

An Application for an Official Texas Historical Subject Marker¹

City of Pelly, Texas

Baytown, Harris County, Texas

by Charles “Chuck” Chandler²

I. CONTEXT

In 1905, the community of Goose Creek was a sleepy backwater in far east Harris County. In the 19th century the area had been home to many prominent Texas citizens; notable among them were Ashbel Smith,³ Mary Jones,⁴ and Sam Houston.⁵ David G. Burnet, the first president of Texas, lived just up the road overlooking the bay which bears his name.^{6 7} Goose Creek was an old community, named for the stream west of the settlement, and was designated as a polling place as early as 1841.⁸ In 1859, Mary Jones had purchased her farm called Headquarters from Henry Smith, with Ashbel Smith acting with power of attorney for his brother’s affairs. She raised four children on the farm and in 1879 sold 346 acres of it to David Wiggins.⁹ In 1889, Wiggins sold fifty-nine acres of the farm to Jesse Knowlton.¹⁰ In 1900 Wiggins deeded seventy-four acres to his son Thomas G. Wiggins¹¹ and seventy-three acres to his daughter Lucy Pelly.¹² He also deeded seventy-one acres to his daughter, Dollie Hauff in 1907¹³ and kept the rest as his homestead.¹⁴ Three years later Wiggins’ wife, Annie Isabell, died and became the first burial in the family cemetery, known today as the Hill of Rest.¹⁵ By 1908 other family members had been buried and David Wiggins filed a “Dedication of Cemetery” deed.¹⁶ He would be buried there later that same year. Bordering the Wiggins family property on the south was 117 acres owned by Lafayette W. Jones¹⁷ and bordering on the east was 40 acres owned by Jones and fifty-six acres owned by Benjamin Hunter.¹⁸

Oil was discovered on Tabb’s Bay in 1905¹⁹ and everything would soon change because the community of Goose Creek was ground zero for the oil field which would develop on the Gaillard family property.²⁰ Dollie sold her seventy-one acres to the Producer’s Oil Company in 1908 and for a few years drilling progressed at a slow pace with not much oil found. During those early days, the town on Tabb’s Bay consisted of about fifty buildings²¹ with another one hundred tents used as temporary housing by the oil field workers. Annie Schilling, John Gaillard’s niece, owned the two-and-a-half acres where the Goose Creek community was situated and her renters’ leases stated that when the land was contracted for drilling they had a week to move.²² C. T. Rucker leased the drilling rights in October 1916 and soon issued the evacuation order.²³ The order was not tightly enforced however, with many people staying put. But a series of well blowouts and fires in November²⁴ and December, 1916²⁵ and January, 1917

finally forced evacuation of the area.²⁶ Natural gas was spewing from the wells at a rate of twenty million cubic feet per day and fires for cooking and heating were outlawed²⁷ and the school was forced to close. A new township called Goose Creek had been platted in September, 1916 on land owned²⁸ by Thomas Wright about two miles north of the oil field, and lots were being sold and developed.²⁹

In 1916 about 1000 people received their mail at the tiny 7'x8' Goose Creek Post Office³⁰ which had been in use since 1913.³¹ When the settlement was evacuated due to oil well blowouts that year³² the building was physically moved up the road to Middle Town; by 1917 the 5,000 people who now used it made it totally inadequate for the job. Mail came through the Cedar Bayou Post Office on trucks over the rutted, muddy roads which at times were completely impassable.³³ The Dayton Goose Creek Railroad had begun mail delivery and the depot was in New Town, making for more efficient service³⁴ so a Post Office was built in New Town. By 1917 New Town was being called Goose Creek so in September 1917 mail deliveries were moved to that location, much to the consternation of the Middle Town residents who blamed Goose Creek for "stealing" their post office.³⁵

Jesse Knowlton had subdivided the land he had bought from David Wiggins and in 1891 sold the parcels to five black families, Ed Smith, William Taylor, Ephraim Taylor, William White, and Ella Napoleon. By 1910 Ed Smith had sold some of his land to another black man, Peter Smith. Ed and William Taylor still owned their homes in today's Abercrombie and Casey Subdivisions.³⁶ The oil field had developed an industry-wide reputation for its disdain for black workers^{37 38 39} and the 1920 census shows most black families living further west in what would later become Oakwood Subdivision.⁴⁰ William Taylor sold his land to John Schilling in 1922⁴¹ although as late as 1930 a few Negroes still lived near Peter Smith in today's Casey Subdivision.⁴²

The gushers in the oil field continued and in November 1917 an addition to New Town developed by W. T. Terry extended west into land which had been the Price Pruett homestead.⁴³ By this time people who had bought lots in the new town had moved and the people who had not just moved their tents and shacks a little further away from the oil field. The new Goose Creek became known as New Town, the original Goose Creek was called Old Town and everything in between was called Middle Town. The area called Middle Town was the land which David Wiggins had bought from Mary Jones and included some of the Gaillard and Jones land. The boundary line between Old Town and Middle Town was not

specifically defined at this time. In 1920 a writer observed that “Middle Town is but a continuation of Old Town to a layman and is just a shade newer, but general architecture is the same.”⁴⁴ Thomas G. Wiggins had died in 1910 and his widow, Hettie had remarried, subdivided the family’s property, and in 1918 platted it as Middletown⁴⁵ Subdivision for the benefit of their children.⁴⁶ However due to the temporary nature of oil boom towns and the reluctance of people to permanently settle, by 1920 only three sales had been filed. M. T. Woods bought the first recorded lot on April 19, 1919.⁴⁷

II. OVERVIEW

Frederick Thomas Pelly was born in London, England on Feb 2, 1870.⁴⁸ At the age of 19 he came to the United States for adventure and for work, as he put it. After he arrived in the states, he joined the United States Army where he served for three years with the 4th Cavalry⁴⁹ in Walla Walla, Washington.⁵⁰ After he left the army he came south to New Orleans. He worked there, and later in Houston, driving mule teams that pulled street cars. While in Houston he became friends with a member of the Duke family from this area.⁵¹ He visited in their home and met his future wife, Lucy Wiggins, on one of those visits. She was the daughter of David Wiggins who had purchased Mary Jones’ farm in 1879. Pelly moved to Goose Creek in 1895 and he and Lucy were married in 1898.⁵² He farmed and ranched for a living on the seventy-three acres her father had given her in 1900.⁵³

Incorporation

The new town site of Goose Creek to the north was first platted in September 1916 and by the end of 1918, after the well fires and gas releases in Old Town prompted people to move, population had reached the threshold needed to incorporate. On January 28 Goose Creek citizens voted in favor of incorporation and the vote was made official by County Judge Chester H. Bryan on February 17, 1919.⁵⁴ Later that year, sometime prior to November 25, 1919 a vote had been held in Jesse Knowlton’s old tract between Hettie Wright’s Middletown subdivision and Goose Creek. The petition submitted by the residents favored annexation by Goose Creek⁵⁵ so on December 5, Goose Creek passed an ordinance annexing all the land between Middletown Subdivision and Goose Creek.⁵⁶ However, just days prior to that vote a group of Middle Town landowners led by Fred Pelly had filed a petition with Harris County Commissioners Court to hold an election to incorporate almost the entire tract of land which David Wiggins had bought from Mary Jones⁵⁷ as the City of Pelly.⁵⁸ The proposed town would also include

land owned by Lafayette W. Jones (unrelated to Mary Jones) and Benjamin Hunter. This included the land which had just been annexed by Goose Creek.

The election for the incorporation of the town of Pelly was held at Fred Pelly's store on December 6, 1919.⁵⁹ It passed by a vote of fifty-two for and one against⁶⁰ and the city of Pelly was incorporated on December 29, 1919.⁶¹ At the time of its incorporation, Pelly had a total population of somewhere around 7,500 but only people who had resided within the city for the previous six months were eligible to vote so only 125 people cast ballots for mayor and aldermen in the January 17, 1920 election. Fred Pelly was elected mayor with almost 75% of the ballots cast and J. P. Wickersheimer, E. J. Smith, W. F. Hall, F. Wiesenthal, and J. C. Stephenson were elected Aldermen.⁶²

The incorporation of Pelly created a great deal of confusion and hard feelings. The residents in the disputed area didn't know to whom their taxes were due, the 1920 census named Pelly as "Not Incorporated New Town" and the new town of Goose Creek simply as "New Town". Old Goose Creek was still called Goose Creek on the same census.⁶³ A new Post Office was opened in Pelly in October, 1920 with the address listed as "Pelly, Goose Creek",⁶⁴ and deed records and plats in the disputed territory filed during this time were shown to be either in Center Town or Goose Creek.^{65 66} The incorporation of Pelly forestalled the annexation by Goose Creek until May 14, 1923 when the Goose Creek City Council declared the annexation to be "rescinded, set aside, and be declared null and void."^{67 68}

Beginning in 1916 the area school population began to experience explosive growth due to the influx of oil field workers, increasing from 20 students to 400 in 1917. By 1920 there were over 3,000 school age children in the Pelly area⁶⁹ although the exact number who actually attended school is unknown. Because of the growth, school was held at every possible place; stores were converted to schools. Churches, tents and even a pool hall and blacksmith shop were used for the purpose.

Demographics

Out of a population of over 3,000 there were about 200 black people living in Pelly in 1920. The census shows many lived south of Dayton & Goose Creek Railroad, but it also showed the area to be not

completely segregated. Long time landowner Will Taylor lived next door to Price Pruett who had sold his farm which became part of the city of Goose Creek.⁷⁰

In 1923 John Schilling bought 10 acres from Hettie Holladay, the widow of David Wiggins' son Thomas.⁷¹ Schilling subdivided it and a year later dedicated it as Oakwood Addition.⁷² Because of segregation Pelly was the only city in the Tri-Cities where Colored people were allowed to live. In 1929, Charlie Massey developed Oaklawn Addition, just north of Oakwood. By 1930 this was about the only home for the black population and for the duration of the city of Pelly it was one of the few places in the Tri-Cities where colored people lived.

Utilities

Charlie Trifon had installed electrical equipment for his Cozy Theater and in November 1921 his Goose Creek Light & Power Company was awarded a ten year franchise to erect poles, wiring, and fixtures to provide street lighting for the city.⁷³ Two years later the position of Electrical Inspector was created,⁷⁴ Main Street was designated a "Fire District", and an ordinance requiring fire retardant building construction in the district was passed. By then Trifon's company was called the Pelly Light & Power Company.⁷⁵

When Pelly was incorporated residents used outhouses and septic tanks and bathed in washtubs.⁷⁶ In October 1922, the city granted a fifty year franchise to J. W. Riggs to install and maintain a city water supply⁷⁷ and in December 1922, George Simonds was granted a franchise for installing a sanitary sewer system⁷⁸ with residents being required to connect to it. Two years later voters approved a \$35,000 bond election to upgrade with a more robust sewer system. They created the office of City Plumbing Inspector to oversee the laying of sewer pipes and passed ordinances requiring permits to perform plumbing work.⁷⁹

Streets in the early days of Pelly could best be described as a sea of mud.⁸⁰ The only paved street in town was the County road called Main Street and that was paved with clam shell. In December 1925 a \$16,500 bond election was approved for construction of streets and improvement of streets where necessary. Two years later the city signed a contract with Brown and Root to begin installing curbs and gutters.

