

An Application for an Official Texas Historical Marker for

THE BAYLAND ORPHANS HOME¹

Baytown, Texas

by Trevia Wooster Beverly

(Replacement for Marker No. 10609)²

Presented by the Baytown Historical Preservation Association[©]

Preface: The reason we are asking for a replacement marker is to correct misimpressions and to tell a more complete history, as well as to have the marker the same size as the other markers at this site. Bayland Orphanage (Bayland Orphans Home) was **not** the forerunner of the Faith Home (aka DePelchin Faith Home; now DePelchin Children's Center³). After the Bayland Orphans Home was moved to Houston in 1888, Mrs. Kezia Payne DePelchin⁴ became its matron.⁵ While still matron of the Bayland Orphans Home, Mrs. DePelchin recognized the need for a place for babies, and organized Faith Home in 1892. It was an entirely separate facility located in a house owned by a friend, Agnes Perry, at 2500 Washington Avenue.⁶ It targeted a completely different segment of children – babies and very young children, and was organized with an entirely new and different Board of Directors. She died of pneumonia on Saturday, January 14, 1893,⁷ contracted while walking the five miles between Bayland Orphans Home and her newly founded Faith Home.

I. CONTEXT

Sam Houston had been elected governor in 1859, and was a staunch Unionist strongly opposed to secession and withdrawal from the United States. At a convention held in February 1861, delegates voted to secede and join the Confederate States of America and Houston, despite his long service to Texas, was removed from office. The majority of Texans supported the Confederacy once secession took place.

This bay area of Harris County played an important role in supplying men for the Confederacy. Ashbel Smith,⁸ who had served the Army of the Texas Republic,⁹ began to muster men from East Harris and Chambers counties at the outbreak of the War. Serving as Captain for the company, Smith trained the men himself at Evergreen, his home on Goose Creek at the point it emptied into Tabbs Bay. A unit called the Bayland Guards was organized on April 27, 1861,¹⁰ and later became Company C of the 2nd Texas Regiment with Smith as Colonel of the regiment.¹¹ Sam Houston, a close friend of Ashbel Smith, had a home in the area.¹² His son, Sam Jr. was a member of the Bayland Guards. The Chubb brothers had a shipyard on the east side of Goose Creek,

slightly above the location on the west bank that became the Confederate Naval Yard during the Civil War.¹³

After the Civil War ended in 1865, the Southern states that had seceded from the Union were governed by a combination of appointed federal officials and the army until Congress readmitted them to the union. Times were hard and many widows had children they could not care for, and many children were without either parent. When some widows remarried, their new husbands were apparently unwilling to take her children. These conditions precipitated the move by prominent area men to form an orphanage for children of Confederate soldiers.¹⁴

II. OVERVIEW

When the war was over, Dr. Ashbel Smith returned to his home at Evergreen and helped to establish the orphanage at Bayland,¹⁵ where he served as part-time physician for the children. The Orphanage was but a brief part of the history of the Baytown area, but an important one, as it was originally established for the orphans of the Confederacy. Advertisements were placed in newspapers advertising the orphanage as well as seeking monetary and other charitable gifts.¹⁶ Its original location was at the mouth of Goose Creek as it emptied into Galveston Bay, located on the north side near where the old Morgan's Point Ferry was located.¹⁷ Today the area is the property of the City of Baytown, called Bayland Park.¹⁸

A supporter of the Confederacy during the War Between the States, Henry Gillette was among that group of men who met in Houston in 1866 to lay plans for establishing an orphans' home. A Board of Trustees was organized on January 15, 1867.¹⁹ Present at the Houston home of Dr. John L. Bryan were

Rev. C. C. Preston, Goose Creek, Harris County
Col. Ashbel Smith, Evergreen, Harris County
Henry F. Gillette, Bell Prairie, Harris County²⁰
Dr. John L. Bryan, dentist, Bayland, Harris County
Col. M. S. Munson, attorney, Brazoria County²¹
Col. John T. Brady, entrepreneur, Houston, Harris County²²

Board members not present were
Col. William P. Ballinger, attorney, Galveston County²³
Col. F. H. Merriman, Galveston County²⁴

An active area during the days of the Texas Republic, ranching had become the major economic activity on the lower San Jacinto. Steamboats plied the San Jacinto waterway from Houston, making the bay area popular and accessible. Several landings, including Lynchburg²⁵ and Morgan's Point,²⁶ allowed freight and people to come and go conveniently. Midway, the old Scott wharf served Goose Creek. In addition to the wharf, William Scott, a member of Austin's "Old 300," had a shipyard there, as well as his home, Point Pleasant.²⁷

Settlement on lower Goose Creek had begun in 1838 when Hannah Nash, widow of a pioneer, bought some 340 acres from the Scott estate. When she died in 1841 the land was divided among her heirs, and two years later William H. Scott sold his inheritance of 500 acres on the west bank of the creek to Valentine Thomas Dalton for \$5 per acre. Dalton and his wife were divorced about 1849 and moved away; the lower portion of the Dalton tract was later sold to Houston dentist Dr. John L. Bryan, who had come to Texas in 1836.

In May 1858, Dr. Bryan built a large two-story red brick house on the west bank of Goose Creek on a wooded knoll overlooking Tabbs Bay.²⁸ He later sold the home and 305 acres²⁹ to the Reverend C. C. Preston on credit, and this became known as the Bayland property.³⁰

The Reverend C. C. Preston, who had come to Texas from New England, purchased the Bryan property in 1864. He deemed the big house suitable for the school he planned to establish. The school did not prosper, however, and when Rev. Preston found himself unable to pay his indebtedness he offered the property as a site for a proposed orphanage. He presented a petition to the Texas State Legislature during its 1866 session, asking for a charter.³¹ Texas Confederate veterans chartered it as the Confederate Orphans' Home on January 15, 1867.³² From the first, the Bayland Orphans Home was known as "the Confederate Orphanage," begun for the children of Confederate veterans. The "Orphans Home at Bayland" was the first incorporated nondenominational orphanage in the state of Texas.

