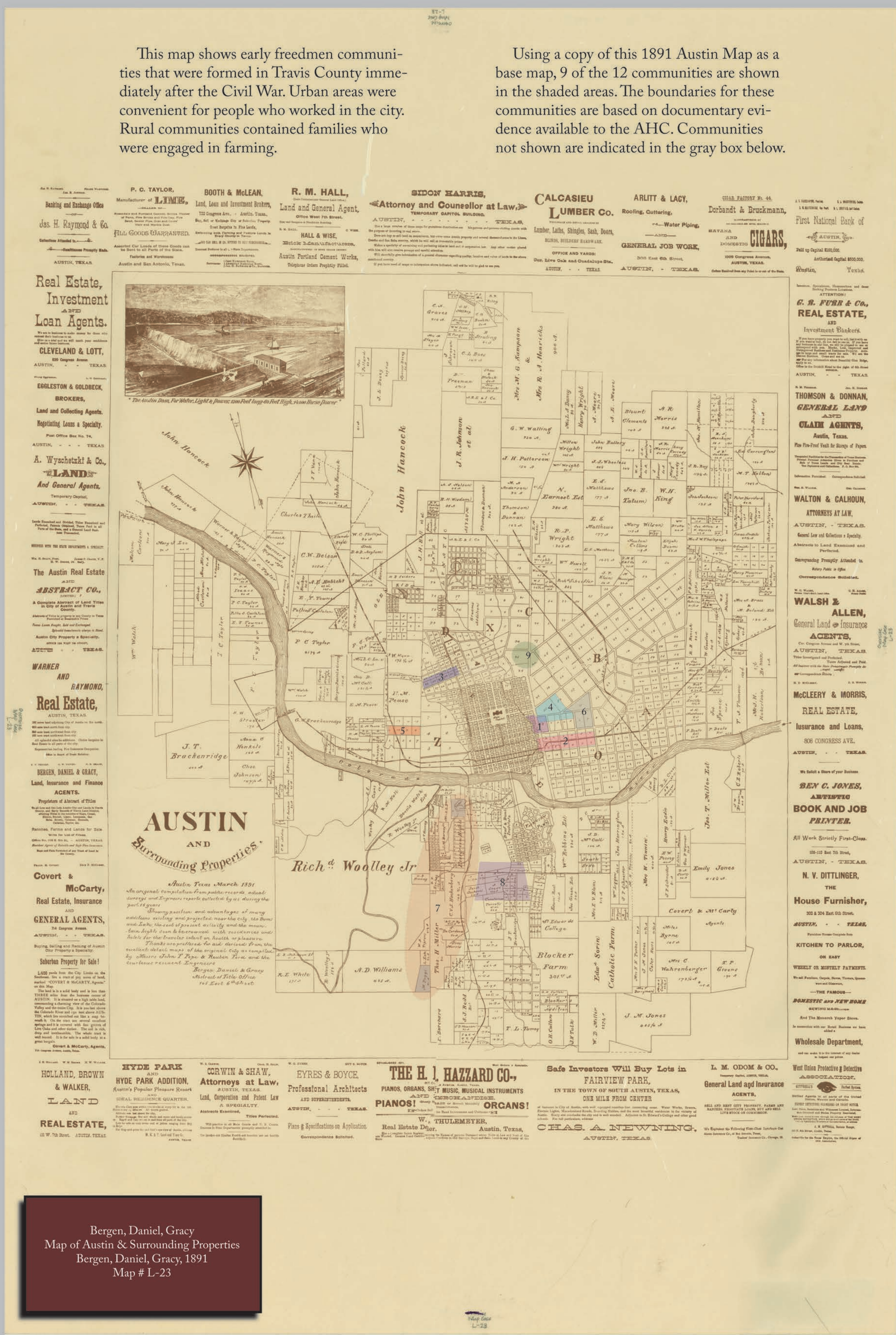
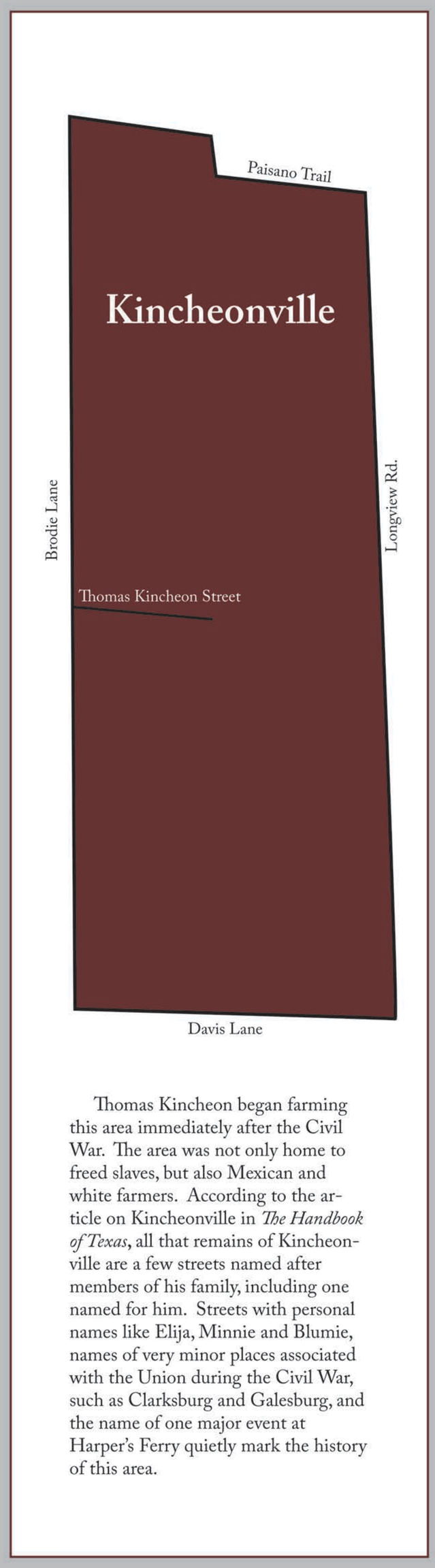
The Early Freedman Communities

