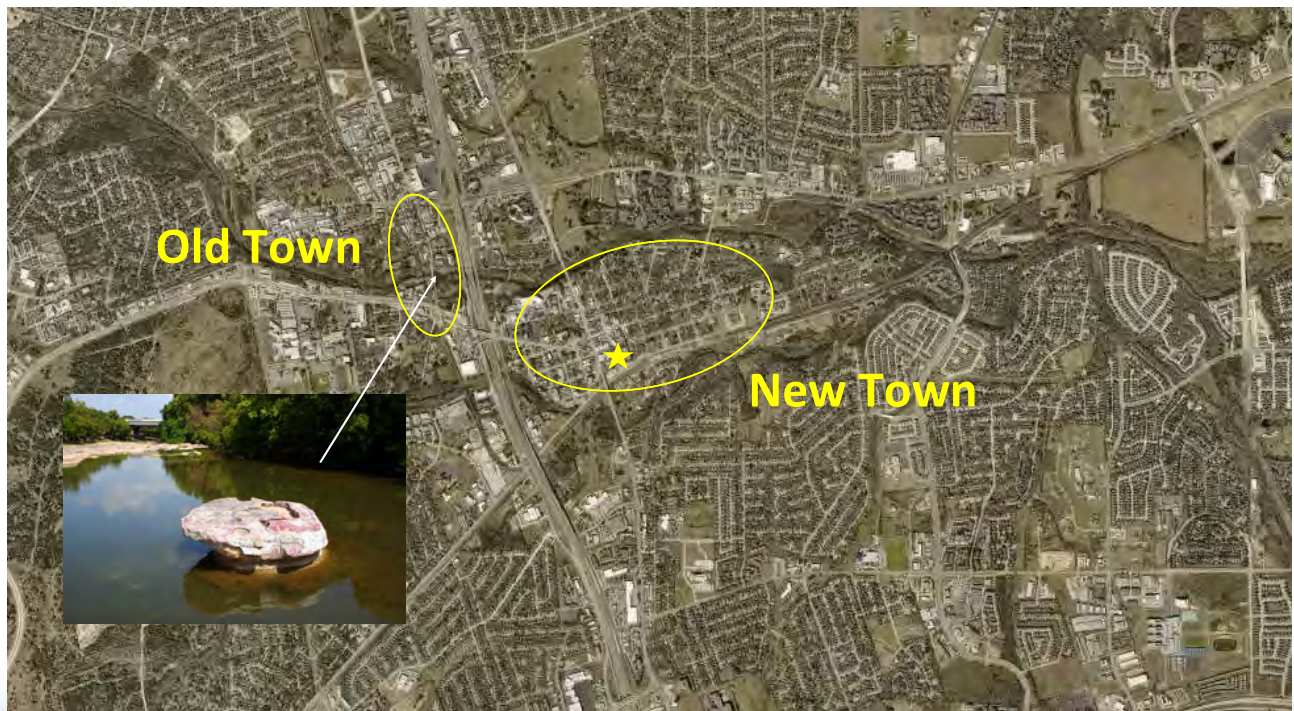


# Round Rock's Old Town

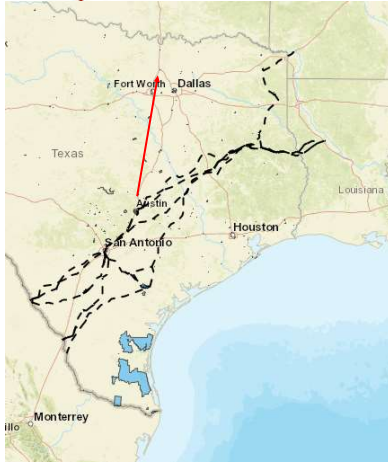
View of Old Town from College Hill, ca. 1900

