

1



2



3



Historic Preservation Program

- 1953 Texas Historical Commission founded
- 1965 Historic Preservation Act (national enabling legislation)
- 1977 Sam Bass Historical Commission
- 1978 Bathing Beach named "area of historic importance"
- 1979 City Historic preservation ordinance
- 1980-1989 Chisholm Trail Historic District, later designated individual landmarks separately and Chisholm Trail overlay zoning district for compatibility
- 1983 Commercial Historic District established (National Register)

ROUND ROCK TEXAS

4



Republic of Texas Land Grants

- Those who fought in Texas 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)
 - Died; headright taken up by Washington Anderson



5



Washington Anderson (1817-1894)



ROUND ROCK TEXAS

6



Washington Anderson



Washington Anderson House (RTHL) built 1855-1859 (a.k.a. Heritage House, El Milagro...)

- Moved to area 1843
- Built log cabin on north side of Brushy Creek near a spring
- Built first mill in area; washed away in flood
- 1855-1859 replaced log cabin with stone house; hired Swedish foreman to train 4 slaves in construction (dormers added 1950s)

ROUND ROCK TEXAS

7



Washington Anderson

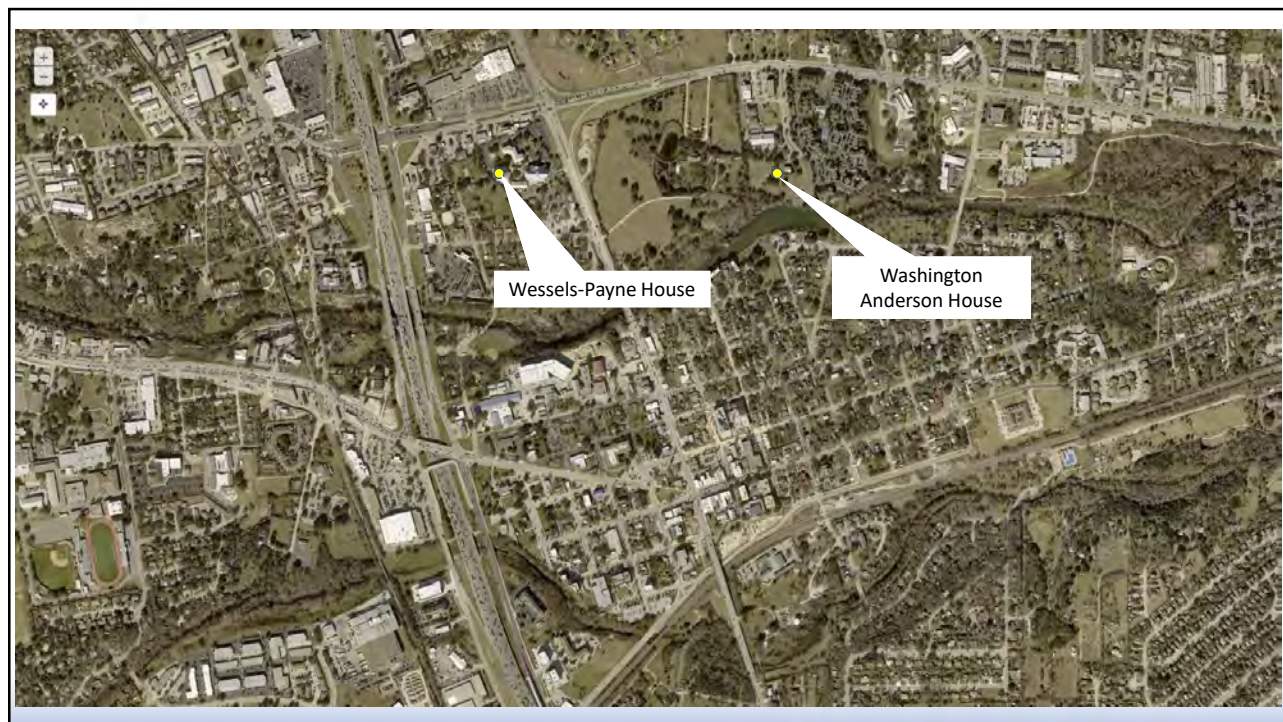
- Daughter Chloe married, moved to Austin
- Anderson built house nearby and she'd bring the grandkids for the summer
- Now the family life building at First United Methodist Church
- Both are Recorded Texas Historical Landmarks (RTHL)s




Wessels-Payne House (a.k.a Council Oak) built ca. 1860



8

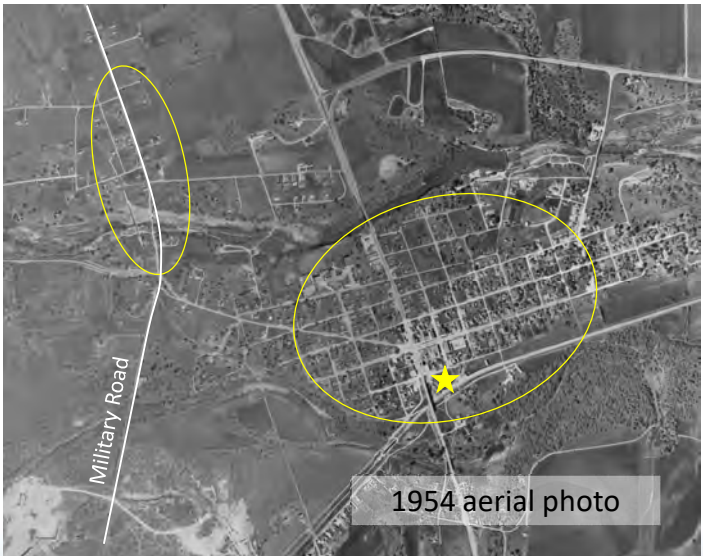


9



Railroad/New Town

- 1876 Anderson sold 150 acres to International & Great Northern RR
- Railroad extended into Williamson Co., stopped $\frac{3}{4}$ mile short of Round Rock
- Railroad platted blocks and lots in grid with Round Rock Ave. direct to old settlement
- Original settlement came to be called "Old Town" and railroad settlement "New Town"



