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Decorative Arts Museum
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1,250 words

Map of the City of Houston: Flooded but Flourishing

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diversity, economic growth, or opportunity. Founded by brothers Augustus Chapman Allen and John Kirby Allen in 1836, the town boasted incredible potential from the two visionaries, yet lacked initial appeal. s Decorative Arts Museum lies a large map of the city, created from the surveys of W.E. Wood in 1869. The map was gifted to the museum by the Morris family, with only a few copies known to exist.¹ The map tells a much larger story than the mere snapshot of roads and rail lines among the newly established bayou city. It is a memorial to the rich history and humble beginnings of Houston. While the observer may notice intricate pictures around the map, the eyes are immediately drawn to the blue and seafoam-green dividing lines, separating the historic wards, met in the middle by two Whiteoak Bayou and Buffalo

Framing the map are numerous landmark buildings such as The Old Capitol, Christ Church, and Pillot Building, a few of which still stand as historic preservations or recreations. Most noticeably, the map is distinctly divided into five wards.² It is worth noting that only the first, second, and fourth wards contain marked cemeteries according to the map,

the economic and commercial establishments of the city.⁵

apart, the wartime economic boom attracted so many laborers [to Houston]
experienced a net population
vulnerability to attack, merchants and affluent Ga

Bibliography

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