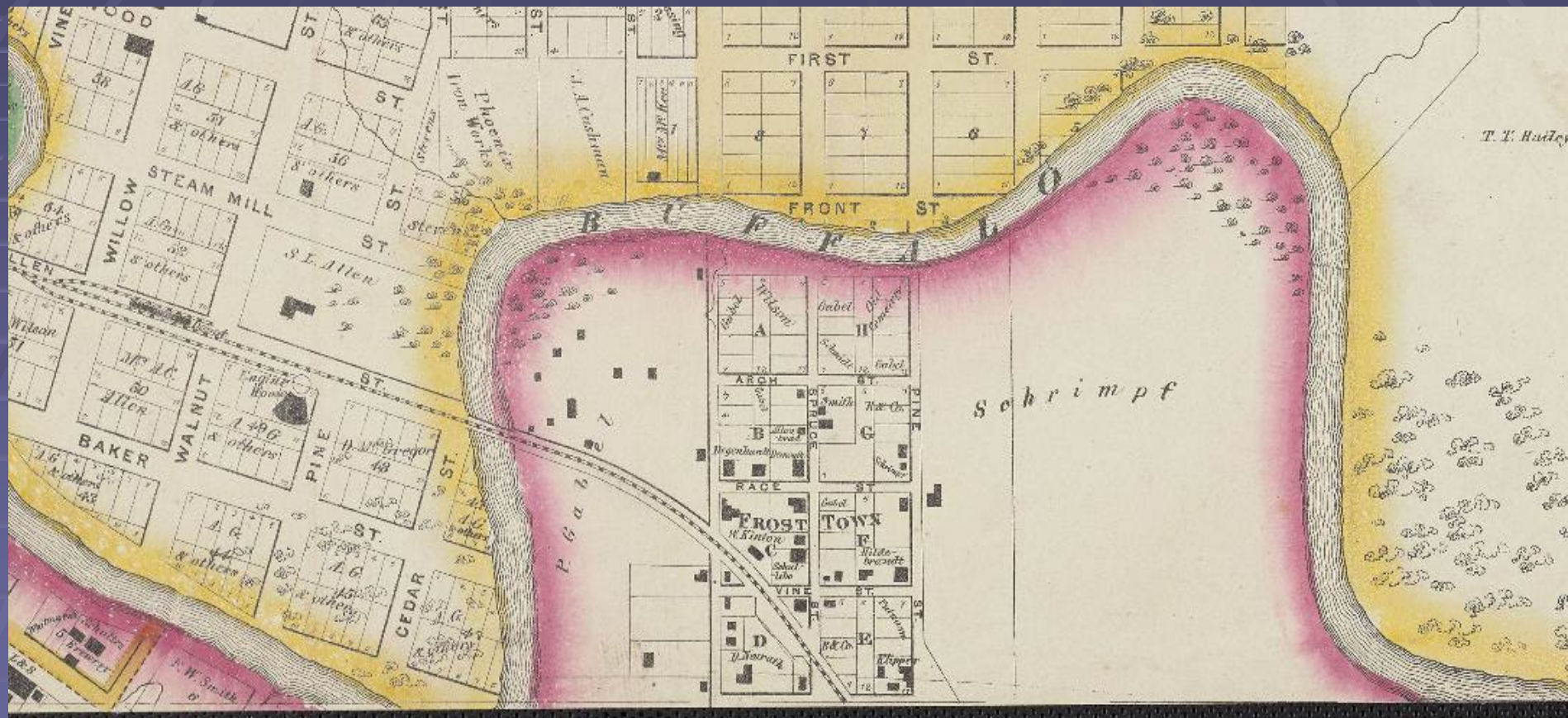


# Wood Map

A historical map of Frost Town, Virginia, showing streets, buildings, and a river. The map is oriented with North at the top. The town is situated along a river, with streets like Main St, Market St, and others visible. Buildings are represented by small black squares and rectangles, some with labels. The river is shown as a winding blue line. The map is titled 'Frost Town, Va.' in the center. The map is a historical document, likely a street map or a general map of the town. It shows the layout of the town, including streets, buildings, and the river. The map is a historical document, likely a street map or a general map of the town. It shows the layout of the town, including streets, buildings, and the river. The map is a historical document, likely a street map or a general map of the town. It shows the layout of the town, including streets, buildings, and the river.



# Frost Town A-H 1867





# McKee 1983



# Proposal drawing 1983



# Proposal 1984





# Durwood Green Contractor





# A younger fool and his work





# McKee 85





Concrete camel back humps provide additional floor support



# Bridge Day July 19<sup>th</sup> 1985





Ann Becker Janet Wagner Kathrine Whitmire Sylvia Garcia Kirk Farris



# Mckee, second painting

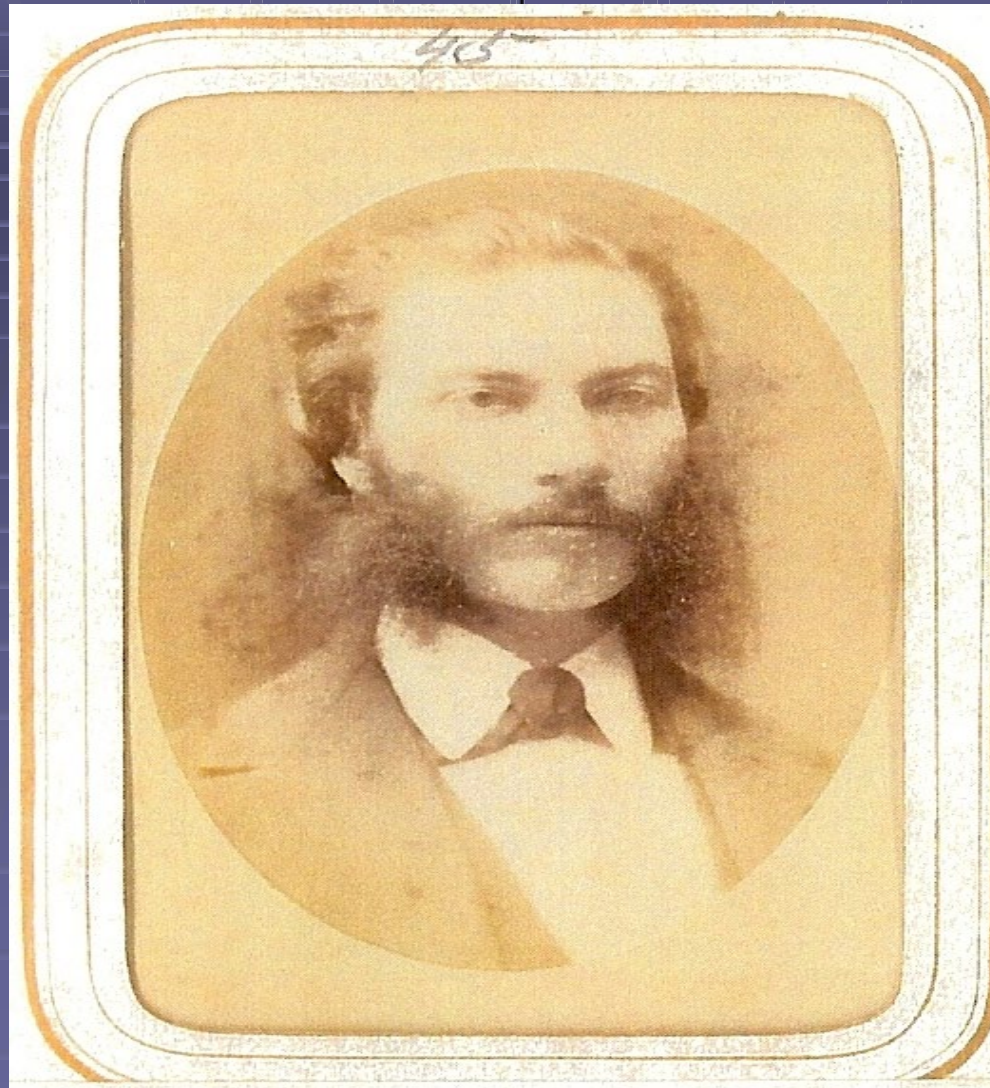




# James Bute IV-



# James Bute



Mr. James Bute



## First Artist Mark on McKee Street Bridge





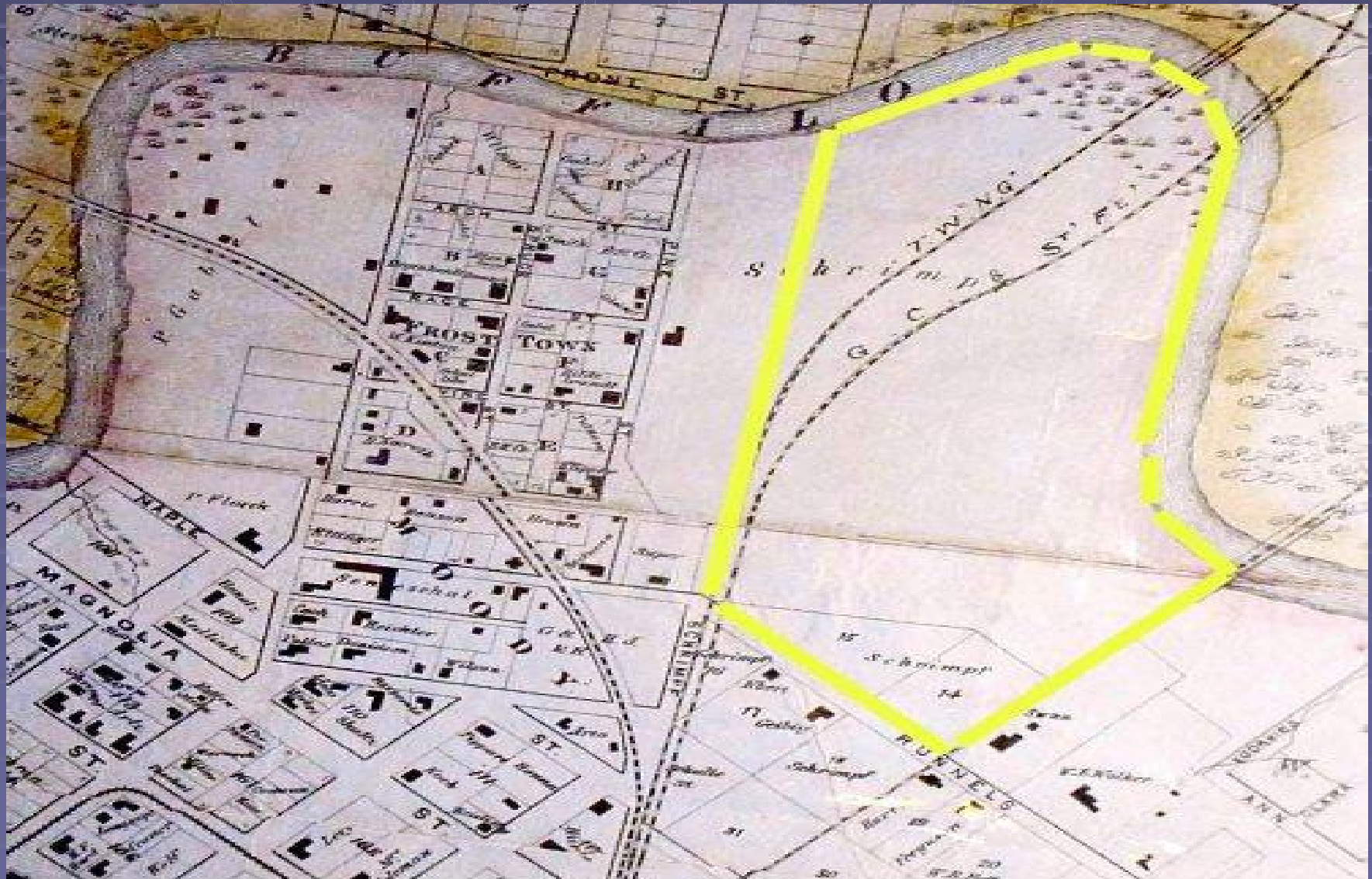
# Subdivisions which made up Frost Town





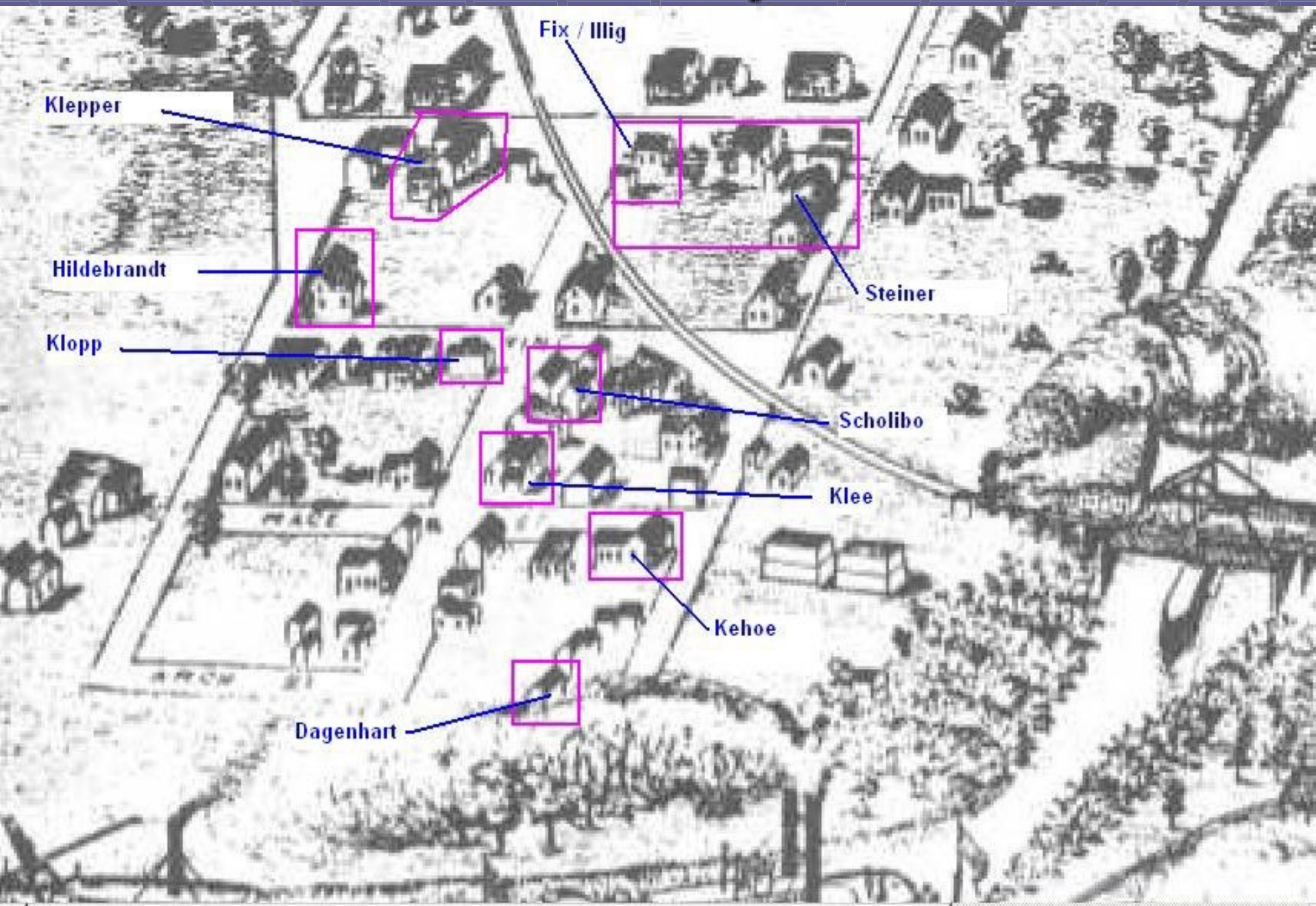
# FROST TOWN HISTORY WALK

## Schrimp's Field (yellow outline)



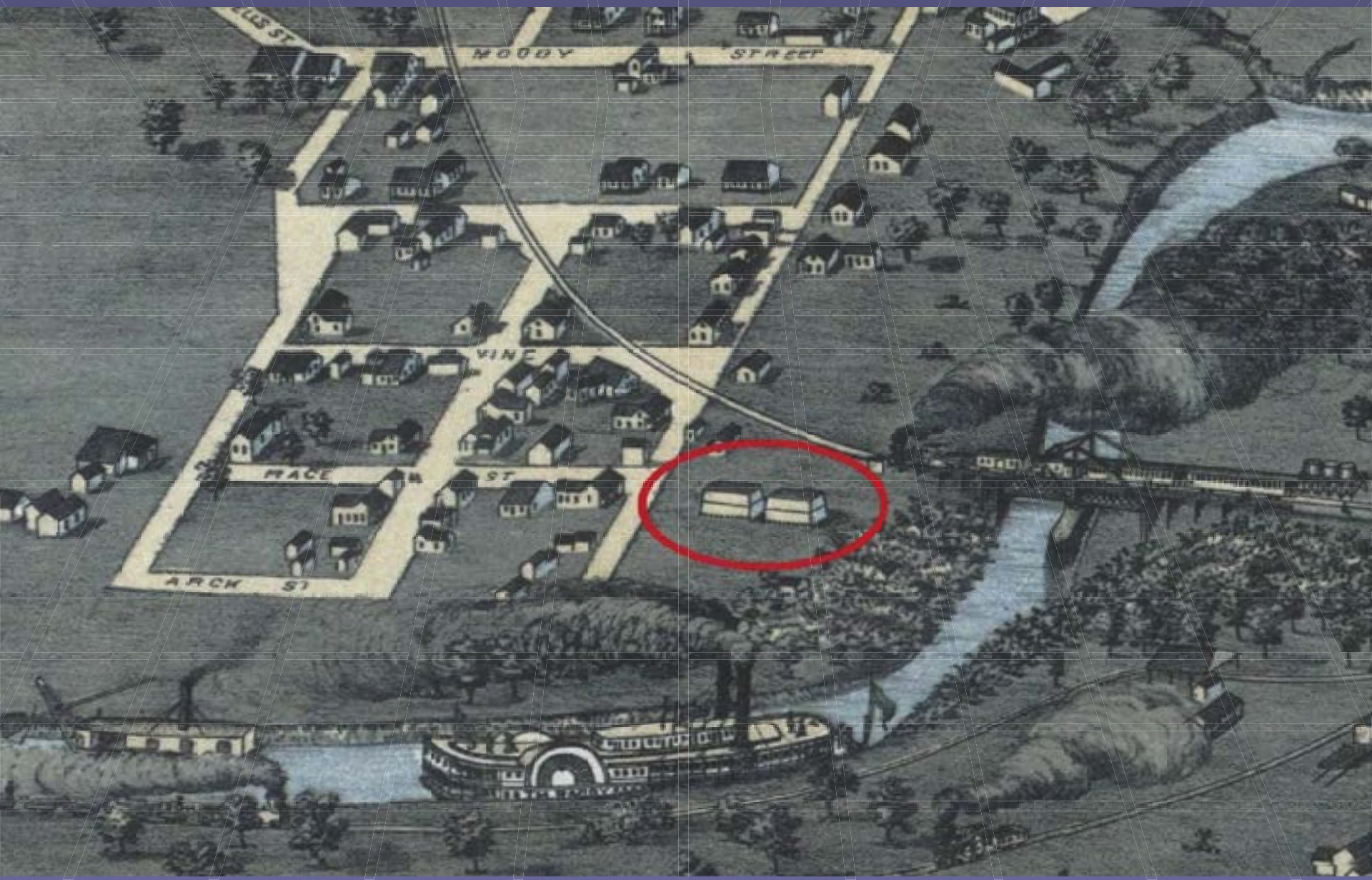
Schrimp's Field (yellow) in 1869.