1954 aerial photo

10

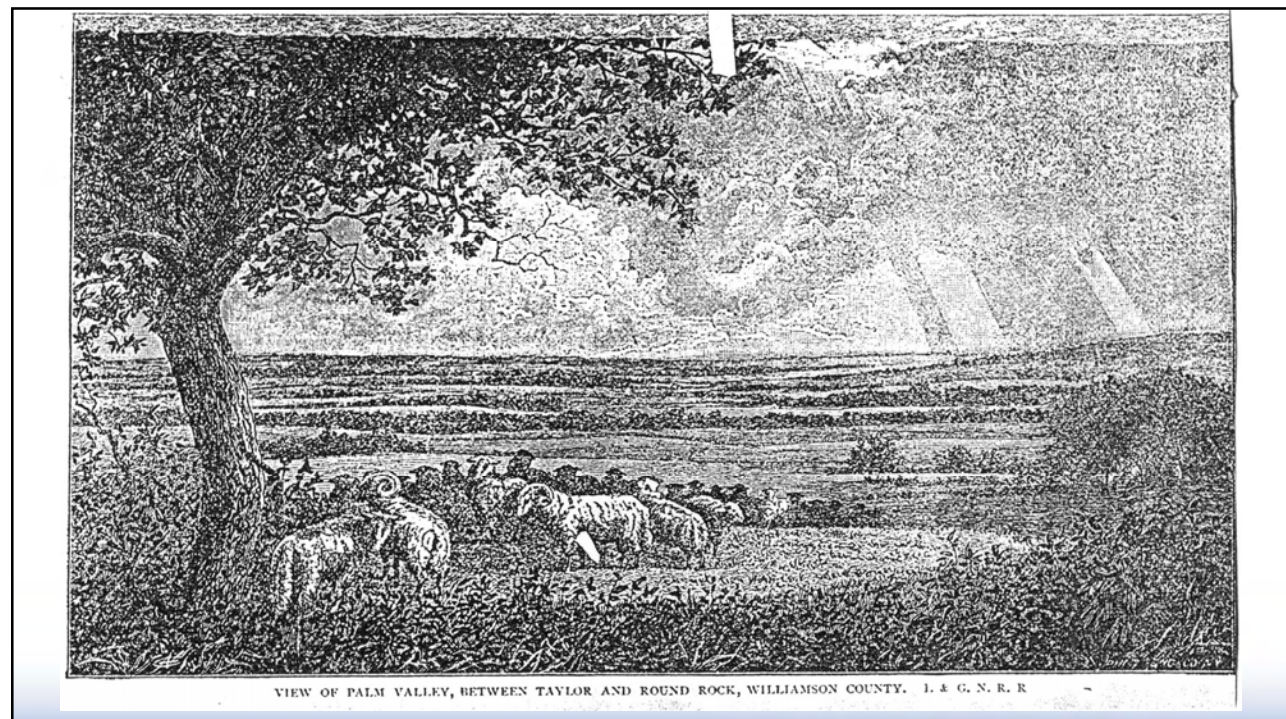


Impact of Railroad

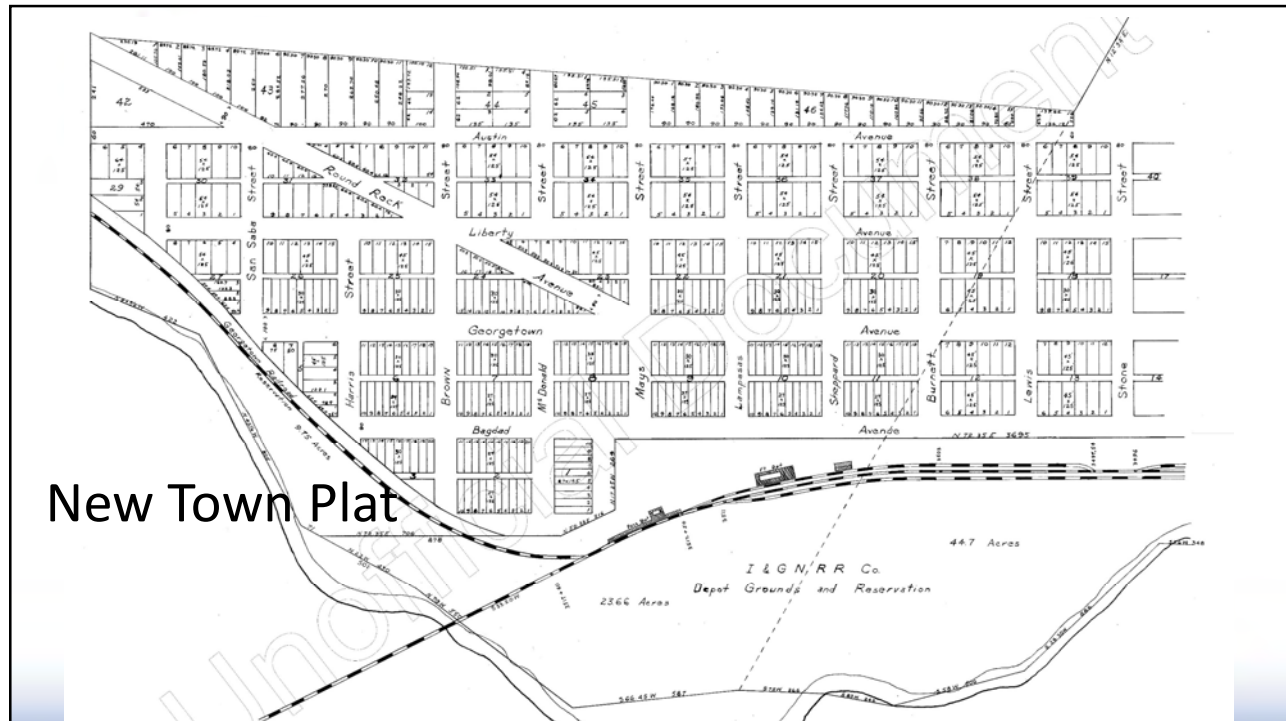
- Rail had been delayed by Civil War
- Railroads made more money from land sales than from fares/freight
- Was "end of the line" until 1882
- Georgetown lost several businesses; built spur line by 1878
- By 1878 more hotels than Austin
- Telegraph came with railroad
- Short-lived municipal incorporation



