

## ***Small Historic Towns across America.***

As presented by Mr. Stadt's on-line Freedom Project Education U.S. History classes in the Fall and Winter of 2014. You can learn more about our classes by visiting us at: [www.fpeusa.org](http://www.fpeusa.org)

### ***Jefferson, TX***

Jefferson is the county seat of Marion County, Texas. According to the 2000 census, its population is just over 2,000. This makes it a tiny town, indeed, both in population and in size, as it only covers 4.4 square miles of land. However, its tiny size should not be mistaken with the town being boring.

Jefferson is so historic that nearly every building on its main road has a historic marker, according to the Houston Press. The town was founded in about 1841 along the Red River. The land upon which the town was built was given to white settlers by local Native Americans. At the time, there was a log jam in the Red River that made the river levels exceptionally high, and according to the natives, it had always been there. This made Jefferson a major port town for river travel, with its population reaching nearly 7,000 at one point.

However, town leaders tried for years to remove the log jam in order to restore the natural flow of the river. According to the Jefferson, Texas Chamber of Commerce, when they were finally able to accomplish this with dynamite in 1873, the water levels in the river went down so much as to make river travel impossible. Having previously rejected the railroad going through town, Jefferson's commercial prosperity and population began to decline.

### **Directions**

The closest airport to Jefferson, Texas is Jack Brooks Regional Airport in Beaumont. Take TX-73 West to Labelle Rd and follow Labelle to Jefferson.

### **Political History**

Martin Van Buren, the eighth President of the United States, was the President at the time that Jefferson was founded.

The oldest business would be the Post Office.

### **Historic Attractions**

The city is a tourism center, with popular attractions including: Jay Gould's Railroad car, the Sterne Fountain, Jefferson Carnegie Library, Excelsior House, the House of the Four Seasons, and the bayous formed by Big Cypress Bayou located in and around the city.

### **Where can we stay if we visit Jefferson, TX?**

The Hale House Inn.

### **Why would I want to visit this historic small town?**

Tourism in Jefferson is enhanced by a number of events that are held throughout the year. Major annual events include:

Mardi Gras Upriver

By the Light of the Moon--Shakespeare Under the Stars

Diamond Don's Vintage Motocross

Historical Pilgrimage

Jefferson Civil War Days

The Great Locomotive Chase and Naval Battle of Port Jefferson  
The Battle for Jefferson  
Corvette Car Show  
Texas Sounds International Country Music Awards

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