In 1927 Pelly City Council signed a fifty-year contract with Houston Lighting & Power Company to provide electricity and the infrastructure to support it. The same year they signed a contract with the Houston North Shore Railway to provide right of way for the new interurban rail line connecting the Tri Cities to Houston.⁸¹

City Hall

For the first few years, the Pelly City council meetings were held in the Pelly Branch of the Goose Creek State Bank. The Pelly Library was also housed in the Director's Room of the same building,⁸² located at the southeast corner of today's W. Main and King Streets. On the southwest corner of the same intersection stood Central Baptist Church that had incorporated in 1921 and was using an old theater as its church building.⁸³ In 1927 the church was planning a new building to be built on the same lot as the existing building.⁸⁴ In December 1927 the city of Pelly purchased the lot and building from the church for \$1300.00 and the deed was filed on April 13, 1928.⁸⁵ The church was built a couple of blocks away.

The Pelly City Council immediately moved to submit to the voters a bond election for \$30,000 to build a new City Hall. The election that June passed by a vote of eighty-five to twelve⁸⁶ and the first Pelly City Council meeting was held in the new city hall on April 18, 1929.⁸⁷ The auditorium was made available for rent and Central Baptist Church, who had previously occupied the site was allowed to hold Bible class on Sundays there at no cost.⁸⁸

In August 1927 voters in Goose Creek ISD approved a bond election⁸⁹ to build a new high school across the road from the Wiggins family cemetery, by now known as Hill of Rest. The following March Pelly annexed the land where cemetery was located; and the new high school, Robert E. Lee, was being built.^{90 91} When incorporated, the Pelly city limits did not include land owned by the Producers Oil Company which was the inheritance of David Wiggins' daughter, Dollie Hauff so in 1928 Pelly annexed this tract too, as the city council minutes put it, "in order to straighten and shorten the outside limits of said city".⁹²

Fire Department

The Pelly Fire Department in 1920 consisted of a two wheeled cart that carried a 90-gallon chemical drum with a one-inch hose.⁹³ In March 1926 a new chemical fire truck was purchased and a garage for it was built behind Leggett's Drug Store.⁹⁴ Two years later the position of Pelly Fire Marshal was created⁹⁵ and the new city hall built that year had a garage to house the 1929 Studebaker fire engine inside the building.⁹⁶ In January 1931 the Pelly Fire Department was formally established with N. J. King as chief.⁹⁷ Besides their firefighting duties, the Fire Department was responsible for upkeep of the grounds and shrubbery at the city hall.⁹⁸ For a time during the early 1930's, acting fire chief Q. S. Powers had a zoo behind the fire station. He kept a menagerie of animals such as possums, wolves, foxes, sheep, parrots and monkeys until the operation was shut down by city council because it was too near the city hall.⁹⁹ On October 27, 1936 a fire in the Nu Gulf Theater destroyed an entire city block of Pelly. The Pelly Fire Department along with units from Goose Creek and the Humble Refinery and as far away as La Porte responded to this fire, the biggest in the city's history. In 1946 the city built a \$15,000 Fire Station on Nazro Street and the Pelly Fire Department moved out of the City Hall. The new building could accommodate two fire trucks.¹⁰⁰ ¹⁰¹ On April 16, 1947 one of these trucks¹⁰² responded to the explosion of the *SS Grandcamp* in Texas City¹⁰³ by sending a truck to assist with the firefighting efforts.¹⁰⁴

Police Department

Law enforcement was provided by the Pelly City Marshal. John D. Tubbs was the first marshal, elected in April, 1920.¹⁰⁵ Among the duties of the marshal was the collection of taxes. With the transient population came touring attractions so the city charged occupation taxes for such things as circuses, acrobatic events, wild west shows, medicine shows, menageries and wax museums.¹⁰⁶ The marshal was allowed to keep twenty percent of the taxes as his fee.¹⁰⁷ Virgil C. Porter was the city's longest serving marshal, being first appointed in 1927 and elected for eight more terms. In 1930, E.K. Vollette was hired as deputy marshal and paid \$1.00 per year.¹⁰⁸ There was a one-cell jail located inside the Pelly City Hall building¹⁰⁹ and the Nu Gulf Cafe had a contract for feeding the prisoners.¹¹⁰ Porter was a powerful political figure having been elected to the position nine times. He was removed from office in 1938 amid legal problems.¹¹¹ This seems to have been an extremely tumultuous time in city politics. The newly elected mayor, Doyle R. Baird resigned in 1937 after two months on the job and was replaced by Fred Pelly in a special election¹¹² During Porter's trial the following year, Fred Pelly proposed that City Attorney Shannon Morris be "laid off for a few months to save money". That move

was tabled by the Aldermen.¹¹³ The following month, Pelly resigned as mayor of his namesake city over a dispute as to who should control the police department. His resignation was immediately accepted and he was replaced by mayor pro tem J. R. Hearle.¹¹⁴ Another special election resulted in W. C. Williams being elected to fill the remainder of the term. The Appeals Court in Austin reversed the decision against Porter in May, 1939.¹¹⁵

Civic Activities

From 1937 to 1941 a Work Projects Administration¹¹⁶ recreation office and service center was established in the city.¹¹⁷ A major construction project at this time was the installation of sidewalks, curbs and gutters on area streets. Many of these still exist in the community, including the sidewalk with the WPA impression in front of the City Hall.¹¹⁸ The WPA also sponsored local bands such as the Swing Rascals who provided music for free weekly high school dances in the city hall auditorium.¹¹⁹ Old-time fiddler Mr. Tomlinson and the guitar duo of Wilburn and Geiger among many others also provided entertainment.¹²⁰ Other activities such as dominoes and cake-walks were held.¹²¹ For many years people in the community fondly remembered the service center and the activities held there.¹²² Other groups such as The Tri-Cities Garden Club,¹²³ the Pelly Civic Club,¹²⁴ the Girl Scouts¹²⁵ and Boy Scout Troop 94 used the upstairs auditorium as its meeting house.¹²⁶ The Pelly Volunteer Fire Department sponsored dances and dinners at the city hall as fund raisers¹²⁷ and a children's park was constructed on the lot next door.¹²⁸

The Pelly Post Office had been located in the City Hall building since 1928, but in 1941 was moved to the Davis Building across the street.¹²⁹ In 1943 voters in Pelly voted against consolidation with Goose Creek.¹³⁰

Annexations¹³¹

December 1945 opened a very interesting chapter in Tri-Cities history when Pelly voters approved a home-rule charter. This designation gave the city autonomy from state oversight and allowed annexation of unincorporated territory without voter approval. Pelly immediately annexed Water District No. 7 of the "contiguous and unincorporated" territory of Baytown.¹³² This move was extremely unpopular among Baytown residents. In a formal statement Eddie Cleveland, the mayor of Pelly, attributed the action as "fear of Goose Creek" because a recent annexation by that city created a feeling that Pelly

would be encircled. C. Q. Alexander, the mayor of Goose Creek, had also appeared at a Pelly City Council meeting and asked that the city of Pelly withdraw its city limits from Goose Creek stream so the city of Goose Creek could annex that territory.¹³³ Goose Creek had also filed a lawsuit claiming that Pelly's charter at the time did not permit the 1928 annexation of the Hill of Rest Cemetery and Robert E. Lee High School and proceeded to annex that land.¹³⁴ The case would be settled the following year when the Court of Civil Appeals in Galveston ruled in Pelly's favor.¹³⁵ Pelly followed the annexation of Baytown by annexing the areas of Lee Heights, Gulf Hill, and all the land between the city and the newly completed Texas Highway 146.^{136 137} Meanwhile, the Baytown Water District's boards filed suit¹³⁸ and a year-long court fight followed over whether a city could annex a water district since the problem had no precedent.¹³⁹ The court finally ruled against Baytown and in October 1946 it was absorbed into Pelly. Another annexation by Pelly in November¹⁴⁰ of that year boosted the city's population even more. 1946 brought a new siren for the Pelly Fire Department, installed on a 12-foot derrick atop the City Hall. Fire Chief B. B. Elliot said "that siren is so powerful that we'll have Goose Creek firemen coming to our drills."¹⁴¹

Consolidation

After unsuccessful attempts in 1929¹⁴² 1931,¹⁴³ 1939,¹⁴⁴ and 1944¹⁴⁵, Goose Creek and Pelly finally consolidated by popular vote on March 7, 1947.¹⁴⁶ Pelly had the greater population because of the annexations the previous year,¹⁴⁷ so the city of Goose Creek was dissolved and annexed by Pelly. With Eddie Cleveland as mayor, Pelly became the second largest city in Harris County. The *Goose Creek Daily Sun* had a contest to guess the total combined population and Claude C. Foster won the \$1000 prize with a guess of 20,983.¹⁴⁸ In recognition of its demise, the doors of Goose Creek City Hall were draped with black crepe as the city council convened its last meeting to count consolidation ballots.¹⁴⁹ Two months later the city of Pelly annexed three additional tracts of land.¹⁵⁰ The following week the Goose Creek and Baytown fire departments merged with Pelly.¹⁵¹ After consolidation Fire Station #1 was built on Nazro Street and the Fire Department moved out of the City Hall building.

A year after consolidation there was another vote to approve a new city charter. On January 24, 1948 the City of Pelly officially became the City of Baytown and the old Pelly City Hall became the seat of local government for a second time.¹⁵² Many names for the new town were proposed but the chosen name of Baytown had been associated with the area since 1859 when a US Post Office with that name was

established in the area north of Black Duck Bay.¹⁵³ Fred T. Pelly died on May 28, 1949, just a few months after the city which he created and which bore his name was renamed as Baytown.¹⁵⁴

Today Baytown is the sixth-largest city within the Houston-Woodlands-Sugar Land metropolitan area. Major highways serving the city include State Highway 146 and Interstate 10. As of 2018 Baytown has an estimated population of 85,000 people.

Population

The census taken in January, 1920 shows 550 people living in Pelly (called Non-Incorporated Goose Creek) and another 750 in old town Goose Creek. Another count had the population at 7500 at the time of incorporation. Censuses are always incomplete and the transient nature of the oil field workers added to the error. The 7500 included Old Town and other land east of Goose Creek. Very few people owned land so the real number would have been somewhere in between.

Both the 1930 and 1940 censuses show about 1800 people living in the City of Pelly.