11



12



13



Early New Town Buildings

- First few commercial buildings were built before railroad service began
- Simple, adaptable vernacular building forms much like the pre-railroad buildings in Old Town
- Many took form of arcaded commercial block:
 - Common walls
 - Load-bearing parts made from nearby stone
 - Arched openings didn't require steel lintels
 - Doors and windows made by local carpenters
 - Interior could be partitioned



ROUND ROCK TEXAS

14



101, 103 & 105 E. Main St. (1876)

- All one-part arcaded commercial blocks, sometimes plastered
- Façade of 103 has been rebuilt several times
- Openings on 101 were changed but restored in 1990s
- Façade of 105 mostly unaltered



15



101, 103 & 105 E. Main St. (built 1876)



16



107 S. Mays Street (1878)

Post Office/Masonic Lodge

- 2-part arcaded commercial block
- Italianate style



17



100 & 102 E. Main Street

2-part arcaded commercial block



18



Harris Store (1885)

- Italianate style 1-part arcaded commercial block
- Ceiling lowered when AC installed ca. 1970
- Doors recently restored



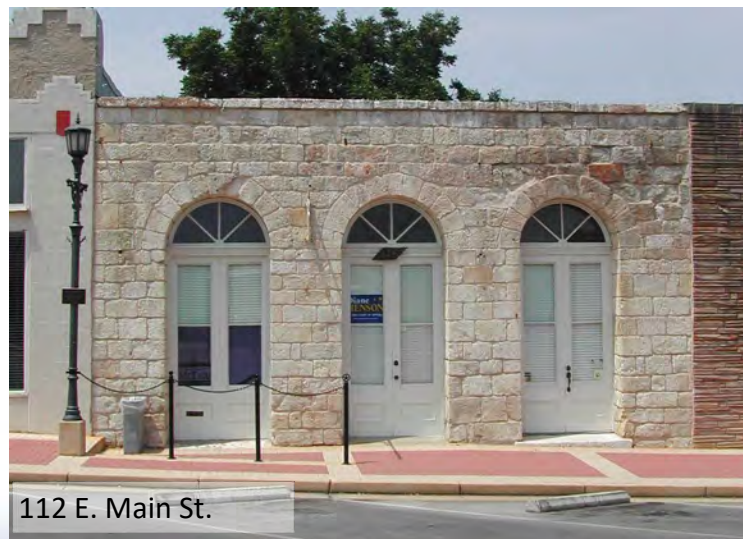
109 E Main ca. 1910

19



Round Rock Leader Bldg. (1881)

- a.k.a. Morgan Miller Store
- 1-part arcaded commercial block
- Largely unaltered



112 E. Main St.

20



Grocery Store (1881)

- Bo-Kay Florist/The Rock
- Storefront redone ca. 1960
- Stone arches visible from interior over recessed opening



ROUND ROCK TEXAS

21



Carrington Bldg. (1877)

- Second floor destroyed by fire between 1895-96
- Filled-in second floor windows still visible
- Plastered for part of its life, possibly to cover damage

121 E. Main ca. 1915



22



Montedonico Bldg. (1881)

- Damaged by fire with 121 E. Main in 1895-96
- Façade modernized mid-20th Century



119 E. Main ca. 1900

23



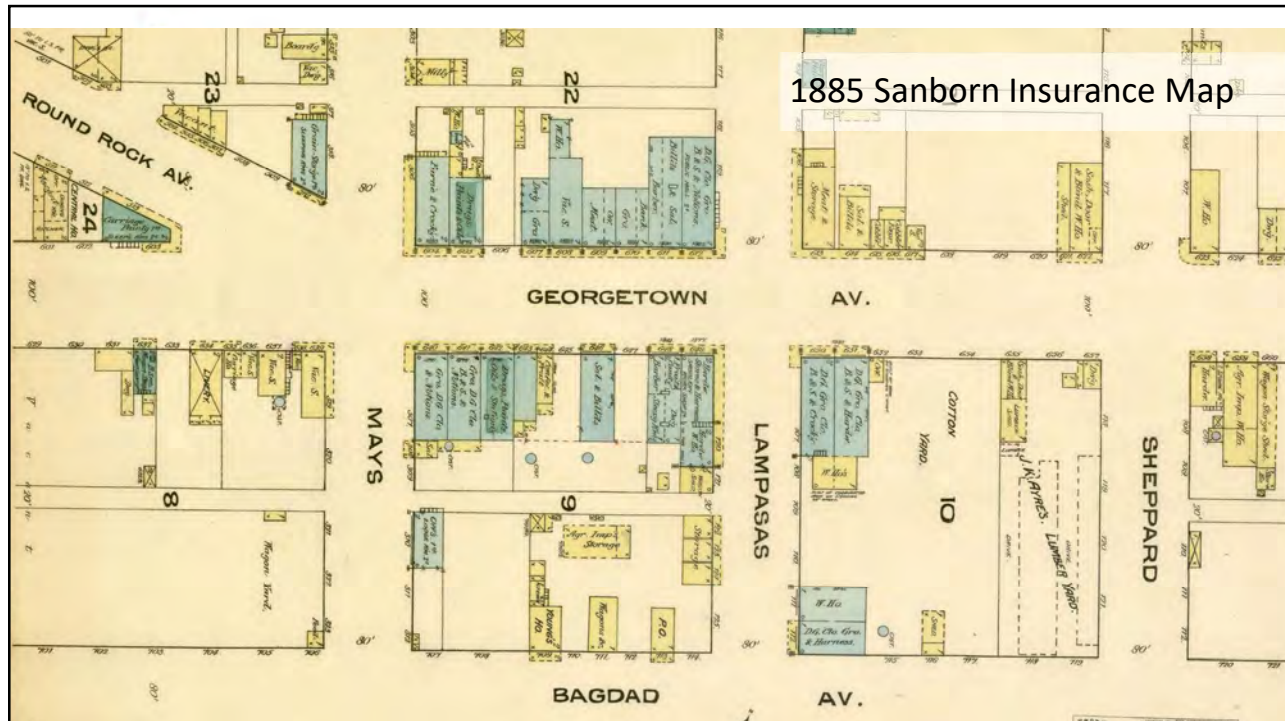
The Fair (1891)

