

# Help Construct Fort Velasco Replica

Near original site in Surfside, Texas

Engineering is underway and groups have been contemplating the reconstruction of Fort Velasco for years. Land has been set aside near the original site and funding is needed to start construction and complete the project. Once complete, the Brazoria County Parks Dept. will assume ownership to operate and maintain the facility as part of Surfside Jetty Park. The round structure will be a life-sized replica made of reinforced-concrete to survive storms and weathering effects. The City of Surfside is proud to have the historical Fort within their city.

The **Battle of Velasco**, fought June 26-27, 1832, was the first true military conflict between Mexico and Texians, leading to the Texas Revolution. It began when Texian Militia attacked the “**Fortaleza de Velasco**” located at the mouth of the Brazos River and what is now the city of Surfside. The Mexican commander during the conflict, Domingo de Ugartechea, tried to stop the Texians, under John Austin, from transporting cannon down the Brazos River to attack a similar fort at Anahuac. The Texian Militia eventually prevailed over the Mexicans. Ugartechea surrendered after a two-day battle, once he realized he would not be receiving reinforcements, and his soldiers had almost run out of ammunition.

Mexican authorities had established this small garrison at the mouth of the Brazos, on the eastern bank. The new post had attempted jurisdiction over all commerce entering the river from the Gulf of Mexico. A log stockade was built on flat ground approximately 150 yards (140 m) from the Brazos River, and an equal distance from the Gulf of Mexico. The stockade had an inner and an outer wall, with the 6 feet (1.8 m) between them filled with sand, earth, and shells. In the center of the stockade, another embankment provided a mounting place for a nine-pound cannon. The cannon was on a swivel and could guard the entire mouth of the river, but was unable to point downwards to aim into the immediate vicinity. Approximately 100 troops were garrisoned at the fort, under the command of Lt. Colonel Domingo de Ugartechea.

After the battle of San Jacinto, General Santa Anna signed a treaty releasing Mexico's claim on Texas at the small community of Velasco named after the Fort which was now manned by Texians. Velasco became the first capital of the Republic of Texas, for a five-month period.

Much more info is available online:

<https://velascohistoryarchaeology.weebly.com/the-battle-of-velasco.html>



*Artist depiction of 1832 Fort Velasco once used in a diorama at Brazoria County Historical Museum*

---

**If you would like to donate?:** (any amount welcome) – please print this page

Colonel Level \$1,000+ Captain Level \$500 Lieutenant Level \$250 Patriot Level \$100

Make out check to: **Cradle of Texas Conservancy**

(In note section, please write: donation - Fort Velasco replica)

Mail check & this form to: CTC, P.O. Box 353, West Columbia TX. 77486

The donation is tax-deductible - The CTC is a 501(c)(3) organization.

**Name:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Address:**\_\_\_\_\_

**City:**\_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:**\_\_\_\_\_

**e-mail for confirmation:**\_\_\_\_\_

**Do you want updates? (Y, N)** \_\_\_\_