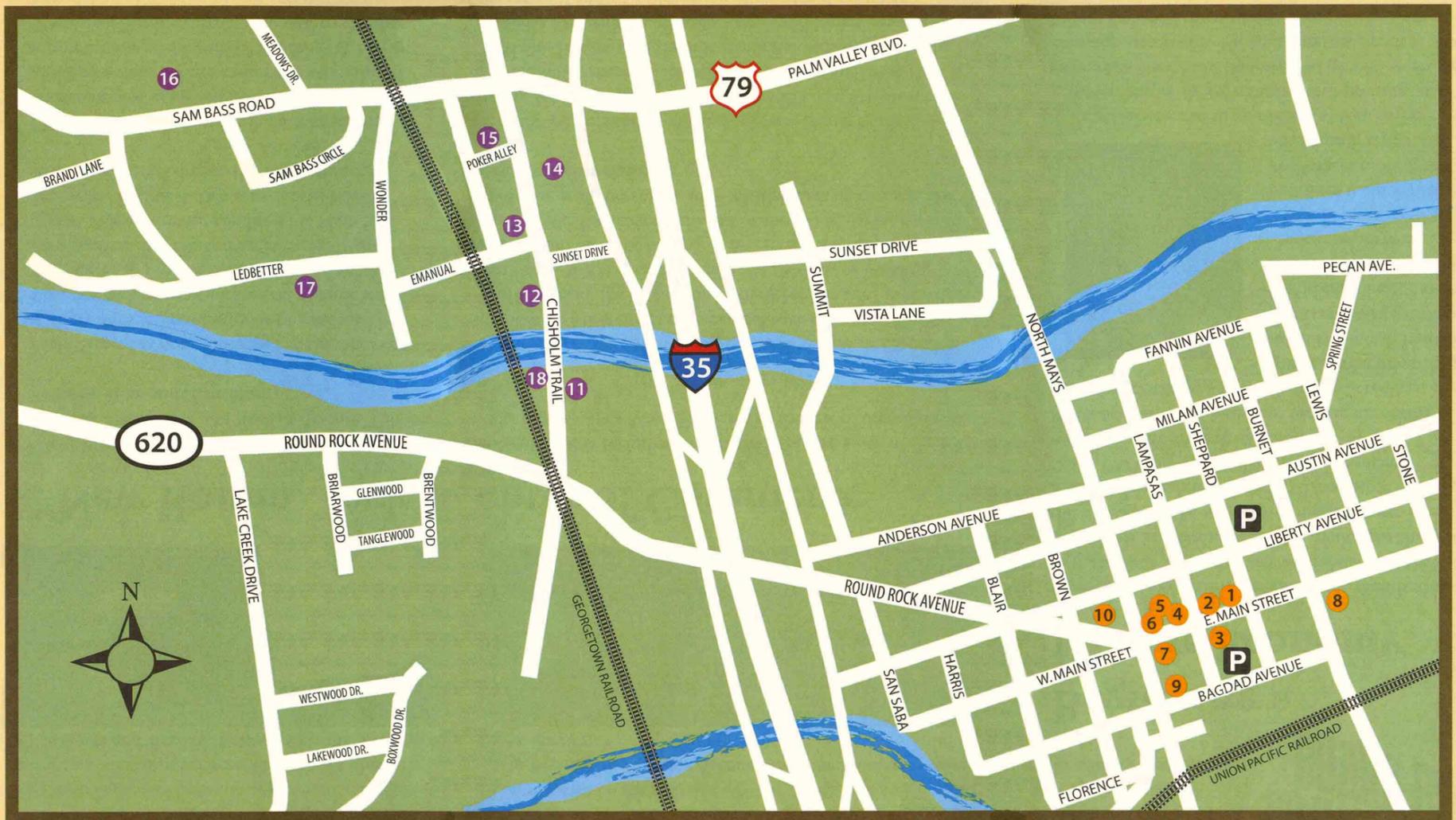


Historic Round Rock Guide and Downtown Walking Tour



1 PALM HOUSE - 212 E. Main St., 1873

(Chamber of Commerce/Visitor Center)
Moved to its present location in 1976, this home was originally built by Andrew and Caroline Palm on land purchased from the Swedish Immigration Agent east of Round Rock in the Palm Valley settlement. Relatives of Svante Palm, the Swedish Vice-Council to the Texas Republic, the Palms, like many others, were encouraged to settle in this part of Texas. Exhibits of Round Rock history and its Swedish roots are on display inside.

2 ROUND ROCK MERCANTILE - 202 & 204 E. Main St., 1900 - 1907

(Economy Drug Store)
Originally built as a single-story structure which housed the Round Rock Mercantile, the largest dry goods store in town. Now you can step inside and experience the original display case and soda fountain counter added when the Economy Drug Store built it in 1907. The second floor facade, added shortly after, reflects pressed tin and iron materials, popular during the era.