Churches built in the city of Pelly¹⁵⁵

The Methodist church, started as a Sunday School in 1913, was the first church in the area which would become Pelly^{156 157}. In March 1917, it became First Methodist and was renamed St John Methodist in 1953, 1913-Present

Central Baptist, 1921-Present

Apostolic Church, established before 1929

Assembly of God, established before 1929

Pentecostal, renamed as Faith Temple before 1929

Mt Rose Baptist Church (c), before 1918-Present

Colored Methodist Church (c), 1937

St John Baptist (c), 1942

Church of Christ (c), 1942

Congregational Methodist, 1944

Theaters in Pelly

The first known theater in what would become Pelly was the Cozy Theater opened in 1916 by Charlie Trifon.^{158 159} It may have been the theater on the lot where Pelly City Hall would later be built. Central Baptist Church bought the lot and building in 1921.¹⁶⁰ The theater had moved across the street by 1920 when Trifon bought the 200-seat theater including the building, seats and projection equipment from R.C. Stephenson in January, 1920.¹⁶¹ The theater was located on the corner of today's W. Main and Bayless Streets. In 1923 or 1924 Trifon moved the theater next door and renamed it as the Star Theater.¹⁶² He removed the roof and added a 2nd floor to accommodate a larger screen and balcony. He co-owned it with a [] Cassell when he added brick fireproofing as a result of being cited for safety violations in 1924.^{163 164} Three years later City Council approved Charlie Trifon's plans to install an awning in front of the theater and remodel the lobby.¹⁶⁵ It seems to have been called the Gulf Theater for a while during this time because when the remodeling was complete, manager E. K. Vollette had a contest to guess the new name of the theater.¹⁶⁶ It reopened as the Nu Gulf Theater.^{167 168} Besides movies, the theater served as the venue for plays and other activities.¹⁶⁹ A fire starting in the building destroyed an entire block in 1936. It was not rebuilt.

Alamo Theater; This 600-seat theater owned by Howard E. Brunson opened August 29, 1937¹⁷⁰ one block east of Nu Gulf. It closed October 2, 1949,¹⁷¹ shortly after Brunson's flagship theater opened in Goose Creek.¹⁷²

Schools built in Pelly and other buildings used as schools¹⁷³ (all years through 1923 are grades 1-8 only), (c) denotes Colored.

Faulkner Building, 1919-1923

Derrick Store Oct 29, 1919-1923

Old Mary Jones School, 1919-1923

Evergreen School, 1919-1923

Methodist Church, July 18, 1921-1923

A two-room school house was also approved in July, 1921-1923

Anderson Grocery Store (c), 1920-1923^{174 175}

Mt Rose Baptist Church (c), 1923 Classes were initially held here and the church was used from time to time throughout segregation to handle overflow from George Washington Carver school across the street.¹⁷⁶

Negro School (c), named George Washington Carver in 1940, was built as a two-room building in 1927.

A new brick high school was the last school constructed in Pelly, but opened after the city's name was changed to Baytown in 1948. The high school closed in 1967 but lower grades were taught in the school, renamed as Carver-Jones in 1968 until it was permanently closed in 1982. 1923-1982¹⁷⁷

C. Anson Jones Elementary, 1923-1968. It was used as a media center until it was razed in 1982.

Goose Creek HS, remodeled and re-designated as Horace Mann Junior High in 1928. 1923-1928

Horace Mann Junior High School, the building was built as Goose Creek High School, 1928-1982

Robert E. Lee High School, 1928-Present¹⁷⁸

Sam Houston Elementary, 1928-1982

III. SIGNIFICANCE

The city of Pelly was born out of the fear that the area would be annexed by the city of Goose Creek, just to the north. The fear was well founded; in November 1919, Goose Creek City Council annexed a strip of land between that city and Hettie Wright's Middletown Subdivision. However, five days earlier a group of residents led by Fred Pelly, with his name at the top of the signatures, presented a petition to Harris County to incorporate all the land in the Harvey Whiting League south of Goose Creek as the city of Pelly. The petition was accepted, an election held and the City of Pelly was incorporated on December 29, 1919. For over three years a legal battle between the two cities ensued, resulting in Goose Creek rescinding the annexation on May 5, 1923. Fred was the first mayor of the city, serving two terms and a later partial third term.

A series of annexations in the mid-1940s culminating with the annexation of old Baytown and Busch Terrace west of Goose Creek stream almost tripled the city's area and population. Consolidation with the City of Goose Creek had been proposed several times over the years but in 1947 the time was right. When the vote was held in the cities of Pelly and Goose Creek, Pelly had the greater population thanks to the previous annexations. So, on March 1947 Goose Creek was annexed by Pelly, making it the second largest city in Harris County. On January 24, 1948 a new city charter was adopted and the city of Pelly ceased to exist, being renamed as the city of Baytown and with the Pelly City Hall continuing in use as the Baytown City Hall. The City Hall building served not only as the seat of government for two cities, but as a symbol of the identity of those people who had called the city of Pelly home.

IV. DOCUMENTATION

The History of Baytown by Margaret Swett Henson. (Bay Area Heritage Society, Baytown, Texas; 1985.)

A Social History of Baytown, Texas 1912-1956 by Olga Miller Haenel. (Austin, Texas. The University of Texas, January 1958. Thesis for Degree of Master of Arts).

Historical and Biographical Baytown, Texas. A special section of the 1952 Twentieth Anniversary Edition of the Baytown City Directory by Chester P. Rogers (Page-Interstate Company).

Fuel Oil Journal began publishing in Houston in 1911. In 1916, it was renamed the *Oil Trade Journal*. In 1924, it merged with *Oil News* to become *Oil Trade*, which in turn went through a series of re-naming and mergers. The current successor to this journal is published as Indoor Comfort Marketing.

A Remembered Utopia, Buck A. Young (1982), *East Texas Historical Journal*: Vol. 20: Issue. 1, Article 9. Available at: <https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ethj/vol20/iss1/9>

Minutes of the Pelly City Council, located at Baytown City Hall, 2401 Market St. Baytown, TX 77520, Brandon Capetillo, Mayor, City of Baytown. Available online at <https://weblink.baytown.org/WebLink/0/fol/320579/Row1.aspx>

Minutes of the School Board Meetings, 1919-1923, Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District, 4544 Interstate 10 East, Baytown, Texas 77521. 281.420.4800. Mailing Address: P.O. Box 30, Baytown, Texas 77522. GCCISD webpage: <http://www.gccisd.net/>

Harris County Deed Books, Commissioners Court Minutes, and Road Books are accessible at the County Clerk's Office Records, located at Harris County Archives, 11525 Todd Street, Houston, Texas 77055, Diane Trautman, Harris County Clerk. <http://www.harriscountyarchives.com/>

Goose Creek Gasser, One of the Baytown area's first newspapers, a forerunner of the present-day Baytown Sun, Edward Herman Bell and other investors, including Hugh Echols, Jr. (1898-1964), Clarence Fortinberry (1891-1975), and Bell's brother-in-law, William McCree Bonds (1882-1949), bought the *Goose Creek Gasser* from Boyer in December 1924. The new owners changed the name of the publication to the *Semi-Weekly Tribune*, published by the Tribune Printing Company Inc. on Tuesdays and Fridays, with the slogan, "A Landlocked Harbor Where the Ship Channel Meets the Sea." <http://www.baytownhistory.org/images/BaytownSunMarkerApp.pdf>

Microfilm copies of the newspapers are housed at Sterling Municipal Public Library. The Library also holds a complete collection of Telephone Books and City Directories dating from 1929. 1 Mary

Elizabeth Wilbanks Ave #4258, Baytown, TX 77520. <https://www.baytown.org/city-hall/departments/library>

Report of the Regional/Urban Design Assistance Team (RUDAT) visit to Baytown, Texas on June 7-11, 1990. Created in 1967, the AIA's R/UDAT program pioneered the modern charrette process by combining multi-disciplinary teams in dynamic, multi-day grassroots processes to produce community visions, action plans and recommendations.”

https://www.brikbases.org/sites/default/files/dat_aiab080285_baytown_1990.pdf

Map showing deeds from David Wiggins to his children and others.

<http://www.baytownlibrarylocal.org/piwigo/picture.php?/1298/category/21>

Map showing Pelly and Goose Creek annexations from 1919 to 1948.

<http://www.baytownlibrarylocal.org/piwigo/picture.php?/1296/category/21>

¹ Sponsored by the Baytown Historical Preservation Association. 5117 North Main Street, P.O. Box 1244, Baytown, Texas 77522-1244. (281)421-2099 info@baytownhistory.org <http://www.baytownhistory.org/>

² Vice President, Baytown Historical Preservation Association, assisted by Trevia Wooster Beverly, Harris County Historical Commission (1995-) and Chairman of the Advisory Council for the Baytown Historical Preservation Association.

³ Ashbel Smith (August 13, 1805 – January 21, 1886) was a pioneer physician, diplomat and official of the Republic of Texas, Confederate officer and first President of the Board of Regents of the University of Texas. <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fsm04>

⁴ Mary Smith Jones (1819–1907) was the last First Lady of the Republic of Texas as wife of Anson Jones, the last president of the Republic. She was the first president of the newly founded Daughters of the Republic of Texas in 1891. <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fjo93>

⁵ Sam Houston (March 2, 1793 – July 26, 1863) was an American soldier and politician. His victory at the Battle of San Jacinto secured the independence of Texas from Mexico in one of the shortest decisive battles in modern history. He was also the only governor of a future Confederate state to oppose secession (which led to the outbreak of the American Civil War) and to refuse an oath of allegiance to the Confederacy, a decision that led to his removal from office by the Texas secession convention. <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fho73>

⁶ David Gouverneur Burnet (April 14, 1788 – December 5, 1870) was an early politician within the Republic of Texas, serving as interim President of Texas (1836 and again in 1841), second Vice President of the Republic of Texas (1839–1841), and Secretary of State (1846) for the new state of Texas after it was annexed to the United States of America. <https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fbu46><https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/fbu46>

⁷ *At Rest: A Historical Directory of Harris County, Texas, Cemeteries (1822-2001) Including Burial Customs and Other Interesting Facts, With a Listing of Past and Present Communities, Funeral Home and Monument Companies*. 1st Edition 1994; 2nd Edition enlarged from 307 to 509 cross-indexed listings. Compiled by Trevia Wooster Beverly (Tejas Publications & Research, Houston, 2001).

⁸ Telegraph and Texas Register (Houston, Tex.), Vol. 6, No. 38, Ed. 1, Wednesday, August 18, 1841 Page: 3 of 4. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph48147/m1/3/?q=%22Goose+creek%22>

⁹ Deed from Mary Jones to David Wiggins. Harris County Deed Book, Volume 018, Page 780

¹⁰ Deed from David Wiggins to Jesse Knowlton, Harris County Deed Book, Volume 068, Page 449.