Shortly after the orphanage was founded, Dr. Bryan died on July 19, 1867, and his wife, Mary A. Mitchell Bryan, was left to settle the estate, including settlement of the Bayland property.³³ After Mrs. Bryan died, the boys lived in the large house with the girls staying in the smaller, newer house. Gillette moved a small church building that had been moved from Harmony Grove that served as chapel and classroom.

The term "orphan" was used in the name of the home but the children, both boys and girls, were not always orphans in the sense that both parents were deceased. Other children were

admitted “on account of the extreme poverty of the applicants,” and provisions were also made for mothers to accompany their children to the home. The mothers were expected to work and were provided room, board, and clothing.³⁴ The Board also voted to allow private pupils in the schools to support the home. However, only white children were admitted and no “defective” children or those of bad character were allowed.³⁵

In October 1866, Preston became the Superintendent of the new orphanage. While traveling around Texas to raise money for the Home, he died on August 10, 1867.³⁶ Col. Munson was elected president of the Board, while H.F. Gillette was elected Secretary and Superintendent of the Home at a salary of \$1800.00 per year.³⁷

Henry Flavel Gillette, born in Connecticut in 1816, had come to Texas due to ill health and joined his cousin Ashbel Smith.³⁸ He had been teaching school in Houston as early as 1840, and in 1859 he purchased land in the William Scott lower league and moved his family to Bell Prairie near the mouth of Cedar Bayou overlooking Galveston Bay. Henry Gillette was appointed Superintendent on August 10, 1867.³⁹ Gillette’s sister, Jeanette Elizabeth (Gillette) Duke of Fort Bend County, widow of Confederate veteran William Henry Duke,⁴⁰ arrived at Bayland in April, 1869,⁴¹ with her two boys, Vivian, Jr., age 11,⁴² and Harry, age 9, who died in October. Jennie Duke became matron of the home in 1870. She later sent her son, Vivian Jr. to her previous home in Connecticut for his education. In 1877 Mrs. Duke purchased a 123-acre farm with a house on a hill overlooking Goose Creek near the orphanage. Built ca. 1843 and believed to be the oldest house in Baytown, the Duke house was offered for sale in 2011.⁴³

The first children enrolled on February 18, 1866, were Cynthia Anna (Annie) Allen, age 13,⁴⁴ listed as Cymantha on the 1871 report, and Rebecca A. Allen, 12, both listed as being from Grimes County.⁴⁵ Cynthia who would later become the foster daughter of Dr. Ashbel Smith, was born on December 3, 1854, in Centerville, Leon County, Texas.⁴⁶ She was only eight years old when her father, Robert Allen, was killed in the service of the Confederacy.⁴⁷ Taking her children, Annie and Rebecca to her sister, the mother, Mary Jane (Pates), died soon afterwards of scarlet fever. From there the two girls were sent to relatives in Millican, Brazos County, Texas, where Annie overheard a door-to-door peddler mention that a field agent was at the hotel to gather orphans of Confederate soldiers for the orphanage. Annie took her sister to the hotel where they were given food and put on the train to Houston,⁴⁸ and later took a steamboat down Buffalo Bayou to Hog Island, and then a short ride by skiff across Tabbs Bay to the Confederate Orphans Home at

Bayland.⁴⁹ The records of the Home show two Allen children, Cymantha⁵⁰ and Rebecca A., of Grimes County, coming to the Home in February 1866. The 1871 report shows that Rebecca Allen is at the home until April 3, 1868, “adopted by Capt. Watkins of Marlin, Falls co.”⁵¹ Annie had an eye problem that demanded much attention and Dr. Smith took her into his home where their relationship developed into that of father-daughter. Annie, who had declined the generous offer of an official adoption because she wanted to retain her birth name, married George Wright⁵² on February 20, 1881 at Christ Church Cathedral in Houston.⁵³ For her wedding present Dr. Smith carved a 75-acre homestead from his plantation lands – land that was to provide her a fortune in the Goose Creek Oil Fields.

There were sixty children at the orphanage in 1868, and in 1870, seventy-six. The 1870 population enumeration was the first U.S. Census to list the Bayland Orphans Home.⁵⁴

With funding always short,⁵⁵ in 1872 the Board sent Henry Gillette to Austin to lobby for state lands. On June 5, 1873 the legislature granted the home 48,635 acres of land, with the land to revert to the state if the home ceased to exist.⁵⁶ “The largest donation the Home ever received was from Wm. and J.J. Hendley of Galveston, who gave large tracts of land in Coryelle County, and J.J. Hendly in his will left the Home some 30,000 dollars worth of dividend paying stocks.”⁵⁷ By 1875 the Board began to sell lands to raise money to support the home.

Houston had been growing, surpassing all neighboring towns. Board meetings were being held in Houston, and most of the interest of the Bayland Orphans Home was centered there. Steamboat service had once been a convenient travel mode to Bayland, but declined after 1859 when rail linked Houston and Galveston. In 1876 a channel was dredged on the western side of the San Jacinto estuary, through Morgan's Point, and steamboats now preferred using the twelve-foot deep channel instead of the shallower route to the Hogg Island Landing that served Evergreen. By October 1886, there were only thirty-seven children and the buildings at Bayland were in much need of repair.

