

A Little History in a Little Town

In attempts to raid and conquer Spanish territories in Mexico, French explorer Robert de La Salle proposed the idea of sailing to the mouth of the Mississippi River to build forts for Louis XIV.

Louis XIV accepted the proposal and helped La Salle with his expedition. With men, ships and money in hand, La Salle set out for a mission that would turn out to be a series of failures.

La Salle's failures started after a stop in the West Indies, where one ship was taken over by pirates. After this incident, many men on the journey were becoming ill, and maps were harder to follow. This led to the mistake of La Salle landing in Matagorda Bay about 500 miles away from his original destination.

In 1685, after several attempts to re-navigate back towards the Mississippi, La Salle established Fort St. Louis on Garcitas Creek, in the present day Victoria County. This became the first European settlement in Texas. There was debate on the exact location of Fort St. Louis, so a monument of La Salle was built on the beach at Indianola, Texas, since this was the last staging ground before Garcitas. So if you are ever driving by the beach, stop by the monument and catch a little bit of history.

For more information, contact:

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