# Frost Town Birdseye View 1873





# Cato's Brick Yard



# 1873 Houston City Directory

## work of Chuck Chandler

Chatman Nathan (col), laborer, Cato's brick yard, Frost Town.

Files Horace (col), laborer, Cato's brick yard, Frost Town.

Harris Abram, col, Kato's brickyard, Frost-town.

Johnson Pat, col laborer, Kato's brickyard, res Frost-town.

Kato, John, brickyard, Frost-town.



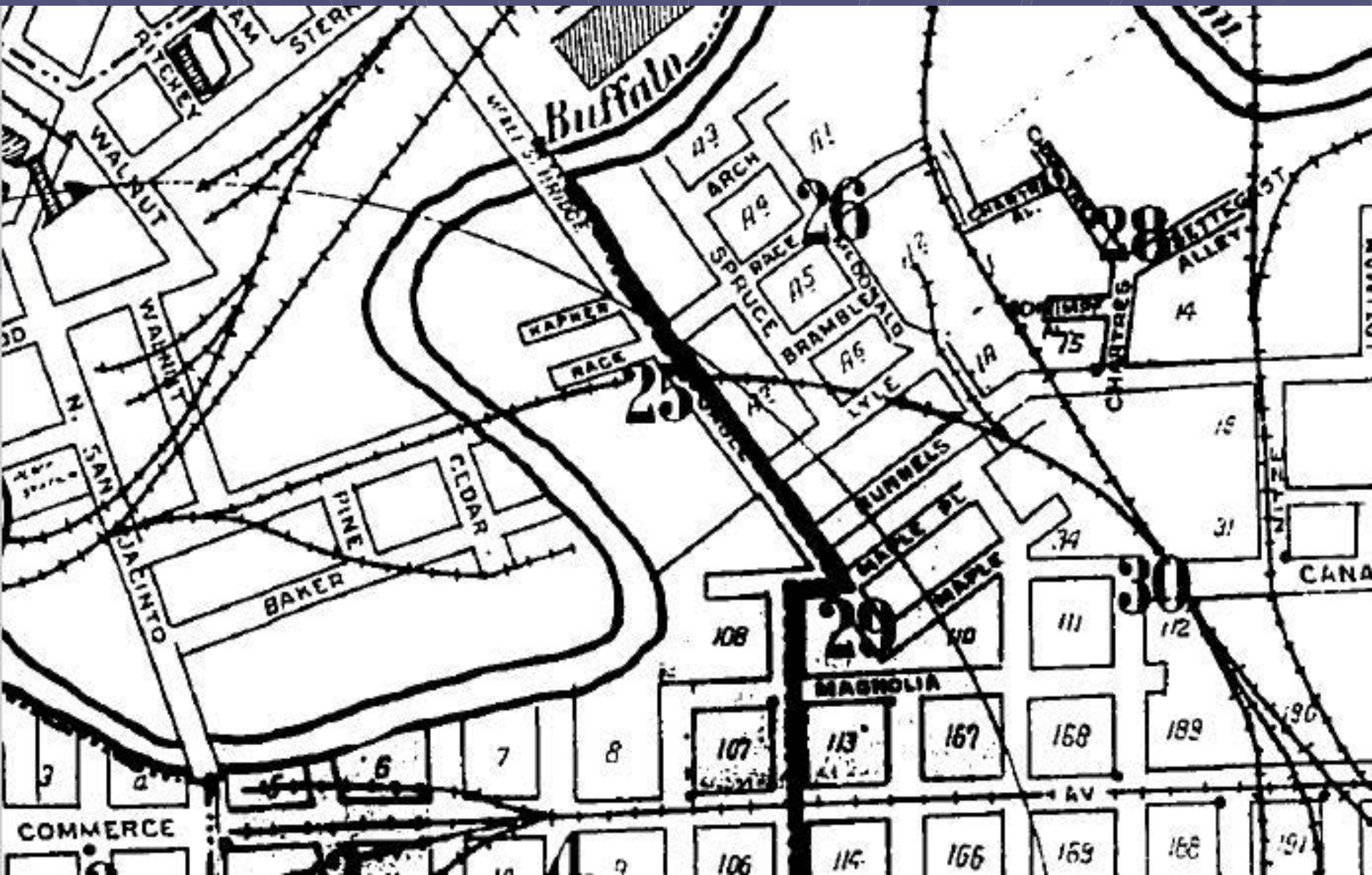
# Frost Town Birdseye View 1893





# BARRIO HISTORY WALK

## Beginning of Barrio Period ca 1924







# Frost Town shifting demographic industrial rises





# FROST TOWN BARRIO HISTORY WALK

Miss Luz Coy Vara Birthplace  
72 Spruce Street



# LUZ VARA RETURNS CHILD HOOD HOME





RUSK  
SCHOOL

MCKEE

CANTINA

Los-HERNANDEZ  
Los-BUENOS  
Los-RAMIREZ

SHOT-GUN-HOMES

GROCERY  
STORE

LOS-VARAS  
BORN  
1938

SPRUCE-ST

LOS-VARAS  
LEFT FOR U.S.  
1942

Los-TALLER  
Los-ESPINO SAS-OS

RAINES

MCKEE

BRIDGE

HAD-FUN-IN-THE-BAYOU-ME-O-MYAD  
SON-OF-Born-not-fled-son-fled-on-the-Bayou

EMERSON  
MEAT CO  
1939

LUMBER  
YARD

ALLEY-TO-BAYOU

Los-CAMPOS

MARTIN  
LOPEZ

SPRUCE-ST

LOS-FUENTES

ABOUT-FIFTEEN-BLOCKS-  
FROM-COURT-AVUE

56

BARRIO-DEL-AUCRAN

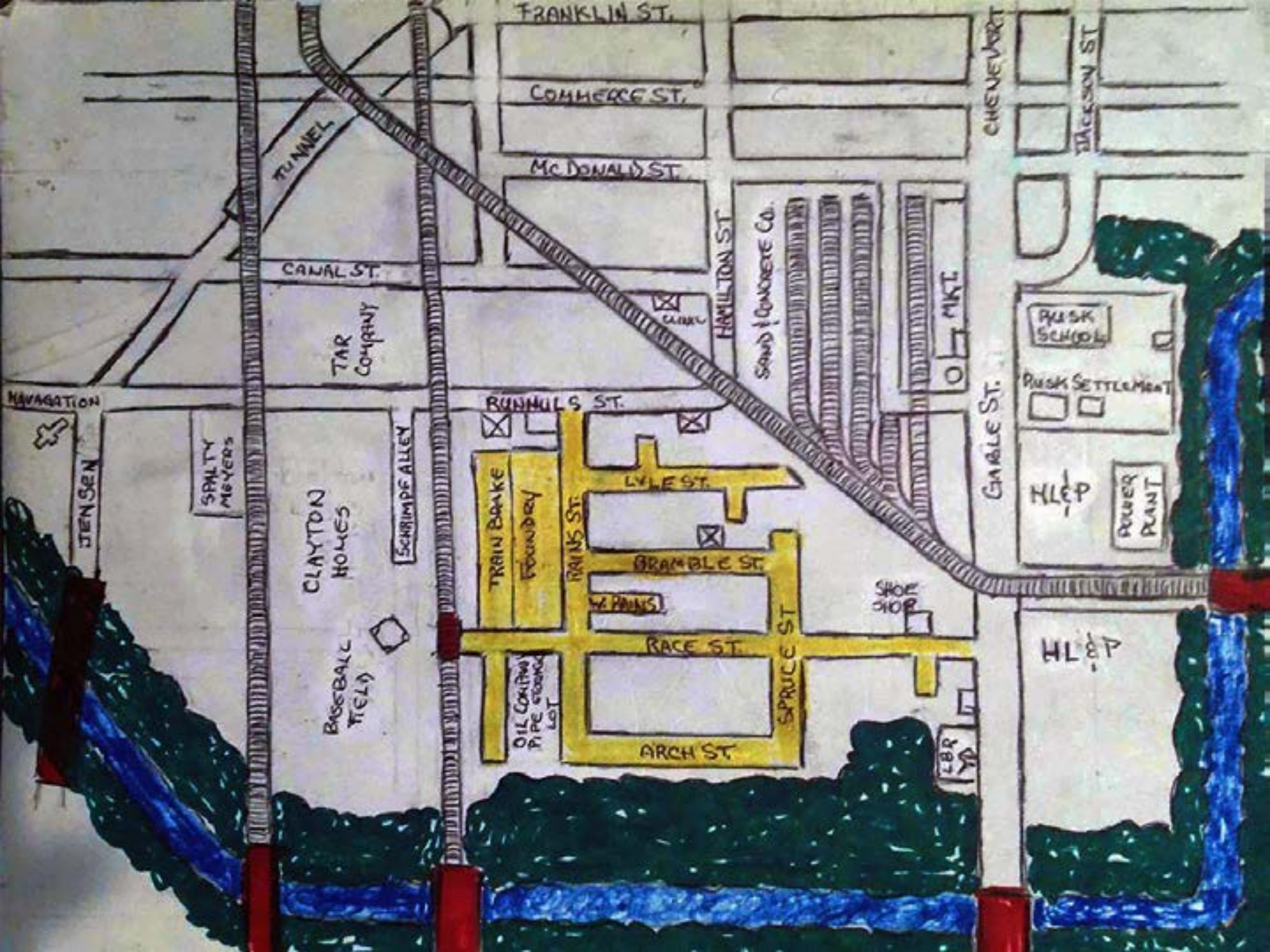
-1934-1942

HOUSTON-TEXAS-

BASE  
BALL  
PARK

RAINES



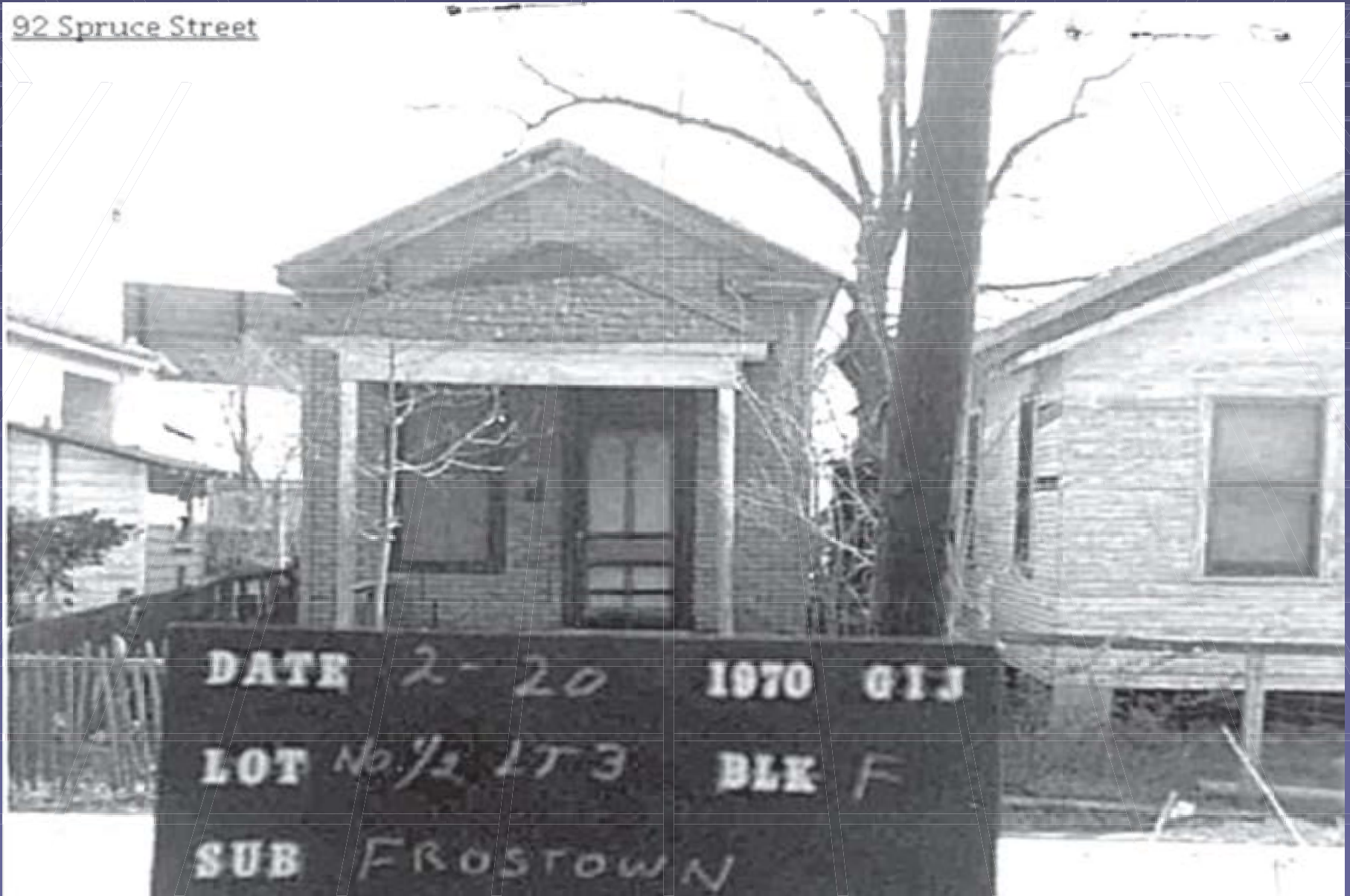