By October 1886, with boat traffic decreasing and no railroads anywhere near Bayland, the number of orphans was still decreasing and had reached a low of 37 children, the board members began to think of the possibility of moving the institution to Houston from the “undesirable and inaccessible location.” Once the site was vacated, it fell into ruins with the old house barely suitable for the Isenhour family upon their arrival from Minnesota.⁵⁸

In the fall of 1887 the Board determined to purchase the 35-acre improved tract known as the Dr. Perl place,⁵⁹ on the north side of Buffalo Bayou, 1.75 miles from the courthouse.⁶⁰ The home reopened in a frame building on a 35-acre tract, just north of the northwest corner of the Houston city limits. The property was purchased for \$5,000 and a large frame building erected at a cost of \$3600.⁶¹

The Orphans' Home at Bayland closed in 1888, leaving behind a small cemetery holding eight known burials.⁶² No record has been found to indicate that the graves were moved, and now there is no visible evidence of this little graveyard.

The Home's charter was amended in January 1888 to officially change the name to Bayland Orphans' Home, and change the location to "at or near Houston," with the corporation charter to extend an additional fifty years.⁶³ This amendment was filed with the Secretary of State on February 18, 1888.⁶⁴ At this time the Board of Trustees included Robt. M. Elgin, President; H. Sherrffine, R.B. Baer, E.L. Dennis, Geo. Dumble, Wm. Christian and Geo. W. Kidd.

The relocated Home began to accept white, indigent boys and girls from any Texas county. The earliest minute book, "Old Book of Minutes, Bayland Orphan Home, 1867-1890," contains Board deliberations, decisions, resolutions, financial reports, correspondence, and memorials, and has been indexed by various users with notes on the inside cover and fly pages. Included are the organization's bylaws of February 4, 1871; the difficulties in raising funds; the decision to relocate to Houston; the board's decisions concerning the welfare of children; and their offer to care for the children orphaned by the hurricane that devastated Sabine Pass in 1886.⁶⁵

On July 1, 1888 about forty children were brought up from the old home. Joseph Watkins Fuqua and Mrs. Kezie Payne DePelchin, who was present at the new facility to receive the children from the old home on the bay, were the first superintendent and first matron at the new facility. In 1890 there were thirty children in the Home from six different counties, with the home having the capacity for forty-two. Mrs. DePelchin stayed at her post until her death on January 14, 1893. Mrs. Fannie E. Campbell of Houston became the matron on January 30, 1893.

Following annexation by Houston in 1903 and development of Woodland Heights in 1907, the street in front of the Bayland Orphans' Home was named Bayland Avenue.⁶⁶

In 1912 the facility moved from Woodland Heights to Richmond Road, adjacent to the Mary Burnett School for Girls. Several minor name changes came to pass and finally the Burnett-Bayland Home located at 6500 Chimney Rock Road became one of three youth facilities under the

supervision of the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department. The relocated home (Houston) is the source of the name for the nearby Harris County Bayland Park Community Center, 34 miles west of the Bayland Park where this marker is located (Baytown).

III. SIGNIFICANCE

Known to be sympathetic to the Confederate cause by supplying men, ships, and no doubt other supplies, after the war citizens set about to care for the widows and orphans of Confederate soldiers.

A group of eight men met in Houston, Texas on January 15, 1867 to organize a Board of Trustees for a new orphanage. The new Directors from Harris County were Rev. C. C. Preston, Goose Creek; Col. Ashbel Smith, Evergreen; Henry F. Gillette, Bell Prairie; Dr. John L. Bryan, dentist, Bayland; and Col. John T. Brady, entrepreneur, Houston, joined by Col. M. S. Munson, attorney, Brazoria County; and Col. William P. Ballinger, attorney and Col. F. H. Merriman of Galveston County.

In October 1866, it became the first incorporated nondenominational orphanage in the state of Texas, with Rev. C. C. Preston as the supervisor. The nonsectarian home was planned to care for and educate 250 orphans of deceased Confederate soldiers, and opened in August 1867 with Henry F. Gillette as superintendent and Col. Ashbel Smith as staff doctor.

The first children enrolled on February 18, 1866, were Cynthia Anna Allen and her sister Rebecca from Millican, Brazos County. Capt. Watkins of Marlin, Falls County, Texas, would soon adopt Rebecca and Annie would later become the foster daughter of Dr. Ashbel Smith.

The 1870 census reported 84 children in addition to the ones who had parents serving on the staff. Bayland Orphans Home operated on gifts, as evidenced by many pleas in newspapers of the day.

It operated at Bayland (now Baytown) from 1866 until 1888. The site today is owned by the City of Baytown, a marina at Bayland Park. There is a slight rise of land that the orphanage and a small cemetery stood on, overlooking the bay. When the Bayland Orphans Home at Bayland closed in 1888, left behind was the small cemetery holding eight known burials. The property was later purchased by the George Isenhour family from Minnesota.

Mrs. Jennie Gillette Duke was matron when the institution moved and relocated in 1888 to an area north of the Houston city limits that would later become Woodland Heights. The home was

later moved several times within Harris County until it ceased to function strictly as the Bayland Orphans Home after World War II.

IV. DOCUMENTATION

¹ The name is given in a variety of documents and newspaper accounts as Bayland Orphanage, Bayland Orphans Home, Bayland Orphan's Home, Orphan's Home, Orphans' Home at Bayland, Bayland Orphan Asylum, etc.