3 J.A. NELSON & COMPANY - 201 E. Main St., 1900

Placing metal on stone was very popular around the turn of the century. The J.A. Nelson building is one of the best examples in Central Texas, built of limestone with an ornate cast iron and pressed tin facade manufactured by Mesker Bros., St. Louis. It originally served as a lumberyard and hardware store.

4 116 & 118 E. Main St., 1880

Imagine a dry goods store on the corner with a pool hall and saloon next door. That is what these buildings first housed until a fire destroyed them. In the 1920s, Farmers State Bank rebuilt the corner building and the adjacent one was remodeled in 2002/2003.

5 OTTO REINKE BUILDING - 102 E. Main St., 1879

This beautifully carved limestone structure showcases its well-proportioned arches and window detailing, making it one of the finest examples in downtown. It was believed to have been used by Reinke as a bakery. The interior burned in 1963 and was rebuilt some years later.

6 THE OLD BROOM FACTORY - 100 E. Main St., 1880

A furniture store, a sweet shoppe and a second floor used for lodging highlight this building's purpose before the Broom Factory moved into it at the turn of the century. In 1904, a broom produced in this factory won a gold medal at the St. Louis World's Fair.

7 KOPPERAL'S STORE OR KOPPEL'S - 107 E. Main St., 1876

This stone building is one of the oldest structures in Downtown Round Rock. Built for use as a dry goods store, this was the site of the start of Historic shoot-out that moved to the street between Sheriff A.W. Grimes and Sam Bass.

8 "WOODBINE" Nelson Crier House - 405 E. Main St.

Constructed near the turn of the century, this unusual house was built for Andrew & Hedvig Nelson. The Nelsons were Swedish immigrants who became prosperous farmers, the owners of a cotton gin and other businesses. Their large house originally sported a large round tower which was replaced by the Ionic columns facing Main Street today. Three generations of Nelsons lived in the house until 1960, when Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Crier Goodrich purchased the house. Mrs. Goodrich named the house "Woodbine" for the Virginia creeper that covers the walls of the house.

9 OLD MASONIC LODGE AND POST OFFICE - 107 S. MAYS STREET, 1878

Used for offices and lodge meetings when it was first built. Beginning in the late 1800s it served as the post office for the "new" Round Rock. Built by A.L. Bowers, this beautiful structure has an ornate front. The pattern is created by unusually shaped stones and brick detailing

10 ROUND ROCK WATER TOWER - CIRCA 1935

The tower serves to this day as a Round Rock Landmark. During the 1930s, it was part of a large WPA project that not only served most of the residents of Round Rock with water and sewer hookups, but it allowed many people "down on their luck" to work.

11 QUICK HOUSE - CIRCA 1850s

Visible from Brushy Creek during the fall and winter, this house is one of the oldest in Round Rock.

12 SAMSON HOUSE - 2 Chisholm Trail

The load bearing stone building at #2 Chisholm Trail was constructed between 1850 and 1875 and is associated with the commercial buildings in the original town of Round Rock.

13 ST. CHARLES HOTEL - 8 Chisholm Trail

Built in the mid-19th Century these two buildings have been used as stores, residences and hotels throughout the years. The one-story structure was built about 1853 by Thomas Oatts for use as a store and the town's first post office. The two-story building was probably built 20 years later and was occupied by a prominent local doctor.

14 INN AT BRUSHY CREEK - 1000 North IH-35, Circa 1850s

Most likely, Thomas Oatts built this structure as a family residence. Set well back from the street, it is estimated that the home was constructed somewhere in the 1850s, although its earliest known reference is a deed issued in 1863 when the property was sold.

15 ONE POKER ALLEY - Circa 1860-1870

Both the builder and the construction date are unknown, although historians surmise that the single story section was built early in the history of Round Rock. It may have served as the post office when it was owned by John Rowland, Postmaster in 1867.