1



2

# Republic of Texas



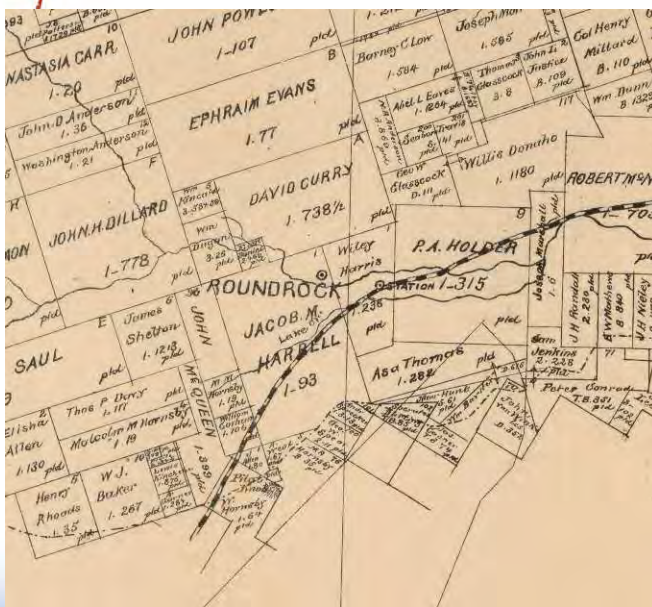
map of Col. Cooke's Road (detail)

- Spanish/Mexican roads like the Camino Reales paralleled coast.
- When Austin established as capitol needed route north to US territories.
- 1840: Pres Lamar tasked Col. Cooke with establishing a road between Austin & Fort English (Bonham) on the Red River
- Section between Austin and Belton followed "a recently improved trail"
- Kenney Fort only landmark between Austin and Waco

ROUND ROCK TEXAS

3

# Republic of Texas



- Those who fought in Revolution paid in land (bounty grants)
- Land patent system for claiming headright
- 2 important surveys for Round Rock:
  - Jacob Harrell (Old Town)
  - Wiley Harris (New Town)

ROUND ROCK TEXAS

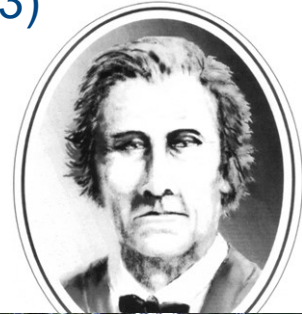
4





## Jacob Harrell (1804-1853)

- 1833 came to Texas from TN; served in Texas Army
- 1838 was first family to homestead in Waterloo
- 1840 elected Alderman
- 1843 represented Austin at policy convention
- 1844 commissioned to sell shares in Colorado Navigation Company
- 1847 elected mayor of Austin
- 1848 moved to Round Rock



Harrell Cemetery  
(35 & Bowman)

5



## Harrell's Headright

- Sold off headright property, mostly irregular lots of whatever size needed, but some 1-acre lots along the Military Road for businesses
- Harrell built his log cabin and blacksmith shop on the Military road
- Died 1853, buried in Harrell Cemetery



6



## “Round Rock”

- Needed community name for post office
- Brushy was taken
- So was Rock Island
- In 1854 postmaster Thomas Oatts offered “Round Rock” which was accepted



7



## Building Materials

- Some wood available, had sawmill pretty soon
- Lots of high quality exposed limestone, several small quarries along creek
- Manufactured materials available but hard to transport
- First buildings are self-built structures intended to be temporary, almost none survive



Harrel's dogtrot cabin,  
now in Old Settlers Park



ruts from quarrying activity,  
Brushy Creek

8





## Architecture

- “Pre-Railroad” folk architecture.
- European tradition modified over time in southeast US, adapting for climate
- Materials that could be found close by, special parts could be transported
- Rooms about the same size, no assigned function.
- Specialized function in outbuildings
- Narrow openings; doors/windows centered
- Chimneys on roof ridge, end walls in hot climates, interior in cold