² Texas Historical Commission: <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/> Entry: Marker Number: 10609 **Marker Title: Bayland Orphanage** Index Entry: Bayland Orphanage Address: City: Baytown County: Harris UTM Zone:15 UTM Easting:307228 UTM Northing:3288641 Subject Codes: orphanages Year Marker Erected:1964 Designations: na Marker Location: 1 mi. east of tunnel [no longer existing; replaced with the Fred Hartman Bridge] on SH 146 east bound ROW Marker Size:18" x 28" **Marker Text:** Established in 1866 by Texas Confederate veterans for children of deceased soldiers. Had capacity for 250. Rev. Henry F. Gillette was first superintendent. C. S. A. Col. Ashbel Smith, diplomat, soldier and statesman, was staff doctor. Trustees included leading citizens. Donations from Harris and Galveston counties started the home, but later gifts came from as far away as New Orleans. After the Confederate children grew up, home and school were opened to others. Bayland was forerunner of the De Pelchin Faith Home, of Houston. 1964. NOTE: This marker was placed as part of the Civil War Centennial. During construction of Highway 146, the marker was taken down. Permission was granted (6/15/1989) for it to be replaced in Bayland Park, in Baytown.

³ Texas Historical Commission: <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/> Marker Number:10659 **Marker Title: DePelchin Faith Home** Index Entry: DePelchin Faith Home Address:2700 Albany at Drew City: Houston County: Harris UTM Zone:15 UTM Easting:269550 UTM Northing:3293388 Subject Codes: grave sites; design and construction; institutional buildings; orphanages Year Marker Erected:1984 Designations: Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Marker Location: Marker Size: Medallion & Plate **Marker Text:** Founded in 1893 in memory of Kezia Payne DePelchin, a remarkable social worker, teacher, and nurse in Houston during the latter half of the 1800s. The orphanage moved to this building upon completion in 1913 and remained here until 1938. Designed by architects Mauran and Russell, the renaissance revival structure features an open arcade on the bottom story and an entryway flanked with Doric pilasters that support a classical cornice. Recorded Texas Historic Landmark – 1984. National Registry. THC Atlas Reference Number: 84001759. Lengthy description with some errors.

⁴ The full story of Mrs. de Pelchin can be found in Harold J. Matthews' *Candle by Night: The Story of the Life and Times of Kezia Payne de Pelchin, Texas Pioneer Teacher, Social Worker and Nurse* (Boston : B. Humphries, Inc., 1942).

⁵ “Kezia DePelchin was also the first woman matron of the Bayland Home for Orphans of the Civil War.” This, of course, is not true. She was the first matron *after* the Home was moved to Houston, but she was not the Home's first matron. Stated in the text of the narrative for the National Register Reference Number:84001759 Resource Name: DePelchin Faith Home Other Name: Address: 2700 Albany St. Restricted: City: Houston. Atlas: Texas Historical Commission <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/>

⁶ “DePelchin Children's Center,” Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DePelchin_Children%27s_Center (accessed September 15, 2010).

⁷ Obituary. *Galveston Daily News*. Saturday, January 14, 1893 pg. 3, col. 1.

⁸ See *The Baytown Sun*, 24 Jan 1985 "Smith at top of Baytown history list," and *The Baytown Sun*, 03 Nov 1985, "History Highlights" for a full-page article with photographs of Smith and his home at Evergreen.

⁹ Physician, educator, diplomat, civic leader, farmer, rancher, soldier. (Elizabeth Silverthorne), Sam Houston named him Surgeon General of the Texas Army from 1837 to 1839 (Margaret Swett Henson). He was appointed on June 7, 1837. *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. Ashbel Smith, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/SS/fsm4.html> (accessed September 15, 2010).

¹⁰ “Muster Roll of the Bayland Guards,” Recorded April 29, 1861. Harris County Deed Record Book Y, pp. 210-211.

¹¹ Texas Historical Commission: <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/> Marker Number:10780 Marker Title: Ashbel Smith, M. D. Index Entry: Smith, Ashbel, M. D. Address: City: Baytown County: Harris UTM Zone:15 UTM Easting:307228 UTM Northing:3288641 Subject Codes: Texas Revolution, Republic of Texas; state official; Civil War; medical topics and health professionals; military topics Year Marker Erected:1984 Designations :na Marker Location: SH 146 ROW, 1.8 mi. east of tunnel Marker Size:27" x 42" Marker Text: (1805-1885) Born in Hartford, Connecticut, this prominent physician, statesman, soldier, and educator received his degree from Yale Medical College in 1828. After a period of study in France, Smith returned to the United States to practice medicine in the state of North Carolina. He determined to go to Texas upon hearing news of the events of the mid-1830s and arrived in 1837, too late to participate in the revolution. He soon, however, was appointed surgeon-general of the Texas army and established a home, known as Evergreen Plantation, one mile east of this site. Smith later served the Republic of Texas as secretary of state and as minister to Great Britain, France, Belgium, and Spain. After Texas attained statehood, Smith served several terms in the State Legislature. A Civil War veteran, he was elected captain of the Bayland Guards and colonel of the 2nd Texas Infantry of the Confederate army. Also noted for his work in higher education, Ashbel Smith served as president of the first Board of Regents of the University of Texas and led support for establishment of its medical branch in Galveston. A significant leader during Texas' formative years, Ashbel Smith died at his home on Evergreen Plantation and is buried in the state cemetery in Austin.