16 ROUND ROCK CEMETERY - Sam Bass Road, Circa 1851

The oldest tombstone in the cemetery is dated 1831, before which most burials went either unmarked or took place in family cemeteries. By the turn of the century, over 100 burials had taken place. Two of the most famous are marked with large, new granite headstones. Sam Bass is buried here in the northwest corner, as is his sidekick, Seaborn Barnes. Deputy Sheriff A.W. Grimes, also killed in the Great Round Rock Shootout, is buried in the northeast corner. Near the Bass grave, is the so-called slave cemetery where some of Round Rock's freed slaves were buried. Vander "Barbette" Broadway, a famous trapeze artist from Round Rock, who was the toast of Paris in the 1920's and 1930's, is also buried

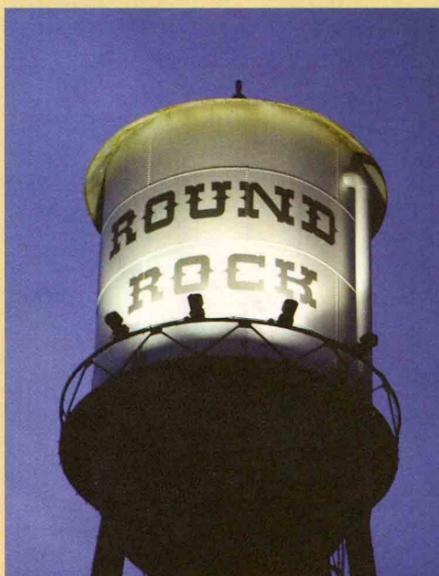
here. Hispanic burial sites can be found in the south section and African-American citizens were buried in the eastern section.

17 BARKER-PORTER HOUSE - 1113 Ledbetter Street, Circa 1870

This simple stone house is a good example of frontier Texas architecture. The central door opens into a hall with a room on either side. Home to the Barker family, son Dudley became a Texas Ranger.

18 "CROSSING THE BRUSHY AT THE ROUND ROCK"

Since the first bridge across Brushy Creek was not constructed until after 1890, the large "round rock" in Brushy Creek just southeast of #2 Chisholm Trail marked a good place for Native Americans, cattle drives, and stagecoaches to cross the creek. Wagon wheel ruts are still visible in the exposed rock between #2 Chisholm Trail and Brushy Creek, probably carved by wagon trains and/or wagons laden with stone from a nearby quarry. Chisholm Trail was once called Old Stagecoach Road. According to local legend, #2 Chisholm Trail served as a stagecoach stop.



● National Register District "Historic Downtown"

● Chisholm Trail Historic Area "Old Town"

P Free Public Parking



There is an extension at the southwestern corner of this rectangle which includes property located just south of the alley between Main Street and Bagdad Avenue. This property faces directly onto Mays Street, while the rest of the nominated property faces onto East Main.

Main Street has been the center of the city's commercial activity since the new town of Round Rock was developed in 1876 at the southern terminus of a railroad line. The 100-foot-wide Main Street runs parallel with the railroad tracks less than two blocks away, located on a gentle slope south of Brushy Creek. The section of Main Street included in the district was platted to serve as the commercial center of New Round Rock, as it was called until 1891. A spur of building construction in 1876 and again in 1880 virtually completed the 100 block of East Main Street, leaving only a few lots vacant. Alleys running parallel with Main Street separate the historic district from the rest of the block. Active for over 107 years, Round Rock's commercial buildings underwent intense retail use, alternating with periods of vacancy. Several structures burned during the 19th century, leaving only masonry walls standing.

Fire was a cause for drastic alterations especially in the case of the two buildings on the northwest corner of the intersection of Lampasas and East Main Street. Following a fire sometime between 1916 and 1925, the two-story building occupying the corner site was reduced to 14-foot stone walls; about 1920, brick veneer was applied to the exposed stone street walls of buildings at 116 and 118 East Main. This marked the first major use of brick within the downtown historic district. Alterations to other buildings include the painting of stone walls, applying stucco, the remodeling of store entrances and display windows, and the removal and/or replacement of storefront canopies.

“New Round Rock” Center of Commerce

The city was named for the “round rock” which was a low water crossing on the Chisholm Trail at Brushy Creek.



Main Street and Bagdad Avenue forms the southern limits of the district.

Unique Structures in Time

The Round Rock Commercial Historic District is a concentration of 25 stonemasonry, predominantly one-story, commercial buildings built during the last quarter of the 19th century. Stylistically, the buildings differ from many other Central Texas towns where brick was more commonly used. The vernacular, commercial architecture is characterized by stone masonry, load-bearing walls. The parapeted cornices are simply detailed in stone, and conceal sloping roofs. Originally both sides of the Main Street had tin-roofed, continuous store-front canopies the full width of each business establishment. Scattered remnants of these canopies remain in place, although most of the facades have been slightly altered. The district is visually defined by similarities in use, design, materials, scale, period of construction, and relationship to the street and sidewalk. With the exception of the Nelson Hardware building, with its handsome facade fabricated in St. Louis, the buildings in the district are all the work of local builders and craftsmen. The historic district forms an appropriate rectangle, bounded on the west by the east side of Mays Street, and on the east by a group of governmental buildings. The alley between Main Street (formerly Georgetown Avenue) and Liberty Avenue forms the northern boundary, while the alley between Main Street and Bagdad Avenue forms the southern limits of the district.

