

MEMORANDUM

To: Parks and Recreation Board

From: Gregg Harding, Historic Preservation Planner **GH**

Date: January 6, 2022

Re: **Review for historical accuracies of the proposed "Battle at Bayou Texar, First Seminole War, April 1818" marker**

I have reviewed the proposed marker text and have corresponded with Dr. Brian Rucker, history professor at Pensacola State College. The proposed text appears to be an accurate overview of the April 1818 attack and its significance in bringing Andrew Jackson to Pensacola and ultimately leading to Spain's abandonment of Florida.

Battle at Bayou Texar, First Seminole War, April 1818

In the closing phases of the First Seminole War (1817-1818), a U.S. supply boat ascending the Escambia River from Pensacola, bound for American Fort Crawford (East Brewton, AL), was attacked by hostile Creeks. This prompted Major White Youngs at Fort Crawford to launch an April 1818 assault by American forces into Spanish Florida, the target being several Creek encampments on Bayou Texar, only a mile from Spanish Pensacola. Without Creek warriors present to protect them, Youngs' assault on Bayou Texar resulted in around 30 Creek women and children being massacred. This action on Bayou Texar partially prompted General Andrew Jackson to march his troops westward from St. Marks, where he captured Pensacola and the Spanish fortifications in May of 1818, bringing an end to major military events in the war and convincing Spain of the futility of holding onto their colony of Florida.