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- ¹¹ Deed from David Wiggins to Thomas G. Wiggins, Harris County Deed Book, Volume 120, Page 103.
- ¹² Deed from David Wiggins to Lucy Pelly, Harris County Deed Book, Volume 120, Page 104.
- ¹³ Deed from David Wiggins to Dollie Hauff, Harris County Deed Book, Volume 212, Page 307.
- ¹⁴ Ownership map derived from Harris County Deed Books.
<http://www.baytownlibrarylocal.org/piwigo/picture.php?/1298/category/21>
- ¹⁵ The Hill of Rest Cemetery is located at 800 Market Street in Baytown. <https://www.baytown.org/city-hall/departments/library/research/local-history-and-genealogy/hill-of-rest-cemetery>
- ¹⁶ "Dedication of Cemetery", Harris County Deed Book, Volume 217, Page 021.
- ¹⁷ Deed from S. A. Francks to Lafayette Jones., Harris County Deed Book, Volume 057, Page 453.
- ¹⁸ Harris County Commissioners Court Vol U, page 28.
- ¹⁹ *Goose Creek Field: Harris County, Texas*. Field Notes of L.P. Garrett, Sterling Library.
- ²⁰ The Gaillard Family Cemetery is still located on the former Gaillard family property in the Goose Creek Oil Field.. It is a designated Historic Texas Cemetery http://baytownsun.com/news/article_7f87cf4a-1f49-11e8-a71f-1b8008b2345a.html
- ²¹ Morgan Point Quadrangle Map, United States Geological Survey, 1916, Texas (Harris County).
<http://historicalmaps.arcgis.com/usgs/>
- ²² *Fuel Oil Journal*, November, 1916, p 93.
- ²³ "Goose Creek Must Move to Make Room for Gushers", *The Houston Post*. (Houston, Tex.), Vol. 31, No. 204, Ed. 1 Wednesday, October 25, 1916 Page: 7 of 42.
<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph610148/m1/7/?q=%22goose%20Creek%22>
- ²⁴ "Blazing Gasser at Goose Creek Lights up Country", *The Houston Post*. (Houston, Tex.), Vol. 31, No. 218, Ed. 1 Wednesday, November 8, 1916 Page: 1 of 16.
<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph609458/m1/1/?q=%22Goose+Creek%22>
- ²⁵ "Gasser Put Goose Creek to Flight", *The Houston Post*. (Houston, Tex.), Vol. 31, No. 259, Ed. 1 Tuesday, December 19, 1916 Page: 1 of 14. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph608825/m1/1/?q=%22rucker+well%22>
- ²⁶ "Goose Creek Field hit by Gas Quake", *The Houston Post*. (Houston, Tex.), Vol. 31, No. 297, Ed. 1 Friday, January 26, 1917 Page: 1 of 12. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph609361/m1/1/?q=gasser>
- ²⁷ "Can't Cook Food Because of Gas", *The Houston Post*. (Houston, Tex.), Vol. 31, No. 292, Ed. 1 Sunday, January 21, 1917 Page: 1 of 46. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph608618/m1/1/?q=%22Goose+Creek%22>
- ²⁸ "Big Gasser Gave Kiddies Vacation", *The Houston Post*. (Houston, Tex.), Vol. 31, No. 313, Ed. 1 Sunday, February 11, 1917 Page: 10 of 50. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph609133/m1/10/?q=gasser>
- ²⁹ Town site of Goose Creek out of the Wright tract, Filed Sep 26. 1916. *Harris County Deed Book, Vol 370, Page 116*.
- ³⁰ *The Houston Post*. (Houston, Tex.), Vol. 31, No. 341, Ed. 1 Sunday, March 11, 1917 Page: 15 of 60. "Goose Creek Needs a New Post Office". <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph610203/m1/15/?q=%22goose%20creek%22>
- ³¹ *Handbook of Texas Online*, Priscilla Myers Benham, "GOOSE CREEK, TX," accessed December 04, 2018.
<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hvg32>
- ³² "Goose Creek Must Move to Make Room for Gushers", *The Houston Post*. (Houston, Tex.), Vol. 31, No. 204, Ed. 1 Wednesday, October 25, 1916 Page: 7 of 42.
<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph610148/m1/7/?q=%22goose%20Creek%22>
- ³³ "Goose Creek Needs a New Post Office", *The Houston Post*. (Houston, Tex.), Vol. 31, No. 341, Ed. 1 Sunday, March 11, 1917 Page: 15 of 60.. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph610203/m1/15/?q=%22goose%20creek%22>

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- ³⁴ Oral History Interviews with Garrett R. Herring, February 1980, Track 2, Time 20:08.
<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph845088/m1/#track/2>
- ³⁵ "Goose Creek may be Without Water," [Houston Post, September 7, 1917, p13](#).
- ³⁶ *US Census, 1910*, Harris Co, TX, Pct. 3, Reel 1561, Sheet No. 15B, enumerated 6th day of May, 1910.
<https://archive.org/details/13thcensus1910po1561unit/page/n525>
- ³⁷ "Goose Creek is a 'white man's field'" as the crews there have so far refused to allow negroes to work on the leases. Several teaming contractors have refused to separate their mules and black drivers and have therefore kept away from Goose Creek." *Fuel Oil Journal*, October, 1916, page 72.
- ³⁸ "Eleven Murder Charges are Filed in Goose Creek Lynching" *Houston Chronicle* (Published as THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE) - September 22, 1917, page 1. "Lynching of Bert Smith," *Lynching In Texas*, accessed January 31, 2020,
<http://www.lyncingintexas.org/items/show/481>
- ³⁹ This photo was taken around 1918 near the current area of Lee Heights not far from Busch's Landing.
<http://www.baytownlibrarylocal.org/piwigo/picture.php?/1302>
- ⁴⁰ *US Census, 1920*, Harris Co, TX, Pct. 3, Reel 1814, Sheet No. 11A, enumerated 8th day of January, 1920.
<https://archive.org/details/14thcensusofpopu1814unit/page/n532>
- ⁴¹ Harris County Deed Book 519, page 401. William Smith to John Schilling.
- ⁴² *US Census, 1930*, Harris Co, TX, Pct. 3, Pelly City, Reel 2352, Sheet No. 10B, enumerated 22nd day of April, 1930.
<https://archive.org/details/texascensus00reel2352/page/n727>
- ⁴³ Town site of Goose Creek out of the Price Pruett tract, Filed October 6. 1917. *Harris County Deed Book, Vol 392, Page 032*.
- ⁴⁴ *Petroleum Age*. December, 1919, Vol 6, No 12, Page 552.
- ⁴⁵ Middle Town refers to the general area between Old Town and New Town. Middletown was the subdivision platted by Hettie Wright (later Hettie Holliday).
- ⁴⁶ Middletown Subdivision, Harris County Map Book, Volume 005, Page 063.
- ⁴⁷ Deed from Hettie Wright to M.T. Woods, Harris County Deed Book, Grantor Index W X Y X. 1917-1923, page 404.
- ⁴⁸ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/54664794/frederick-thomas-pelly>
- ⁴⁹ *Handbook of Texas Online*, Ernest Wallace, "FOURTH UNITED STATES CAVALRY," accessed November 09, 2018,
<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/qlf02>.
- ⁵⁰ "United States Registers of Enlistments in the U.S. Army, 1798-1914," database with images, *FamilySearch*
<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QJDR-4TTV>: 13 March 2018, Frederick T Pelly, 27 Feb 1895; citing p. 332, volume 092, Seattle, Washington, United States, NARA microfilm publication M233 (Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.), roll 48; FHL microfilm 1,465,934.
- ⁵¹ Henry F. Gillette was Superintendent of the Bayland Orphan Home. His sister, Jeanette Elizabeth (Gillette) Duke of Fort Bend County, widow of Confederate veteran William Henry Duke, arrived at Bayland in 1869 with her two boys, Vivian, Jr., age 11, and Harry, age 9. Jennie Duke became matron of the home in 1870. In 1877 Mrs. Duke purchased a 123-acre farm with a house on a hill overlooking Goose Creek near the orphanage. Built about 1843 it is believed to be the oldest house in Baytown. <https://www.baytown.org/Home/ShowDocument?id=1878>
- ⁵² Lucy and Fred Pelly Wedding Announcement. 1898-03-16 *The Houston Daily Post* (Houston, Tex.), Vol. THIRTEENTH YEAR, No. 346, Ed. 1, Wednesday, March 16, 1898. Page 5 of 10.
<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph84441/m1/5/?q=fred>
- ⁵³ "Pelly Started with an Oil Boom". *The Baytown Sun* (Baytown, Tex.), Vol. 63, No. 78, Ed. 1 Thursday, January 31, 1985 Page: 32 of 42. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1101109/m1/32/>

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- ⁵⁴ Harris County Commissioners Court Minutes Book, Volume T, Page 556.
- ⁵⁵ City Council Minutes, City of Goose Creek, November 28, 1919.
- ⁵⁶ City Council Minutes, City of Goose Creek, December 5, 1919.
- ⁵⁷ Deed from Mary Jones to David Wiggins, Harris County Deed Book, Volume 748, p244.
- ⁵⁸ "Petition for Incorporation of the Proposed Town of Pelly". Harris County Commissioners Court Minutes Book, Volume U, Page 28.
- ⁵⁹ Harris County Commissioners Court Minutes Book, Volume U, Page 29.
- ⁶⁰ Harris County Commissioners Court Minutes Book, Volume U, Page 46.
- ⁶¹ Harris County Commissioners Court Minutes Book, Volume U, Page 47.
- ⁶² Harris County Commissioners Court Minutes Book, Volume U, Page 53. Results of Election.
- ⁶³ Township: Goose Creek scratched out, Name of incorporated place: variously called "New Town" (for new Goose Creek) or "Not Incorporated New Town" (for Pelly). The Incorporated place name for Old Goose Creek is just "Goose Creek" even though that community was not incorporated. *US Census, 1920*, Harris Co, TX, Pct. 3, Reel 1589. Starting with Page No. 1A, enumerated 5th day of January, 1920, <https://archive.org/details/14thcensusofpopu1814unit/page/n511>
- ⁶⁴ *The Democrat*, (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol 14, No 32, Friday, July 28, 1933, page 16.
- ⁶⁵ The August 31, 1921 plat of Casey Addition shows the city name as Goose Creek, Texas. Harris County Deed Book, Volume 422, Page 637.
- ⁶⁶ The June 10, 1922 plat of Middletown Re-Subdivision shows the name as Middletown, Goose Creek, Texas. Harris County Map Book, File Number 87,123.
- ⁶⁷ City Council Minutes, City of Goose Creek, May 14, 1923.
- ⁶⁸ "Goose Creek recognizes the northern boundary of the city of Pelly". *The Houston Post*. (Houston, Tex.), Vol. 39, No. 42, Ed. 1, Wednesday, May 16, 1923 Page 10 of 20.
<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph609382/m1/10/?q=pelly>
- ⁶⁹ Total calculated from 1920 census filtered for children between ages 7 and 14.
- ⁷⁰ US Census, 1920, Harris Co, TX, Pct. 3, Pelly City, Reel 1814, Sheet No. 10B, enumerated 8th day of January, 1920.
<https://archive.org/details/14thcensusofpopu1814unit/page/n531>
- ⁷¹ Harris County Deed Book 537, page 297, recorded April 27, 1923.
- ⁷² Harris County Deed Book 572, page 040, recorded April 19, 1924.
- ⁷³ City Council Minutes, City of Pelly, Volume 1, page 65, November 7, 1921.
- ⁷⁴ City Council Minutes, City of Pelly, Volume 1, page 85, January 15, 1923.
- ⁷⁵ City Council Minutes, City of Pelly, Volume 3, June 1, 1923.
- ⁷⁶ Memoirs of Bonnie Hazel Martin, page 42, Sterling Municipal Public Library.
- ⁷⁷ City Council Minutes, City of Pelly, Volume 1, page 78, October 16, 1922.
- ⁷⁸ City Council Minutes, City of Pelly, Volume 1, page 82, December 26, 1922.
- ⁷⁹ City Council Minutes, City of Pelly, Volume 1, page 78, October 16, 1922.
- ⁸⁰ "Stuck in the Mud in New Town", see Appendix, Pictures of Pelly.
- ⁸¹ City Council Minutes, City of Pelly, August 9, 1927.