wooden folk house, Pennsylvania



stone folk cottage, Ireland

9



EXAS

10



## McNabb-Quick House



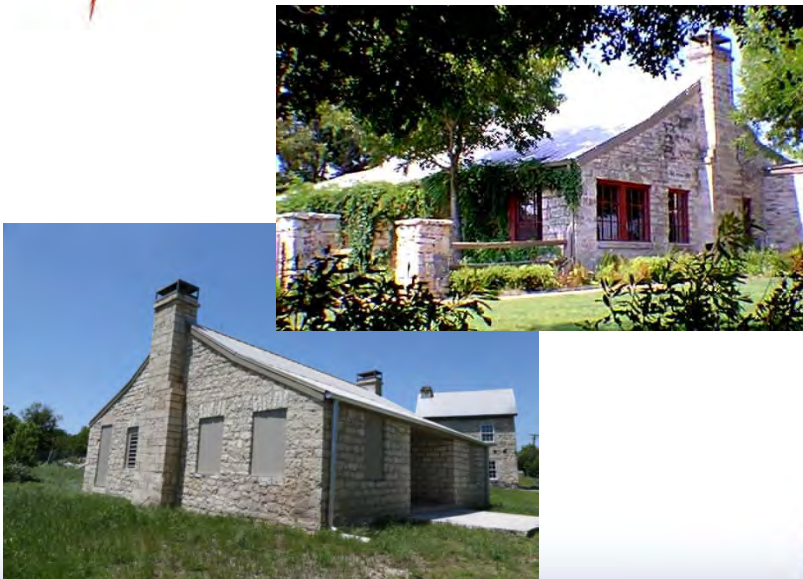
- Probably built by Thomas Oatts (bought 1852, sold 1853)
- 3 rooms, stone cut from creekbed
- Deeded to the Cumberland Presbyterian church in 1903
- Restored 1952 by Col. Alexander and Ruth McNabb 1950s renovation moved the front entrance from west to south side
- Recorded Texas Historical Landmark 1963

ROUND ROCK TEXAS

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## Harris Stagecoach Inn



- Built from 1848-1853
- James and Susie Harris
- Cedar floors hauled from Brenham by ox-cart
- Plastered interior
- Recorded Texas Historical Landmark 1963, rescinded 1997
- Moved across creek in 2018 to prevent demolition
- Building restoration in planning phase


ROUND ROCK TEXAS

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## Sansom House



- Built between 1850-1876
- Believed to have been a livery with wooden stable in back. Rumored to have been a brothel.
- Ground floor has large front/back doors, upstairs room has fireplace built into wall
- Alex Harris Store 1901-1908
- Plastered most of its life
- Jesse Sansom was last resident, moved out early 1970s, never had indoor plumbing.





1935

roof removed 1975-2010-ish (note peeled-log rafters)

ROUND ROCK TEXAS

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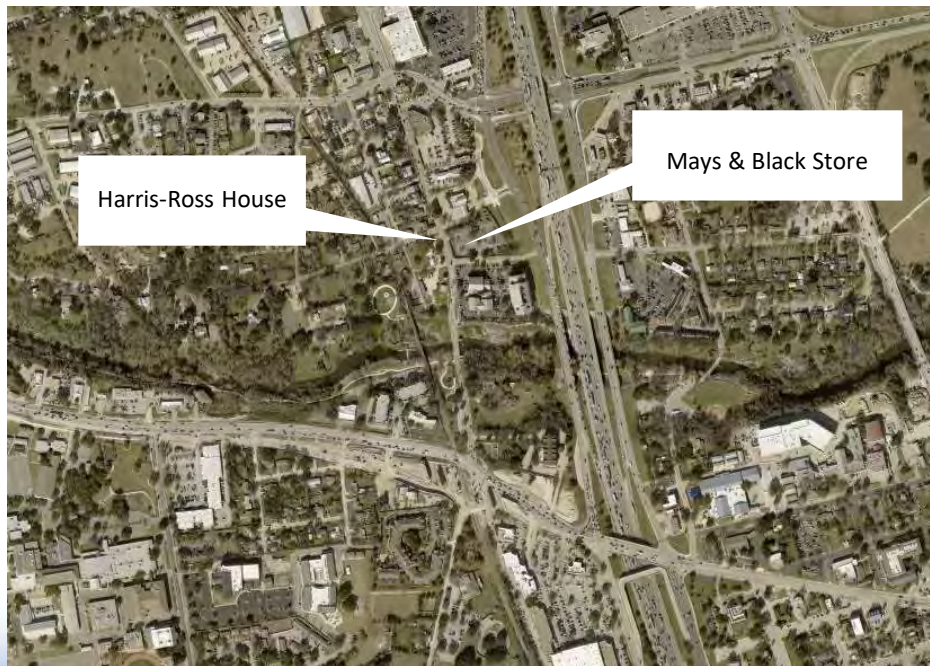
## Harris-Ross House