# FROST TOWN HISTORY WALK

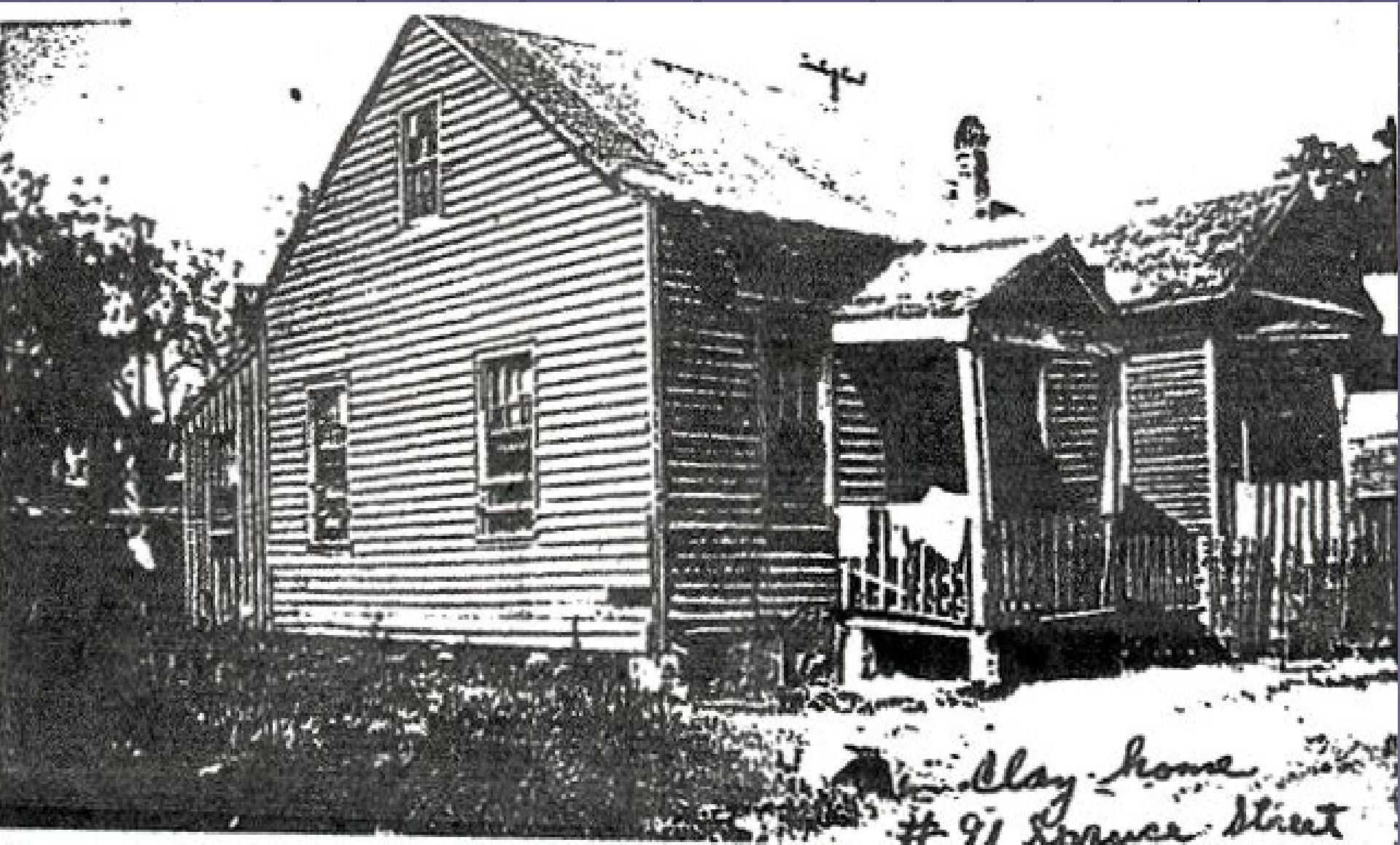
## Medina Home & Vale Home

92 Spruce Street



# FROST TOWN HISTORY WALK

## The Martinez Grocery (old Klee home)



Clay home  
# 91 Spruce Street



# FROST TOWN HISTORY WALK

## 1820 Bramble St – Last House in Frost Town



# FROST TOWN BARRIO PERIOD

## Schrimpf's Alley - 1936





# Schrimp's Alley 1940's Alacran Period



# Barrio Conditions Ca 1955



**West Raines**  
**BENEATH DIRT ARE BRICKS OF EARLY PAVING**  
**Children Romp Through Trash-Littered Lots**

—Illustration by Mary Ellen Shipes



# FROST TOWN HISTORY WALK

## Settlement House / Rusk School

*Main entrance on Maple St.*



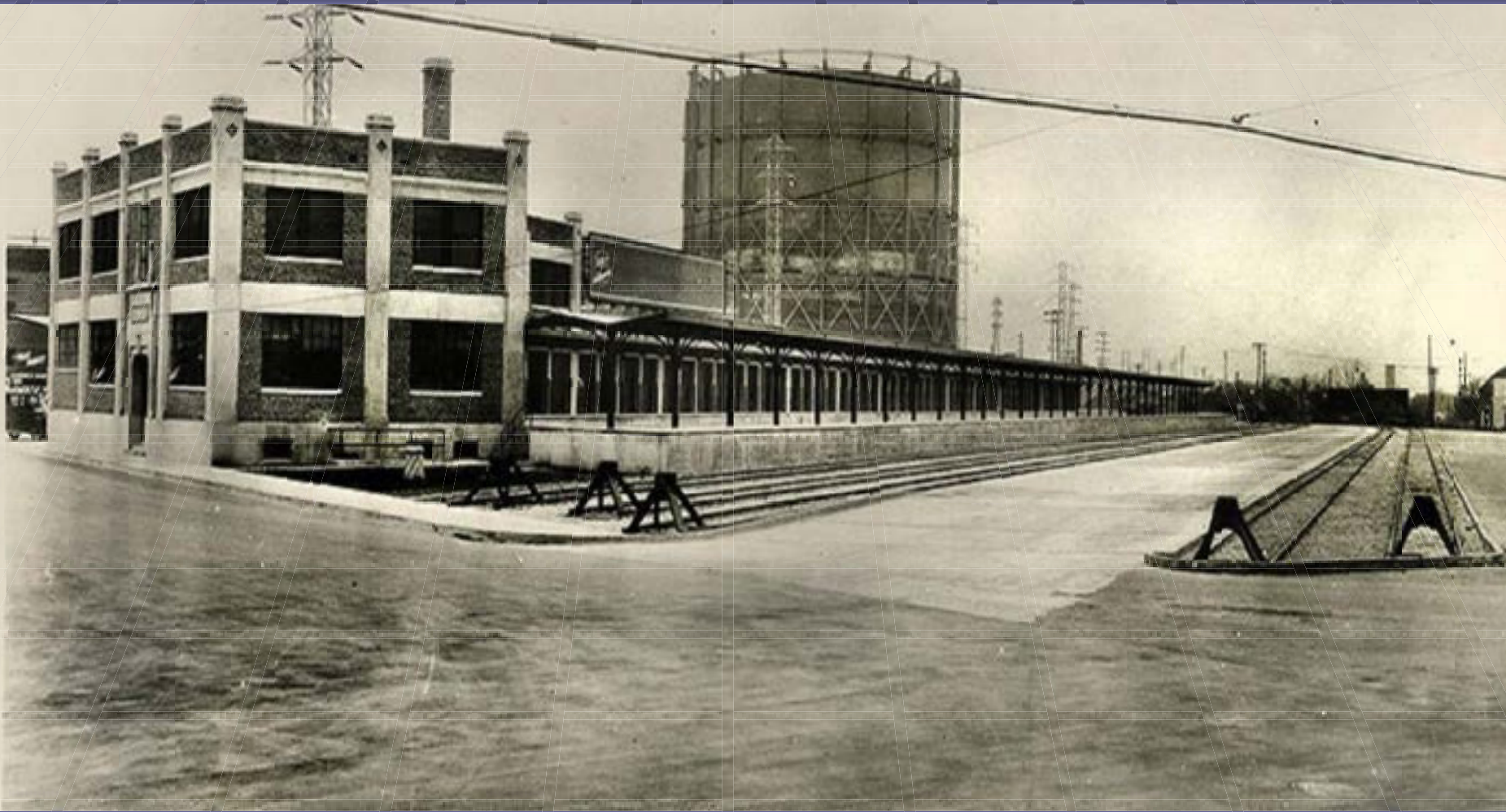
# MKT/Rusk School/McKee

*Along east side of Rusk School*





# MK&T Railroad along McKee



# Frost Town BARRIO HISTORY WALK

## Settlement House formerly Settegast Home





# FROST TOWN HISTORY WALK

## Gathering of Students at Settlement House



# FROST TOWN HISTORY WALK

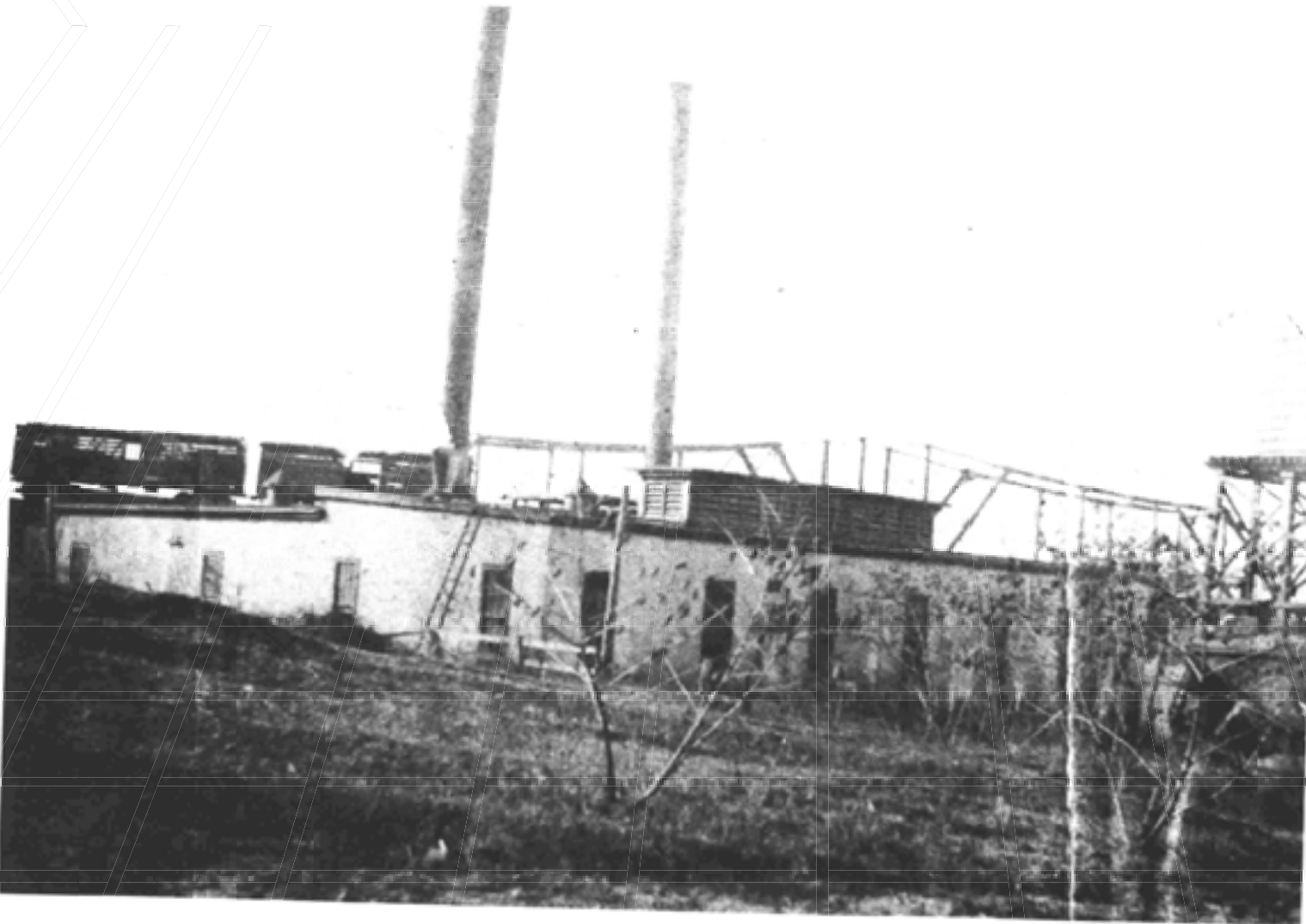
## 1920s Settlement House English Class for the *la colonia Mexicana* Women





# HOUSTON'S 2nd POWER PLANT

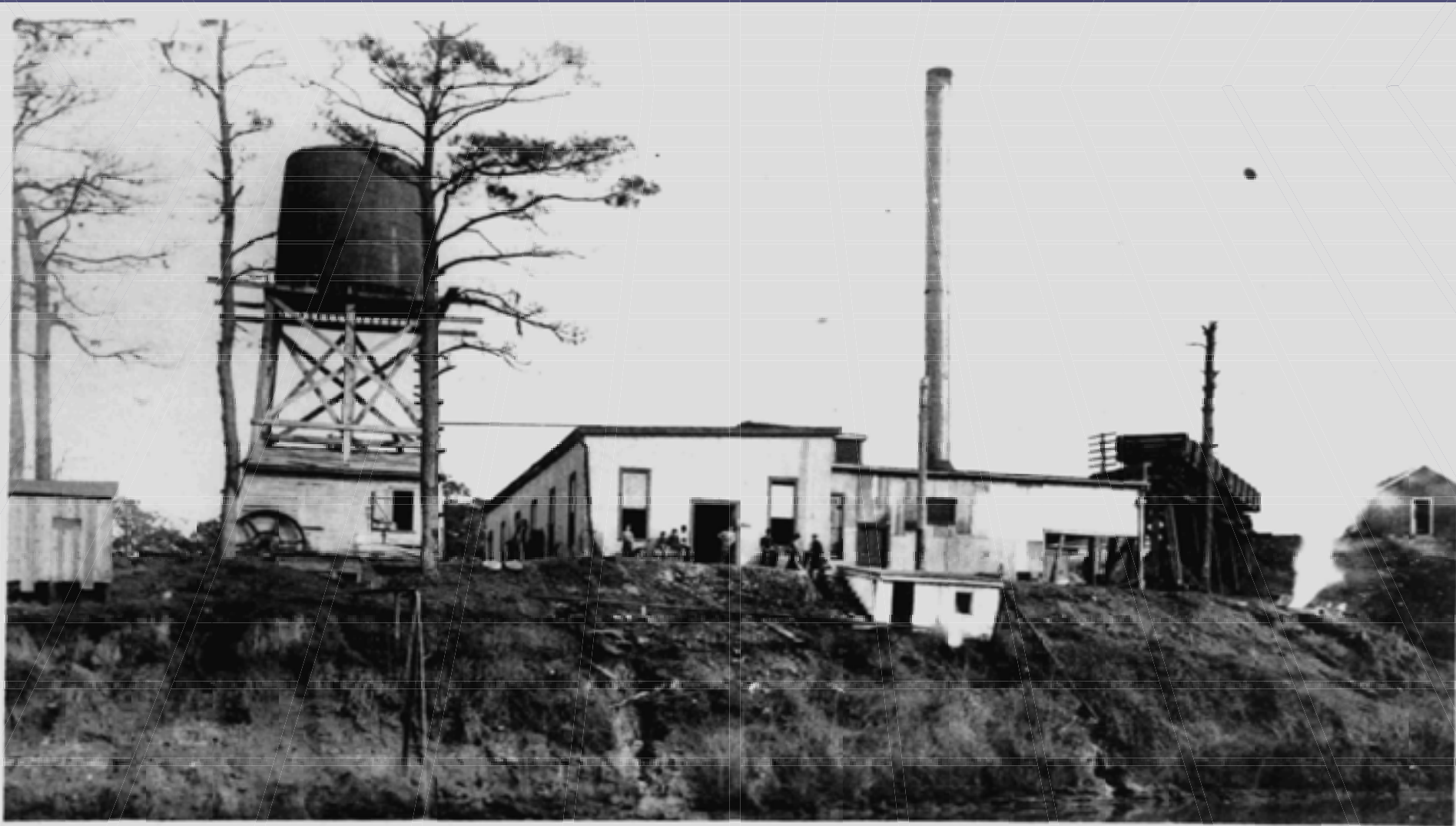
## Citizens Electric Company ca 1891



*Southeast corner of  
Citizens' Electric  
Light & Power  
Company generating  
plant.*

