

Call for Papers—Houston History Conference
October 29, 2011
“Milestones and Arrivals: 175 Years of Coming to Houston”

Sponsored by: Houston History Association

Co-sponsors; Texas State Historical Association, University of Houston—Center for Public History, Houston History Magazine, and Architecture Center Houston Foundation.

October 29, 2011
Hilton-University of Houston Hotel and Conference Center
4800 Calhoun Rd.
Houston, Texas 77204

The theme for this inaugural Houston History Conference, held in conjunction with the city’s official 175th Anniversary Celebration, is “Milestones and Arrivals: 175 Years of Coming to Houston.” From its inception in 1836 as a real estate venture by brothers John and Augustus Allen, Houston has attracted energetic, vibrant people who imbued a “can do” spirit upon the community. Today, 175 years after its founding, Houston is the fourth largest city in the United States with a metropolitan area that is home to over 6 million people comprising one of the most racially and ethnically diverse communities in the country. Although it is some fifty miles from the Gulf of Mexico, Houston has the nation’s second busiest port, by tonnage. It is home to the Johnson Space Center and to the largest medical center in the world, the Texas Medical Center. There are more Fortune 500 companies headquartered here than in any city except New York. The city has surpassed even the ambitious vision of its founders that it one day would grow into “the great interior commercial emporium of Texas.”

Houston, throughout its history, has been a city of immigrants, whether individuals, groups, businesses, corporations or institutions. Why is this so? What is it about Houston that attracted and continues to attract this influx of people? How has this continuing migration helped build Houston into an internationally prominent city? What are the significant milestones in this growth?

The program committee invites the submission of panels and presentations that deal with these and other issues and themes in Houston’s 175-year history.

The committee encourages presenters to avoid reading entirely from papers but to actively *talk about* their topic during the break-out sessions. Papers may be considered for potential publication in *Houston History Magazine*, a publication of the University of Houston—Center for Public History.

To accommodate panel introductions and audience questions, each complete session is limited to 75 minutes. Each presentation in three-paper sessions should not exceed twenty minutes (about ten typewritten pages) and in two-paper sessions each should be limited to twenty-five minutes (about twelve pages).

Submission Procedure

Registration Requirements: All participants must preregister for the conference.

All session proposals must include the following:

Contact information: Mailing address, e-mail address, phone number, and affiliation (or hometown for lay historians) for each participant.

Proposals: An abstract of no more than 500 words for the session as a whole, including names of presenters, chair and/or commentators.

Individuals are welcome to submit a proposal for a single paper rather than a complete session. Although single papers are often difficult to combine into plausible sessions, the planning committee will make every effort to include such proposals in the program.

Presentations: A prospectus of no more than 250 words for each presentation and titles for each paper.

Presenters: A vita of no more than 500 words for each participant.

Submission Procedure: Proposals should be submitted electronically to the Houston History Association's email: info@houstonhistoryassociation.org

Proposals also will be accepted by U. S. Mail. Please send to:

Houston History Association
P.O. Box 25086
Houston, Texas 77265-5086

Submission Deadline: The deadline for proposals is Thursday, June 30, 2011.

The Houston History Association is an independent 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting Houston area history and serving as a resource for existing historical, preservation and educational organizations and institutions.