- 1-part block with arched center entrance and 2 windows (not arcaded)
- Façade modernized with large windows and recessed entrance early-mid 20th Century



117 E. Main St.

24



1885 Sanborn Insurance Map

25



Materials Newly Available/Affordable by Railroad

- Lumber yards (standard dimension lumber)
- Manufactured windows/doors in more standard sizes
- Large glass windows
- Sheet/cast metal (roofing, stoves)
- Butler Brick founded 1873 in Austin; opened branch outside Elgin in 1901. (Elgin recently named "Brick Capital of the Southwest" and still has 3 large brick companies)
- Wood and metal decorative parts
- Round Rock White Lime Co. established 1896
- Tin shops were the beginning of plumbing (no citywide water until 1935)

ROUND ROCK TEXAS

26



Nelson Hardware (1900)



- Existing stone buildings given new pressed tin façade after fire
- Mesker Bros. of St. Louis included whole storefront including wood windows and doors



201 E Main 1891

27



The Mercantile and Economy Drug (ca. 1902-1909)



200 E. Main, The Mercantile, 1904



204 E. Main, Economy Drug

28



Farmers State Bank (1920)

- One-part commercial block
- Brick vault-like appearance

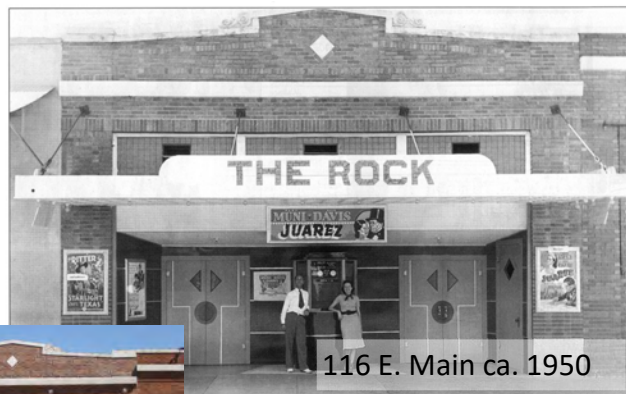


29



The Rock Theater (1880)

- Originally arcaded
- Brick shopfront ca. 1920
- Remodeled as movie theater early 1940s



ROUND ROCK TEXAS

30



Offices (ca. 1930)




111 E. Main
brick structural
failure 2006



206 E. Main
Dr. Gregg's Office

ROUND ROCK TEXAS

31



"New Town" Houses

Design styles promoted through pattern books, kits

Earliest surviving in New Town:

- Landrum-Ledbetter House (ca. 1880) Greek Revival
- Cantu-Franco House (1881) Folk Victorian, remodeled with Greek Revival elements



208 S. Blair ca. 1900



Landrum-Ledbetter Hse. 302 W. Main



Cantu-Franco Hse. 208 S. Blair

32



“New Town” Houses

- William Walsh House, 106 N. San Saba
- Built 1905 as Folk Victorian
- Later remodeled as Craftsman



ROUND ROCK TEXAS

33



“New Town” Houses

- Nelson-Crier House, 405 E. Main
- Built 1900 as Queen Anne
- Remodeled 1931 as Neoclassical

405 E. Main in 1929



405 E. Main ca. 1940



405 E. Main in 2020

XAS

34



“New Town” Houses: Queen Anne



ROUND ROCK TEXAS

35



“New Town” Houses: Folk Victorians



36



“New Town” Houses: Craftsman



212 W. Main built ca. 1920



703 E. Liberty built 1925



508 E. Main built 1924



202 N. Stone built 1923

... Craftsman was another particularly popular style.

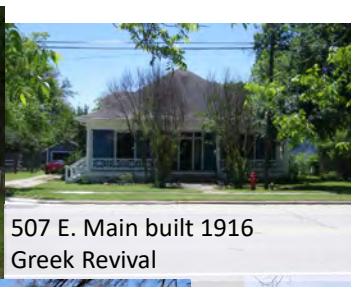
37



“New Town” Houses



402 E. Main built 1930 Tudor



507 E. Main built 1916
Greek Revival



803 E. Liberty built ca. 1915
Exotic Revival



400 E. Main built 1930
Eclectic



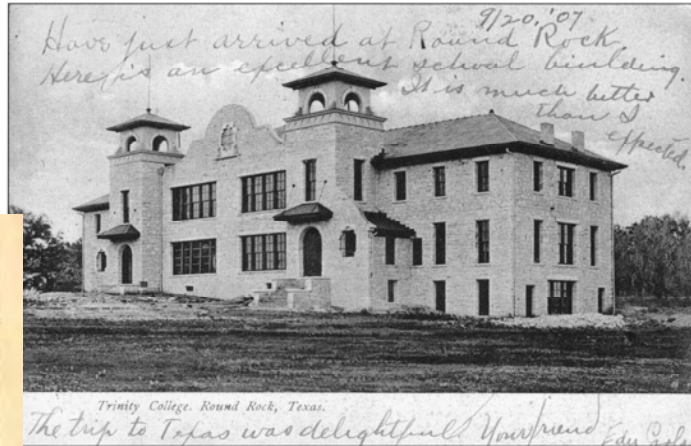
802 E. Liberty built 1911
Colonial Revival

38



Trinity Lutheran College

- Built at 1000 E. Main in 1906
- Ceased operations 1929, building became orphanage, then retirement home
- Demolished ca. 1960



ROUND ROCK TEXAS

39



President's House

- Colonial Revival Style
- Built 1907 for President of Trinity Lutheran College
- Originally on 900 block of Main, moved to 104 S. Georgetown in 1971