# CITIZEN'S ELECTRIC

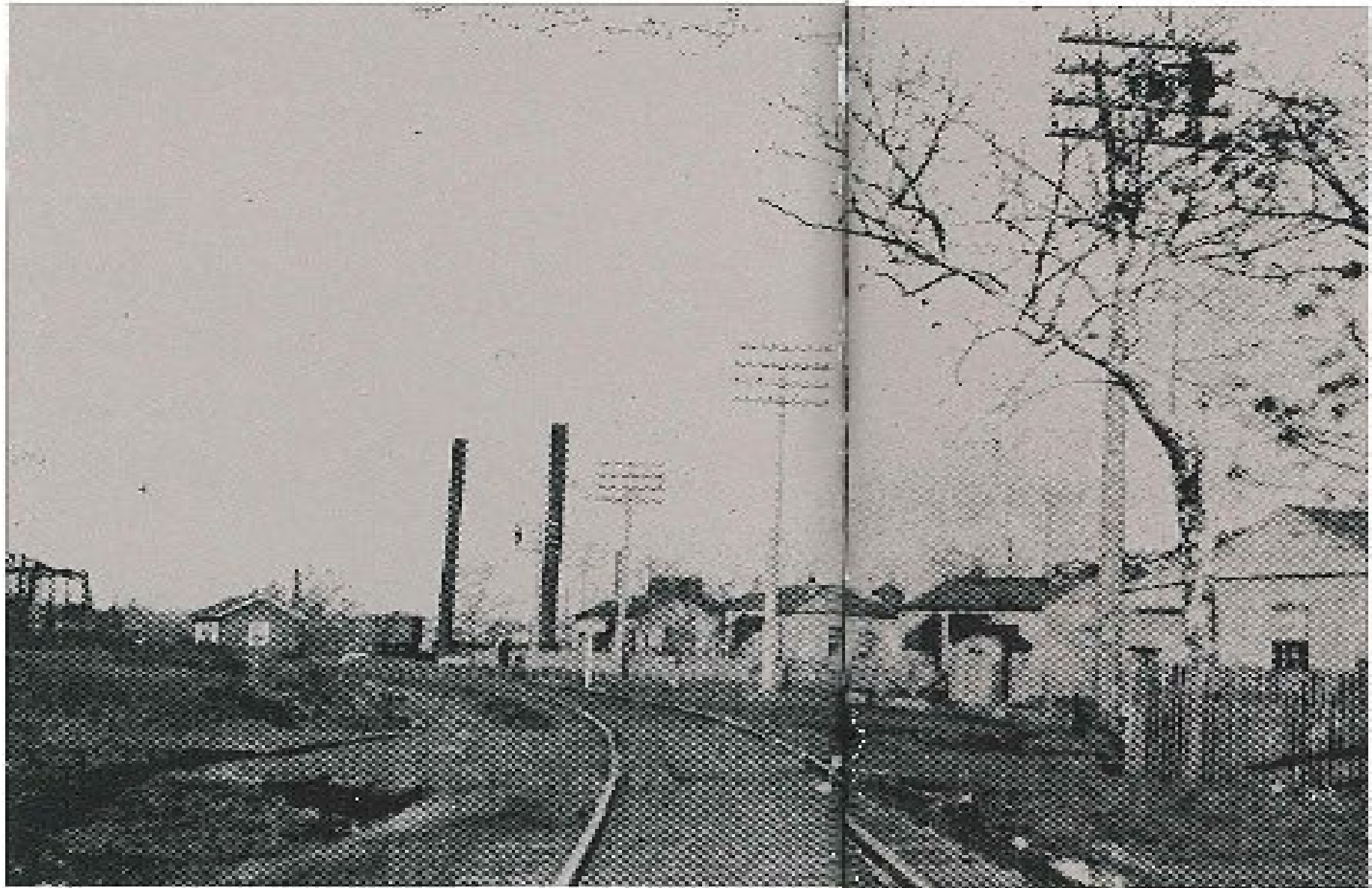
## Houston Electric Light Station



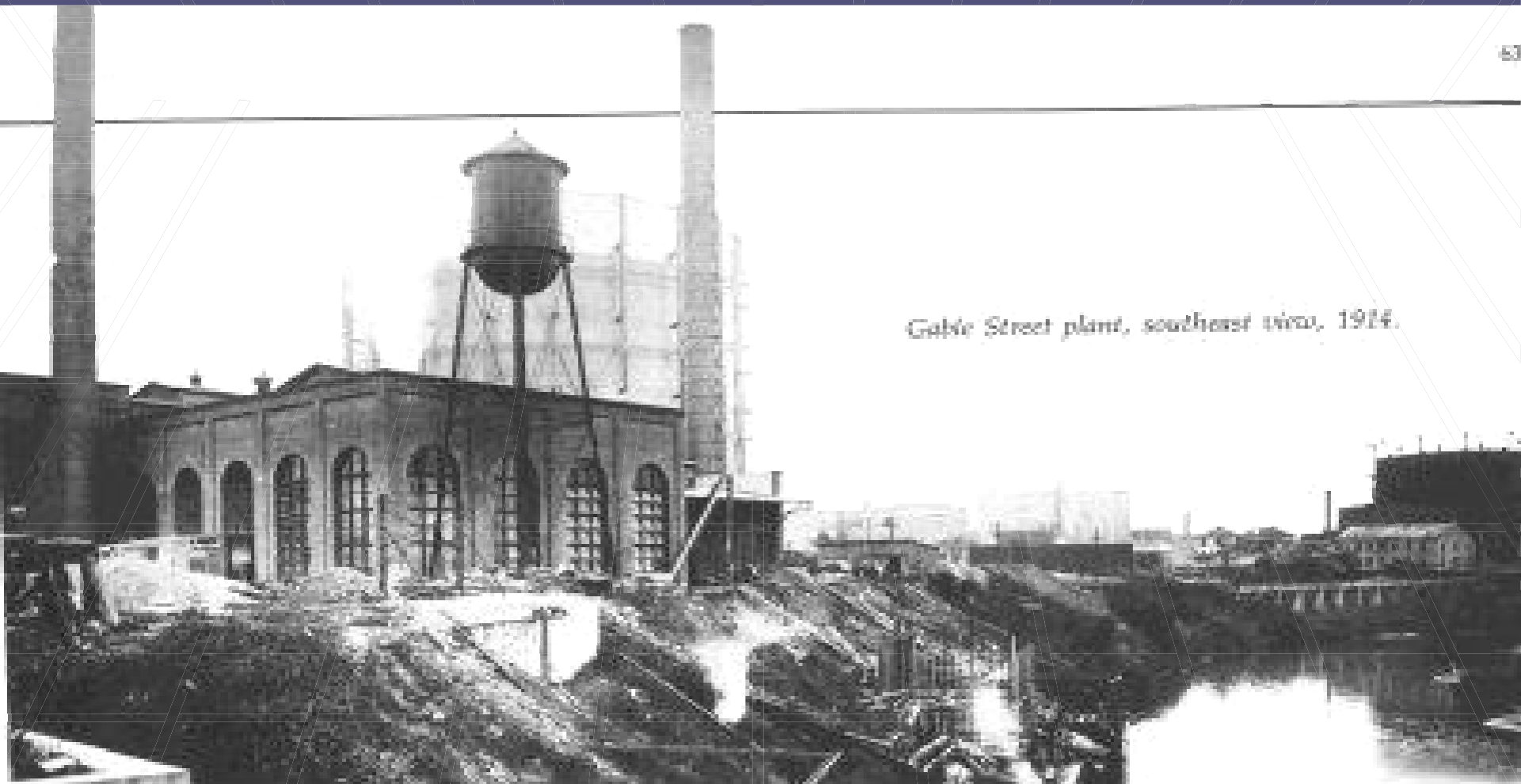
HOUSTON ELECTRIC LIGHT STATION.



## Citizen's Electric explosion 1892: Frost Town homes, power lines



# HOUSTON'S 3rd AND 4th POWER PLANTS

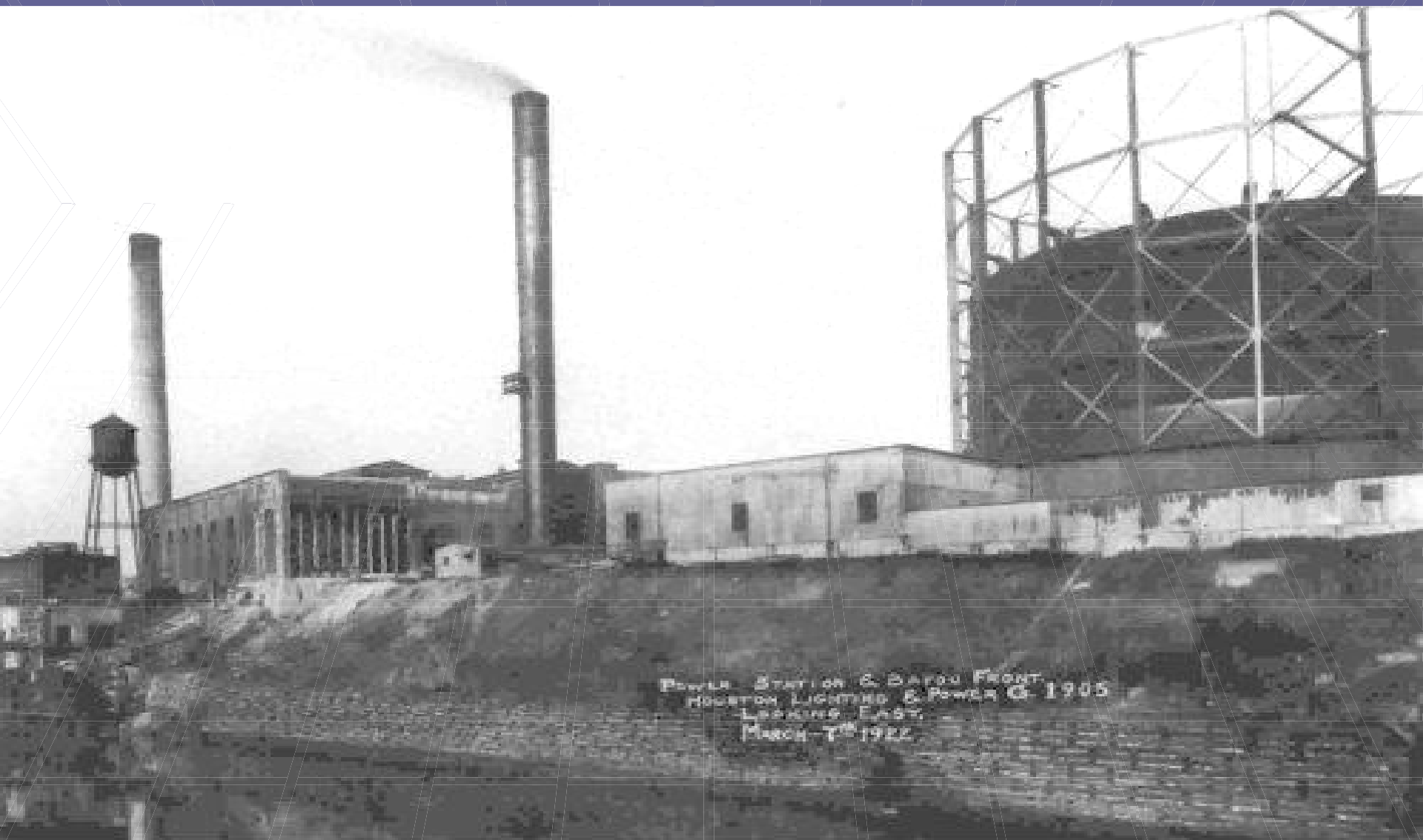


*Gable Street plant, southeast view, 1914.*

**The Gable Street plant, 1914.**

*(From: Beck, Bill. At your service: an illustrated history of Houston Lighting & Power Company. Houston: Gulf Publishing Co., 1990.)*





**The Gable Street plant, looking from the bayou, 1922.**

*(From: Beck, Bill. At your service: an illustrated history of Houston Lighting & Power Company. Houston: Gulf Publishing Co., 1990.)*

# FROST TOWN HISTORY WALK

## Gable Street Power Station



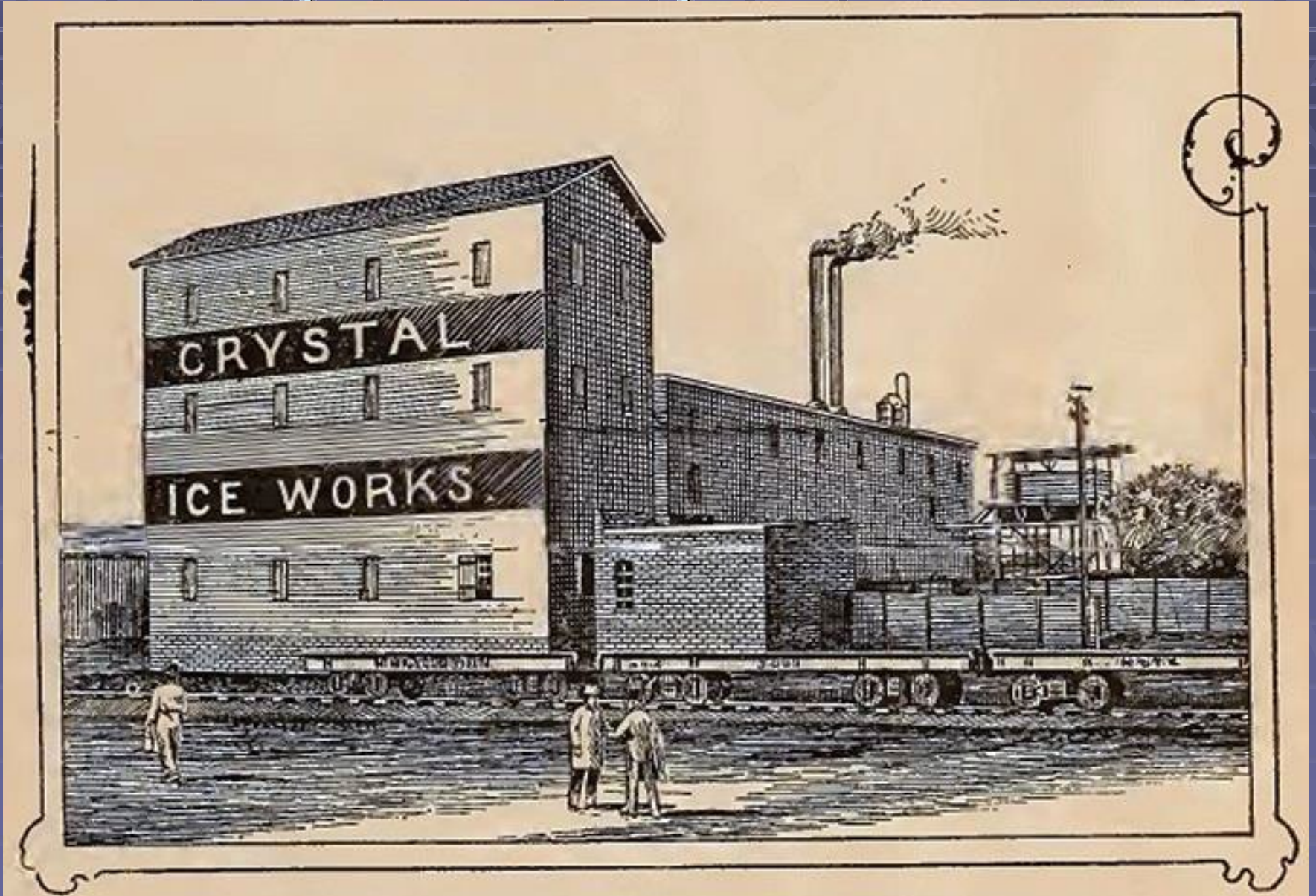


Grist Mill, became Crystal Ice & Fuel Co.  
early industrial works – Postcard 1882



# BARRIO HISTORY WALK

## Crystal Ice Factory Advertisement





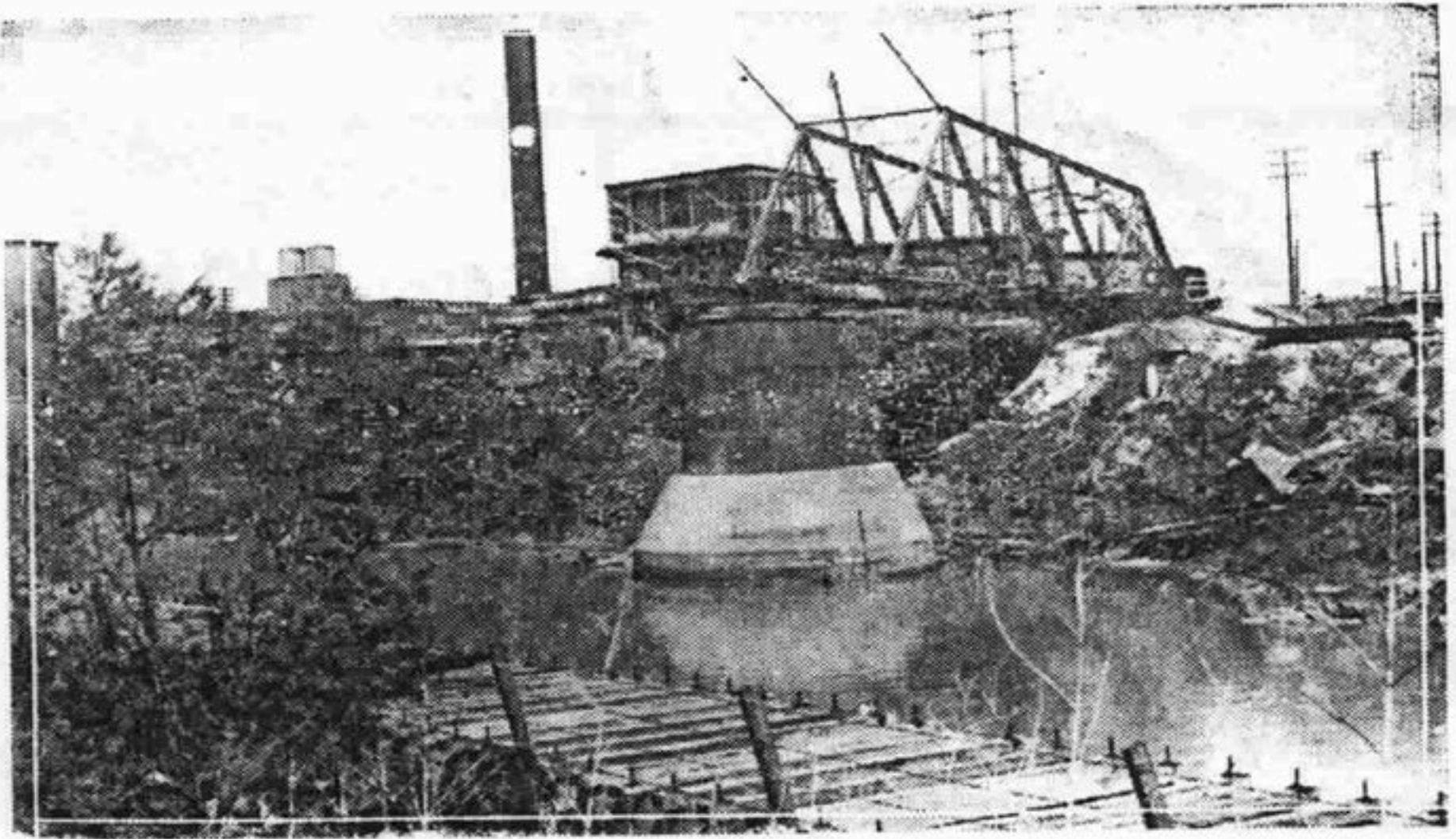
# INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION

## Gable / McKee Connection – 1904-1927



# BARRIO HISTORY WALK

## Gable Street Bridge / Crystal Ice 1931



1931—Photo by Houston Chronicle.



