

City of Wortham (1972)

Marker #: 9914

Marker Text:

Situated on grant given 1834 by Mexico to Robert B. Longbotham (1797-1883), a Texas colonist from England who settled here in 1839. Years later, in 1871, when Houston & Texas Central Railway was planned through the area, R. B. Longbotham sold right of way through his land for token sum of \$5, and townsite was bought from him by investors. Although town was platted as "Tehuacana", post office was established Nov. 10, 1871, as Long Bottom, for original landowner. In 1874 name again changed, to honor Col. Luther Rice Wortham, a merchant instrumental in securing railway for area.

Wortham was incorporated in 1910, but remained a modest market town until the 1920s, when rumors of oil attracted such prospectors as hotel man Conrad Hilton, who soon left when wells yielded salt water.

A Thanksgiving Day gusher in 1924 opened the boom. Population leaped from 1,000 to over 30,000 at once. Law enforcement was impossible, housing inadequate, but in time the town met its obligations. Churches and schools prospered. The municipal band was the official band of 1926 United Confederate Veterans' Convention in Birmingham, Ala. Intensive drilling had ended the boom by late 1927. In 1972 a few wells are still pumping, and new horizons are being explored.

Notes: There are 3 historical markers in the park: two Texas State historical markers and one granite memorial marker for those who lost their lives in service to their country.

Directions:

Marker is on TX-14, on the left when traveling north through Wortham near the intersection of Main Street. Located in Wortham City Park next to the Methodist Church.

Address:

Marker is at or near this postal address: 108 TX-14, Wortham TX 76693

GPS:

31° 47.256' N, 96° 27.851' W

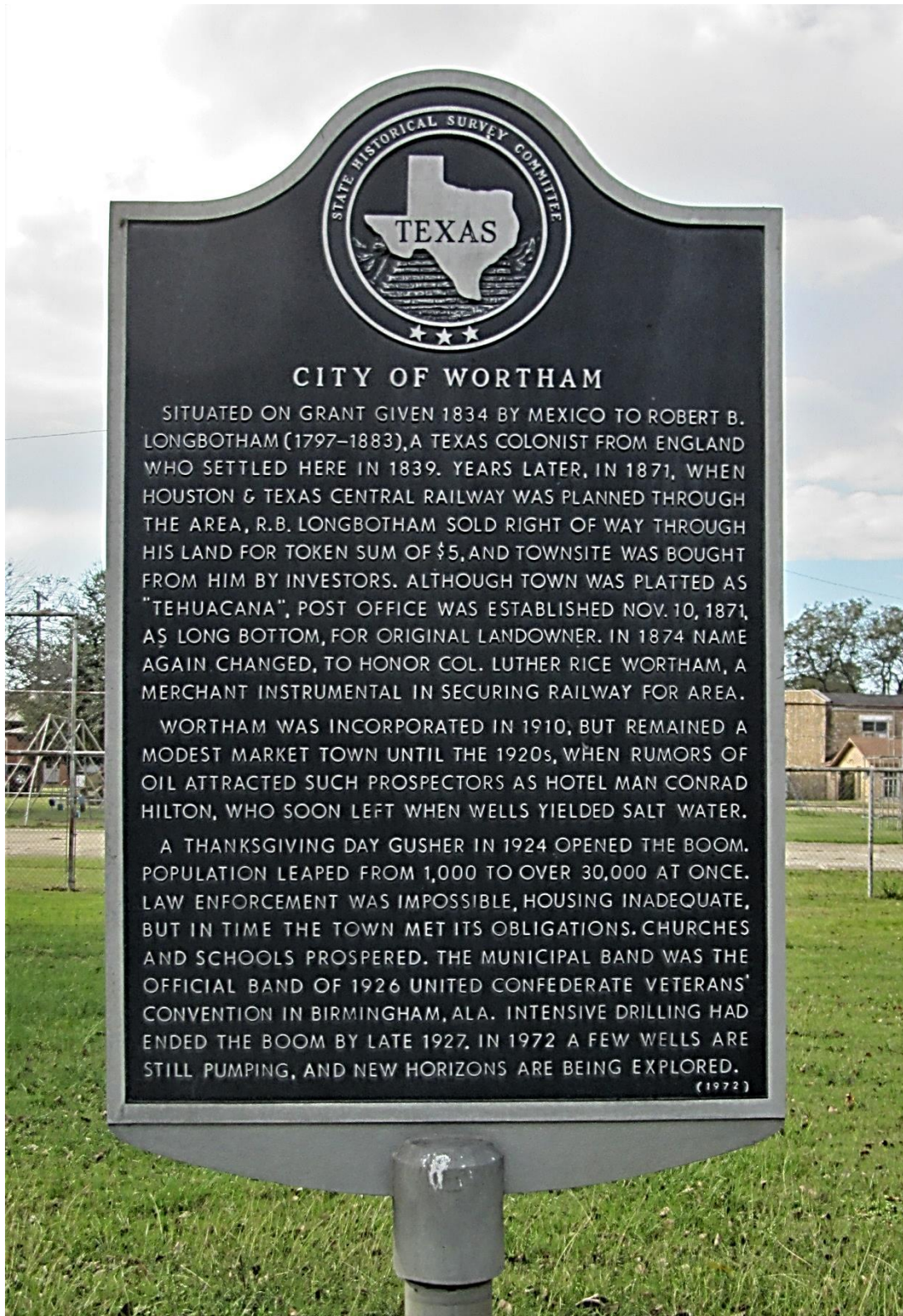


Photo by Linda Mullen, 11.11.2016