- "1849" carved on mantle
- 2 rooms
- Built by John Henry Smith for Dr. John C. Black, had office and home there
- Purchased by Alex C. Harris in 1901
- After his death in 1908 daughter Ada and husband Rev. William H. Ross joined widow Katie
- Ross was Baptist circuit preacher, kept a pew in the front yard under a tree because couples would stop by to get married there. Katie would provide flowers from her garden.

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TEXAS

16





## Mays & Black Store



Likely the interior of Mays and Black Store  
Photo courtesy Joe Bingham

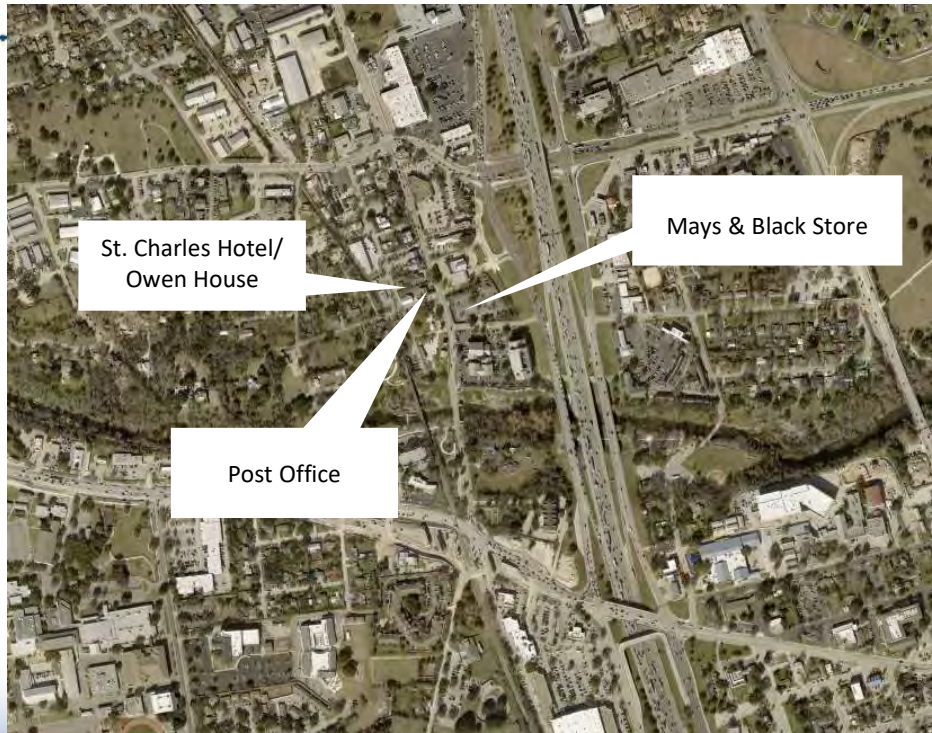
- Livingston Mays opened store ca 1851, J.M. Black bought half interest in 1873
- Products bought as well as sold



