

INDEPENDENCE PARKWAY

This road runs from I-10 south, crosses the Lynchburg Ferry to the old San Jacinto town site to continue southward, past the San Jacinto Monument and Battlefield to join State Highway 225.

Following several small successes early in the Revolution the Texan rebels faced crushing defeats at the hands of Santa Anna's forces, culminating in the Battle of the Alamo in March of 1836, where many of the most prominent Texan agitators were trapped and killed. Following this battle Santa Anna moved to crush the Army of Texas by forcing them to a decisive battle.

Unfortunately for Santa Anna he was confronted at San Jacinto by a Texan force driven by anger at his earlier depredations and with high moral while he was commanding only a portion of his total force which was fatigued and with low moral due to weather and forced marches. After the burning of Vince's Bridge (see Pasadena Court House site discussion) to prevent the easy retreat of the Mexican force the Texan army moved to attack Santa Anna's position.

The Battle of San Jacinto began with skirmishes on April 20 and ended on the 21st, 1836. The Mexican force, worn out from days of forced marches through bad weather and with little food, although superior in numbers to the Texans, folded after a short battle and were routed from their positions. Trapped by the burned Vince's Bridge Santa Anna and his entire force were captured following the battle.

Santa Anna was forced to sign the Treaties of Velasco on 14 May 1836 which recognized Texas independence from Mexico. However, the generals of the other portions of the Mexican Army, still at large, and the Mexican government refused to recognize the treaties as legitimate and deposed Santa Anna as the ruler of Mexico. It was not until the Mexican-American War (1846-1848) that Mexico was forced to officially recognize the loss of Texas. The confusion around the Battle of San Jacinto has meant that the conventional location of the battle, at the San Jacinto Monument, has been disputed on a number of occasions. Various accounts of the battle, both by Texan and Mexican witnesses, indicate that the actual battle may well have occurred slightly to the south and east of the marked location. If these accounts are correct it is quite possible that the Crosby – Lynchburg Road / Independence Parkway route may cross the edge of this battlefield as it proceeds south of the current town of San Jacinto. Expansion and improvement of the road may allow new evidence to be excavated which would allow better informed discussions concerning the actual location of the battle.