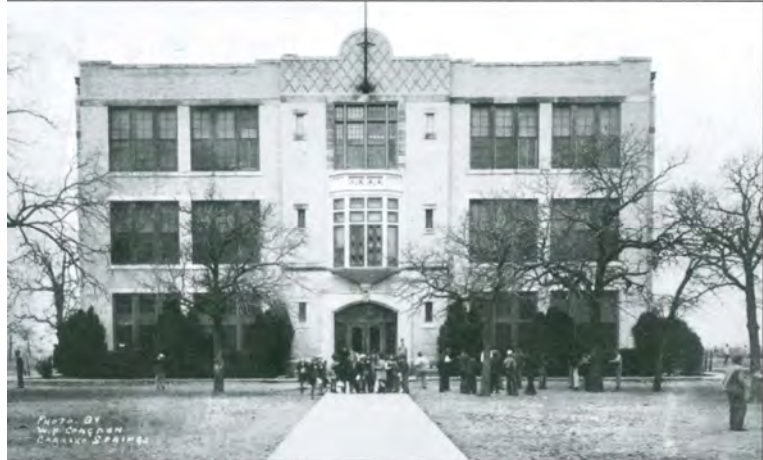
ROUND ROCK TEXAS

40



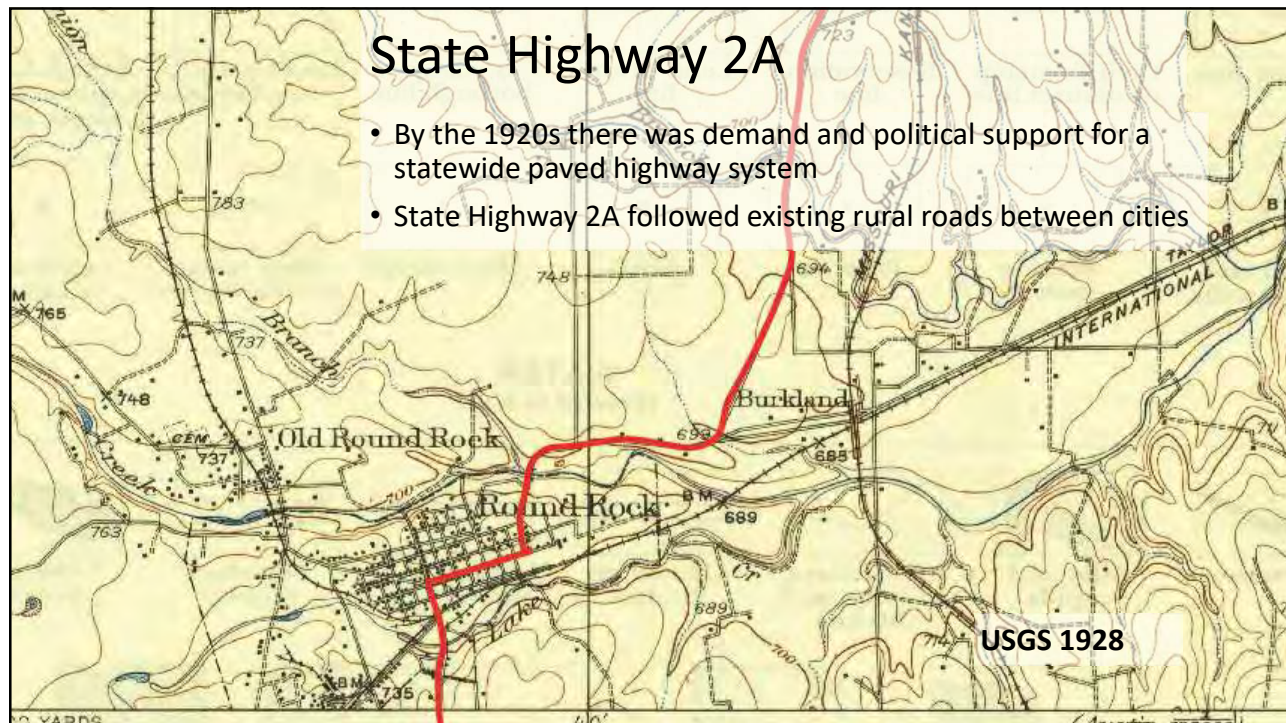
Public School

- First School building was in Old Town, burned 1882
- Second school building was between Old and New Town, burned in 1913
- Third school building (pictured) was built in New Town in 1914 (site of CD Fulkes)
- Blasting for Interstate 35 made it unstable; demolished by 1962

