








Walking Guide Map Legend


**HISTORIC LANDMARK**


**SUBJECT MARKER**

**POINT OF INTEREST**

**NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT**

**WALKING PATH**

**PUBLIC PARKING**

**PUBLIC RESTROOM**

Downtown History

The original settlement of Round Rock, now known as Old Town, grew organically in the 1840s and 1850s where a stagecoach road crossed Brushy Creek. In contrast, Downtown Round Rock, known as New Town, was designed in 1876 around a new railroad depot.

The railroad's land company laid out New Town with square blocks and Round Rock Avenue cut diagonally through several blocks in a direct line from the depot back to Old Town. For a few years, this stop was the end of the railroad line and was

the main railroad access point for all areas west of it.

New Town boomed. Georgetown, the county seat, realized the railroad would pass it by, so in 1878 it built a spur line to the Round Rock depot. A few years later the railroad line was extended south to Austin and beyond, and Round Rock lost its "end of the line" status.

Round Rock did not experience significant population growth again until the 1930s, when Mays Street was extended north to become part of US

81. The historic commercial architecture in downtown Round Rock reflects its two boom periods from the 1870s-1900s and 1930s-1950s. Most of Round Rock's growth in the latter half of the 20th century occurred outside of downtown, along the highways.

Revitalization of downtown Round Rock has been a priority for the city with a goal of promoting a thriving town center. Today's downtown offers a mix of retail, dining, entertainment, residential and public spaces, in a walkable and historically sensitive environment.

National Register Historic District

The National Register of Historic Places provides national recognition of a property's historical or architectural significance and denotes that it is worthy of preservation. Round Rock's Commercial Historic District was added to the National Register in 1983, encompassing 26 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.



1 Centennial Plaza (2013)
301 W. Bagdad Avenue

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.

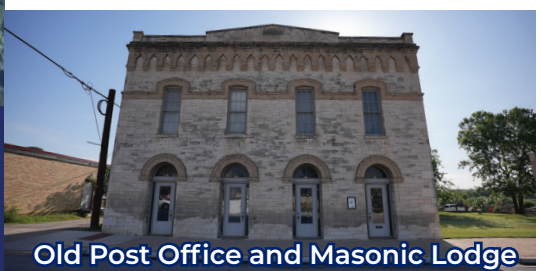
2 Cantu-Franco House (1881)
208 S. Blair Street

Folk Victorian cottage with later Greek Revival details.



3 Immortal Ten Bridge (1936)
S. Mays Street

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.



4 Old Post Office and Masonic Lodge (1878)
107 S. Mays Street

The Masonic Lodge rented the first floor to the Post Office for almost 80 years, until 1960.

5 Bus Depot (1945)
105 S. Mays Street

This property is believed to have been built as a bus depot when Mays Street was the main highway to Austin.

6 Koppel Store (1876)
101 E. Main Street

This is where in 1878 Deputy Sheriff A.W. Grimes confronted outlaw Sam Bass, who shot and killed him.

7 Williams Grocery (1876)
103 E. Main Street

The original facade collapsed in 1900, current facade was installed in 1972.

8 Johnson Drug Store (1876)
105 E. Main Street

One of the oldest buildings in the downtown area and has housed drug, paint, furniture, grocery and jewelry stores.



9 Saloon/Stockbridge Grocery (1884)
109 E. Main Street

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.

10 The Red Front (1887)
111 E. Main Street

Its original facade was replaced with yellow brick in 1920, which had a structural failure and was replaced with limestone in 2006.

11 Photography Studio/Marble Works (1920)
113 E. Main Street

The original arcaded stone facade was replaced ca. 1970 and again in 2016.

12 Johansen Saloon and Billiards (1884)
115 E. Main Street

Its longest occupant was Henderson's Variety Store from 1952-1973. Multiple facade alterations were made over the course of the building's history.

13 Robinson Building/The Fair (1886)
117 E. Main Street

The Fair was a company store for White Lime Company workers from the 1900s -1930s. The original arched openings were replaced with a glass storefront in 1901.

14 Montedonico Building (1881, facade damaged by fire ca. 1896)
119 E. Main Street

During prohibition it was an ice cream parlor called The Alcove. Stucco work in the back patio relates to when it was a plumbing shop in the 1930s-1950s.

15 Carrington Building (1882)
121 E. Main Street

The second floor was destroyed by fire ca. 1896. Traces of the second floor windows can be seen in the stonework.