# Houston Chronicle

## The McKee Street Bridge By Years

1903—Bridge promised.

1904—Bridge erected.

1905 to 1925—In service.

1925—Repairs needed. New bridge asked for. Bonds voted.

1926—Repairs promised. New bridge against asked for  
and again promised.

1927—Repairs made. More pleas for new bridge, more promises.

1928—Another crop of promises.

1929—Ditto.

1930—Ditto.

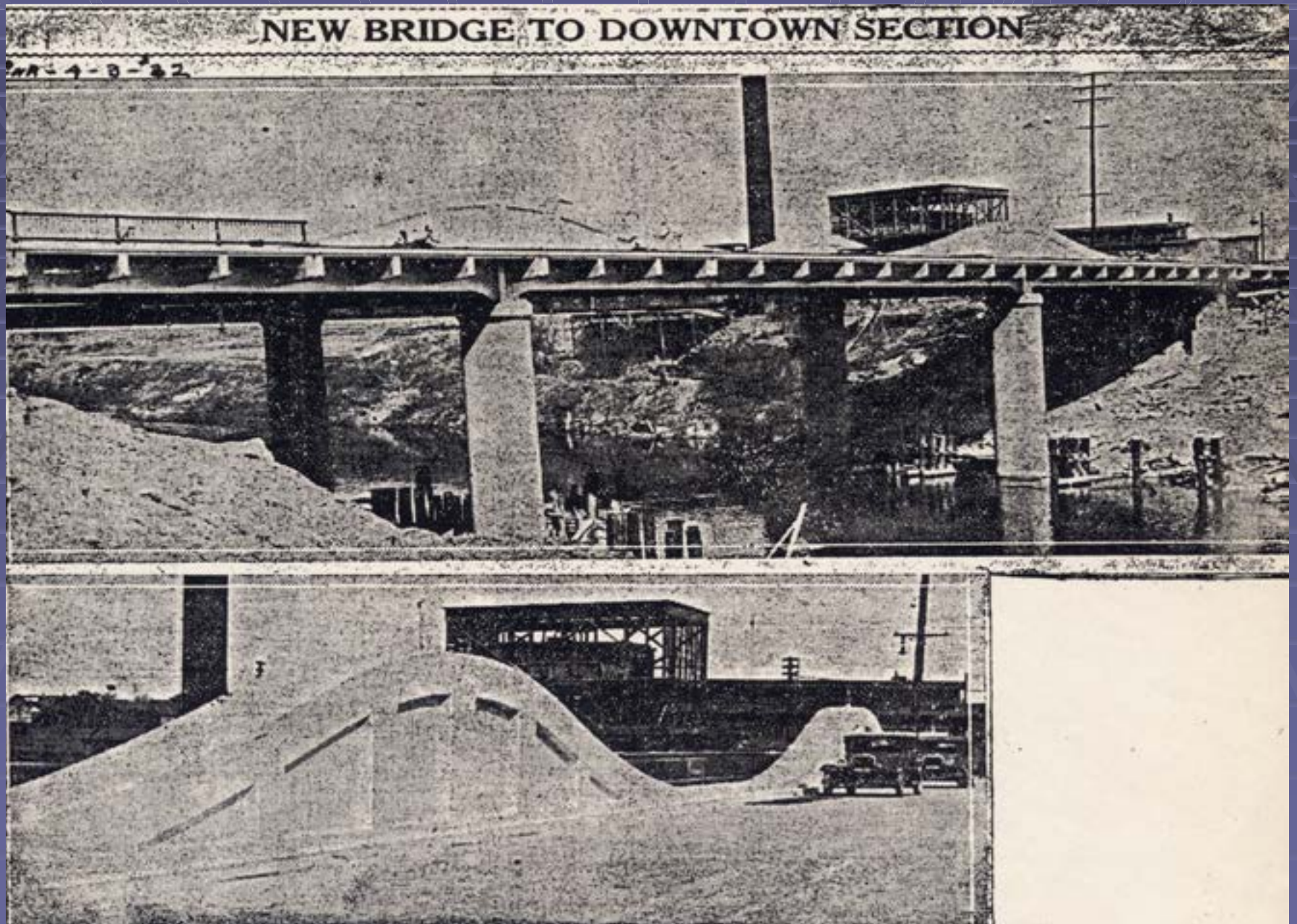


1931—Photo by Houston Chronicle.

1932—Space reserved for photo of the South's most beautiful  
concrete bridge.

