

## 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)



### Brief History of Nacogdoches, Texas.

Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe de los Nacogdoches was a Spanish mission established in East Texas in 1721, to reach out to the Caddo Indians in the area. It wasn't until 1779 that the people were led back to East Texas by their leader Antonio Gil Y'Barbo. Nacogdoches became a Spanish town. In 1812, the first attempt to make Texas a Republic of its own failed, and Texas was declared a province of Mexico. The Old Stone Fort in Nacogdoches served as the headquarters for revolutionary freedom fighters. Bent to gain independence for Texas. Achieved in 1836, the young Texas Republic continued under the leadership of Stephen Fuller Austin, the Father of Texas. Texas finally became apart of the United States of America in 1846. Nacogdoches established a teacher's college and built the University Building to accommodate for the many students eager to learn. That University eventually turned into what is modern day Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU). The Old Stone Fort still stands today in the heart of the SFA campus.



### Location and Driving Directions from closest major U.S. Airport(s).

From George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, Texas take US-59 N all the way into Nacogdoches. From William P. Hobby Airport (HOU) get onto I-45 N and take exit 46A to merge onto US-59 N. Stay on US-59 until you arrive in Nacogdoches.

### Who was President when this town was founded? And, what was the political environment in America at that time?

There was not a President of the United States at the time Nacogdoches first became a town, however, James K. Polk was President when Texas became part of the United States of America in 1846. The United States was coming out of the wars with Mexico during this time. Texas was the 28<sup>th</sup> state to join the United States of America.

### Oldest business/largest business today.

Stephen F. Austin State University employs the largest amount of people in Nacogdoches. It is also the oldest employment business in town. Named for the only "Father of Texas", Stephen F. Austin, the college, now State University, employs more than 2,000 professors, associates, and management personnel. The focus still remains on preparing students to become teachers; however, the institution boasts more than twenty masters level degrees, and at least two doctoral programs.

## City government.

The city of Nacogdoches has a council/manager form of government. This means that the elected City Council members set the policies for operation of the local government. A city manager is appointed by the City Council and is responsible for the daily operations of the municipal organization. The City Council has four council members and one mayor. Council meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of the month at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

## Historic attractions in the area. Festivals and Events.

Other than being the oldest town in Texas, Nacogdoches is known for being the home of Texas' largest Azalea garden, the Ruby Mize Azalea Garden. Formal tours are available, or you can take a walk through the Azalea Garden yourself.

Website: <http://azaleas.visitnacogdoches.org/>

There are many festivals and events in Nacogdoches every year. The Annual Blueberry Festival is great way to have fun on a hot summer day! It is a celebration of the annual harvest of blueberries, and takes place right in downtown Nacogdoches. The day starts off with blueberry pancakes and continues on with pie eating contests. There's also a car show and a motorcycle show in the afternoon.

Website: <http://www.tbf.nacogdoches.org/>



## Where can we stay if we visit Nacogdoches?

There are several hotels and B&Bs in Nacogdoches. Llano Grande Plantation is a lovely B&B complete with beautiful scenery and historic landmarks.

Website: <http://llanogrande.com/>

## Why would I want to visit this historic small town.

Nacogdoches, Texas is full of historic attractions, but that isn't all it has to offer! There are many beautiful trails and gardens spread out all over the city. The many year round festivals keep the downtown brick streets alive and busy! SFASU brings many college students to town, as well as, entertainment groups and sports events. There are 26 different antique shops in Nacogdoches! Many of them are in historic downtown Nacogdoches. If you visit the Visit Nacogdoches website below, you will find a lists of events and shopping in the area.

## Links you may wish to visit.

<http://www.visitnacogdoches.org/>

<http://www.ci.nacogdoches.tx.us/>

<http://llanogrande.com/>

<http://www.tbf.nacogdoches.org/>