16 J.A. Nelson Building (1900)
201-203 E. Main Street

Cast iron and pressed tin facade by the Mesker Bros. Company of St. Louis. The Nelson Hardware Company once supplied most of the city's building materials; its lumber yard once covered half of the block.



17 "Round Rock" Subject Marker and Sharon Prete Main Street Plaza (2011)
221 E. Main Street

A marker describing Round Rock's history stands next to the Dr. Peters statue at the northwest corner of the plaza. The plaza was dedicated to longtime Parks Department Director Sharon Prete in 2011. The plaza is just outside City Hall and includes a stage, splash pad and public restroom.

Created in partnership with:

City of Round Rock Historic Preservation Office
roundrocktexas.gov/historicpreservation

Round Rock Preservation
501(c)(3) Nonprofit
rrpreservation.org

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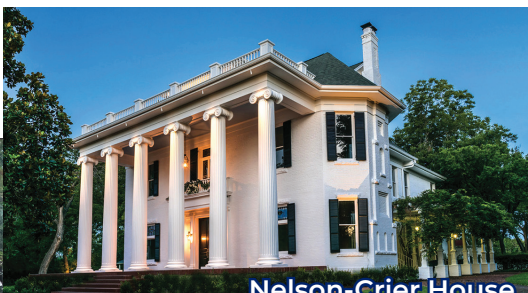
18 109 S. Sheppard Street (1927)
- and -

19 107 S. Sheppard Street (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.

20 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way (2021)
Sheppard Street

Sheppard Street received honorary signage in 2021 to recognize the street connecting the city's governmental and commercial center on Main Street with one of its predominantly minority neighborhoods to the north.



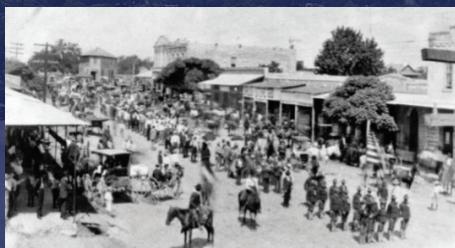
21 Nelson-Crier House (1900)
405 E. Main Street

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

22 402 E. Main St. (1930)
- and -

23 400 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.



Above: 1898 Spanish-American War Parade in Downtown Round Rock

Below: Otto Reinke Building (102 E. Main, #35) in the 1940s



24 Griffith Building (1980)
216 E. Main Street

The west side of this property originally housed a city hall and fire station built in 1935. The eastern half of the current building was constructed in 1980 to house the library, which expanded in the 1990s over the old city hall site. During recent renovations, the historic Palm House (built in 1873, moved Downtown in 1976) was moved back to its original site at Old Settlers Association, creating a paseo from the new library to Prete Plaza.

25 Dr. Gregg's Office (1930)
206 E. Main Street

Dr. Gregg was Round Rock's only physician from 1922-1963.



26 Drug Store/Quick Pharmacy (1907)
204 E. Main Street

Pharmacist Green O. Noble operated a pharmacy here from 1907 to 1942, and Quick Pharmacy operated from 1942-1984.

27 Wiess Store/Carlson's Dry Goods (1907)
202 E. Main Street

Originally built as part of the Mercantile (200 E. Main), by 1928 Jim Carlson operated a dry goods and shoe store in half of it.

28 Round Rock Mercantile (1907)
200 E. Main Street

Building is stone with pressed tin facade and corrugated steel canopy, and has housed many Round Rock businesses.

29 Farmers State Bank (1920)
118 E. Main Street

Originally the site of a two-story opera house, the 1920 bank building was the first use of brick in the historic district.



30 Saloon/Rock Theater (1879)
116 E. Main Street

Wallace and Opal Rucker operated the city's first movie theater here from 1936-1969.

31 Grocery Store (1882)
114 E. Main Street

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.

32 Morgan Miller Store (1881)
112 E. Main Street

This arcaded limestone storefront is one of the best preserved in the district. In 1909 the store was known as the Telephone Exchange and from 1937-1984 it housed the Round Rock Leader newspaper.

33 Dieckmann Grocery/General Store (1880)
108/110 E. Main Street

In 1931 J.C. Jackson Furniture unified two existing buildings with an Art Deco-influenced facade with contrasting wall tile patterns. The tiles remain but have been painted.