¹² Texas Historical Commission: <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/> Marker Number: 15008 Marker Title: Home of Sam Houston Index Entry: Houston, Sam, Home of Address: City: Baytown County: Harris UTM Zone: UTM Easting: UTM Northing: Subject Codes: Year Marker Erected:1936 Designations: na Marker Location: Near Goose Creek Marker Size: C Marker Text: Site of the Home of General Sam Houston, Constructed in About 1860, Occupied by Him as a Residence During a Part of 1861 and a Part of 1862.

¹³ Texas Historical Commission: <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/> Marker Number:13964 Marker Title: Confederate Naval Works at Goose Creek Index Entry: Confederate Naval Works at Goose Creek Address:26415 SH 146 City: Baytown County: Harris UTM Zone:15 UTM Easting:308246 UTM Northing:3290977 Subject Codes: Civil War; military topics Year Marker Erected:2007 Designations: na Marker Location: Marker Size:27" x 42" Marker Text: In 1854, brothers Thomas and John Chubb bought land in the William Scott League on the east bank of Goose Creek at the mouth of Tabbs Bay. On this site, they established the Chubb Shipyard prior to the Civil War. At the time, Texas shipbuilding was a developing industry. During the war, however, in an effort to compensate for the Union's industrial advantage, the Confederate government encouraged Texans to engage in manufacturing ventures that would aid its military effort. The Chubb brothers responded to this call with the Confederate Naval Works at Goose Creek, which built and repaired vessels during the war. Thomas Chubb also served in the Texas Marine Department, an element of the Confederate States Army operating independently of the Confederate Navy. He obtained the rank of Captain and later became superintendent of the Confederate Naval Works. The design and structure of ships built at the Goose Creek shipyard were integral to the Department's effectiveness in running the Union blockade. The shallow draft of the centerboard schooners made them suitable for blockade running in shallow areas of the Gulf of Mexico, where deep draft vessels could not pass. These successful ships included the Royal Yacht, Bagdad, Phoebe, Henrietta, Marguereta and Altha Brooks. An important contributor to the Texas naval and industrial effort during the Civil War, the Goose Creek shipyard later built ships for the federal government and private mariners until Thomas Chubb left the business in 1869. The following year, the Thomas B. Gaillard family purchased the former shipyard and established Gaillard's Landing. Later, the site became part of the Goose Creek oil fields. (2007)

¹⁴ *Bayland Orphans' Home*, author unknown. This seven page typed history was “placed in cornerstone of the Bayland Cottage when it was constructed about six years ago.” C. W. Jackson of Guardian Trust Company, Houston, Texas, sent a copy of this to Mrs. Anna Allen Wright of Goose Creek, Texas on July 11, 1929. Archives: Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas, Austin. (Herein after referred to as the Anna Allen Wright letter).

¹⁵ Board of Trustees, Bayland Orphan's [sic] Home. *Orphan's [sic] Home at Bayland, Harris County, Texas*. Houston: A. C. Gray & Co., Printers and Book Binders, 1871. A page in this book gives the LOCATION: Bayland Orphan's [sic] Home is situated in Harris county, on San Jacinto Bay, near the head of Galveston Bay. It is immediately adjacent to the daily steamboat route between Houston and Galveston, and about midway between the two cities. It is

consequently easy of access, the situation of the buildings of the institution and the surrounding scenery, are eminently picturesque; it has also proved very healthy, never having been visited by epidemic. Harris County Archives Finding Aids CR030, Bayland Orphan Home Board of Trustees Records (186-1948)

<http://www.hctx.net/CmpDocuments/20/Finding%20Aids/FA-Bayland%20Orphans%20HomeCR30.pdf> Note: This pamphlet contains a list of the inmates of the orphanage from 1866 to 1871 including county of origin, age, date of entry, date leaving, and remarks. This list of 224 children has been published in *Suffer the Children: A History of the Confederate Orphanage at Bayland, Harris County, Texas 1867 to May 1918* (Trevia Wooster Beverly, 2002).

¹⁶ “The whole design of the Home is to receive and take care of all the orphans of dead Confederate soldiers that may apply for it or it must be abandoned and we must confess that we are not prepared to take care of them. Each county must provide for its own orphans, see to it that every destitute orphan of a dead Confederate soldier within its bounds be sent to the Orphans' Home. Harris County has 30 children in the Home, Galveston none, but it is doing more for the support of the home than Harris County. If political difficulties are in the way of having the matter attended to by the County Court it should be done by an organization of citizens. How easy in this year of plentiful crops to send the Home meal, potatoes, cabbages and everything else. Stock raisers could send enough beeves for the whole year. They could graze in the prairies near the Home and be butchered as needed. Send cloth and clothing.” *Houston Daily Telegraph*, June 27, 1868.

¹⁷ The Home was located near the north (current Baytown) side of the Morgan's Point Ferry landing. *Map of the Baytown & Durantnes Ferry-County-Road, As Surveyed By Me April 14th, 1895. (signed) S.E. Packard, Dept. Sur. Harris Co., Texas.* The ferry operated from 1917 to 1952 across Tabbs Bay, with the town of Morgan's Point, also known as Rightor's, Hunter's, and Clopper's Point, located on the south side of the bay. Other maps also clearly show the two locations: *Harris County, Texas. Published by the Immigration and Development Association* (Office, Houston, Texas. 1892).

¹⁸ Located at 2651 SH 146 South, Baytown. Latitude: 29.71334; Longitude : 94.98941. Coordinates: 29°42'43"N; 94°59'36"W.

¹⁹ Board of Trustees, 1871 report. Board Minutes, p. 1.

