



The 175th anniversary of Texas Independence Day was March 2, 2012. The celebration this year was very special, according to the Texas State Historical Commission, due to recent archeological findings in Hempstead.

Archeologists from throughout Texas this past year have been working on a 1,500-acre tract, just south of town. The clay and sandy soils of the land are providing

immense numbers of artifacts of the first plantation in Texas, the Bernardo Plantation.

A settler from Louisiana, Jared Groce, settled on the property in the 1830s. The land, next to the Brazos River, became known as The Bernardo Plantation, the first plantation in Texas. Historians have found that Sam Houston, Jim Bowie and Stephen F. Austin, as they trudged east away from the advancing Mexican armies, were housed and fed at the plantation. And the land is now known to have been where the Twin Sister cannons, so critical in the battle of the San Jacinto, were received.

The amazing archeological discoveries of the home, the slaves' quarters, the barn, and more have lead Jim Bruseth, lead archeologist for the Texas State Historical Commission, to declare the site to be the "most important Texas historical site right after the Alamo".

**Reference:** [http://www.yourhoustonnews.com/article\\_905515e6-7a01-572f-948d-7ff65b06d16c.html](http://www.yourhoustonnews.com/article_905515e6-7a01-572f-948d-7ff65b06d16c.html)  
Posted: Monday, February 7, 2011 12:00 am | Updated: 10:28 am, Mon Feb 7, 2011.