Sketch of Mays and Black Store in early 1930s

**ROUND ROCK TEXAS**

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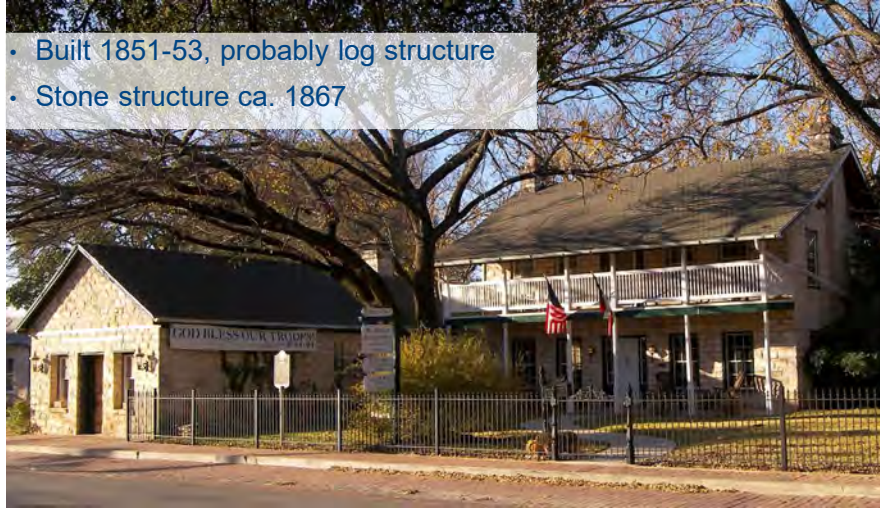
**TEXAS**

18



## Post Office/St. Charles Hotel

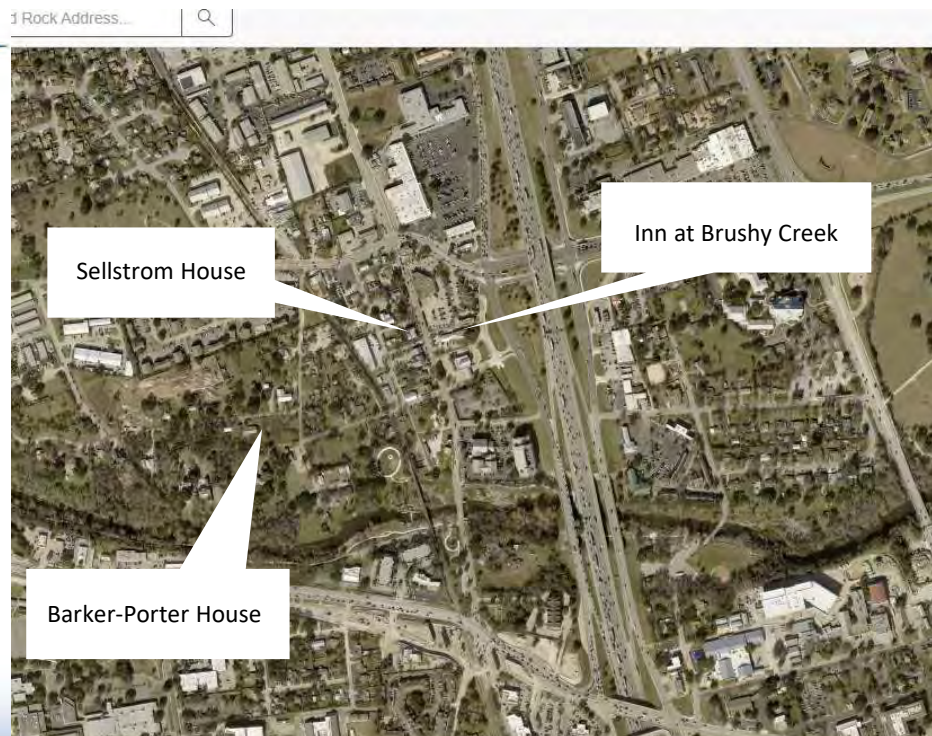
- Built 1851-53, probably log structure
- Stone structure ca. 1867



