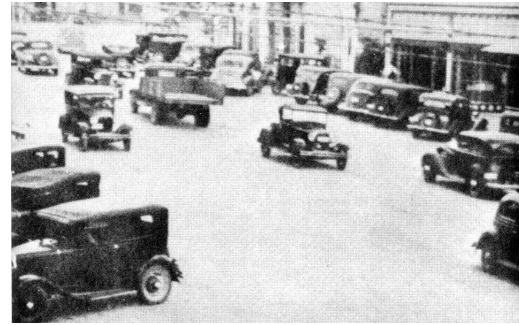


NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

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.



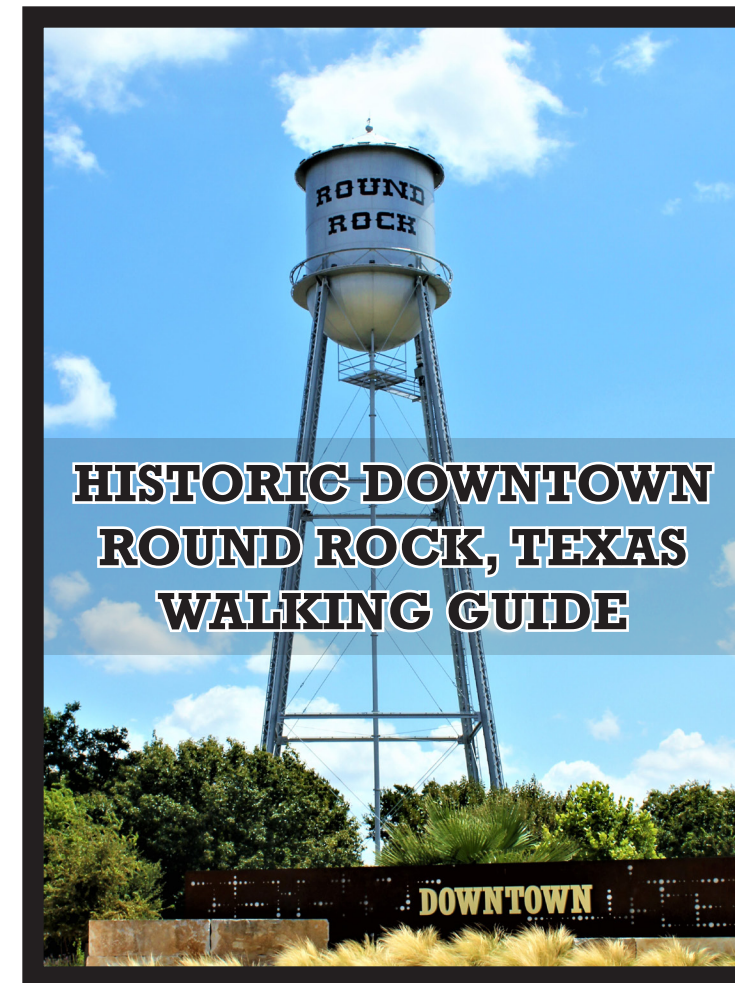
Downtown Historic District 2021



Historic Street Scene



View of Water Tower and Historic District



HISTORIC DOWNTOWN ROUND ROCK, TEXAS WALKING GUIDE

WALKING GUIDE

The walking guide map 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 Round Rock, Texas.

Please be respectful of residents' privacy by remaining 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.

For more information about the City's historic preservation program, visit <https://www.roundrocktexas.gov/historicpreservation>



DOWNTOWN HISTORY

The original settlement of Round Rock, 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 alongside a new railroad line. The railroad's land company laid out New Town with streets and regular square blocks. Round Rock Avenue cut diagonally through several blocks of New Town in a direct line from the depot back to Old Town. For a few years, this stop was the end of the line and served as railroad access for points west. New Town boomed. During this time Georgetown, the county seat, did not yet have railroad access. In 1878, Georgetown built a spur line to Round Rock and after a few years, the railroad line was extended south to Austin and beyond, slowing growth in Round Rock.

Round Rock did not experience significant population growth 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 century occurred outside of downtown, along Interstate 35.

In recent years, the revitalization of downtown Round Rock has been a priority for the city with a goal of creating a thriving town center once again. Today's downtown offers a mix of retail, dining, entertainment, residential and public spaces, in a walkable and historically sensitive environment. Downtown's unique character and mix of activities make it different than anywhere else.



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ROUND ROCK PRESERVATION

5 107 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.

6 105 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.

7 101 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.

8 103 E. Main Street **Williams Grocery (1876)**
The original façade collapsed in 1900, current façade was installed in 1972.

9 105 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.

10 109 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.

11 111 E. Main Street **The Red Front (1887)**
Its original façade was replaced with yellow brick in 1920, which had a structural failure and was replaced with limestone in 2006.

12 113 E. Main Street **Photography Studio/Marble Works (ca. 1920)**
The original arcaded stone façade was replaced ca. 1970 and again in 2016.

13 115 E. Main Street **Johansen Saloon and Billiards (1884 with multiple façade alterations)** Its longest occupant was Henderson's Variety Store from 1952-1973.

14 117 E. Main Street **Robinson Building/The Fair (1886)**
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.

15 119 E. Main Street **Montedonico Building (1881, facade damaged by fire ca. 1896)** 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.

16 121 E. Main Street **Carrington Building (1882)**
The second floor was destroyed by fire ca. 1896. Traces of the second floor windows can be seen in the stonework.

17 201-203 E. Main Street **J.A. Nelson Building (1900)**
Cast iron and pressed tin façade 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.