34 Round Rock Insurance/Barber Shop (1947)
104/106 E. Main Street

These two shops were combined when Round Rock Insurance occupied both parts in 1965.

35 Otto Reinke Building (1879)
102 E. Main Street

Reinke built this Italianate structure for his bakery and confectionery. In the 1930s-1940s it housed the famed Sam Bass Café.



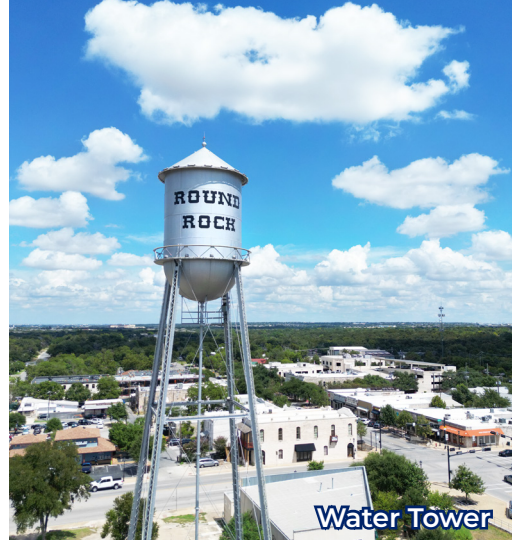
36 Broom Factory (1880)
100 E. Main Street

Originally a grocery store, the Round Rock Broom Factory occupied the building from 1900-1925. Their broom won a gold medal at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis.



37 "Sam Bass Death Site" Subject Marker (1978)

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 Road.



38 Water Tower (1935)

The Water 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.

39 Round Rock Donuts/Lone Star Bakery (1926)
106 W. Liberty Street

Originally on E. Main Street, the bakery was founded by Reinhold R. Moehring in 1926 and has since become Round Rock Donuts. Its beloved Swedish rye bread and yellow donuts continue to draw many customers from both near and far.



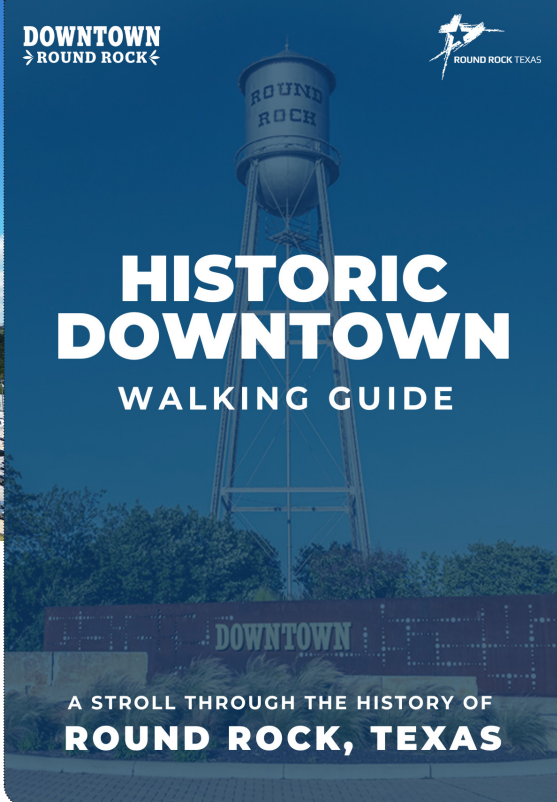
40 Water Well (1897)

This 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 Avenue).



41 Landrum-Ledbetter Home (1880)
302 W. Main Street

This Greek Revival house is one of the oldest surviving wood-frame structures built after the arrival of the railroad in 1876.



WALKING GUIDE

This guide indicates a recommended route for a walking tour of historic Downtown Round Rock. Walking tour distance is 1.7 miles and should take approximately 1 hour to complete.

The route includes the National Register of Historic Places Commercial Historic District, as well as several historic sites and homes outside the boundaries of the district to capture a better understanding of the history of Downtown.

Please be respectful of residents' privacy and remain on sidewalks when viewing private historic homes. Obey all pedestrian safety laws at all times.

Numbers on the map indicate historic points of interest, homes and commercial properties. Placards with additional information are displayed on many of the buildings in the downtown National Register Historic District. Additionally, eight streetlamps have plaques dedicating them in honor of influential citizens and loved ones.

DOWNTOWN
ROUND ROCK