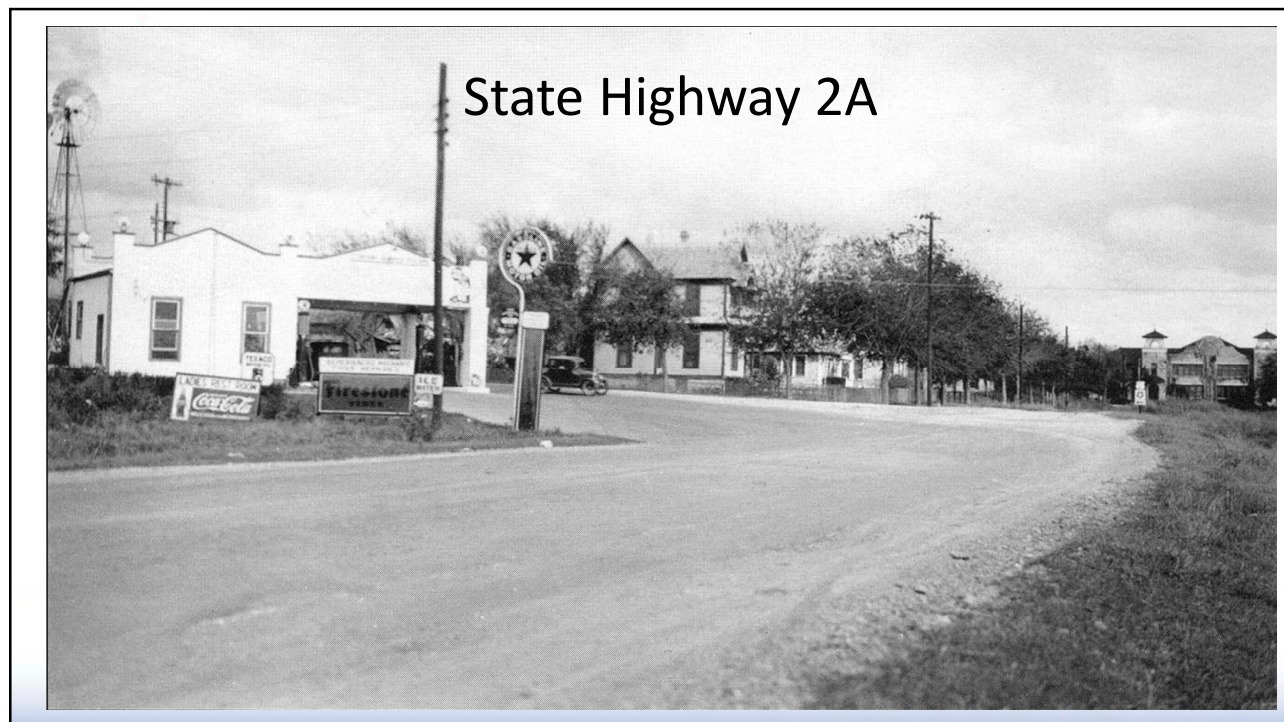


ROUND ROCK TEXAS

41



42



43



E. Main Street

- Pollard Motor Co was on the corner where the library is now. Later became Round Rock Motor Co.
- Nearly burned in 1929, but Volunteer Fire Dept saved nearly all the inventory. In gratitude owner bought first motorized fire truck.
- Building later became library

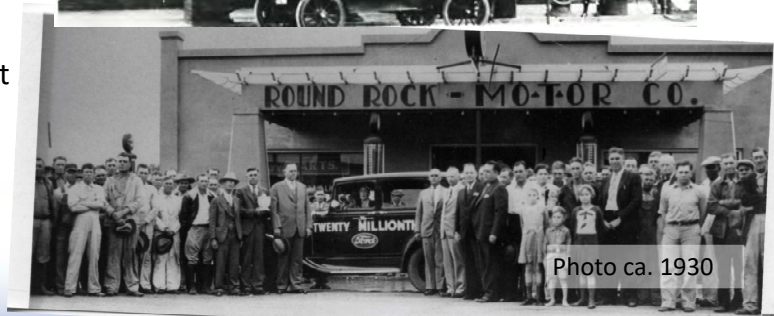


Photo ca. 1930

44



E. Main Street

- 108 and 110 E. Main facades combined
- Arcaded facades replaced with Art Deco-inspired tile work (black and pale yellow)
- Currently painted over

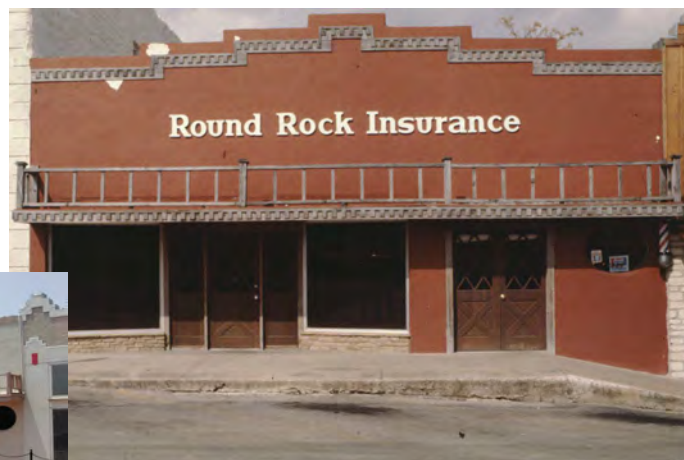
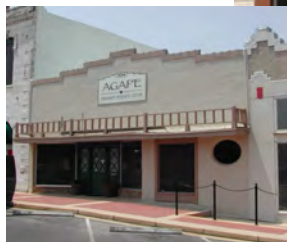


45



E. Main Street

- Shopfronts at 104 and 106 E. Main combined as Round Rock Insurance offices
- New Old West-inspired stucco facade



ROUND ROCK TEXAS

46



1927 Baylor Bus Crash

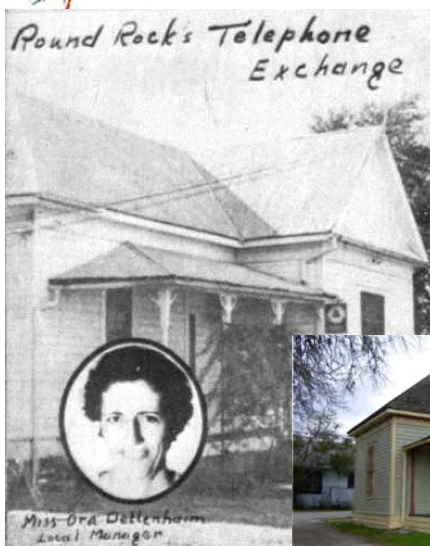
- Basketball team was on the way to Austin during rainstorm. Struck by train at Mays St. crossing
- 10 team members killed
- Prompted first significant auto safety legislation, both vehicle and crossing design
- Round Rock got an overpass



47



Utilities



- City reincorporated 1913 partly to manage utilities
- Granted license to S.E. Bergstrom for electric light plant in 1918, transferred to Texas Power and Light in 1927
- Telephone by 1897, but no exchange until early 1900s. In 1930s exchange was moved into house at 106 N. Mays so operator could stay there.



