DOWNTOWN HISTORY

J.A. Nelson Building (1900)

Round Rock's Commercial Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1983, encompassing 25 properties within four city blocks. The district is architecturally eclectic, including arcaded stone commercial blocks from its railroad boom in the 1870s-1900s, and offices and storefronts from its highway boom in the 1930s-1950s.

107 S. Mays Street Old Post Office and Masonic Lodge (1878)
The Masonic Lodge rented the first floor to the Post Office for almost 80 years, until 1959.

105 S. Mays Street Bus Depot (1945)
This property is believed to have been built as a bus depot when Mays St. was the main highway to Austin.

101 E. Main Street Koppel Store (1876)
This is where in 1878 Deputy Sheriff A.W. Grimes confronted outlaw Sam Bass, who shot and killed him.

103 E. Main Street Williams Grocery (1876)
The original façade collapsed in 1900, current façade was installed in 1972.

105 E. Main Street Johnson Drug Store (1876)
One of the oldest buildings in the downtown area and has housed drug, paint, liquor, grocery, and jewelry stores.

109 E. Main Street Saloon/Stockbridge Grocery (1884)
The arched transoms over the doors were removed when the ceiling was lowered for air conditioning; paired doors similar to the originals were installed in 2019.

111 E. Main Street The Red Front (1887)

113 E. Main Street Photography Studio/Markle Works (ca. 1920)
The original arched stone façade was replaced ca. 1970 and again in 2016.

115 E. Main Street Jehovah Saloon and Billiards (1884) with multiple façade alterations)
Its longest occupant was Henderson's Variety Store (1920-1947)

111 E. Main Street The Red Front (1887)

112 E. Main Street Saloon/Rock Theater (1879)
Wallace and Opal Rucker operated the city's first movie theater here from 1936-1969.

114 E. Main Street Grocery Store (ca. 1882)
This building originally had 3 arched doorways, the tops of which can still be seen over the entry from the inside. It housed Texas Power and Light from 1929-1969.

112 E. Main Street Morgan Miller Store (1881)
The arched limestone storefront is one of the best preserved in the district. In 1969 the store was known as the Telephone Exchange and from 1937-1984 it housed the Round Rock Leader newspaper.

108/110 E. Main Street Dieckmann Grocery/General Store (1886)
In 1931 J.C. Jackson Furniture unified two existing buildings with an Art Deco-influenced façade with contrasting wall tile patterns. The tiles remain but have been painted.

104/106 E. Main Street Round Rock Insurance/Barber Shop (1947)
These two storefronts were combined when Round Rock Insurance occupied both parts in 1965.

102 E. Main Street Otto Reinke Building (1879)
Reinke built this Italianate structure for his bakery and confectionery. In the 1930s-1940s it housed the famed Sam Bass Café.

100 E. Main Street Old Broom Factory Building (1880)
Originally a grocery store, the Round Rock Broom Factory occupied the building from 1900-1925. Their broom won a gold medal at the St. Louis World Fair in 1904.

212 E. Main Street Andrew J. Palm House (ca. 1733)
The Palm Family were early Swedish immigrants to Round Rock; their farm house was built ca. 1873 and relocated 1976.

206 E. Main Street Dr. Gregg’s Office (1930)
Dr. Gregg was Round Rock’s only physician from 1922-1963.

204 E. Main Street Drug Store/Quick Pharmacy (1907)
Pharmacist Green O. Noble operated a pharmacy here from 1907 to 1942, and Quick Pharmacy operated from 1942-1984.

202 E. Main Street Wiess Store/Carlson’s Dry Goods (1907)
Originally built as part of the Mercantile, by 1928 Jim Carlson operated a dry goods and shoe store in half of it.

200 E. Main Street Round Rock Mercantile (1907)
Building is stone with pressed tin façade and corrugated steel canopy, and has housed many Round Rock businesses.

118 E. Main Street Farmers State Bank (1920)
Originally the site of a two-story opera house, the 1920 bank building was the first use of brick in the historic district.