- Built 1867-1870
- Dr. Owen moved from Georgetown 1870 and saw patients here
- Largely unchanged, has mostly been a residence but also businesses
- Both buildings are both National Register and Recorded Texas Historical Landmark

ROUND ROCK TEXAS

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Sellstrom House

Inn at Brushy Creek

Barker-Porter House

KAS

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## Sellstrom House



- Built between 1853-1860
- Original 2 room stone section
- Center section added 1930s (plumbing)
- Two story section 1974



ROUND ROCK TEXAS

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## Inn at Brushy Creek



- Built between 1850-1862
- Thomas Oatts bought in 1850, sold to JJ Harris in 1863, who sold it to Sally Cluck the next year
- I-house (2 rooms w/center hall)
- 1965 sold to Charles Tinnin and Buz Kelley, who used house as restaurant and added on living quarters
- Placed on National Register 1970
- Now offices, many additions



ROUND ROCK TEXAS

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## Barker-Porter House



- Built by J. Robert Simonton ca. 1872
- Purchased by Elizeria & Mary Barker in 1873 so they could send their 9 children to school in Round Rock
- One of child was future Texas Ranger Dudley Barker
- Restored by James and Betty Porter early 1970s
- Recorded Texas Historical Landmark

ROUND ROCK TEXAS

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Round Rock Address...



Cole House

Greenwood  
Academy

KAS

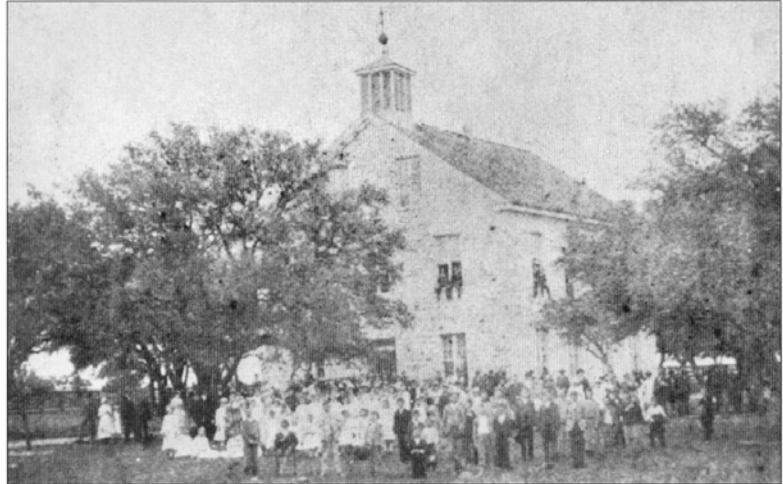
24





## Greenwood Institute

- Greenwood Masonic Institute (more or less where GattiTown is now)
- Built 1868, burned 1883
- First secondary school, first college term 1881
- Brought people to RR
- 1870 John Wesley Hardin graduated after attending for one day



ROUND ROCK TEXAS

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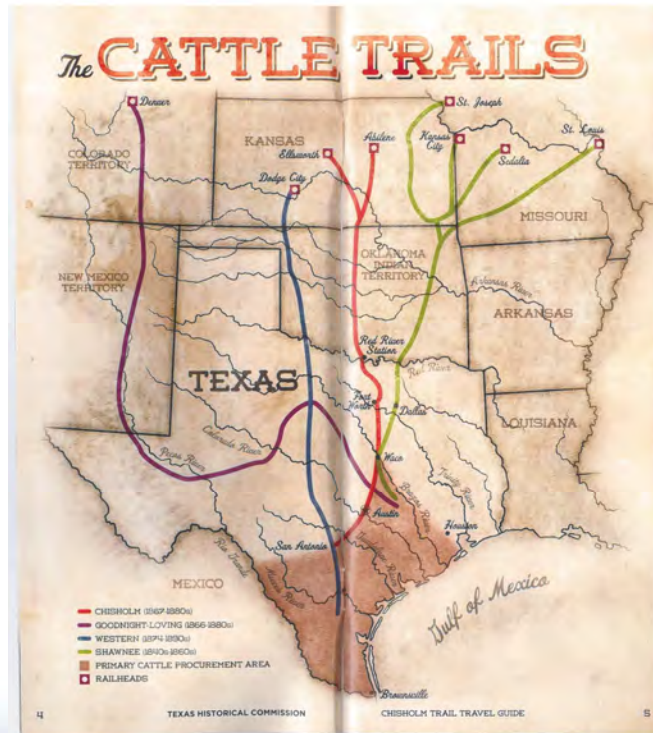
## Cole House



