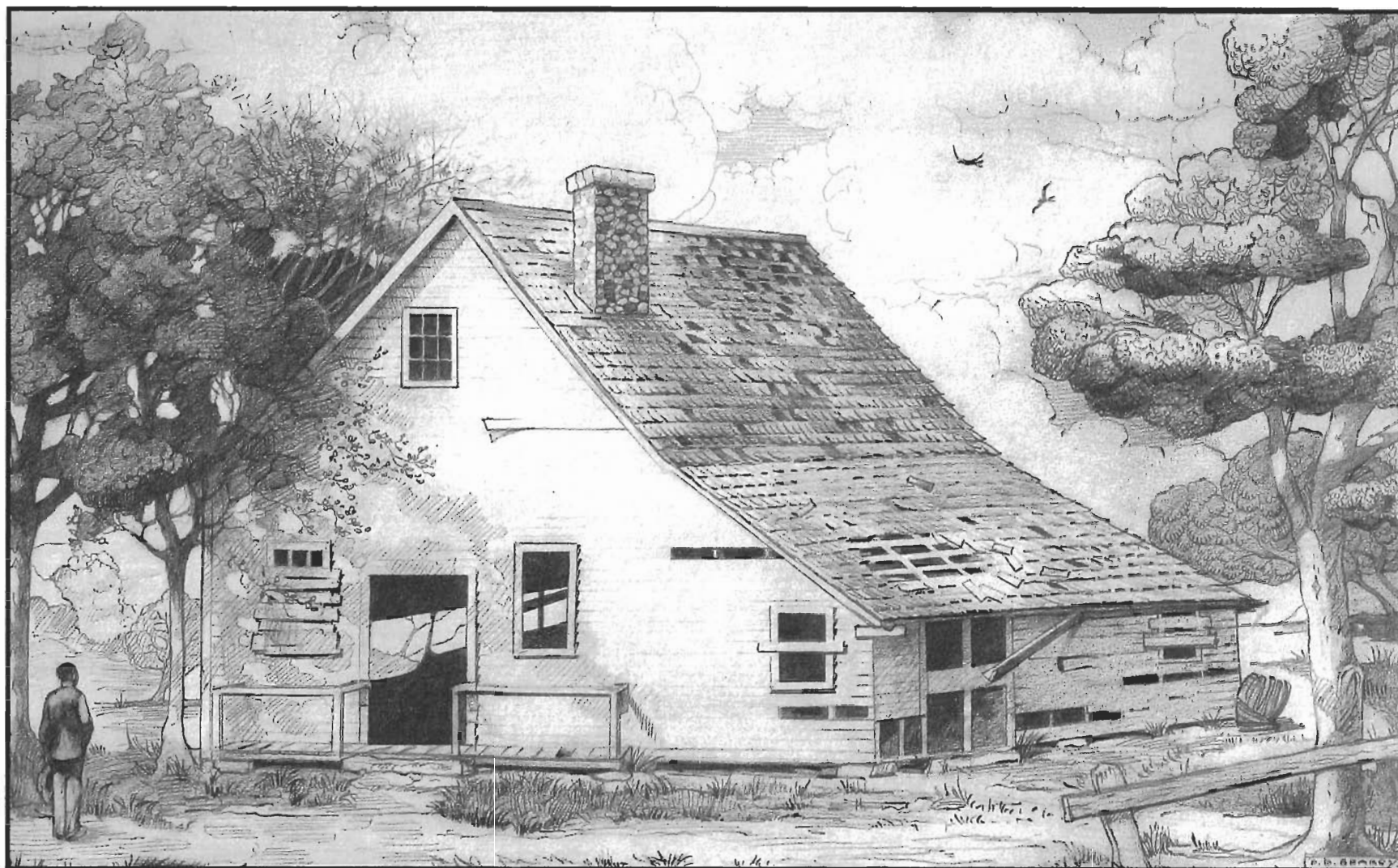


## Washington-on-the-Brazos March 1836

On March 1, 1836, 59 delegates gathered in a small, dilapidated building in the tiny settlement of Washington-on-the-Brazos to write a declaration of independence for Texas. Despite bad weather and accommodations, lack of a printing press, and the fall of the Alamo, the group forged ahead. The Declaration of Independence was completed in only three days...perhaps in part because of the adversities facing this determined group. Following the completion of a new constitution for the Republic of Texas, the convention adjourned on March 17, 1836.





## Columbia-on-the-Brazos October 1836

The first Congress of the Republic of Texas met on October 3, 1836, in a two-story building that, before its designation as the Capitol building, was a grocery store. The building had space to accommodate the 14 senators and 29 members of Congress and, as such, was a marked improvement over the cramped quarters at Washington-on-the-Brazos. In addition, the lawmakers had a printing press, which greatly aided their ability to disseminate information. At the meeting, the Congress elected Sam Houston president and Mirabeau B. Lamar vice-president. With a governing body intact, the next challenge was to select a permanent capital for Texas.