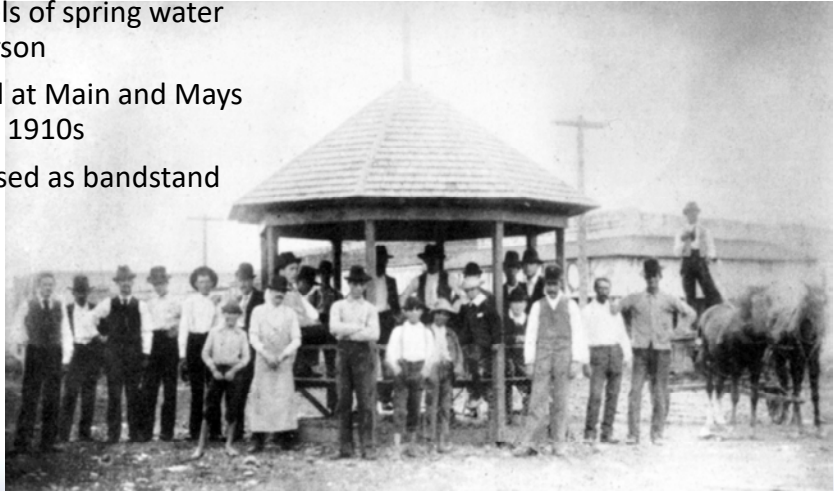
ROUND ROCK TEXAS

48



Utilities

- In New Town most collected water in cisterns or bought barrels of spring water from Washington Anderson
- Downtown artesian well at Main and Mays between late 1890s and 1910s
- Gazebo over well also used as bandstand



49



Utilities

- Mr. Noble built ice storage building behind his pharmacy at 204 E. Main to preserve medication. Ice brought from Austin by train.
- In a few years Henry and Norman Egger ran an ice business there
- In 1925 relocated to 113 W. Main (now the Tavern). Later added bottling plant.



Mr. H. N. "Farmer" Egger and Curtis Parker with a 1913 ice delivery wagon. Horse-drawn wagons delivered ice for home and business.