*"The song is ended, but the memory lingers on."*

# Crystal Ice Factory and New Bridge - 1932





# BARRIO HISTORY WALK

## Bayou Compress - 1891



# Cotton Compress





# Bayou Cotton Compress





# BARRIO HISTORY WALK

## Bayou Compress Cotton Barges





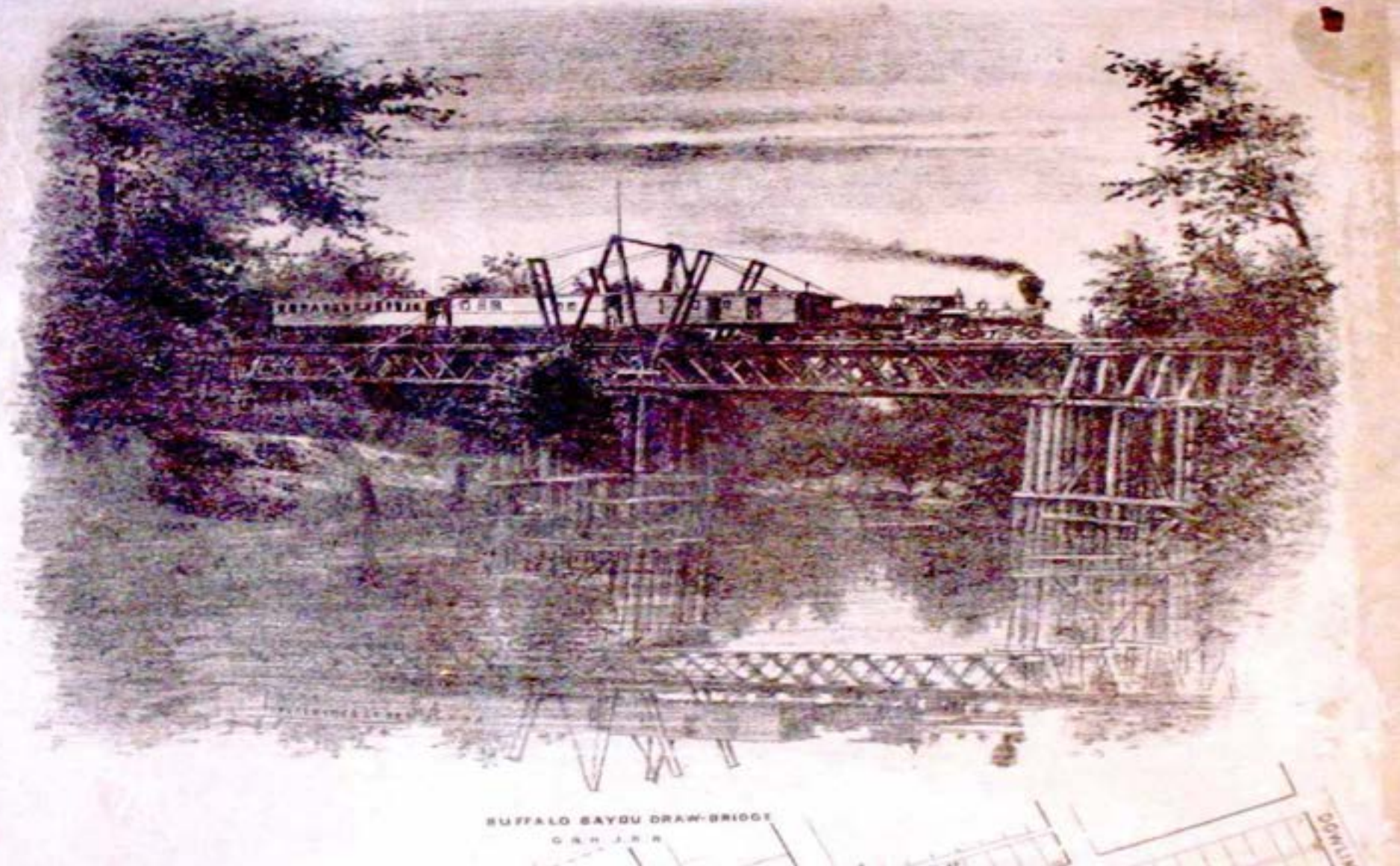
# Dickson Car Wheel





# DEFINITIVE INDUSTRIAL FORCE

## Galveston, Houston & Henderson Jct. 1869





# INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION

## GH&H Citizens Electric – 1880s



# GH&H NOW A BIKE TRAIL BRIDGE





# Commercial River Conditions up stream from Frost Town



# City Wharfs



Unloading Sand and Shell



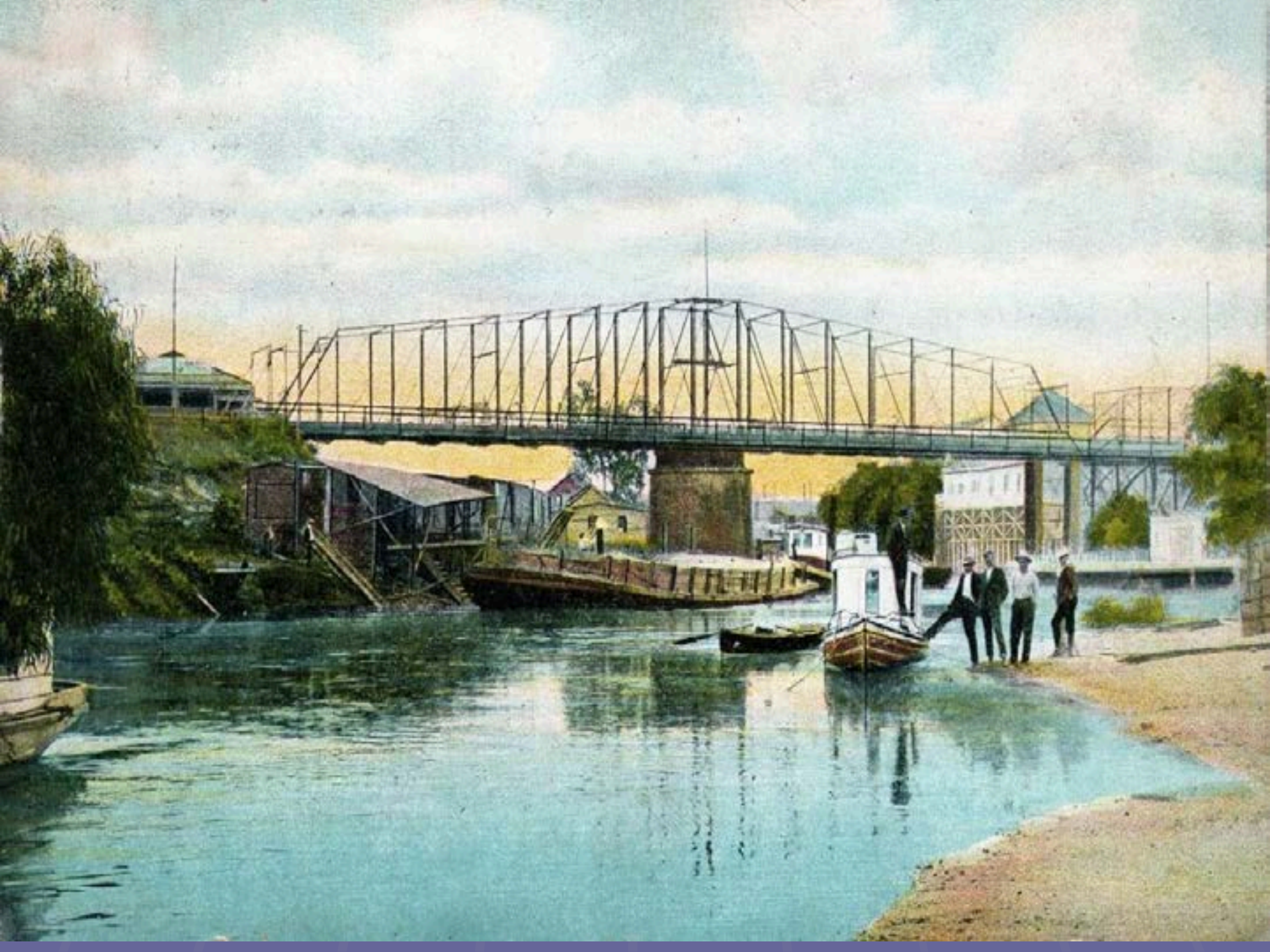
Circa 1912, fishing boats deliver fresh



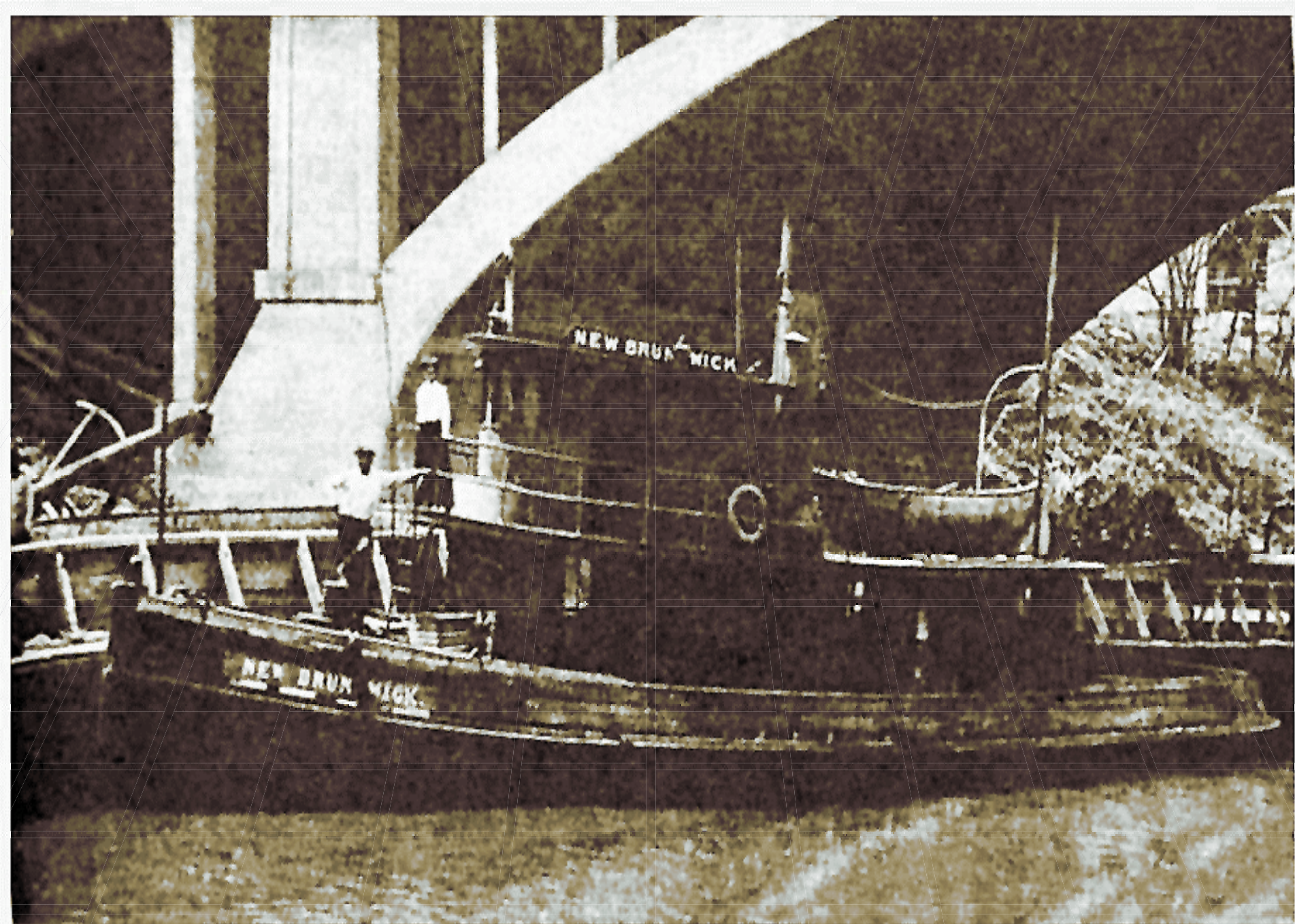
# Foot of Main before Viaduct









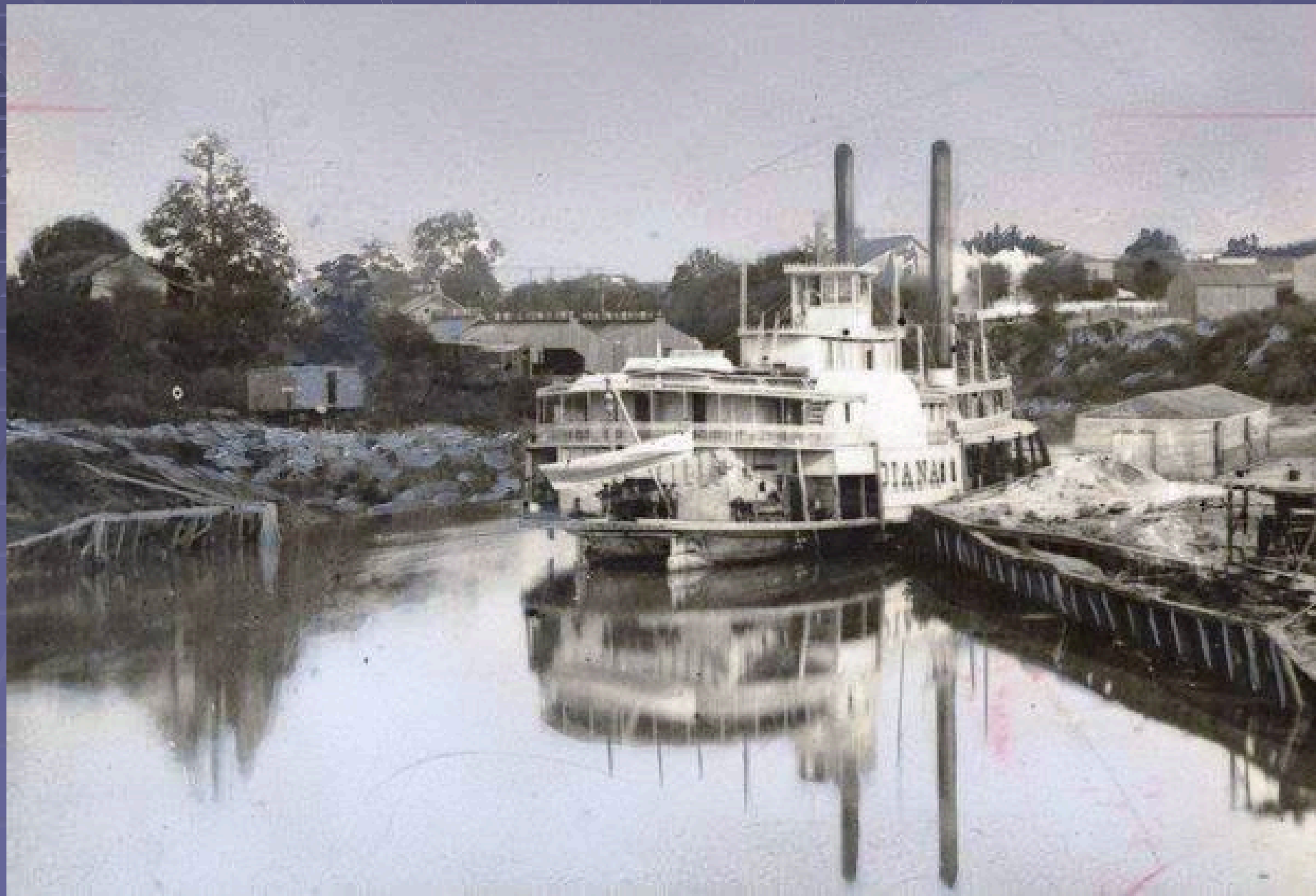


This old picture shows Skipper Griffin in her heyday, with her late husband on their tugboat, the New Brunswick.





Steam Boat Diana, foot of main street 1876







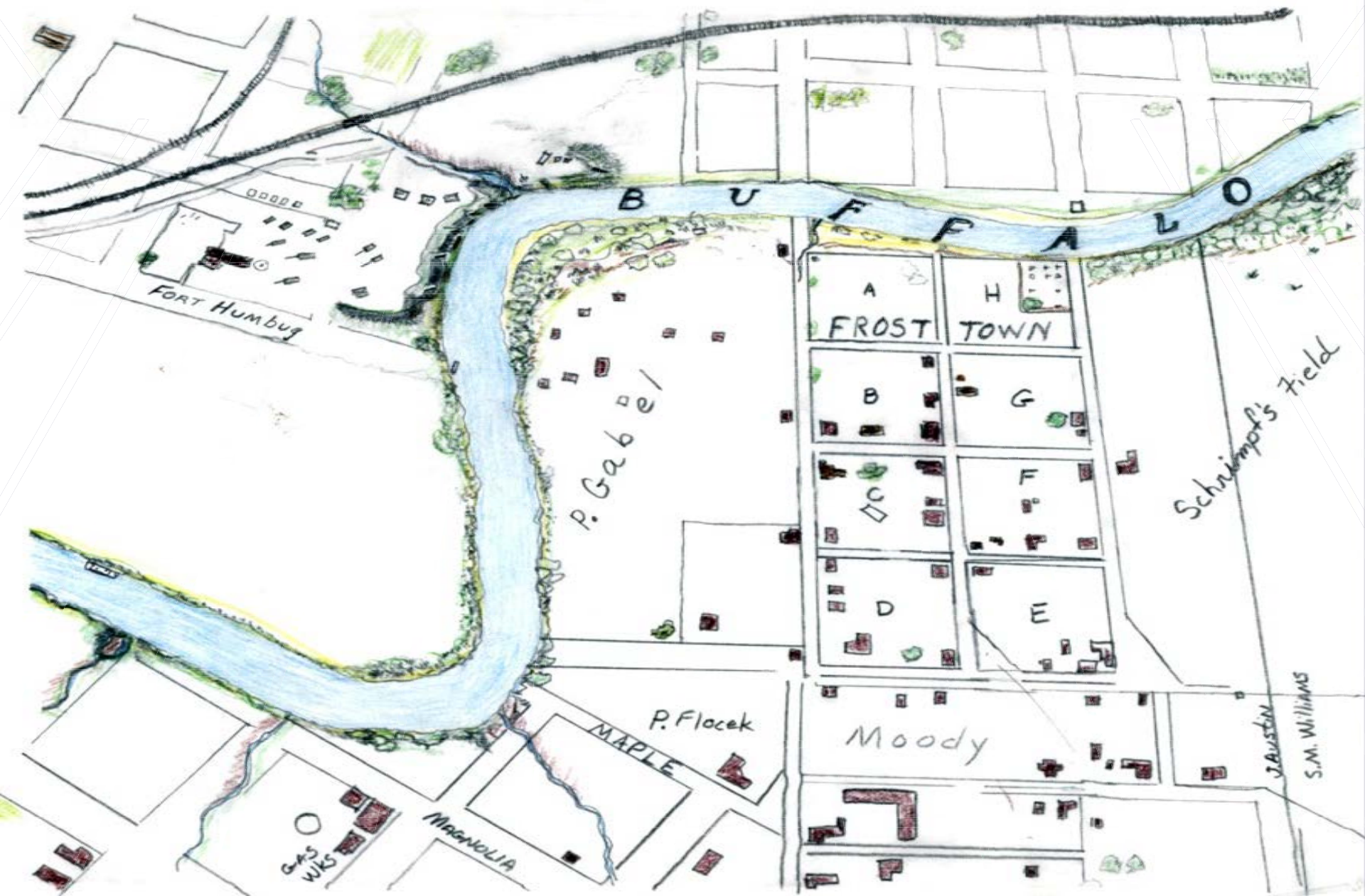
# Speculate: Frost Town on left







# CIVIL WAR /Fort Humbug





# Art & Environmental Cleanup at Ft. Humbug Site





# Art & Environmental Cleanup at Ft. Humbug Site Part of Harris County Beautification Easement





# H B & T before freeway cover Patrick Feller photo



# FROST TOWN HISTORY WALK

Houston Belt & Terminal Rail Road 1911 Wisconsin Bridge & Iron Co. Third geared bascule bridge in U.S.A., by Strauss: Engineer Joseph Strauss, became the chief Engineer for the Golden Gate Bridge







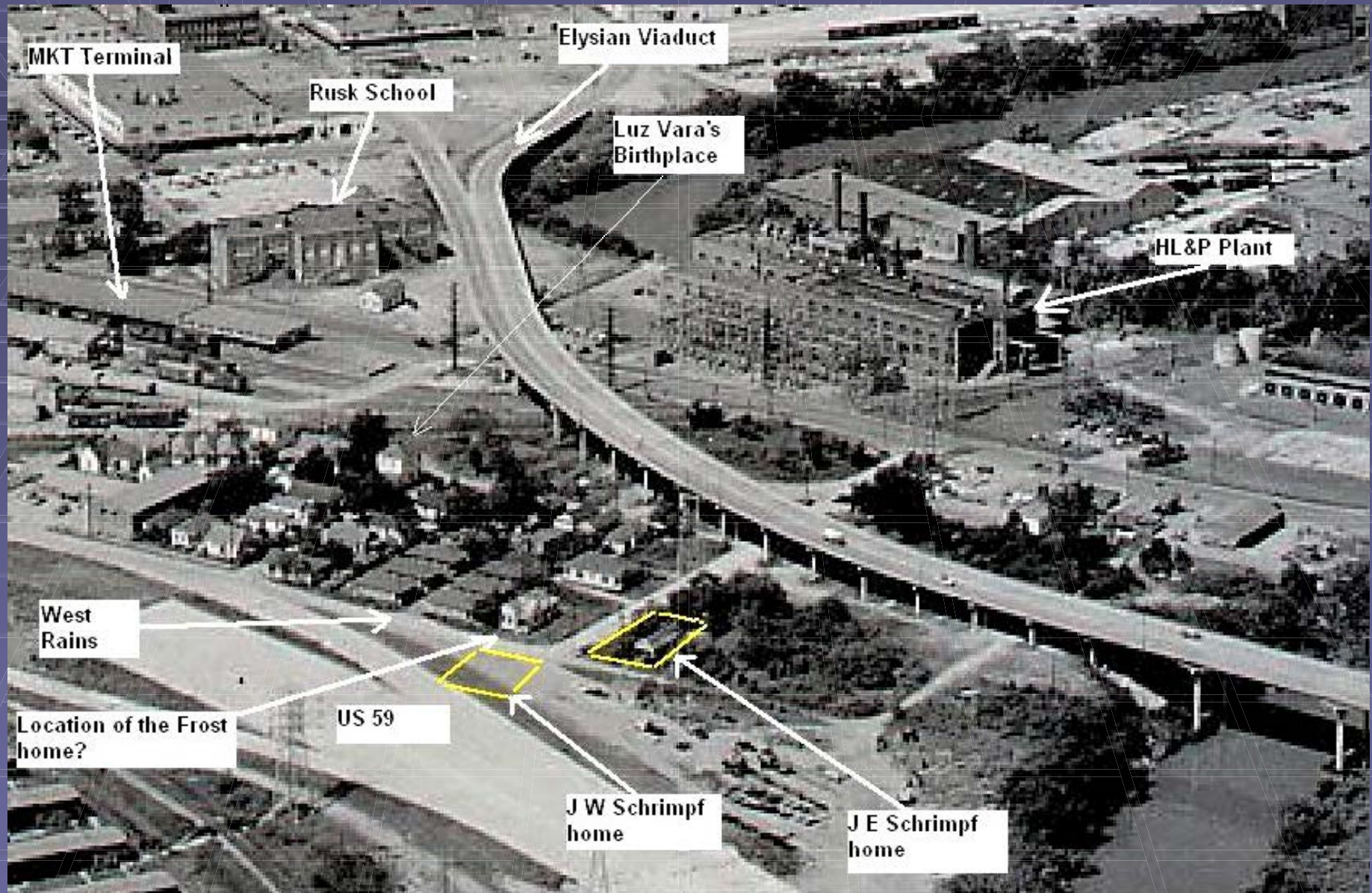
# FROST TOWN HISTORY WALK

1959 TxDOT Construction Highway 59 & Remnants of  
Frost Town Still Visible





# Mid-Century – Final Phase of the Neighborhood



The Frost Town Subdivision, circa 1955.