²⁰ Texas Historical Commission: <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/> Marker Number: 10613 Marker Title: Bell Prairie Index Entry: Bell Prairie Address: City: Baytown County: Harris UTM Zone:15 UTM Easting:312142 UTM Northing:3287239 Subject Codes :plantations; educational topics Year Marker Erected: 1989 Designations: na Marker Location: Bay Oaks Harbor, 2000.5 Tri-Cities Beach Rd. Marker Size:27" x 42" Marker Text: Once located southwest of this site was the home of Henry Falvel Gillette (1816-1896). A native of Connecticut, Gillette came to Texas in 1840 at the urging of his cousin, Ashbel Smith. He became a noted educator in Harris, Washington, and Polk counties. He married Lucinda Maxey (1826-1901) of Washington County in 1842. The Gillette family lived on the plantation of Lucinda's father, William Maxey, in present San Jacinto County from about 1848 until 1859, when Henry bought property on Galveston Bay. He named his plantation home Bell Prairie. The plantation included a two-story brick home, matching carriage house, and slave quarters. a wharf on the property was used for the importation of cattle from England. In addition to operating his plantation, Gillette was superintendent of the Bayland Orphan's Home on nearby Goose Creek and was a founding member and worthy master of the Cedar Bayou Masonic Lodge. Following Henry Gillette's death, Bell Prairie remained in the family until the mid-20th century. The plantation home was severely damaged in the 1900 hurricane and burned to the ground after being struck by lightning in the 1915 storm.

Death notices: *La Porte Chronicle*, April 30, 1896, pg. 1; *Houston Daily Post*, Friday Morning, May 1, 1896, pg. 8.

²¹ Texas Historical Commission: <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/> Marker Number: 9577 Marker Title: Munson Cemetery Index Entry: Munson Cemetery Address: City: Bailey's Prairie County: Brazoria UTM Zone:15 UTM Easting:254619 UTM Northing:3226790 Subject Codes: graveyards Year Marker Erected: 1966 Designations: Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Marker Location: SH 35 Marker Size:14" x 24" Marker Text: In 1850, Mordello Stephen Munson (born in Liberty County in 1825)-- son of Henry William Munson (born 1793), a member of Austin's colony-- set aside this burial tract for his family and friends. It was at Ridgely Plantation, on Bailey's Prairie. Recorded Texas Historic Landmark - 1966

²² President of the Texas Transportation Company, incorporated by the Texas Legislature on September 25, 1866 *Houston History 1836 to 2011.* <http://www.houstonhistory.com/decades/history5c.htm>

²³ Texas Historical Commission *Marker Number: 63 Marker Title: W. P. Ballinger Law Firm Index Entry: Ballinger, W. P., Law Firm Address: 2228 Mechanic, Suite 400 City: Galveston County: Galveston UTM Zone:15 UTM Easting:325819 UTM Northing:3243292 Subject Codes: law, lawyers Year Marker Erected:1967 Designations :Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Marker Location: 2228 Mechanic, Suite 400 in Washington Building, Galveston Marker Size:18" x 28" Marker Text: Oldest continuous law firm in Texas. Founded Nov. 13, 1846, by William Pitt Ballinger (1825-1888), who on that day received first law license issued by state of Texas, through first judicial district court. A veteran of the Mexican war, he later was a distinguished Texas statesman. Ballinger's first partners -- in Jones, Butler & Ballinger -- were John M. Jones and Jonas Butler. Ballinger relatives who have formed line of descendency in the firm include a son, Thomas J. Ballinger, grandson Ballinger Mills, Sr., and great-grandson Ballinger Mills, Jr. Recorded Texas Historic Landmark - 1967*

²⁴ Col. F. H. Merriman died 1871 in Galveston County. Vertical File on Col. Merriman and his family at the Galveston and Texas History Center, Rosenberg Library in Galveston.

²⁵ Established in 1822 by Nathaniel Lynch, this ferry route still operates today.

²⁶ Later, a ferry began operating at the location in 1917, later replaced by the Tabbs Bay Causeway that was destroyed by Hurricane Carla in 1961. The Baytown-LaPorte Tunnel connected the north and the south side of the Houston Ship Channel from 1954 until replaced with the Fred Hartman Bridge in 1995.

²⁷ Texas Historical Commission: <http://www.thc.state.tx.us/> *Marker Number: 10774 Marker Title: Homesite (Point Pleasant) of William Scott Index Entry: Scott, William, Homesite of (Point Pleasant) Address: 500 Bayway Dr. City: Baytown County: Harris UTM Zone:15 UTM Easting:304032 UTM Northing:3291709 Subject Codes: Texas Revolution, Republic of Texas; pioneers; military topics Year Marker Erected: 1990 Designations :na Marker Location: Marker Size:27" x 42" Marker Text: A native of Virginia, William Scott (1784-1837) was a planter, merchant, and stockraiser in his native state and in Kentucky, where he relocated about 1806. He and his family moved briefly to Louisiana in the early 1820s before coming to Texas with Stephen F. Austin's "Old Three Hundred" colonists in 1824. He received a headright grant of land at this site on the east bank of the San Jacinto River and named the home he built here Point Pleasant. A great supporter of Texas independence from Mexico, Scott served in 1835 as captain of the Lynchburg Volunteers, a local militia company. Point Pleasant was a stopping place for many revolutionary-era pioneers, including Lorenzo de Zavala, first vice-president of the Republic of Texas; and Emily Austin Bryan Perry, sister of Stephen F. Austin. Married in Virginia to the former Mary Hanna, Scott was the father of five children. Following his death in 1837 and Mary's death in 1840, Point Pleasant was inherited by their daughter, Sarah Scott Williams. After her death in 1860 the property was sold out of the family. Point Pleasant is believed to have been destroyed by a hurricane sometime after the Civil War.*