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- ⁸² *Semi-Weekly Tribune* (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 7, No. 29, Ed. 1 Tuesday, May 12, 1925 Page: 30 of 40. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1145532/m1/30/?q=%22Directors%20room%22>
- ⁸³ *Semi-Weekly Tribune* (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 7, No. 29, Ed. 1 Tuesday, May 12, 1925 Page: 24 of 40. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1145532/m1/24/?q=%22central%20baptist%22>
- ⁸⁴ "Old Building Will Be Torn Down and Ground Cleared for the Construction of new Central Church". *Semi-Weekly Tribune* (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 9, No. 71, Ed. 1 Friday, October 7, 1927 Page: 11 of 16. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1145154/m1/11/?q=%22central%20baptist%22>
- ⁸⁵ Harris County Deed Book Volume 745, page 552.
- ⁸⁶ City Council Minutes, City of Pelly, June 26, 1928.
- ⁸⁷ City Council Minutes, City of Pelly, April 18, 1929.
- ⁸⁸ City Council Minutes, City of Pelly, May 14, 1929.
- ⁸⁹ "Goose Creek School Bond Issue Approved". *Houston Chronicle* (Published as THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE) - August 16, 1927, page 17. <https://infoweb.newsbank.com/resources/doc/nb/image/v2%3A14DB39C1C40322B4%40EANX-15COA6D2BA6F450B%402425109-15COA2FB26466180%4016-15COA2FB26466180%40?p=AMNEWS&hlterms=%22goose+Creek%22%3B+%22school+bond%22>
- ⁹⁰ City Council Minutes, City of Pelly, March 24, 1928.
- ⁹¹ Goose Creek 1939 Sheet 1, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps - Texas (1877-1922), Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection, Accessed Nov. 10, 2018. http://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/maps/sanborn/g-i/txu-sanborn-goose_creek-1939-01.jpg
- ⁹² Deed from Central Baptist Church to City of Pelly, Harris County Deed Book Volume 748, page 244. March 24, 1928.
- ⁹³ "History Highlights" by Bernard Olive. *The Baytown Sun* (Baytown, Tex.), Vol. 60, No. 55, Ed. 1 Sunday, January 3, 1982 Page 29 of 34. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1020263/m1/29/?q=fire>
- ⁹⁴ City Council Minutes, City of Pelly, Vol 2, page 133, March 11, 1926.
- ⁹⁵ City Council Minutes, City of Pelly, Vol 1, page 133, May 4, 1928.
- ⁹⁶ See Appendix photograph 2.
- ⁹⁷ "Pelly Fire Department Organized". *The Daily Tribune* (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 13, No. 198, Ed. 1 Thursday, January 15, 1931 Page: 1 of 4. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1019227/m1/1/?q=city%20hall>
- ⁹⁸ "Pelly Volunteer Fire Department Was Organized December 17, 1930 with Active Group of 25 Members". *The News Tribune* (La Porte, Tex.), Vol 6, No 9, July 28, 1933, Section 8, page 4.
- ⁹⁹ "Wanderings of Pelly Zoo May End in Oblivion for Inmates". *Tri-Cities Sun* (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 13, No. 240, Ed. 1 Thursday, March 10, 1932 Page: 1 of 8. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1020234/m1/1/?q=Zoo>
- ¹⁰⁰ "History Highlights". *The Baytown Sun* (Baytown, Tex.), Vol. 60, No. 55, Ed. 1 Sunday, January 3, 1982 Page 29 of 34. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1020263/?q=%22pelly%20fire%20station%22#search-inside>
- ¹⁰¹ Appendix, Photographs, No 11.
- ¹⁰² Pictures of the 1946 Ford La France 500-gallon mini-pumper that was sent to help in the Texas City Disaster are shown in the Appendix. Bernard Olive bought the truck at auction in 1977 and restored it to its original appearance. It was his pride and joy. Bernard Olive's cousin, Burl Elliott, was the fire chief at the time. <https://www.facebook.com/i45NOW/videos/1324443734310897/UzpfSTMyOTk1NTA0MDM2NDQxNToxNzYwOTExNTAwNjAyMDg4/>
- ¹⁰³ The Texas City disaster was an industrial accident that occurred April 16, 1947 in the Port of Texas City, Texas, at Galveston Bay. It was the deadliest industrial accident in U.S. history, and one of history's largest non-nuclear explosions. A mid-morning fire started on board the French-registered vessel SS Grandcamp (docked in the port), and detonated her cargo of approximately 2,200 tons (approximately 2,100 metric tons) of ammonium nitrate. This started

a chain-reaction of additional fires and explosions in other ships and nearby oil-storage facilities. The events killed a total of at least 581 people, including all but one member of the Texas City fire department.

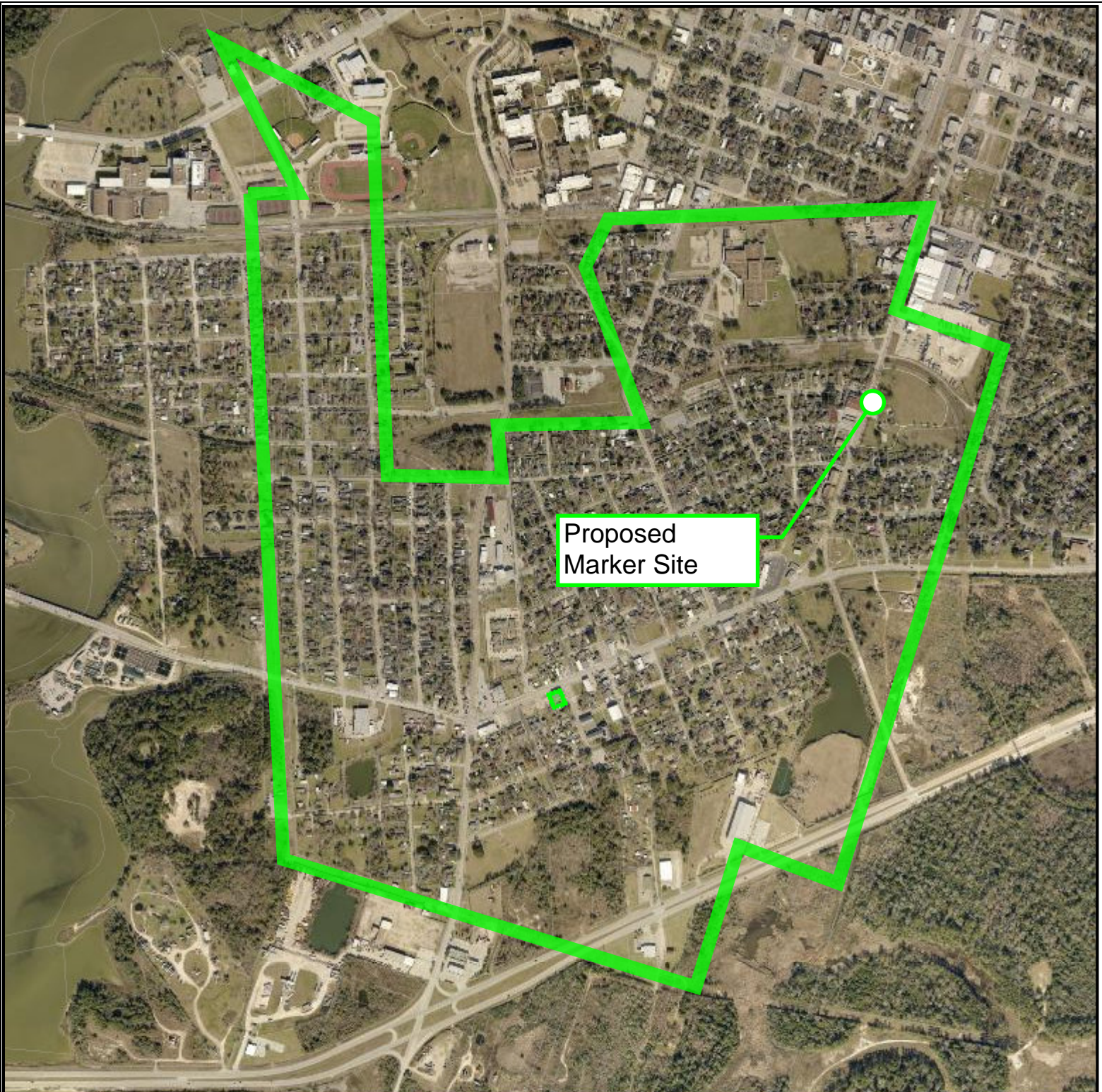
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas_City_disaster