# Aerial view 1992





# FROST TOWN HISTORY WALK

## Precinct 2 James Bute Park (Leased Properties)





# FROST TOWN HISTORY WALK

## Precinct Two James Bute Park





# FROST TOWN HISTORY WALK

## Precinct Two James Bute Park



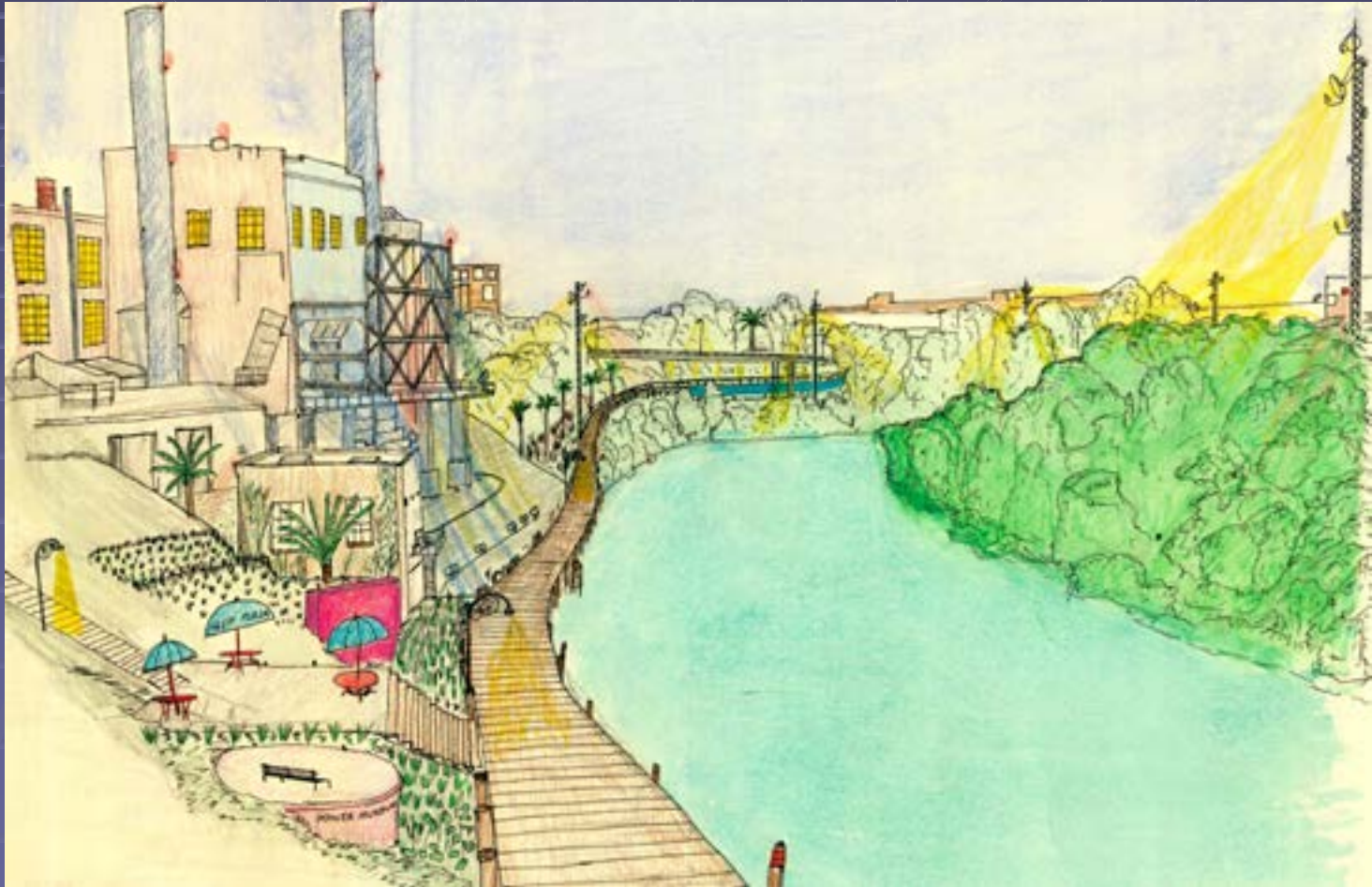


# Project drawing

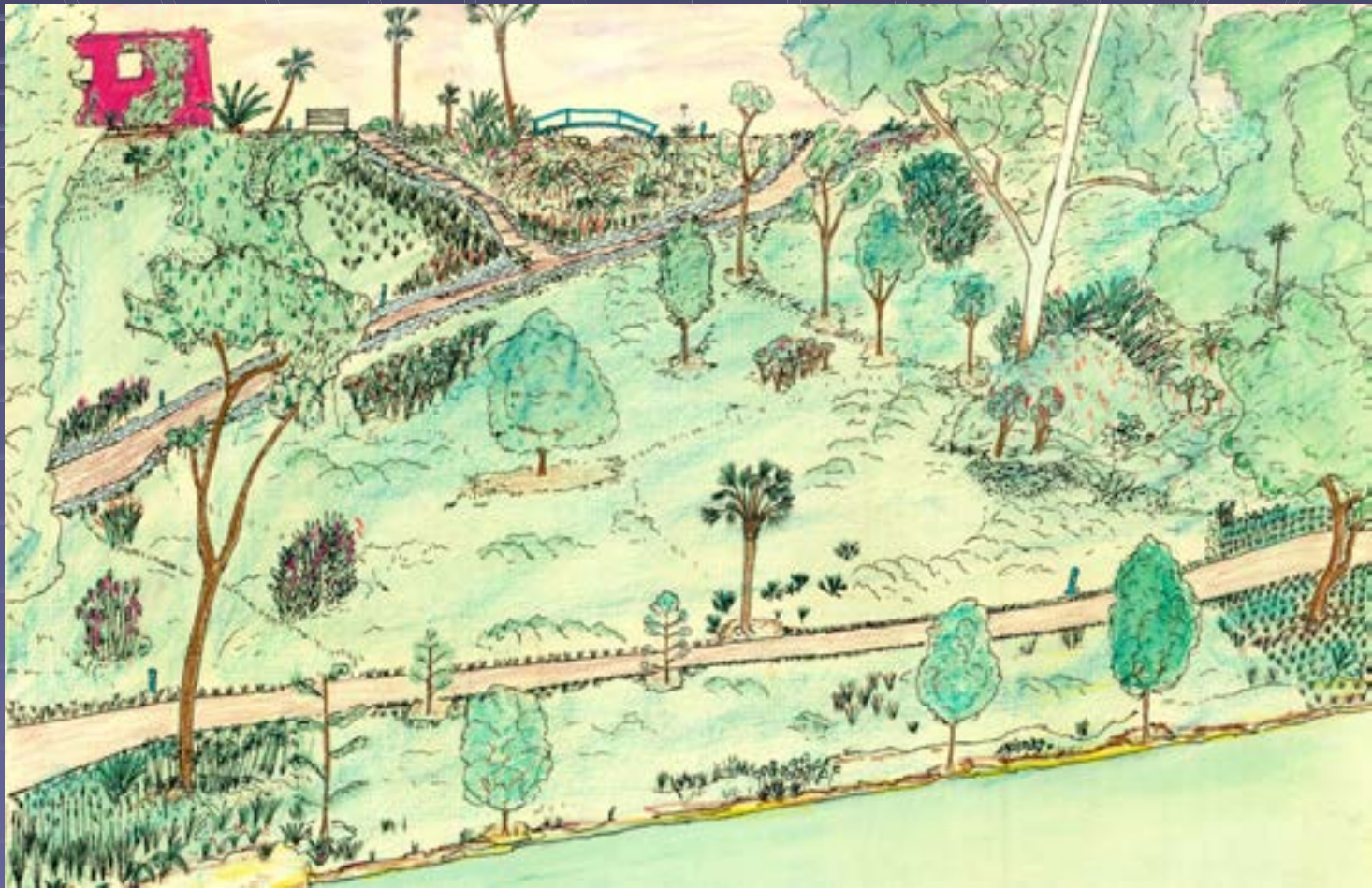




# Gable St connection



# Park plan CenterPoint Site





# Street Marker Program





# Spruce and Arch Street





# Corner marker Gable @ Arch





# Aulbach & Farris @ new marker







# Sue Lovell, Minnette Boesel & Kirk Farris





## Frost Town Marker event



## Marker event







# Robert Frost and grandson





*FROST TOWN*

NO  
PARKING  
IN  
THIS  
ZONE  
EXCEPT  
FOR  
EMERGENCY  
VEHICLES  
OR  
VEHICLES  
WITH  
A  
PERMIT





**JAMES BUTE PARK**

Adrian Garcia, Commissioner



# Frank and Carmen Banda, Jimmy 3 and Frank 10 First Family Moved Out of Barrio



# Houston Chronicle - August 7, 1951

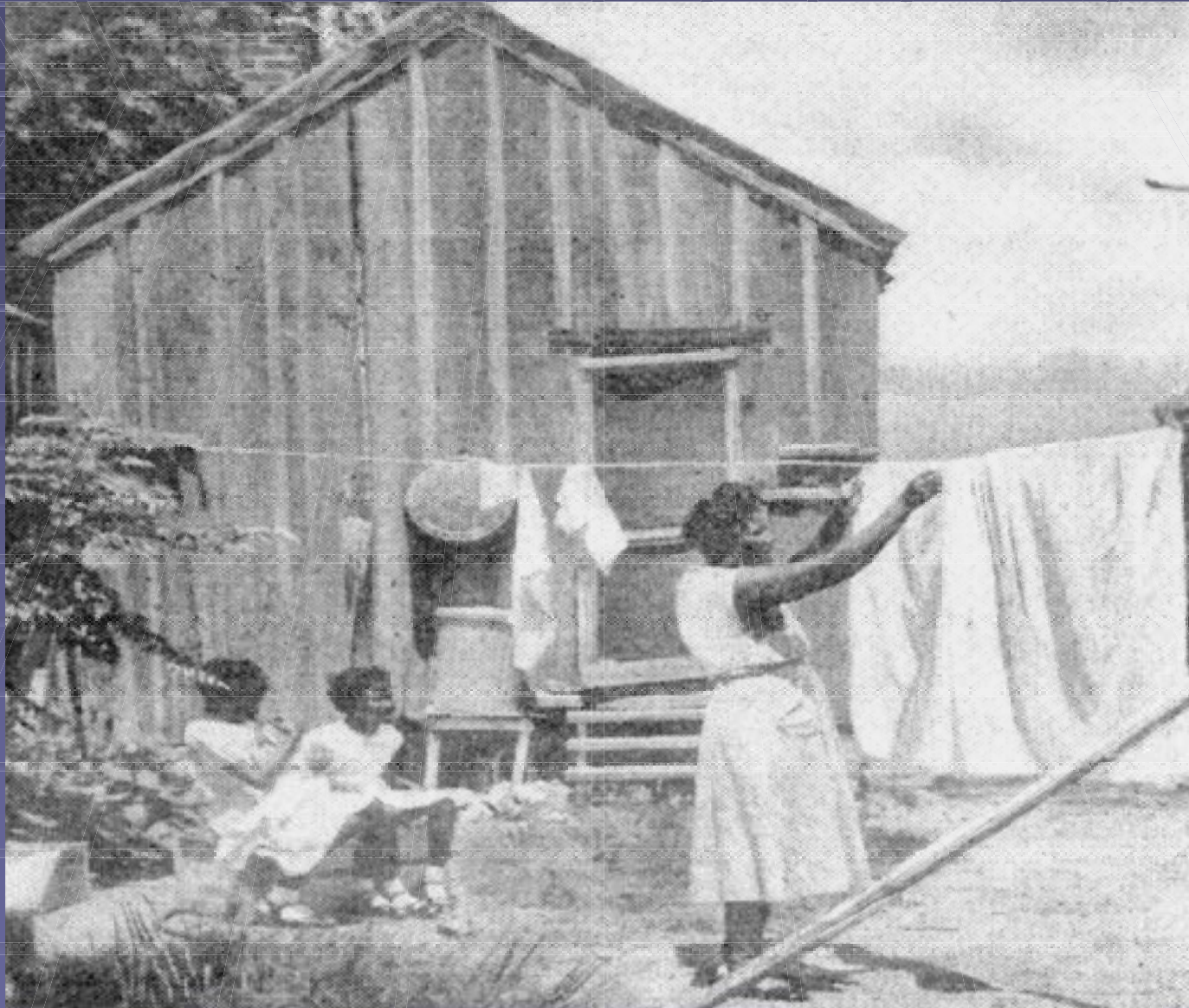
## Schrimpf's Alley Housing





# Houston Chronicle - August 7, 1951

## Schrimpf's Alley Family Scene



# Houston Chronicle - Schrimpf's Field Housing Before Clayton Homes













This is a detailed plat map of an industrial area in Houston, Texas. The map shows a grid of lots, many of which are numbered (e.g., 40-1, 44-46, 108, 107, 106, 105, 104, 103, 102, 101, 100, 99, 98, 97, 96, 95, 94, 93, 92, 91, 90, 89, 88, 87, 86, 85, 84, 83, 82, 81, 80, 79, 78, 77, 76, 75, 74, 73, 72, 71, 70, 69, 68, 67, 66, 65, 64, 63, 62, 61, 60, 59, 58, 57, 56, 55, 54, 53, 52, 51, 50, 49, 48, 47, 46, 45, 44, 43, 42, 41, 40, 39, 38, 37, 36, 35, 34, 33, 32, 31, 30, 29, 28, 27, 26, 25, 24, 23, 22, 21, 20, 19, 18, 17, 16, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1). The map also shows various streets, including 'EAST EX Fwy', 'U.S. HWY. 59', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 10', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 11', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 12', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 13', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 14', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 15', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 16', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 17', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 18', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 19', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 20', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 21', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 22', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 23', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 24', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 25', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 26', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 27', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 28', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 29', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 30', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 31', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 32', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 33', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 34', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 35', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 36', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 37', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 38', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 39', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 40'. Other labels include 'T. & N.O.R.R.', 'BUFFALO BAYOU', 'MOODY', 'SHRIMP FIELD', 'CITY & HOUSING AUTHORITIES', 'F. H. MALONEY CO.', 'PINE', 'N. BAKER', 'T. & N.O.R.R.', 'TEXAS CONSOLIDATED STEEL CO.', 'JIM C. TAYLOR INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES', 'PURSE B. CO.', 'COMMERCE', 'FRANKLIN', 'CONGRESS', 'JACKSON', 'CHEMERT', 'GASKET & PACKING CO.', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 21', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 22', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 23', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 24', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 25', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 26', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 27', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 28', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 29', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 30', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 31', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 32', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 33', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 34', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 35', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 36', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 37', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 38', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 39', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 40'. The map also shows various landmarks, including 'STEAM MILL', 'GULF COAST WHISES', 'CITY PUBLIC WORKS', 'JIM C. TAYLOR INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES', 'PURSE B. CO.', 'COMMERCE', 'FRANKLIN', 'CONGRESS', 'JACKSON', 'CHEMERT', 'GASKET & PACKING CO.', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 21', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 22', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 23', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 24', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 25', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 26', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 27', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 28', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 29', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 30', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 31', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 32', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 33', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 34', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 35', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 36', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 37', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 38', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 39', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 40'. 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AB. 22', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 23', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 24', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 25', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 26', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 27', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 28', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 29', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 30', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 31', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 32', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 33', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 34', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 35', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 36', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 37', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 38', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 39', 'J. AUSTIN SURV. AB. 40'. The map also shows various landmarks, including 'STEAM MILL', 'GULF COAST WHISES', 'CITY PUBLIC WORKS', 'JIM C. TAYLOR INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES', 'PURSE B. CO.', 'COMMERCE', 'FRANKLIN', 'CONGRESS', 'JACKSON', 'CHEMERT', 'GASKET & PACKING CO.', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 21', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 22', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 23', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 24', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 25', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 26', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 27', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 28', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 29', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 30', 'HARRIS CO. ANNEX 31', 'HARRIS CO. 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## EL BARRIO DEL ALACRÁN

BETWEEN 1910 AND 1920, HOUSTON ATTRACTED A LARGE NUMBER OF MEXICAN IMMIGRANTS AND MEXICAN AMERICANS TO THE SECOND WARD WHERE THE OLD FROST TOWN AND SCHRIMPF'S FIELD NEIGHBORHOODS OFFERED INEXPENSIVE HOUSING FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS. IN THE 1930s, THE SPANISH-SPEAKING RESIDENTS GAVE THE AREA A NEW NAME – *EL ALACRÁN*, THE SCORPION. CHURCHES, THE RUSK SETTLEMENT HOUSE, RUSK SCHOOL AND SPORTS LEAGUES PROVIDED SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY. URBAN RENEWAL AND HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION IN THE 1950s DEMOLISHED *EL ALACRÁN*. ONCE A NOTORIOUSLY IMPOVERISHED NEIGHBORHOOD, *EL ALACRÁN* GAVE MANY RESIDENTS A WORKING START TOWARD FULL INTEGRATION INTO AMERICAN SOCIETY.

(2013)

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS









  
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MARKED BY HISTORY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS 2017C





■ Mary Ross, Kelly Gale Amen and friends at the Alacran Marker Event 1800 Runnels Street, Houston Texas

A photograph of a historic site. In the foreground, there is a concrete sidewalk and a patch of dry, yellowish grass. Behind this is a black plastic barrier. A white sign with black text is mounted on two yellow posts. The sign reads "FROST TOWN HISTORIC SITE". Behind the sign is a green lawn, a chain-link fence, and a grassy hill. In the background, there are large green trees and a multi-story concrete building with a flat roof and several windows. The sky is clear and blue.

**FROST TOWN HISTORIC SITE**





STATE ARCHEOLOGICAL  
TEXAS HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION LANDMARK



# Louis Aulbach, with Houston Archeological Society





# Ginger beer bottles Block F







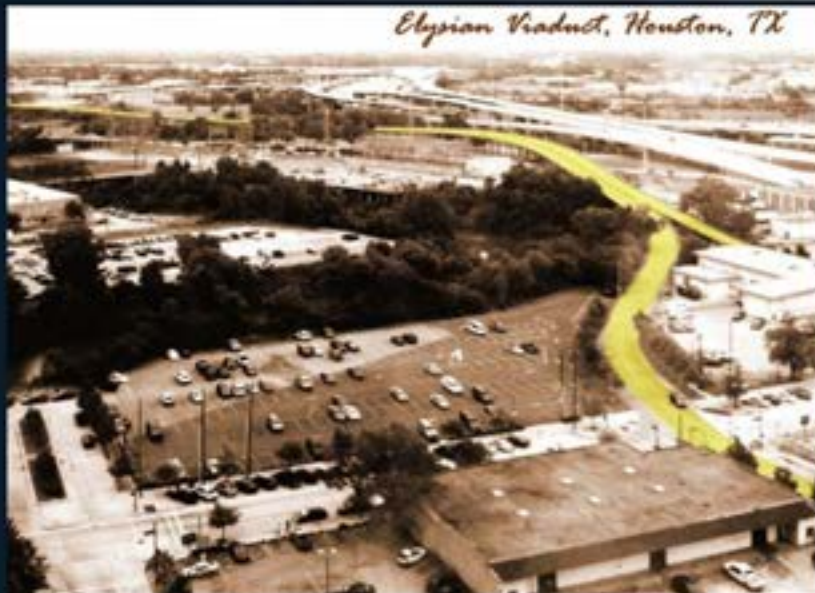






# Frost Town: Houston's First Neighborhood

*Elysian Viaduct, Houston, TX*



## FROST TOWN

THE FROST TOWN COMMUNITY DEVELOPED ON THE PROPERTY OF JONATHAN BENSON FROST, A VETERAN OF THE TEXAS WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE. AFTER THE BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO IN 1836, FROST RETURNED TO HIS TENNESSEE HOME AND BROUGHT HIS FAMILY TO TEXAS, ESTABLISHING A BLACKSMITH SHOP AND HOMESTEAD ABOUT 1/2 MILE EAST OF THE NEW CITY OF HOUSTON. HE DIED FROM FEVER IN 1837, AND IN 1838, HIS BROTHERS, SAMUEL AND JAMES COLEMAN FROST, SUBDIVIDED HIS PROPERTY INTO EARLY ADDITIONS, WHICH WERE DEVELOPED IN THE EARLY 1990s.