25 212 E. Main Street **Andrew J. Palm House (ca. 1873)**
The Palm Family were early Swedish immigrants to Round Rock; their farm house was built ca. 1873 and relocated 1976.

27 206 E. Main Street **Dr. Gregg's Office (1930)**
Dr. Gregg was Round Rock's only physician from 1922-1963.

28 204 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.

29 202 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.

30 200 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.

31 118 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.

32 116 E. Main Street **Saloon/Rock Theater (1879)**
Wallace and Opal Rucker operated the city's first movie theater here from 1936-1969.

33 114 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.

34 112 E. Main Street **Morgan Miller Store (1881)**
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.

35 108/110 E. Main Street **Dieckmann Grocery/General Store (1880)** 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.

36 104/106 E. Main Street **Round Rock Insurance/Barber Shop (1947)** These two storefronts were combined when Round Rock Insurance occupied both parts in 1965.

37 102 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.

38 100 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.

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN ROUND ROCK, TEXAS WALKING GUIDE

1 301 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.

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

Folk Victorian cottage with later Greek Revival details.



3 200 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.

4 200 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.

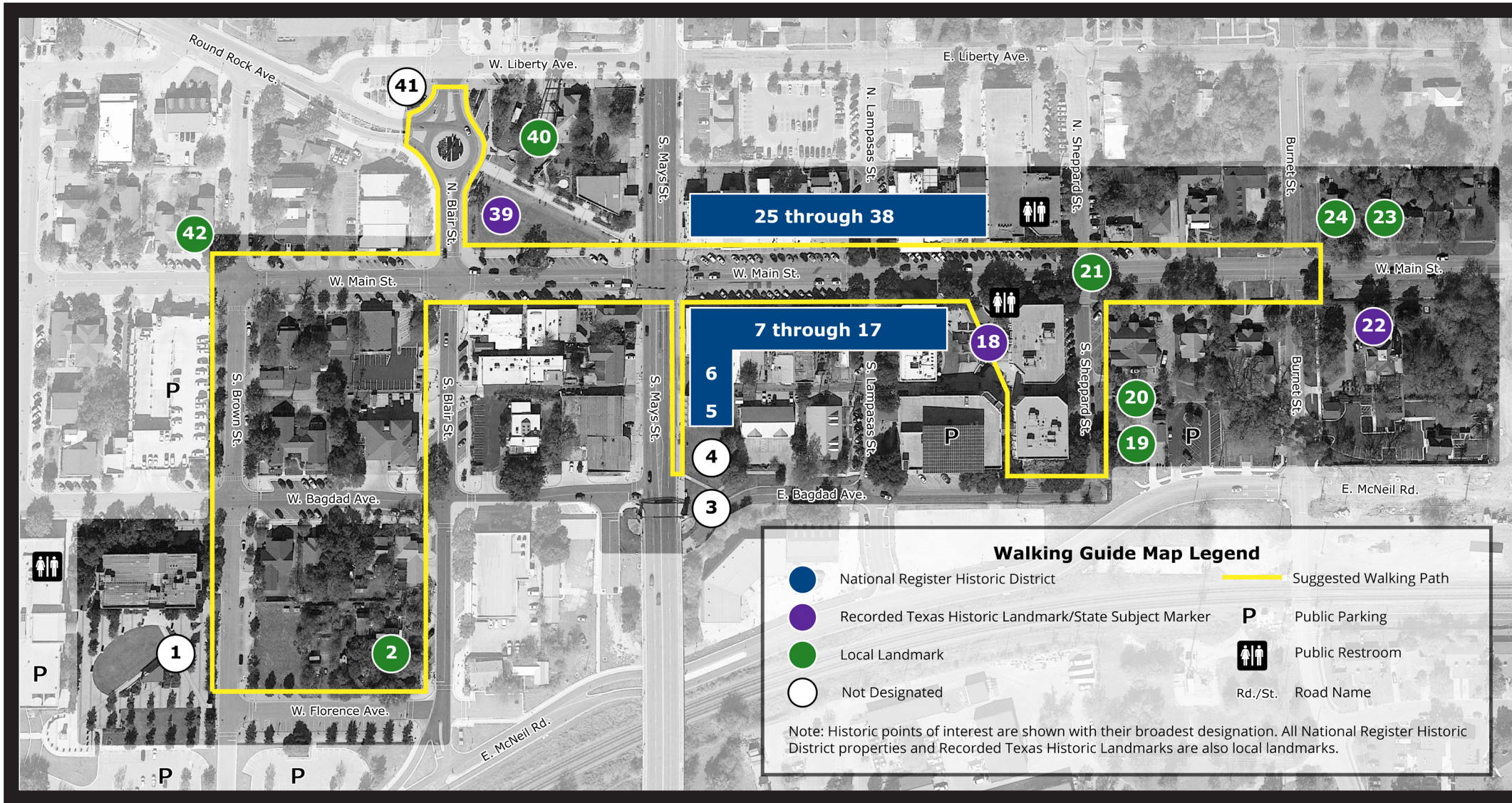
5 through 17 National Register Historic District - South (1983)

Interpretive placards are displayed on 25 buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places. For names and descriptions of these buildings, see the inside of the brochure.

18 221 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.



25 through 38 National Register Historic District - North (1983)

Interpretive placards are displayed on 25 buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places. For names and descriptions of these buildings, see the inside of the brochure.

39 Sam Bass 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 Rd.



40 Water Tower (1935)

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.

19 20 107 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.



21 Sheppard St.
Martin Luther King Jr. Way (2021)

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.



22 405 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.



23 24 400 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.



41 Water Well (1897)

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.).



42 302 W. Main St.
Landrum-Ledbetter Home (ca. 1880)

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