This map shows early freedmen communities that were formed in Travis County immediately after the Civil War. Urban areas were convenient for people who worked in the city. Rural communities contained families who were engaged in farming.

Using a copy of this 1891 Austin Map as a base map, 9 of the 12 communities are shown in the shaded areas. The boundaries for these communities are based on documentary evidence available to the AHC. Communities not shown are indicated in the gray box below.



Bergen, Daniel, Gracy
Map of Austin & Surrounding Properties
Bergen, Daniel, Gracy, 1891
Map # L-23



Thomas Kincheon began farming this area immediately after the Civil War. The area was not only home to freed slaves, but also Mexican and white farmers. According to the article on Kincheonville in *The Handbook of Texas*, all that remains of Kincheonville are a few streets named after members of his family, including one named for him. Streets with personal names like Elija, Minnie and Blumie, names of very minor places associated with the Union during the Civil War, such as Clarksburg and Galesburg, and the name of one major event at Harper's Ferry quietly mark the history of this area.

1 . Pleasant Hill - East of Waller Creek , west of San Marcos St. , with E. 11th St. on the north and E. 7th St to the south.

2 . Mason Town - East of Waller Creek between E. 3rd on the north, E. 6th to thew south and Chicon St. on the east.

3. Wheatsville – East bank of Shoal Creek between W. 24 St. and W. 26 St. with Rio Grande St. on the east.

4. Robertson Hill - On the bluff north and west of the French Legation, north of Pleasant Hill area and east of Waller Creek. Also, between E. 10th and E. 14th with East Ave. (I-35) on the west and Navasota St. to the east.

5. Clarksville - Early boundaries were Waterston St. to the north, W. 10th to the south, W. Lynn St. on the east and Johnson Creek on the west.

6. Gregory Town – Chincapin or Rosewood to the north, Rector and Comal to the west, E. 7th to the south, and Chicon on the east.

7. Barton Springs area - extending from near the Paggi House (the old Goodrch Plantation) on Lee Barton to the south near Oltorf between Goodrich and Kinney. Information on the precise boundaries is unclear.

8. Southside - Eva and S. 1st streets on the east to S. 5th on the west. Southern boundary near Oltorf St. with the northern boundary on Monroe St.

9. Horst's Pasture (Horst Plantation) - East Ave. between 23rd and 24th streets. Exact boundaries unknown.

Communities not indicated on map:

Burditt's Prairie (the Burditt Plantation)

East Austin at Felix Ave. and Valdez St. on the east, Felix and Vasquez St. on the Northeast. Burditt's Prairie Cemetery is to the north of Felix Ave.

Ryna Branch

In or near Bluff Springs (exact location not known).

Bell Hill

Off Bee Caves Road near Jackson Cemetery (exact location not known).