- Next to Greenwood Inst; once had 2-story wooden dormitory attached in back
- Built 1873 moved 1980, demolished 1984
- Dr. Cole was optometrist
- 16-ft deep porches, wooden kitchen wing, 1930s added breakfast wing and bathrooms.

ROUND ROCK TEXAS

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## Chisholm Trail

- 1760s Spanish ranchers drove cattle to New Orleans
- Cattle drives helped TX recover after Civil War
- By 1860 6 times as many cattle as people, few places to sell
- 1867 Jesse Chisholm Blazed trail through Oklahoma
- Shawnee trail already existing, new trails westward to stay ahead of homesteaders
- No longer profitable because:
  - new rail lines, incl shipping pt at Abilene,
  - barbed wire/homesteads,
  - oversupply of longhorns,
  - Texas fever quarantines

ROUND ROCK TEXAS

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## Railroad/New Town



- 1876 International & Great Northern Railroad stopped  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile from Round Rock. For a few years was the end of the line.
- City of Georgetown built spur line by 1878
- Platted streets and lots in grid around depot and sold lots. Rush for commercial space.
- Round Rock Ave directed back to old settlement.
- Original settlement came to be called Old Town, began slow decline.

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## Round Rock Institute

- First public secondary school, some college classes
- Built 1883, local control by 1888, burned 1913
- Site came to be called College Hill
- Later site of "Mexican School"



ROUND ROCK TEXAS

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1 Rock Address...



J. Rollin House

Dailey Store

AwaldHouse

KAS

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## Later Buildings



Dailey Store (ca. 1920s)

- Stone on Dailey Store and Awald House is veneer, not structural



Awald House (ca. 1930)



J Rollin House (1916)

- National style: manufactured materials in traditional forms

ROUND ROCK TEXAS

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## Bathing Beach

- Brushy Creek dammed just above railroad trestle ca. 1900
- City bought land in 1917 and built bath house, slide, steps
- Washed away in 1930s



Slide →



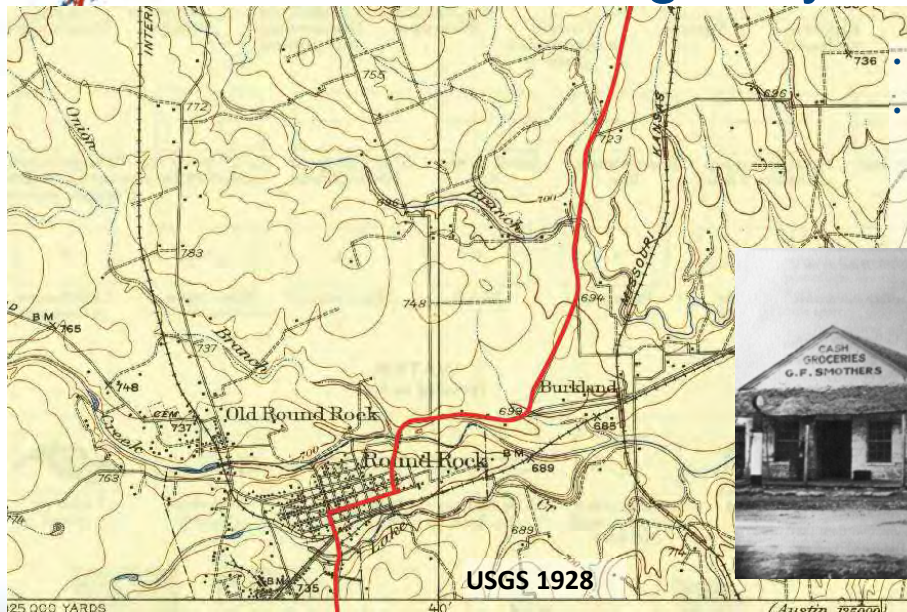
ROUND ROCK TEXAS

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## State Highway 2A



- Followed existing roads
- 2B went through Taylor



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## US 81



- First time that Old town was bypassed.
- Changing commerce patterns

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## “Army Colony”