- ¹⁰⁴ “Blast Rocks Tri-Cities Area”. *The Daily Sun* (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 29, No. 263, Ed. 1 Wednesday, April 16, 1947 Page: 6 of 8. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1101429/m1/6/>
- ¹⁰⁵ Pelly City Council Minutes, April 15, 1920.
- ¹⁰⁶ Pelly City Council Minutes, January 25, 1921, Volume 1, page 15.
- ¹⁰⁷ Pelly City Council Minutes, April 12, 1920, Volume 1, page 18.
- ¹⁰⁸ Pelly City Council Minutes, July 8, 1930.
- ¹⁰⁹ There is no known existing floor plan of the original building but a small room in the southwest corner of the city hall was built with concrete hardened walls and bars over the single window. There are many references to the Pelly Jail in the City Council minutes and the Pelly Jail is mentioned several times in *Houston Chronicle* articles from 1929 to 1948. *Houston Chronicle* (Published as THE HOUSTON CHRONICLE) - January 10, 1948, p1. <https://infoweb.newsbank.com/resources/doc/nb/image/v2%3A14DB39C1C40322B4%40EANX-162198535A6C7FC9%402432561-1621918EC2EA53DB%404-1621918EC2EA53DB%40?p=AMNEWS&hlterms=%22pelly+jail%22>
- ¹¹⁰ Pelly City Council Minutes, March 1, 1931
- ¹¹¹ “Porter is Indicted on Three Counts”. *The Daily Sun* (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 19, No. 133, Ed. 1 Tuesday, November 23, 1937 Page 1 of 5. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1022227/m1/1/?q=porter>
- ¹¹² “Baird Resigns as Pelly Mayor”. *The Daily Sun* (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 18, No. 301, Ed. 1 Thursday, June 3, 1937 Page: 1 of 14. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1095942/m1/1/?q=%22D.%20R.%20baird%22>
- ¹¹³ “Pelly Mayor and Attorney Clash over Economies”. 1938-03-15 *The Daily Sun* (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 19, No. 227, Ed. 1 Tuesday, March 15, 1938 Page 1 of 8. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1022827/m1/1/?q=%22pelly%20mayor%22>
- ¹¹⁴ “Pelly Mayor Quits. Election is Called”. 1938-04-19 *The Daily Sun* (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 19, No. 257, Ed. 1 Tuesday, April 19, 1938 Page 1 of 10. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1023324/m1/1/?q=%22Mayor%20pelly%22>
- ¹¹⁵ “Court Reverses V.C. Porter Case”. *The Daily Sun* (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 20, No. 281, Ed. 1 Thursday, May 18, 1939 Page: 1 of 12. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1100509/m1/1/?q=porter>
- ¹¹⁶ The Works Progress Administration (WPA; renamed in 1939 as the Work Projects Administration) was the largest and most ambitious American New Deal agency, employing millions of people (mostly unskilled men) to carry out public works projects, including the construction of public buildings and roads. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Works_Progress_Administration
- ¹¹⁷ “WPA Program is Set”. *The Daily Sun* (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 19, No. 78, Ed. 1 Monday, September 20, 1937 Page: 3 of 6. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1023627/m1/3/?q=wpa>
- ¹¹⁸ Image of WPA impression on the Sidewalk in front of Pelly City Hall. See Appendix pictures.
- ¹¹⁹ “New WPA Project”. *The Daily Sun* (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 19, No. 279, Ed. 1 Saturday, May 14, 1938 Page: 1 of 8. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1023237/m1/1/?q=wpa%20curbs>
- ¹²⁰ “Recreation Fete in Pelly Tonight”. *The Daily Sun* (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 19, No. 109, Ed. 1 Tuesday, October 26, 1937 Page: 2 of 6. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1023401/m1/2/?q=wpa>
- ¹²¹ “WPA Dance, Cakewalk at Pelly”. *The Daily Sun* (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 22, No. 196, Ed. 1 Tuesday, February 11, 1941 Page: 5 of 8. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1028673/m1/5/?q=wpa>

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- ¹²² “Elodie Edwards, at 85, Still Shows Concern for Others”. *The Baytown Sun* (Baytown, Tex.), Vol. 68, No. 328, Ed. 1 Sunday, November 18, 1990 Page: 40 of 56.
<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1043825/m1/40/?q=%22service%20center%22>
- ¹²³ “Tri Cities Garden Club Organization Meeting is Set for Next Thursday”. *The Daily Tribune* (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 13, No. 189, Ed. 1 Monday, January 5, 1931 Page: 1 of 4.
<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1019344/m1/1/?q=%22tri-cities+garden+club%22+%22city+hall%22>
- ¹²⁴ “Tri Cities Garden Club Meets Friday”. *Tri-Cities Sun* (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 14, No. 57, Ed. 1 Thursday, August 6, 1931 Page: 3 of 6. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1020113/m1/3/?q=%22civic+club%22+%22city+hall%22>
- ¹²⁵ “Charlotte Ellis Heads GS Troop 26 Seniors”. *The Daily Sun* (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 29, No. 181, Ed. 1 Friday, January 10, 1947 Page: 3 of 8. “Charlotte Ellis Heads GS Troop 26”.
<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1101096/m1/3/?q=%22pelly%20city%20hall%22>
- ¹²⁶ *The Humble Refinery Bee* (Baytown, Tx.), December 5, 1935, page 6 & 7.
- ¹²⁷ “Firemen Plan Dance Friday”. *Tri-Cities Sun* (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 13, No. 154, Ed. 1 Sunday, November 29, 1931 Page: 5 of 10. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1019453/m1/5/?q=volunteer>
- ¹²⁸ “Pelly League Hears Report on Play Park”. *The Tri-Cities Sun* (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 13, No. 294, Ed. 2 Thursday, May 12, 1932 Page: 2 of 6. “Pelly League Hears Report on Play Park”.
<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1020452/m1/2/?q=%22city%20hall%22>
- ¹²⁹ “Post Office at Pelly is Moved”. *The Daily Sun* (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 22, No. 171, Ed. 1 Monday, January 13, 1941 Page: 1 of 6. “Post Office at Pelly is Moved”.
<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1028190/m1/1/?q=%22Pelly%20post%20office%22>
- ¹³⁰ *The Daily Sun* (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 27, No. 159, Ed. 1 Monday, December 18, 1944 Page: 1 of 8.
<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1028696/m1/1/?q=pelly%20votes>
- ¹³¹ Map showing the annexations made by Pelly and Goose Creek.
<http://www.baytownlibrarylocal.org/piwigo/picture.php?/1296/category/21>
- ¹³² “Baytown Residents will Carry Annexation Fight to Court”. *The Daily Sun* (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 28, No. 154, Ed. 1 Wednesday, December 12, 1945 Page 1 of 8.
<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1028584/m1/1/?q=annexation>
- ¹³³ “Annexation Battle Takes Spotlight”. *The Daily Sun* (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 28, No. 152, Ed. 1 Monday, December 10, 1945 Page: 1 of 6. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1029149/m1/1/?q=annex+acres>
- ¹³⁴ “Commission Takes School, Cemetery into City Limits”. *The Daily Sun* (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 28, No. 151, Ed. 1 Saturday, December 8, 1945 Page: 5 of 6.
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<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/HDP03>.
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<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1100958/m1/6/?q=thence>
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- ¹⁴⁴ “Educational Plan for Proposed Consolidation is Planned Here”. The Daily Sun (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 21, No. 7, Ed. 1 Saturday, July 1, 1939 Page: 1 of 8. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1101088/m1/1/?q=municipality>
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- ¹⁵⁰ City Council Minutes, City of Pelly, April 23, 1947.
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- ¹⁵⁷ This History of St. John’s United Methodist Church, 1976, prepared by the HERITAGE COMMITTEE – 1976, Mrs. Rita Womack, Editor, Unpublished
- ¹⁵⁸ “Owned First Picture Show”. Semi-Weekly Tribune (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 7, No. 29, Ed. 1 Tuesday, May 12, 1925 Page: 3 of 40. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1145532/m1/3/?q=%22picture%20show%22>
- ¹⁵⁹ This disturbing image from 1918 shows a movie being delivered to the Cozy Theater by hooded men accompanying the delivery wagon. <http://www.ourbaytown.com/baytownklan.htm>
- ¹⁶⁰ Semi-Weekly Tribune (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 7, No. 29, Ed. 1 Tuesday, May 12, 1925 Page: 24 of 40. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1145532/m1/24/?q=%22central%20baptist%22%20theatre>
- ¹⁶¹ The deed from G.F. & J.P. Mitchell and R.C. Stephenson to Charlie Trifon lists projection equipment, seats, and other apparatus necessary for running a theater. Harris County Deed Book, Volume 446 page 270.

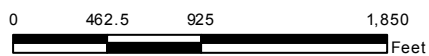
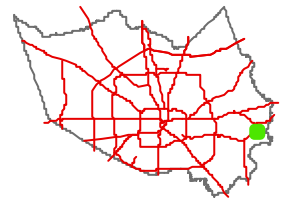
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- ¹⁶² The Theater was still called the Cozy when it was on the Delinquent Tax List in 1923. Semi-Weekly Goose Creek Gasser (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 5, No. 6, Ed. 1 Tuesday, March 6, 1923 Page 3 of 4. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1145545/m1/3/?q=cozy>
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- ¹⁶⁴ The Star Theater owned by Charlie Trifon and _ Cassell was cited for safety concerns. Pelly City Council minutes, April 7, 1924.
- ¹⁶⁵ Pelly City Council minutes, August 5, 1927
- ¹⁶⁶ "Beaucoup of New Nomers for Gulf Theater at Hand". Semi-Weekly Tribune (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 9, No. 57, Ed. 1 Friday, August 19, 1927 Page 6 of 10. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1145600/m1/6/?q=theatre>
- ¹⁶⁷ This article contains a picture of the Nu Gulf Theater. The Tri-Cities Sun (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 15, No. 48, Ed. 1 Friday, July 28, 1933 Page: 11 of 60. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1020384/m1/11/?q=lindamood>
- ¹⁶⁸ Tri-Cities Directory, 1929-1930, page 227
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- ¹⁷⁰ "Pelly's New Alamo Theater Opens for Business Sunday". The Daily Sun (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 19, No. 59, Ed. 1 Friday, August 27, 1937 Page: 5 of 8. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1023495/m1/5/?q=%22alamo+theater%22>
- ¹⁷¹ "Notice; The Alamo Theater Will Close". The Baytown Sun (Baytown, Tex.), Vol. 31, No. 100, Ed. 1 Saturday, October 1, 1949 Page: 2 of 8. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1029411/m1/2/?q=alamo>
- ¹⁷² "Gala Opening Planned for Brunson" The Baytown Sun (Baytown, Tex.), Vol. 31, No. 66, Ed. 1 Monday, August 22, 1949 Page: 9 of 16. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1100738/m1/9/?q=%22brunson%20theater%22>
- ¹⁷³ The list of schools is compiled from Goose Creek Independent School District minutes, 1919-1956.
- ¹⁷⁴ Minutes of the School Board Meetings, 1919-1923, Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District, 4544 Interstate 10 East, Baytown, Texas 77521. 281.420.4800. Mailing Address: P.O. Box 30, Baytown, Texas 77522. GCCISD webpage: <http://www.gccisd.net/>
- ¹⁷⁵ "Davis is Principal of Colored Schools". The Baytown Sun (Baytown, Tex.), Vol. 33, No. 99, Ed. 1 Monday, September 29, 1952 Page: 46 of 96. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1041805/m1/46/?q=%22the+colored+unit%22>
- ¹⁷⁶ "Negro School to use Church for Overflow". The Daily Sun (Goose Creek, Tex.), Vol. 26, No. 131, Ed. 1 Tuesday, November 9, 1943 Page: 1 of 8. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph1027748/m1/1/?q=carver>
- ¹⁷⁷ Details for George Washington Carver High School (Atlas Number 5507016480). <https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/Details/5507016480>
- ¹⁷⁸ Texas Historical Commission. [Historic Marker Application: Robert E. Lee High School], text, August 3, 2012; (<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph491897/m1/1/?q=%22Architecture%20-%20Buildings%22>: accessed September 30, 2019), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <https://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Texas Historical Commission.