²⁸ *Complete Abstract of Title to 115 acres, more or less, out of Wm. Scott League, Abst. No. 66, in Harris County, Texas, being more particularly described in Deed from The Bayland Orphans Home to Geo. Isenhour by Deed rendered in Vol. 100, Page 153, Deed Records, Harris County Texas. No. 78365, Harris County Abstract Company, Houston, Texas, March 30th, 1939. 340 pgs. NOTE: Copy of the original abstract, beginning with the Mexican Government to William Scott, is in the possession of Trevia Wooster Beverly, Houston, Texas. In 1863 the Confederate Naval Yard was established directly across, on the east side of Goose Creek. Detailed map of the area in Margaret Swett Henson's *The History of Baytown* (Baytown: Bay Area Heritage Society, 1986).*

²⁹ Anna Allen Wright letter: The history attached stated "part of three tracts of land and improvements, consisting of about 304 acres."

³⁰ *Abstract of Title*, August 9, 1864, pg. 40. Original filed. Vol. 1, pg. 517 Harris County Deed Records.

³¹ "An Act to Incorporate The Orphan's Home at Bayland in Harris County, State of Texas." Hans P.N. Gammel, *The Laws of Texas* (10 vols., Dallas, 1898) 5:1257. <http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph6727/m1/1273/?q=orphan> Accessed September 28, 2011.

"Bell Prairie" Plantation Home of Henry Falvel Gillette" by Jean L. Epperson, manuscript for Texas Historical Marker no. 10613 (1989).

³² *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. "Bayland Orphans Home for Boys," <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/BB/ynb1.html> (accessed September 15, 2010).

³³ *Abstract of Title*, p. 87: Nov. 13th, 1871. Original filed Vol. 11, pg. 68, Harris County Deed Records.

³⁴ Henson, Chapter 5, p. 55.

³⁵ Board Minutes *in passim*.

³⁶ *The History of Baytown* by Margaret Swett Henson Baytown: Bay Area Heritage Society, 1986). Chapter 5, p. 56.

³⁷ Anna Allen Wright letter.

³⁸ Elizabeth Silverthorne, *Ashbel Smith of Texas* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1982).

³⁹ Board Minutes, p.5.

⁴⁰ International Genealogical Index (IGI) Batch M590042, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints: W. H. Dukes m. E. J. Gillett, 07 Apr 1856, Galveston, Texas

1860, Jefferson, Marion, Texas (M653-1300-475): Harry Duke (29, AL), E J Duke (23, CT), V M Duke (3, TX).

Confederate Service Record for Capt. William H. Duke, 36, enlisted in Duke's Company, Artillery Corps (aka Jefferson Guards) on 1 Aug 1861 at Jefferson, Marion County, TX. Unit disbanded on 11 Jun 1862 at Richmond, VA by S.O. No. 134; some of the men transferred to Hood's Texas Brigade, and some to VA units. (Fold3.com; formerly Footnote.com)

⁴¹ 1871 Report.

⁴² The death certificate for Vivian Jr. indicates the 1871 report is in error. Vivian Mortimer Duke, born May 29, 1857 died January 17, 1931 at age 73 years, 7 months, 20 days. It shows his father as William Harry Duke and mother as Elizabeth Gillette. He is buried at the Cedar Bayou Masonic Cemetery.

⁴³ The property was purchased from Thomas B. Gaillard, and it later became known as Duke Hill. Vivian Duke, Jr. inherited the house and lived there until his death in 1931. In 1930, his daughter and son-in-law, Mary B. (Marybelle) and B. F. Troxell were living with him, and she then inherited the house. The house, located at 1401 Barrymore Drive, was put up for sale in 2011, offered for sale through J. Coy Wheeler, son-in-law of the current owners, the Troxells. General Description: Historic home is reputed to be the oldest home in Baytown. It is situated on 1.8 acres that backs to Goose Lake. The home is being sold by an estate and needs some TLC. The electric and plumbing have been updated and a central HVAC system was installed. The home has high ceilings throughout and hardwood floors in the den and living/dining room. The kitchen boasts a working gas Chambers range. Updated bath with a claw foot tub is just off the two bedrooms. Year Built: 1843 Appraisal District.

⁴⁴ 1871 report

⁴⁵ 1871 report.

⁴⁶ Before the state began official recordings of births and deaths, Anna Allen gave this date and it has been used since. She died Dec. 28, 1942 and is buried at Clenwood Cemetery, Houston, Texas.

⁴⁷ Hood's Texas Brigade, 5th Infantry, Company C "Leon Hunters." and "Mortally Wounded" in the battle of 2nd Mannasas. Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System: <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/> "Richmond Daily Whig" dated September 11, 1862 gives a listing of casualties from the 5th Texas Infantry in the battle of 2nd Mannasas. *Hood's Texas Brigade*.

Confederate Service Record for Pvt. Robert Allen, 30, born in Walker Co, AL, enlisted in Co. C, 5th Texas Infantry on 17 Mar 1861 at Centerville, Leon County, TX. Died on 31 Aug 1862 of wounds received on 30 Aug 1862. (Fold3.com; formerly Footnote.com)

⁴⁸ The Galveston and Red River Railway (G&RR) became active in 1848 and broke ground at Houston in January 1853. Track laying reached Cypress City, the 26-mile point, on July 26, 1856. On September 1 it was renamed the Houston and Texas Railway Company (H&TC). By April 22, 1861 the 81 miles to Millican had been completed but the Civil War prevented additional construction until 1867. By 1873 the trains steamed through Cypress to Dallas as the first northern outlet for freight from Galveston and Houston. *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. "Houston and Texas Central Railway," by George C. Werner.

