

CATEGORIES OF LAND GRANTS



INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT SCRIP

Internal improvement scrips paid for infrastructural development in Texas. Land was granted in lieu of a cash payment to contractors and investors. In 1882, an act of Congress repealed all legislation authorizing internal improvement scrips.

- ◆ **THE CENTRAL NATIONAL ROAD SCRIP:** Scrip certificates issued in various amounts to road commissioners, surveyors, and contractors for building a road from the Red River to the Trinity River in what is now Dallas County. [Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, II, 1013-16]
- ◆ **SCRIP FOR BUILDING STEAMBOATS, STEAMSHIPS, AND OTHER VESSELS:** Ship builders received certificates for 320 acres for building a vessel of at least 50 tons, with 320 acres for each additional 25 tons. Sixteen ships were built taking advantage of this 1854 law. [Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, III, 1478]
- ◆ **RAILROAD SCRIP:** Beginning in 1854, the Texas legislature passed several laws providing scrip for building railroads. Although the exact provisions varied; generally a specified amount of land was provided for each mile of rail constructed. The Constitution of 1876 provided 16 sections (640 acres of land to a section) per mile of rail. The stipulations required railroads to survey an equal amount of land to be set aside for the state. These sections were later designated for the use of funding the public schools. [Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, III, 1455; VIII, 823-24]
- ◆ **NAVIGATION SCRIP FOR THE BUILDING OF SHIP CHANNELS AND THE IMPROVEMENT OF RIVERS AND HARBORS:** Scrip certificates paid for the construction of ship channels and other waterway improvements. In 1854 the legislature approved a grant of 94 sections of 640 acres each to the Galveston and Brazos Navigation Company for the completion of a canal from West Galveston Bay to the Brazos River. A second act, passed in 1860, granted the Lavaca Navigation Company eight sections of land for each mile of work completed on Matagorda and Lavaca Bays. Similar to Railroad Scrip, these navigation companies were required to survey an equal amount of land to be set aside for the state. [Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, IV, 131-32; V, 161-62]
- ◆ **SCRIP FOR BUILDING FACTORIES:** In 1863, the legislature approved an act to grant land to any person, company, or corporation erecting factories containing machinery “for the manufacture of iron from ore, or for the manufacture of cotton or wool into thread or cloth, or for the manufacture of fire arms, nitre, sulphur, powder, salt, cotton, or woolen cards and spinning jennies, or paper and oil.” The machinery was required to be in operation by the first day of March 1865, and certificates for 320 acres of land were issued for each incremental \$1,000 valuation of the completed factory. [Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, V, 676-77]
- ◆ **SCRIP FOR WATERWAY IMPROVEMENT:** After the Civil War, Texas’ waterways were in ruins. The legislature passed several acts granting land for improvement of canals and waterways to facilitate navigation. Under various laws passed between 1873 and 1879, Texas granted approximately 4.2 million acres for the improvement of waterways for navigation. Each act allotted a certain number of sections per mile of improvement. [Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, VII, 1187-90, 1259-61, 1452-55, 1442, 1444-47]
- ◆ **IRRIGATION CANAL SCRIP:** To improve irrigation in the Rio Grande valley, companies received land certificates for the construction of irrigation canals under laws passed in 1874, 1875, and 1876. The amount of acreage given was based on the class of ditch constructed. [Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, VIII, 310-12, 449-51, 1089-91]



LOAN AND SALES SCRIP

Loan scrips provided for the repayment of loans on behalf of the government of Texas. Sales scrips generated revenue through the sale of the public domain. Most scrips – whether through loan or sale – covered the costs associated with the Teas Revolution and the debts incurred by the Republic of Texas.

- ◆ **BRYAN SCRIP:** An act of the Texas legislature dated December 6, 1836 issued land scrip certificates to William Bryan equal to the amount of debts owed to him for loans made during the Texas Revolution. Bryan was authorized to sell this land scrip at a minimum of \$.50 per acre. [Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, I, 1128-29]
- ◆ **SAM HOUSTON SCRIP:** An act of the Texas legislature dated December 10, 1836 authorized President Sam Houston to negotiate a loan for \$20,000 to purchase ammuniton and munitions of war. He was authorized to raise this sum by issuing land scrip at a minimum of \$.50 per acre. [Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, I, 1135-36]
- ◆ **TOBY SCRIP:** An act of the Texas legislature dated December 10, 1836 authorized the president of the Republic of Texas to issue scrip for the amount of 500,000 acres to Thomas Toby of New Orleans. and sold at a minimum of \$.50 per acre to raise up to \$500,000 for the Texas government. [Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, I, 1136-37]
- ◆ **WHITE SCRIP:** An act of the Texas legislature dated December 10, 1836 authorized David White, as an agent of the Republic of Texas in the city of Mobile, Alabama, to sell land scrip at a minimum rate of \$.50 per acre to raise up to \$100,000 for the Texas government. [Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, I, 1133]
- ◆ **ERWIN SCRIP:** An act of the Texas legislature dated June 3, 1837 authorized the issuance of land scrip in the amount of 20,000 acres to repay a \$50,000 loan to Texas made on January 20, 1836 by James Erwin and others in New Orleans, and negotiated by Stephen F. Austin, William H. Wharton, and Branch T. Archer. [Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, I, 1289-91]
- ◆ **FIRST LOAN SCRIP:** An act of the Texas legislature dated May 24, 1838 authorized the president of the Republic of Texas to issue land scrip to stockholders as payment for the First Loan to Texas, for \$20,000, negotiated in New Orleans on January 11, 1836. First Loan Scrip did not cover interest on the loan, but was considered payment in full and liquidated that loan. [Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, I, 1498]
- ◆ **FUNDED DEBT SCRIP:** An act of the Texas legislature dated February 5, 1841 declared that any holder of promissory notes, funded debt, or any other liquidated claims against the government of Texas could “surrender the same, and receive in lieu thereof, land scrip.” The scrip was issued at the rate of \$2.00 per acre in 640 acre and 320 acre certificates. [Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, II, 624-25]
- ◆ **GENERAL LAND OFFICE SCRIP:** An act of the Texas legislature dated February 11, 1850 authorized the commissioner of the Texas General Land Office to issue land scrip at \$.50 per acre for the liquidation of the public debt of the late Republic of Texas. [Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, III, 636-38]
- ◆ **SALES SCRIP:** An act of the Texas legislature dated February 11, 1858 authorized the commissioner of the Texas General Land Office to issue land scrip in certificates of not less than 160 acres at \$1.00 per acre for the sale of the public domain. [Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, III, 1065-68]