**Harris
County
Appraisal
District**

DETAIL MAP OF ACCOUNT NUMBER Original Pelly City Limits

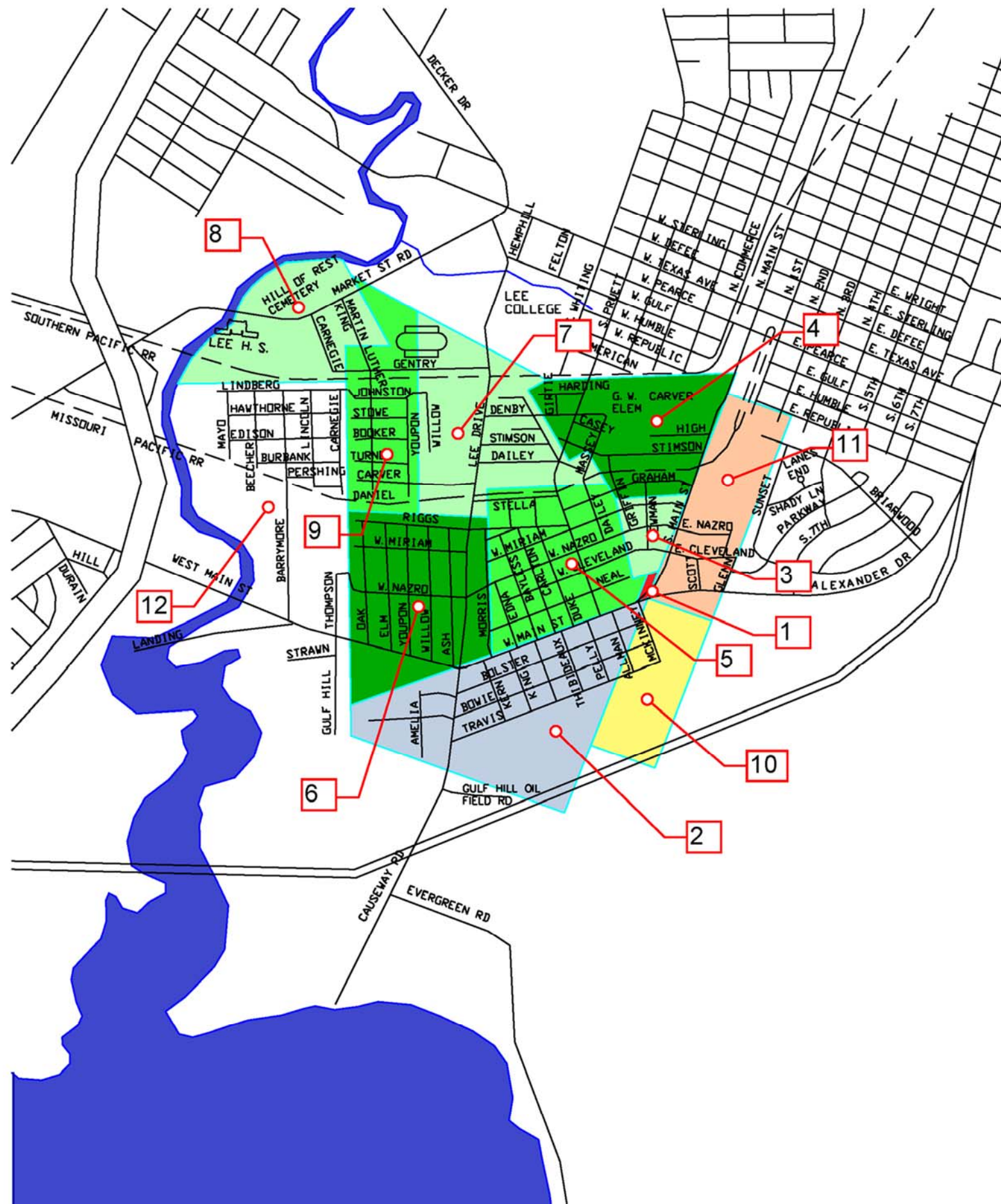
Created from Petition M&B by Chuck Chandler



Date: 9/22/2019

Geospatial or map data maintained by the Harris County Appraisal District is for informational purposes and may **not** have been prepared for or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. It does **not** represent an on-the-ground survey and only represents the approximate location of property boundaries.





PELLY LAND OWNERSHIP HISTORY

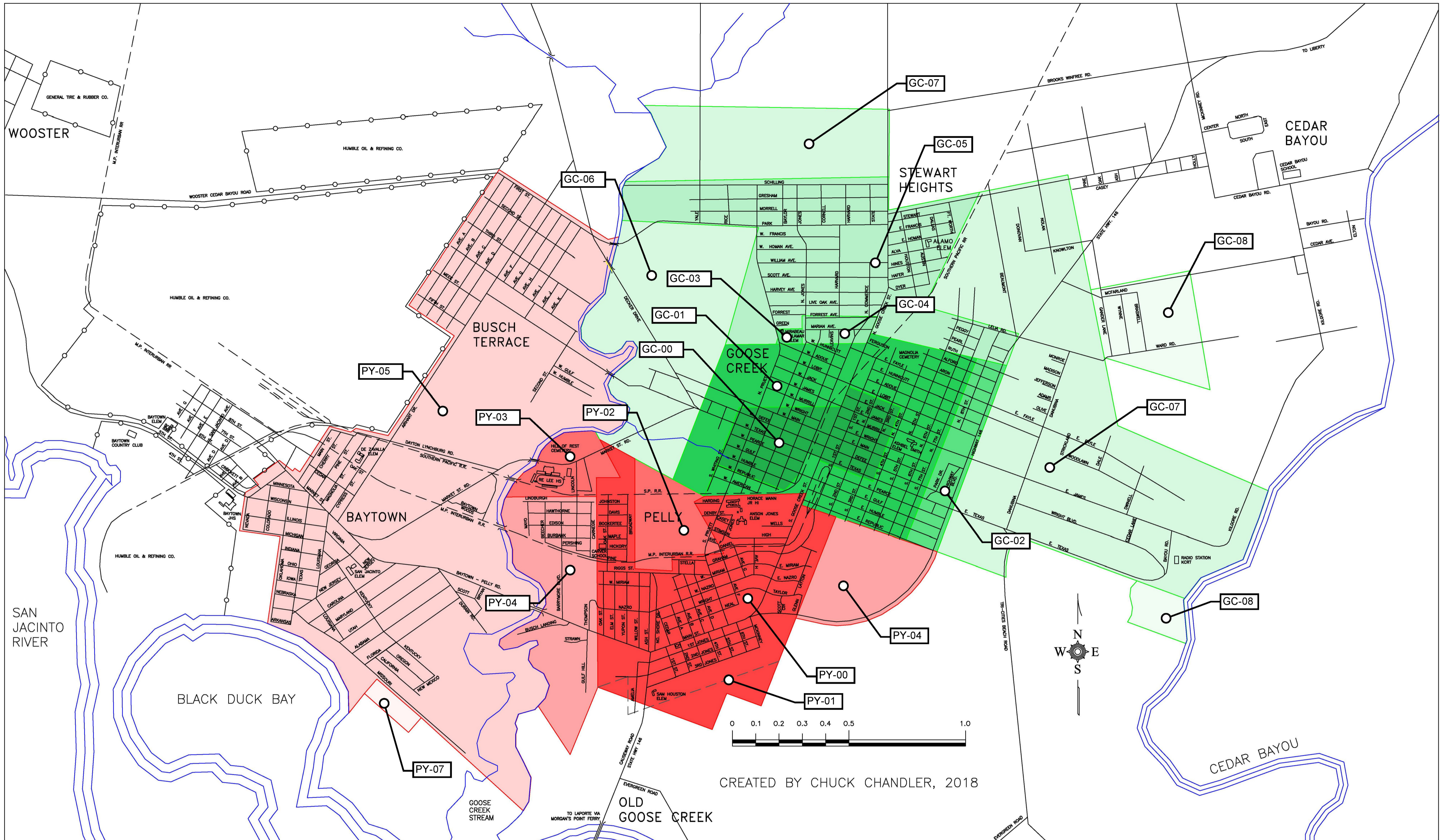
MARY JONES BOUGHT HER FARM NAMED HEADQUARTERS FROM ASHBEL SMITH IN 1859. IT IS SHOWN IN GREEN AND BLUE HUES.

1. SHE DONATED 1-1/2 ACRES TO HARRIS COUNTY FOR A SCHOOL IN 1876.
2. SHE SOLD 112 ACRES SOUTH OF TODAY'S W. MAIN STREET TO THOMAS CHUBB IN 1862 WHO SOLD TO S.A. FRANCKS IN 1865 WHO SOLD TO LAFAYETTE JONES IN 1887.
- SHE SOLD THE REST OF HEADQUARTERS NORTH OF TODAY'S W. MAIN STREET TO DAVID WIGGINS IN 1879.
3. WIGGINS SOLD 10 ACRES TO JOHN BUCK IN 1882.
4. WIGGINS SOLD 59 ACRES TO JESSE KNOWLTON IN 1892. KNOWLTON SUBDIVIDED AND SOLD IT WITHIN A YEAR.
5. WIGGINS DEEDED 74 ACRES TO SON THOMAS WIGGINS IN 1900.
6. WIGGINS DEEDED 73 ACRES TO DAUGHTER LUCY WIGGINS PELLY IN 1900.
7. WIGGINS DEEDED 71 ACRES TO DAUGHTER DOLLIE WIGGINS HAUFF IN 1907. SHE IMMEDIATELY SOLD IT TO THE PRODUCERS OIL COMPANY. NOT ORIGINAL PELLY; ANNEXED IN 1928.
8. DAVID WIGGINS DEEDED THE FAMILY CEMETERY IN 1907. NOT ORIGINAL PELLY; ANNEXED IN 1928.
9. DAVID WIGGINS RETAINED OWNERSHIP OF HOMESTEAD UNTIL HIS DEATH.
10. 46 ACRES OWNED BY LAFAYETTE JONES.
11. 50 ACRES OWNED BY BENJAMIN HUNTER.
12. MARY JONES SOLD THE PROPERTY BETWEEN HEADQUARTERS AND GOOSE CREEK STREAM TO THOMAS GAILLARD IN 1874 WHO SOLD TO E. J. DUKE IN 1877. NOT PART OF HEADQUARTERS OR ORIGINAL PELLY; ANNEXED IN 1946.

REFERENCES:

HARRIS COUNTY DEED BOOKS, Harris County Archives
 HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES,
 Book U, Page 28, City of Pelly Incorporation Petition

Created by Chuck Chandler ©2018



CREATED BY CHUCK CHANDLER, 2018

TRI CITIES, TEXAS

THIS MAP SHOWS PELLY, TEXAS ON MARCH 6, 1948, THE DAY BEFORE THE NEW CITY CHARTER CHANGED THE NAME TO BAYTOWN. STREETS BUILT AFTER THAT DATE ARE NOT SHOWN. STREET NAMES SHOWN ARE PRIOR TO THE 1948 RENAMING. ALL ANNEXTIONS BY PELLY AND GOOSE CREEK FROM THE BEGINNING ARE SHOWN.