⁴⁹ Related by Anna Allen Wright to family members.

⁵⁰ 1871 report.

⁵¹ Rebecca Allen is enumerated as Sallie E. Watkins, age 12, in the 1870 Falls County, Texas census; she is in the household of J. W. Watkins, dry goods merchant, and his wife, Irene. In 1880, at age 20, she is in the same household, shown as adopted, but has reverted to her birth name of Allen. 1870 Census Place: Marlin, Falls, Texas. P. 7. 1880 Census Place: Precinct 1, Falls, Texas. P. 5, ED 36.

⁵² George was the son of Thomas Wright who arrived in the Cedar Bayou area about 1871, along with the Charles Knowlton family. The related families had a brick factory. George Wright was born Nov. 16, 1858 in England and died July 28, 1922 in Houston, Texas; buried in Glenwood Cemetery, Houston.

⁵³ Record not available, October 13, 2010: "To the best of my knowledge, Christ Church Cathedral's older registers are in the Houston Public Library's historical collections. Hopefully you will be able to find the information there. The registers I have on site date back only to the early 1900s." (Christ Church Cathedral Archivist).

Christ Church Cathedral Records (RG I 001), Houston Metropolitan Research Center, Houston Public Library: "We are unable to identify any information confirming the marriage of interest. There seems to be a gap in the registers for Christ Church in our collection from approximately 1880 to 1900." (Texas Room Reference Dept.).

FamilySearch: <http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#p=0> (accessed October 14, 2010). Anna Allen married George Wright, 20 Feb 1881, Harris County, Texas. Indexing Project (Batch) Number: M59199-4; System Origin: Texas-VR; Source Film Number: 25224; Reference Number: 2:Q7L41S. Collection: Texas Marriages, 1837-1973

⁵⁴ Stamped Page 490; Pg. 5; Subdivision District 35. Baytown Post Office. 21 Sep 1870. NOTE: Bayland had its own post office from March 31, 1868 to June 15, 1869. Gregory Absalom was postmaster. NOTE: This and subsequent censuses are reprinted in Beverly's *Suffer the Children*, as is the list from the 1871 pamphlet previously referred to.

⁵⁵ Board of Trustees Records, Board Minutes *in passim*.

⁵⁶ Board minutes, April 5, 1873, pg. 78,79.

⁵⁷ Anna Allen Wright letter.

⁵⁸ *Abstract of Title to 114 acres, more or less, out of Wm. Scott League, Abst. No. 66, in Harris County, Texas, being more particularly described in Deed from The Bayland Orphans Home to Geo. Isenhour by Deed recorded in Vol. 100, Page 153, Deed Records, Harris County, Texas.* Harris County Abstract Company, March 20th 1938. Deed to George Isenhour dated May 19, 1897.

⁵⁹ Anna Allen Wright letter. The property was apparently known as the J.C. Baldwin Place at the time of purchase in the fall of 1887. It is "the Perl Place" in the minutes, Aug. 19, 1887, p. 233 (image 249 at Fold3.com). The Galveston Daily News (Houston TX) Sunday, December 11, 1887, pg. 5, col. 5: NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS. BIDS .. "for the erection of the Bayland Orphans' Home building to be located on the Perl place, just north of Beauchamp springs. ..."

⁶⁰ Board Minutes, August 19, 1887 pg. 233, 234.

⁶¹ Anna Allen Wright letter.

⁶² Henry Arto, 12, Harris Co: 22 Mar 1870 – 20 Oct 1870. Died.
John W. Coldiron, - , Austin Co: 11 Mar 1869 – Oct 1869. Died.
John Campbell, 2, Galveston Co: 17 Aug 1869 – Sep 1870. Died.
Harry Duke, 2, Harris Co: 01 Apr 1869 – Oct 1869. Died.
Robert Le--, 6, Harris Co: 14 May 1868 – Jun 1868. Died.
William Moss, 2, Grimes Co: 01 Apr 1868 – 11 Aug 1869. Died.
Mrs. Frances Moss, 35, Grimes Co: 01 Apr 1868 – 25 Feb 1870. Died.
Thomas Wilson, 13, Polk Co: 23 Feb 1870 – Apr 1870. Drowned.

At Rest: A Historical Directory of Harris County, Texas, Cemeteries (1822-2010) Including Burial Customs and Other Interesting Facts, With a Listing of Past and Present Communities, Funeral Home and Monument Companies by Trevia Wooster Beverly (3rd edition, Tejas Publications & Research, Houston, 2010). *Suffer the Children: A History of the Confederate Orphanage at Bayland, Harris County, Texas 1867 to May 1918* by Trevia Wooster Beverly (Tejas Publications & Research, Houston. 2003). Taken from the 1871 Report.

⁶³ Board minutes, January 20, 1888, pg. 248.

⁶⁴ #3618, Book C, p. 783.

⁶⁵ This minute book, along with other records, are housed at the Harris County Archives <http://www.co.harris.tx.us/CmpDocuments/20/Finding%20Aids/FA-Bayland%20Orphans%20HomeCR30.pdf> A microfilm copy of these are also at Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research in Houston, Texas.

⁶⁶ History of the Woodland Heights: “The 35-acre Bayland Orphanage compound, originally intended for orphans of Civil War veterans, started at Julian and Bayland. This was the western border of the Woodland Heights until fire destroyed the orphanage building in 1914, the institution relocated near Bellaire, and the land became part of the Woodland Heights. Bayland Avenue is named for the orphanage.” <http://www.woodland-heights.org/history.htm>