Store owners invariably “modernized” their buildings to make their store attractive by standards of their time. Such modernizations have resulted in changes to the interiors of the majority of the structures in the district, although the Economy Drug Store’s interior (circa 1905) has survived virtually untouched, complete with original soda-fountain stools. Previous uses of the buildings include the selling of groceries, clothing, notions, furniture, crockery, dry goods, confections, drugs, millinery, metal, harnesses, paints and oils, gentlemen’s furnishings, feed, hardware, fruit, jewelry, and coffee. Trades and services formerly found in the buildings include banks, post office, professional offices, auto repair, tin shop, telephone exchange office, cobbler, carriage trimmer, barber shops, cleaning-and-pressing, and restaurant. Pool halls, saloons, and general stores were common occupants. The most unusual resident was a broom factory. Lodges and meeting rooms were prominent uses of the second floors of several of the two story buildings.



Beginning a Diverse Economy



Palm House Museum



The Palm House was built in 1873 by Andrew J. Palm who moved from Sweden to Palm Valley, east of Round Rock, with his mother and brothers in 1853. The house was built from cypress and pine hauled from Austin. The land was purchased from the Swedish Immigration Agency.

The Palms were related to Svante Palm, who was the Swedish Vice-Council to the Texas Republic. He encouraged members of his family and other Swedish families to settle in this area.

Mr. Palm and his wife, Caroline Nelson Palm, reared their eight children in this house. Two of their children, Mary Palm and Marguerite Palm Stockman, donated the house to be used as a museum.

In 1976 it was moved from Palm Valley to its present location. The Palm House received its State Historical Marker in 1979 and has since served as a pioneer museum under the direction of The Palm House Museum Association.

The Palm House Museum contains early settlers’ furnishings and items of interest donated by area residents. Please take time to visit the museum with its turn of the century keeping room and simple Swedish kitchen.

Donations of items appropriate for the museum are being sought. These and monetary donations are tax deductible.

The Palm House Museum Association welcomes new members who are interested in historical preservation. For additional information, contact:

The Palm House Museum
212 East Main Street
Round Rock, TX 78664
512-255-5805
Fax: 512-255-3345

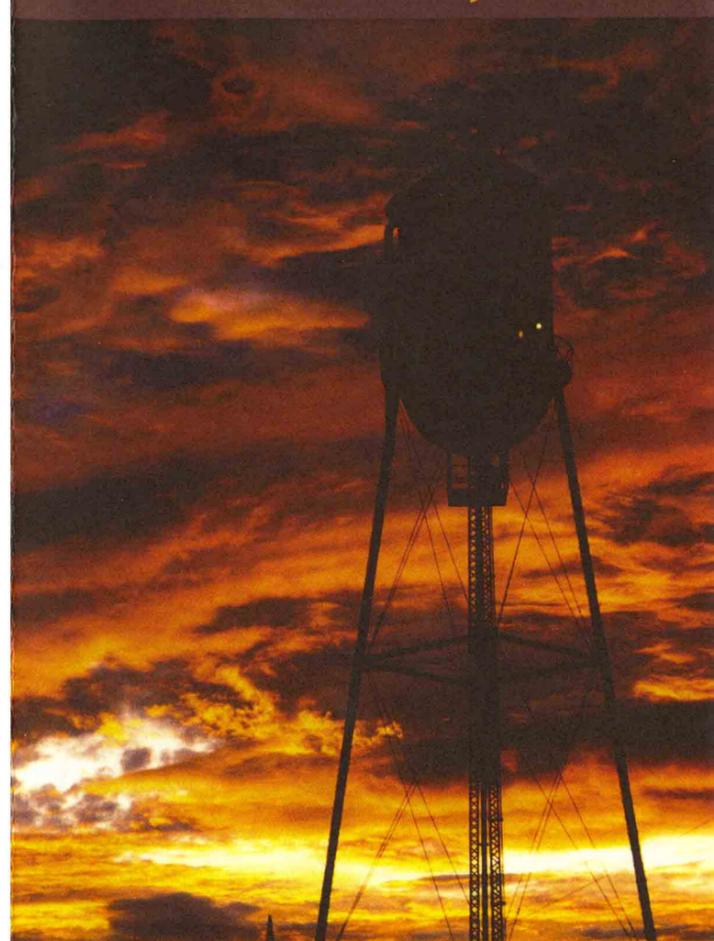


The Round Rock Chamber of Commerce
212 East Main Street
Round Rock, TX 78664
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www.roundrockshopping.com



Round Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau
120 S. Brown Street
Round Rock, TX 78664
512.218.7023
www.SportsCapitalofTexas.com

Round Rock, Texas



Map and Walking Guide of the History of Round Rock



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