ROUND ROCK TEXAS

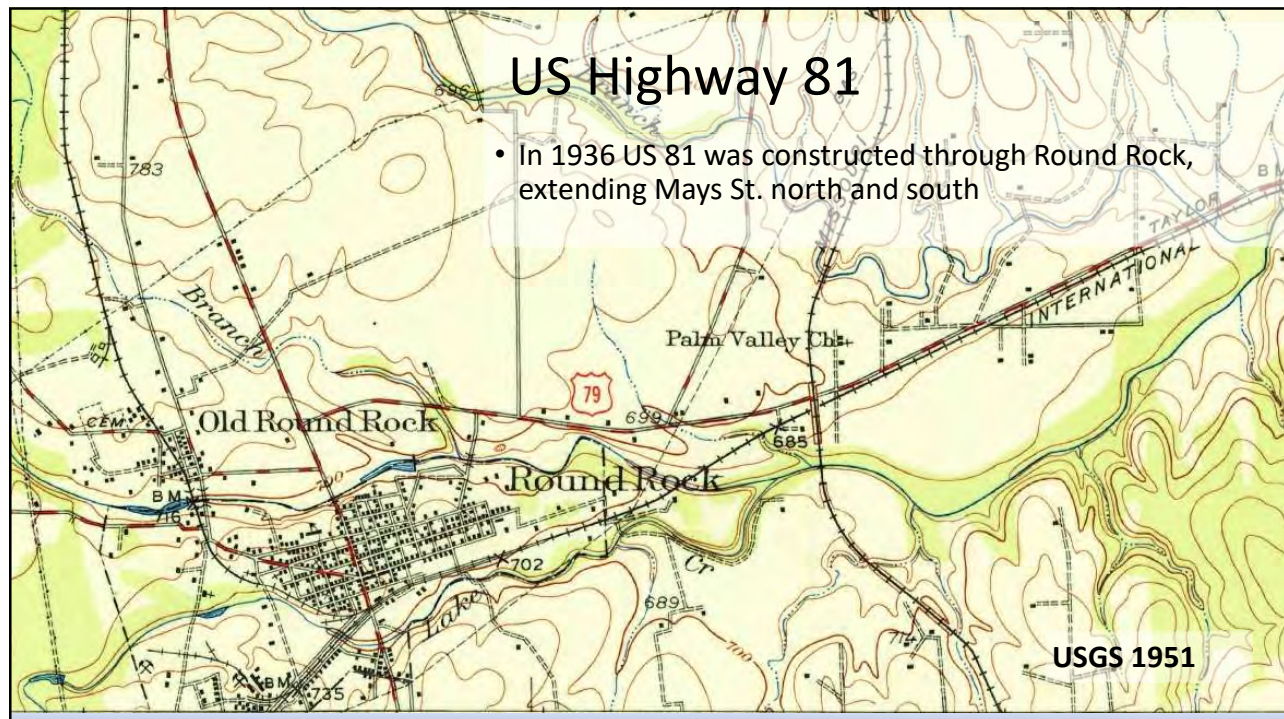
50

WPA Projects

- 1935 new city hall/fire station
- 1935 water tower
- 1938 sewer system

ROUND ROCK TEXAS

51

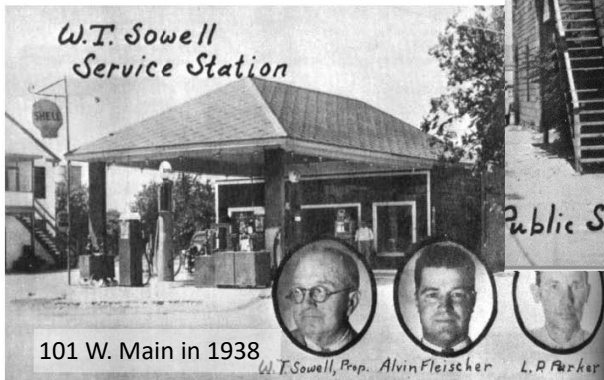


52



Highway Commercial

- New building forms: gas stations, motor hotels, dealerships



Broom Factory Bldg.
modified for auto service
100 E. Main in 1938

ROUND ROCK TEXAS

53



Highway Commercial

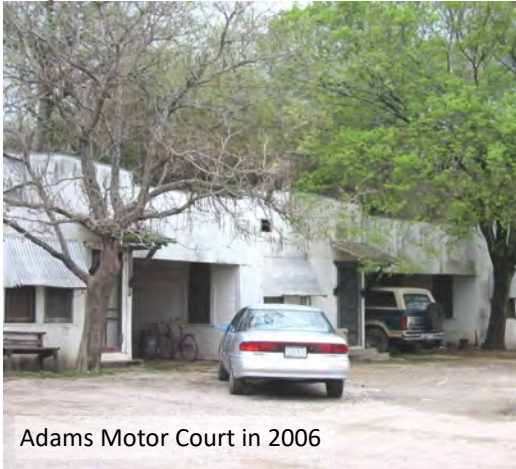


ROUND ROCK TEXAS

54



Highway Commercial



Adams Motor Court in 2006



Adams Motor Court in 2006



55



Highway Commercial



Round Rock Motor Co. at 416 N. Mays in 1952

56



Highway Commercial

Louis Henna Dealership in 1945



Louis Henna Dealership road sign near Hesters Crossing



ROUND ROCK TEXAS

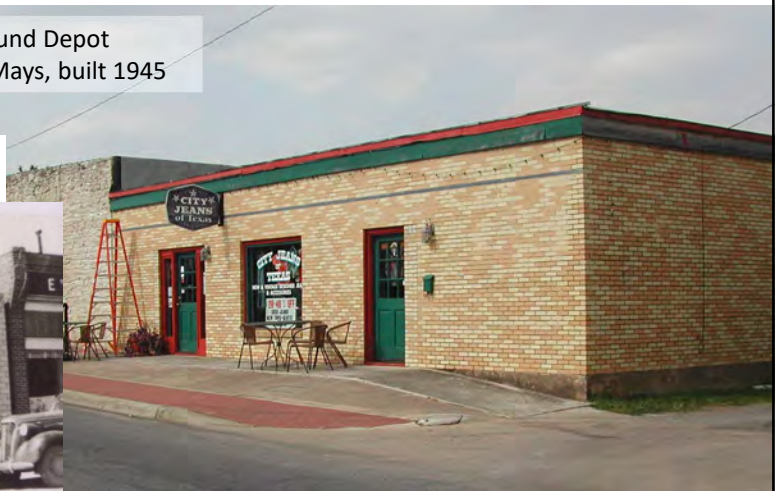
57



Highway Commercial

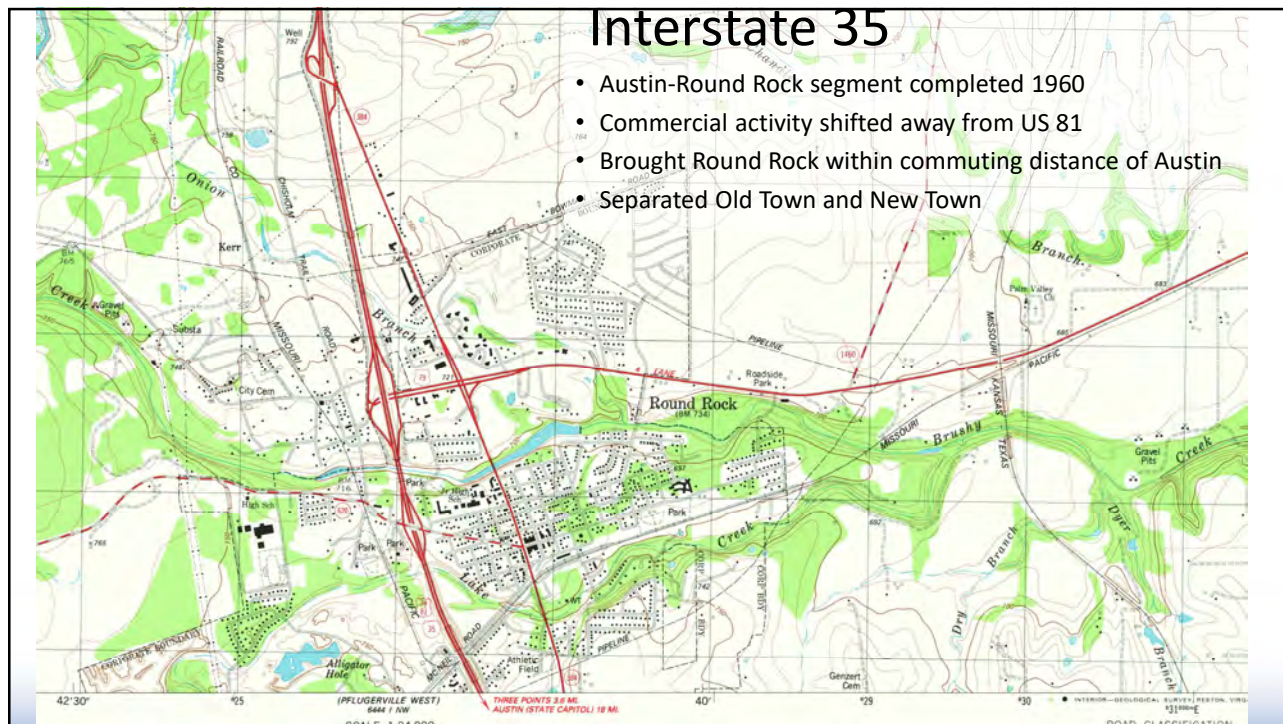
Greyhound Depot
105 S. Mays, built 1945

Below: example of Greyhound Depot
with signage in Missouri



ROUND ROCK TEXAS

58



59



Resources

- Karen R. Thompson & Jane DiGesualdo *Historical Round Rock Texas*, 1985
- Clara Stearns Scarbrough *Land of Good Water: a Williamson County, Texas history*, 1973
- Linda Scarbrough *Road, River and Ol' Boy Politics: a Texas county's path from farm to supersuburb*, 2005
- Howard Erlichman *Camino del Norte: How a series of watering holes, fords, and dirt trails evolved into Interstate 35 in Texas*, 2006
- Texas State Historical Association (TSHA) *Handbook of Texas Online* www.tshaonline.org
- University of North Texas *Portal to Texas History* www.texashistory.unt.edu

ROUND ROCK TEXAS

60



Organizations

- Round Rock Preservation www.rrpreservation.org (also facebook)
- Williamson County Historical Commission (WCHC)
www.williamsoncountytexashistory.org
- WCHC Cemetery Restoration Volunteers (WCHC site and facebook)

ROUND ROCK TEXAS