PELLY ANNEXTIONS

NO.	DATE	AREA
PY-00	1919-12-29	INCORPORATION
PY-01	1925-04-03	REDREW SOUTH LINE
PY-02	1928-03-24	PRODUCERS AND ASHBEL SMITH OIL CO
PY-03	1928-06-06	CEMETERY, HIGH SCHOOL
PY-04	1946-07-27	LEE HEIGHTS, GULF HILL, HUNTER TRACT
PY-05	1946-11-30	UNINCORPORATED BAYTOWN & BUSCH TERRACE
PY-06	1947-02-15	CONSOLIDATION WITH GOOSE CREEK
PY-07	1947-04-23	ISENHOUR BAY SHORE

REFERENCES: GOOSE CREEK AND PELLY CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

SANBORN FIRE INSURANCE MAPS, 1926, 1931, 1938 & 1948
 HARRIS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT MINUTES
 1948 BAYTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE MAP
 GOOSE CREEK DAILY SUN NEWSPAPERS
 HARRIS COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
 1948 BAYTOWN CITY DIRECTORY
 HARRIS COUNTY DEED BOOKS

GOOSE CREEK ANNEXTIONS

NO.	DATE	AREA
GC-00	1919-02-17	INCORPORATION
GC-01	1923-06-27	EXPANDED BOUNDARY
GC-02	Before 1929	EAST TO TENTH STREET
GC-03	1934-12-03	LAMAR SCHOOL TRACT
GC-04	1939-11-08	LEAVINS ADDITION
GC-05	1940-11-12	MORRELL PARK & STEWART HEIGHTS
GC-06	1945-01-05	WEST TO GOOSE CREEK STREAM
GC-07	1946-01-01	EAST TO CEDAR BAYOU
GC-08	1947-01-13	ROSALAND PARK, WYNNE TRACT

Mayors of the City of Pelly

1920	Fred T. Pelly	1934	K. A. Cubley
1921	Fred T. Pelly	1935	S. S. McManus
1922	Fred T. Pelly	1936	S. S. McManus
1923	E. W. Neal	1937	Doyle R. Baird, ¹ Fred T. Pelly
1924	E. W. Neal	1938	Fred T. Pelly, ² W. C. Williams
1925	Fred T. Pelly	1939	W.C. Williams
1926	Fred T. Pelly	1940	W.C. Williams
1927	H. S. Leggett	1941	C. H. Olive
1928	H. S. Leggett	1942	C. H. Olive
1929	W.H. Kiser	1943	C. H. Olive
1930	W.H. Kiser	1944	C. H. Olive
1931	C. D. Little	1945	E. D. Cleveland
1932	C. D. Little	1946	E. D. Cleveland
1933	K. A. Cubley	1947	E. D. Cleveland ³

1 Doyle Baird resigned 2 months into his term. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth1095676/m1/2/?q=baird>

2 Fred Pelly resigned over disagreement of police department administration.

3 Eddie Cleveland became the first Mayor of Baytown after the new city charter was adopted in 1948. He was subsequently elected for two more terms as Mayor of Baytown.

Photographs of the City of Pelly.

Unless otherwise noted, the following pictures of the City of Pelly are from the Sterling Municipal Public Library. Notes on the Street Scenes are derived from City directories cross referenced with Sanborn maps. Pictures of individual buildings are from the “Buildings” section.

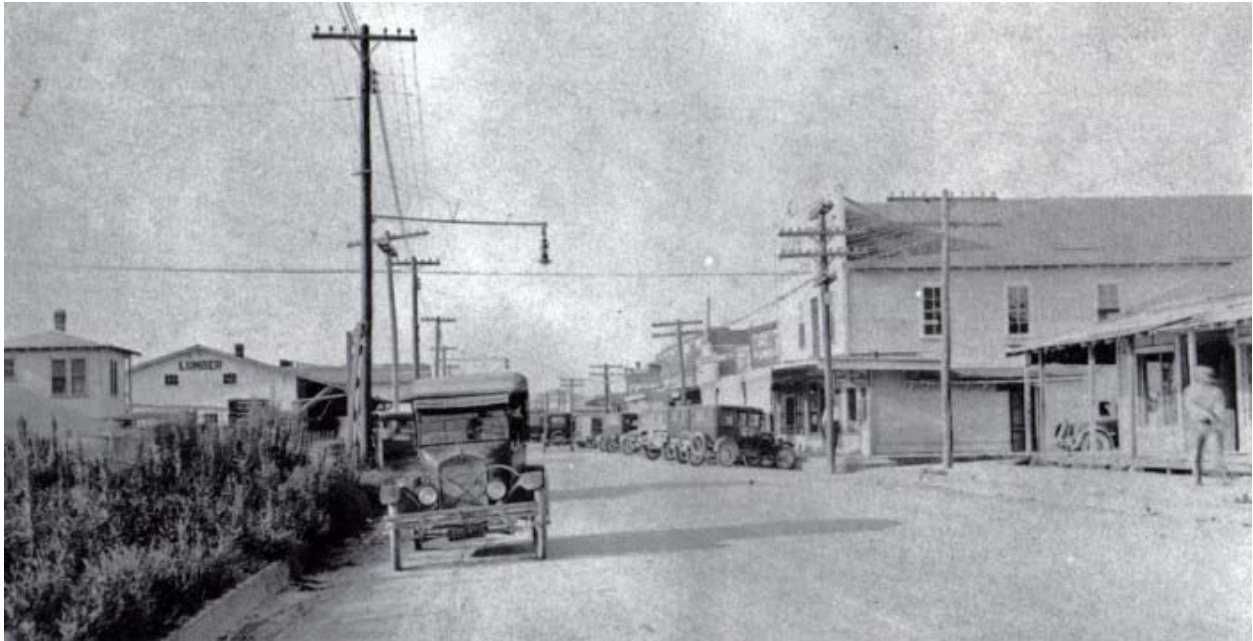
<http://www.baytownlibrarylocal.org/piwigo/index.php?/category/13>



1. Main Street looking east, Photograph by F. G. Allen, ca 1917



2. The 1929 Studebaker Pelly fire truck driving out of the garage built into the Pelly City Hall.
Photograph from the Baytown Historical Museum



3. Main Street looking west, early 1920s.



4. Main Street looking east, before 1927. The closest two-story building on the right is the Pelly branch of Goose Creek State Bank. The Post Office was located in the second building on the left and the third building on the left is Leggett's Drug Store. W.F. Hall's 2-storey building (still standing in 2019) is next door and the Nu Gulf Theater is the next 2 story building. The next building of which you can just see the roof is R.C. Stephenson's store (still standing in 2019).

Postcard found on HistoricTexas.net website.



Pelly, Texas 1929 Photographer Unknown

5. Main Street looking east, 1929. City Hall is on the right next to the “Welcome to Pelly” sign which was provided by Houston Lighting and Power Company. Goose Creek State Bank is the building next to it.



Formerly the Cozy; Now the Nu Gulf Theater

6. The Nu Gulf Theater, 1930



7. The Alamo Theater, 1938



8. Leggett's Drug Store



9. Arons, The Store of Quality



10. Stephenson's Store, the oldest building still standing in Pelly.



11. The new Pelly Fire House built in 1946. See Image No. 14.



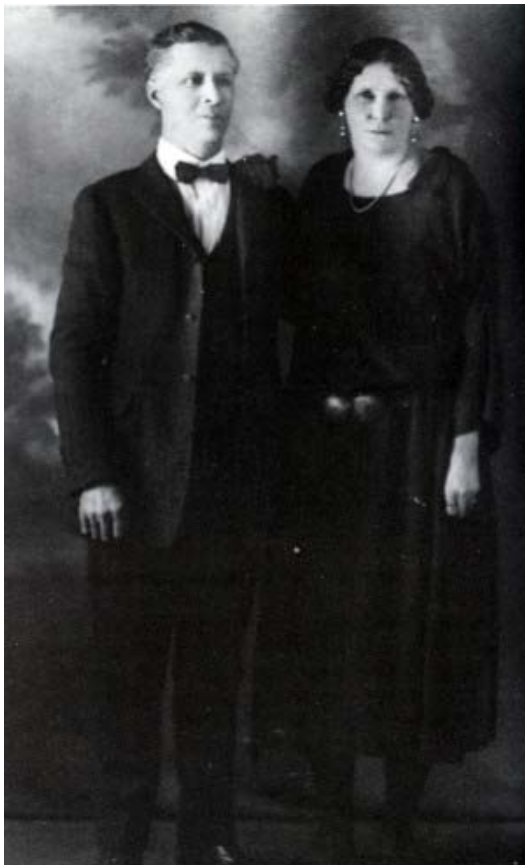
12. The Miracle Store, 1939



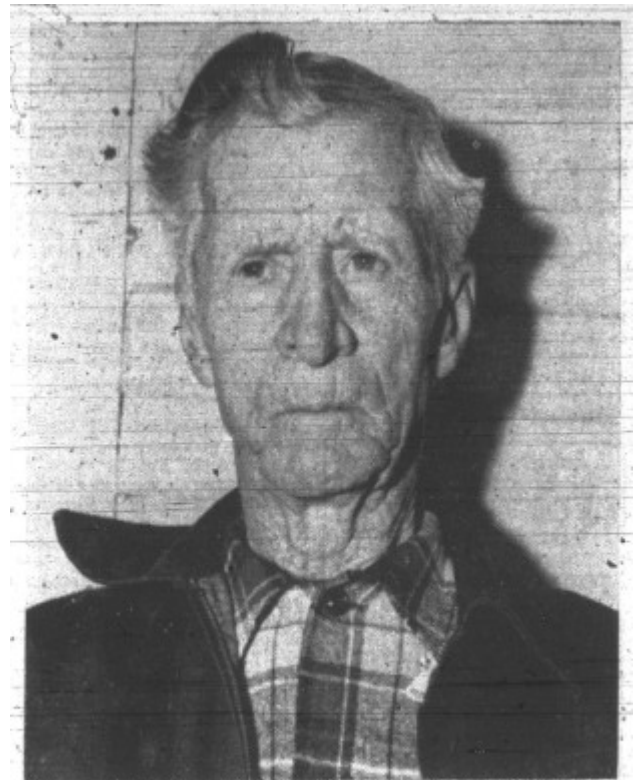
13. Works Progress Administration embossed in the sidewalk in front of the Pelly City Hall



14. Pelly Fire Truck Engine No 2 which responded to the 1947 SS *Grandcamp* explosion in Texas City. The truck has been fully restored by Baytown Fire Marshal Bernard Olive. Photograph courtesy of Baytown Historical Preservation Association



15. Fred and Lucy Wiggins Pelly



"TM FOR BAYTOWN." So says F. T. Pelly, twice mayor of the city named in his honor and now a supporter of changing the name to Baytown. —C. Rogers photo.

16. Fred T. Pelly on the eve of the election to decide the name of the new town. Even he didn't want it named Pelly. The Daily Sun (Goose Creek, Tex.), Friday, January 23, 1948 Page 1 of 10