116 E. Main Street Saloon/Rock Theater (1879)
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HISTORIC DOWNTOWN ROUND ROCK, TEXAS WALKING GUIDE

107 and 109 S. Sheppard St. (1927)

Both houses were built in 1927 from the same hipped-roof Craftsman-style plan. 107 is known as the Francis and Edith Sandberg House and was built with material salvaged from the previous house on the site, while 109 was built with new lumber.

The Nelson-Crier House (aka Woodbine Mansion) was built for Andrew J. and Hedwig Nelson in 1900. In 1931 their descendants remodeled the home from a Queen Anne to Neoclassical Style. The mansion was repurposed as an event center in 2018.

405 E. Main St.

Nelson-Crier House (1900)
The Nelson-Crier House (aka Woodbine Mansion) was built for Andrew J. and Hedwig Nelson in 1900. In 1931 their descendants remodeled the home from a Queen Anne to Neoclassical Style. The mansion was repurposed as an event center in 2018.

400 E. Main and 402 E. Main St. (1930)

Both houses were built in 1930. The Dr. Gregg house at 400 is Colonial Revival/Craftsman style and is named for Round Rock’s much-loved and only doctor from 1922-1963. 402 is a Tudor Revival style cottage.

The Round Rock Water Tower was built as a Public Works Administration Project. The tower stands 130’ tall with a 60,000-gallon water storage tank. The water tower is no longer operational, but now serves as an icon of downtown Round Rock.

The downtown mineral well was drilled in 1897 at the intersection of Mays and Main Streets, and was later capped. The original gazebo over the well also served as a bandstand. This replica was built in 2018 and is located across from the First Baptist Church (306 Round Rock Ave.).

Water Tower (1935)
The downtown mineral well was drilled in 1897 at the intersection of Mays and Main Streets, and was later capped. The original gazebo over the well also served as a bandstand. This replica was built in 2018 and is located across from the First Baptist Church (306 Round Rock Ave.).

Water Well (1897)
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Sam Bass, a well-known train robber and outlaw came to Round Rock in 1878 to rob the bank. Both Deputy Sheriff A.W. Grimes and Sam Bass were killed in the gun battle. Both are buried at the Round Rock Cemetery on Sam Bass Rd.

200 S. Mays St.

Immortal Ten Bridge (1936)
In 1927 a train collided with a bus, killing 10 members of the Baylor University basketball team. The accident prompted road and vehicle safety improvements nationally, and the bridge was constructed in 1936 as part of Highway 81, a predecessor to Interstate 35. The bridge was dedicated to the “Immortal Ten” in 2017.

200 S. Mays St.

Site Of Railroad Depot (1876)
The Texas Land Company designed the new town around the railroad depot, located at the southeast corner of Mays St. and Bagdad Ave. There was also a freight platform further east. The depot was closed and later relocated to 600 N. Lee St. The depot now serves as the Sam Bass Theatre in Memorial Park.

221 E. Main St.

Sharon Prete Main Street Plaza (2012)
The plaza was constructed in 2012 and dedicated to longtime Parks Department Director, Sharon Prete, in 2013. The plaza is just outside the Visitors’ Center and City Hall, and includes a stage, splash pad, and historic subject marker about Round Rock’s “New Town.”

While at Prete Plaza, make sure to view art displays at the Downtowner Art Gallery and obtain a Round Rock Visitors Guide at the Visitors Center (231 E. Main St. Suites 150 &160). A public restroom is available at the front of Prete Plaza.

302 W. Bagdad Ave.

Centennial Plaza (2013)
Centennial Plaza was built to mark the 100th anniversary of Round Rock’s 1913 incorporation as a city. Five pillars commemorate 100 years of Round Rock History: Heritage, Industry, Education, Leisure, and Community. The plaza includes a rotating sculpture exhibit and a bat observation site.

208 S. Blair St.

Cantu-Franco House (1881)
Folk Victorian cottage with later Greek Revival details.

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