

1839 -- INTRODUCTION TO AUSTIN'S FOUNDING and THE CREATION OF SAND BEACH RESERVE

1839 "A New Seat of Government--the Original Survey of the City of Austin"

This is a brief, very readable history article with good maps by the General Land Office in the publication Medium. See the actual historical documents for details.

<https://medium.com/save-texas-history/a-new-seat-of-government-the-original-survey-of-the-city-of-austin-f9b6993c5d02>

In 1839 officials of the Republic selected 7000+ acres to become the new seat of government, Austin. The land became known as the "Government Tract." A townsite of 640 acres was surveyed into streets and blocks and lots, becoming the original townsite of Austin. The town lots (sometimes called in-lots) were sold at auctions.

1840 CREATION OF THE RESERVE

In 1840 a joint resolution of the Congress directed the Secretary of the Treasury to have the remaining land in the Government Tract surveyed into streets and alleys and lots of five to forty acres. It also required the Secretary **"to reserve in the plan fixed on, four hundred acres for such public purposes as Congress may hereafter direct."**

THE RESERVE TODAY

In 1850 a chunk of land was split off from the original Reserve and divided into Outlots and sold. See documents for 1850. There are two parts to the Reserve today, each roughly 70 acres. Both front along the north shore of the Colorado River (now Lady Bird Lake). Both were dedicated as parkland in 1985. One lies east of East Avenue (now I-35). The other is sometimes called West Sand Beach Reserve. It runs from a little east of Austin High School (more precisely, from the south projection of West Lynn Street) eastward to West Avenue (near the former Seaholm power plant). It is bounded on the north by private property contained in Outlots 1 and 11 of Division Z of the Outlots. The south boundary of Outlot 11 is 60 yards (180 feet) below the bluff, which is shown on an 1885 subdivision plat by the original patentee, James Raymond.