

At the End... Petersburg, a Town Sold for Debt 1854 – 1855

After Hallettsville was awarded the permanent county seat, Petersburg lost its purpose. County offices and many businesses moved from Petersburg to the new county seat.

The property that made up the town of Petersburg was sold in a series of sheriff sales ordered by judgments issued by the Lavaca County District Court.

On August 17, 1854, the District Court issued an execution in favor of Baldrige Sparks & Co. against Augustus Jones to satisfy a judgment issued on April 17, 1854.

The sheriff placed a levy on the old courthouse in Petersburg, five acres of land and the buildings on that property then occupied by W.B. Davis as the property of Augustus Jones. The sale was held on October 3, 1854 and W.R.B. Wills was the highest bidder at \$51.00.

A second judgment was also issued on April 17, 1854 and later confirmed by the Texas Supreme Court on December 4, 1854. This judgment was in favor of Ernest L. Jourdan (Jordan) against Augustus Jones. The sheriff was ordered to sell any goods, chattel, land, and tenements of Jones to pay the judgment. This included all the land previously sold by Arthur Sherrill to Augustus Jones including the Petersburg Town Tract supposed to contain 1500 to 2000 acres and all the houses and lots belonging to Jones and any liens and mortgages Jones may have on any houses and lots in the town of Petersburg.

On September 4, 1855 Augustus Jones was the highest bidder. However, he failed to comply with the conditions of the purchase, so the land was resold to the highest bidder being William Martin for \$900.00

The two-story courthouse survived until 1968 when it was torn down after serving as private home for many years.

A Texas Historical Marker was placed at the site of Petersburg in 1936.

Sources:

Detroit Free Press November 12, 1854

Lavaca County Deed C/461

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