Girard 1839



Wood 1869

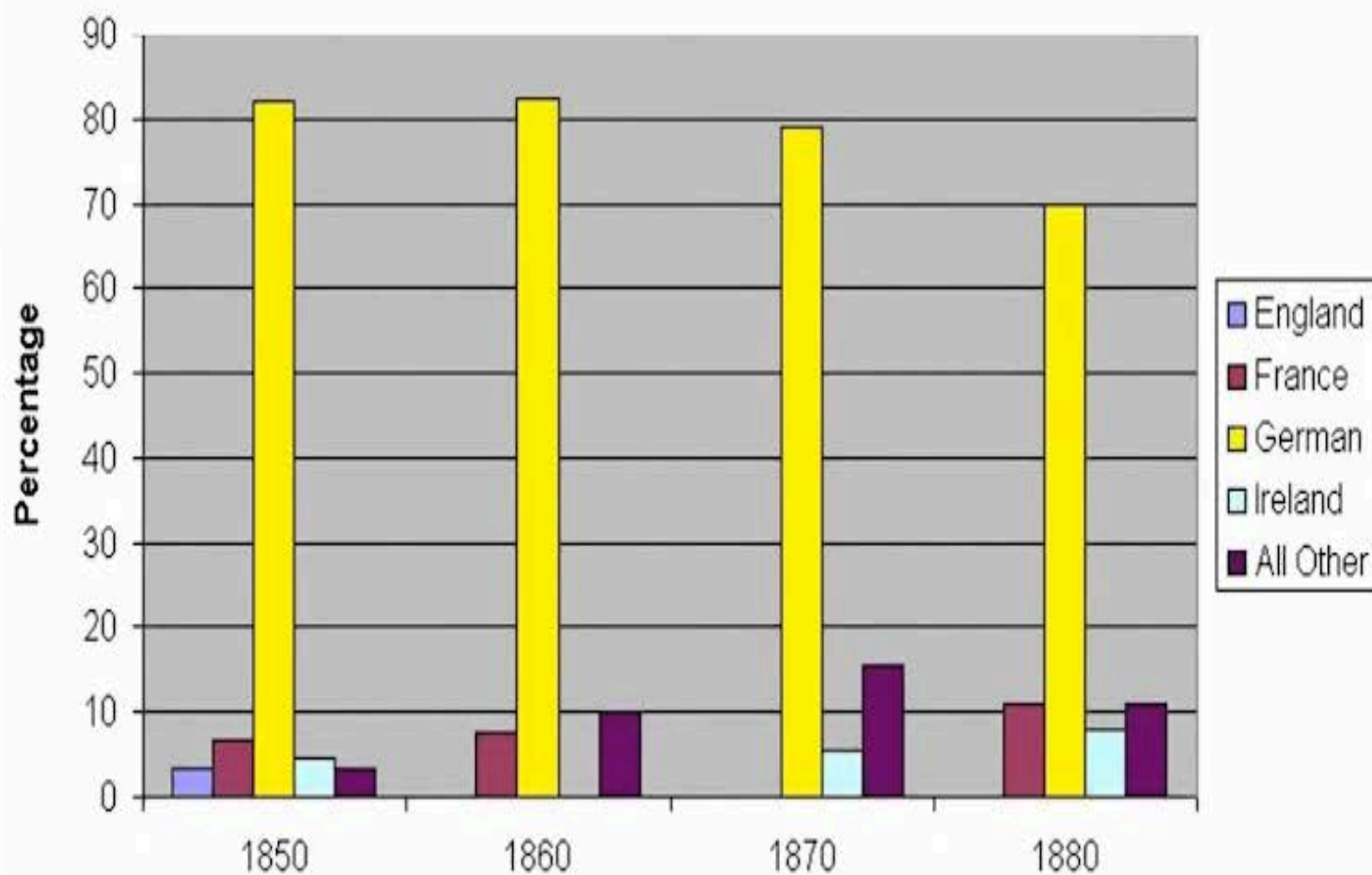


Koch 1873

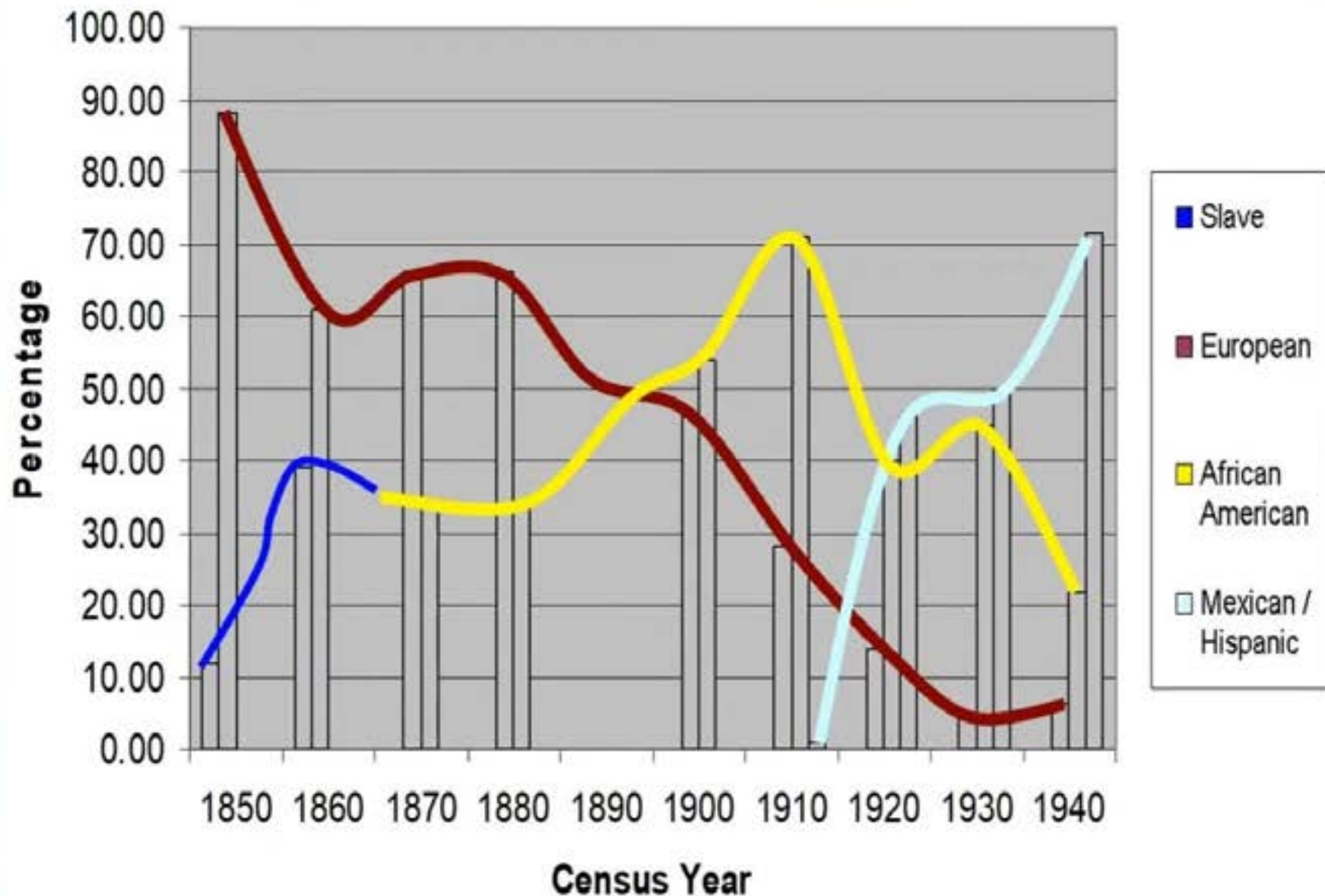




# Foreign Born in Frost Town (percentage) 1850 to 1880



# Ethnicity Trend Lines for Frost Town (percentage) from 1850 - 1940







## PERIODS IN FROST TOWN

- German Period 1830s to 1880s
- African American Period 1880s to 1920s
- Mexican / Hispanic Period 1920s to 1970s

## Community Name Changes

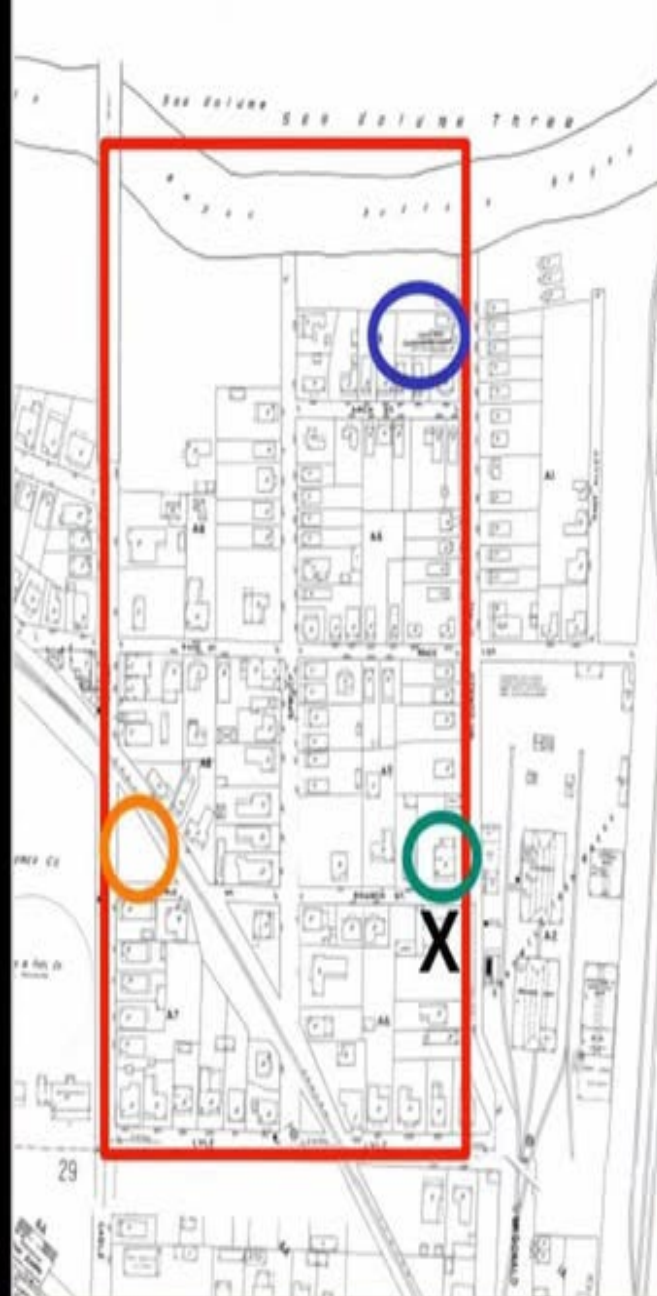
**Frost  
Town**



**Blackbridge**



***Barrio del Alacran***



PROFESSIONAL  
GENEALOGIST:



Debra  
Blacklock-Sloan

-  "Lively Hope Colored Baptist Church"
-  "Gabriel's Chapel"
-  "Albini's Tavern"
-  KKK House



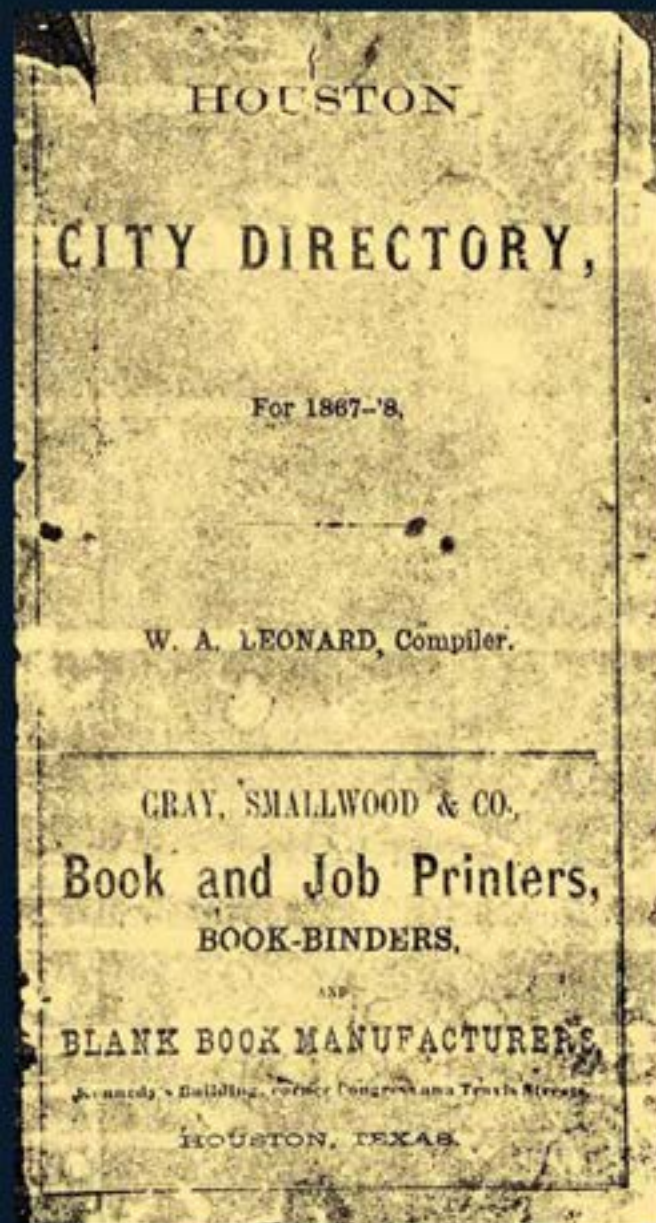


# Frost Town, Houston





# Some of Frost Town's Occupants in 1867-68



- Arbro, C., **teamster**, Frost Town.
- Arto, John, **restaurateur**, Congress betw Main and Travis sts; res near Frost Town
- Cook, William, **drayman**, Frost Town
- Fitch, W.H., **carpenter**, Frost Town
- Fitzgerald, M.C., **night policeman**, Frost Town
- Hudgpeth, J.L., **watchman**, G&HJ RR; res Frost Town
- Keveton, Jos, **carpenter**, Frost Town
- Lehn, Hy, **porter** with Massie, Smith & Co., res Frost Town
- Leopold, William, **machinist** with B. Thomas & Co., res Frost Town
- Marchel, Conrad, **butcher**, stall No. 41 Market; res Frost Town
- O'Bannon, William H., **carpenter**, Frost Town
- Randolph, Alfred, **blacksmith**, Frost Town
- Ravenna, F.E., **painter**; res Frost Town
- Ravenna, Manuel, **painter**, Frost Town
- Rogers, R.N., **conductor**, G&HJ RR; res Frost Town
- Sandmann, Henry, **porter** with I Colman; res Frost Town
- Saulsbury, And. C., **painter**, Frost Town
- Schmidt, C. with M. Schmidt; res Frost Town, near Floech's Brewery
- Senechal, Alex., **painter**, Frost Town
- Senechal, L., **carpenter**, near Floeck's Brewery
- Stoppel, F. **watchmaker**, with J Pauska; res Frost Town
- Sullivan, P.O., **Barber**, Main betw Prairie st and Texas av; res Frost Town





# UPRR BAYOU COMPRESS SITE





# Schrimpff's Field Block F&G













# River Boat Dorotea













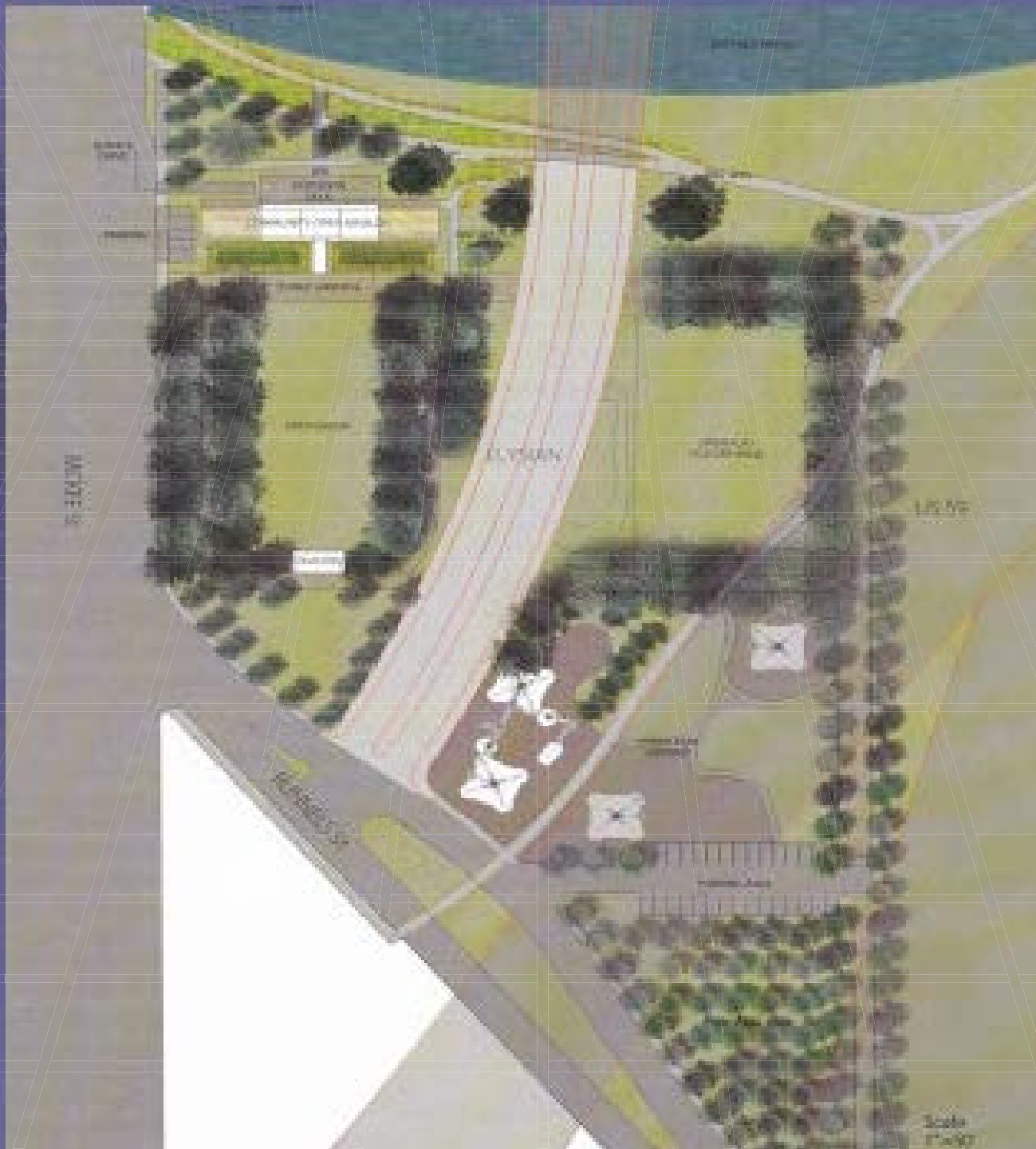
















# J A M E S B U Y E P A R K

**Frost/Moody Historic Site/Urban Gardens**



**Art & Environmental Architecture, Inc.**  
*working to build a garden*