Retired officers rehabbed houses in the 1950s:

- McNabb-Quick House
- El Milagro/Washington Anderson House
- Mexican School /Todd House
- Wessels-Payne House
- Stagecoach Inn



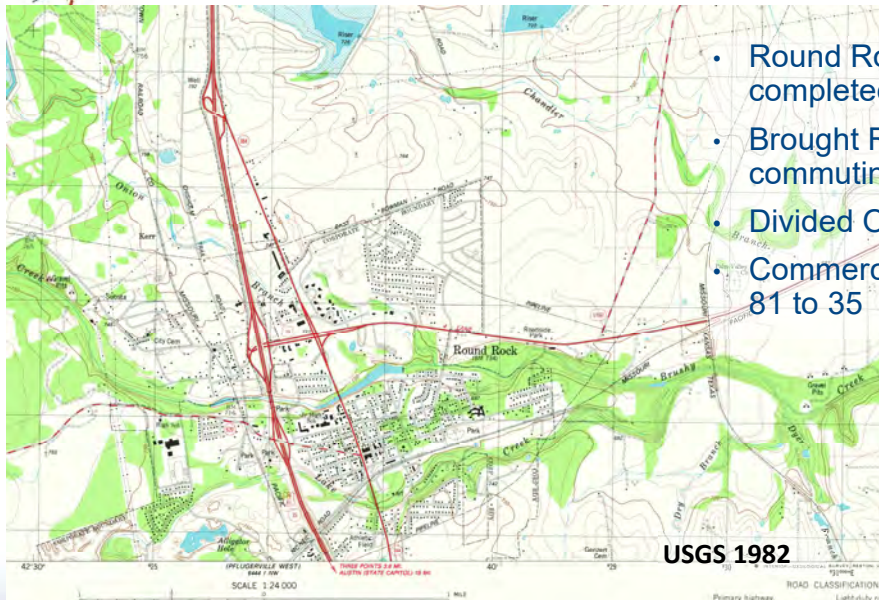
Col. & Mrs. Todd and their home  
(former “Mexican School”)



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## Interstate 35



- Round Rock-Austin leg of IH 35 completed 1960
- Brought Round Rock within commuting distance of Austin.
- Divided Old Town and New Town
- Commercial activity shifted from 81 to 35

USGS 1982

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## Old Town Revival

- Municipal water ca. 1971-2
- Annexed into city 1978
- New high school on west side 1971
- Promoting Sam Bass & Old West history
  - Old Cemetery Rd. renamed Sam Bass Rd.
  - Moffitt Street renamed Chisholm Trail Rd.

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## Historic Preservation

- 1977 Sam Bass Historical Commission
- Sam Bass Centennial 1978
- 1978 Bathing Beach named “area of historic importance”
- 1979 Historic preservation ordinance
- Chisholm Trail Historic District existed 1980-1989, then designated individual landmarks separately and Chisholm Trail overlay zoning district for compatibility

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## Chisholm Crossing Park

- Bronzes project of Greater Round Rock Community Foundation
- Bronzes by Jim Thomas, most funding from Dell
- Officially became PARD project in 2013. Future bronzes to be made by Antonio Muñoz



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## Heritage Trail Park



- Construction in progress
- Part of Brushy Creek Regional Trail
- Interpretive materials on history of Round Rock
- Relocated Stagecoach Inn
- Footbridge using existing bridge piers

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