

PARIS HISTORY



PARIS WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1842 WHEN GEORGE WRIGHT DONATED 50 ACRES OF LAND TO ESTABLISH A COUNTY SEAT. THE TOWN FLOURISHED AND BY THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY RAILROADS WERE ASSISTING THE LOCAL COTTON INDUSTRY AND INDUSTRIES RELATED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PANAMA CANAL. THE POPULATION WAS CLOSE TO 50,000 AND MANY BUSINESSES WERE THRIVING DOWNTOWN.

THAT ALL CHANGED ON MARCH 21, 1916. A FIRE, THE ORIGINS OF WHICH ARE UNCERTAIN, STARTED ON THE SOUTHERN END OF THE TOWN AND RAPIDLY SPREAD NORTH. THE FIRE DEPARTMENT WAS UNABLE TO STOP THE FLAMES AND THE TOWN, WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, BURNED TO THE GROUND. ONLY A HANDFUL OF THE DOWNTOWN BUILDINGS REMAINED, AND THOSE THAT WERE LEFT SUFFERED SEVERE DAMAGE. AMONG THESE WAS THE ORIGINAL COURTHOUSE BUILDING, WHICH WAS REBUILT AND STILL STANDS TODAY.

THE PEOPLE OF PARIS SHOWED TREMENDOUS RESILIENCE AND IMMEDIATELY BEGAN CLEARING THE RUBBLE AND REBUILDING THEIR TOWN. BANKS SET UP TENTS ON THE SQUARE AND CONTINUED TO CONDUCT BUSINESS AS BRICK WALLS BEGAN TO RISE AROUND THEM. IN JUST ONE YEAR THE DOWNTOWN WAS NEARLY REBUILT, AND IT IS ONE OF THE LARGEST COLLECTIONS OF ARCHITECTURE FROM THE PERIOD THAT STANDS TODAY.

TODAY, PARIS IS REVITALIZING ITS HISTORIC DOWNTOWN AND CELEBRATING ITS UNIQUE HISTORY. WE ARE PROUD TO SHOWCASE A BEAUTIFUL COLLECTION OF BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC SPACES, AS WELL AS AN ECLECTIC MIX OF SHOPS AND PLACES TO EAT AND DRINK.

PARIS MAIN STREET

THE NATIONAL MAIN STREET CENTER WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1980 BY THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION. IN TEXAS THE PROGRAM IS ADMINISTERED THROUGH THE TEXAS HISTORIC COMMISSION, WHICH PROVIDES NUMEROUS RESOURCES FOR THE EIGHTY-EIGHT MAIN STREET CITIES ACROSS TEXAS.

THE CITY OF PARIS HAS PARTICIPATED IN THE TEXAS MAIN STREET PROGRAM FOR 17 YEARS, AND ACHIEVED NATIONAL MAIN STREET STATUS IN 2002. PRESERVATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES ARE USED TO REVITALIZE THE HISTORIC DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL DISTRICTS AS WELL AS NEIGHBORHOOD DISTRICTS.

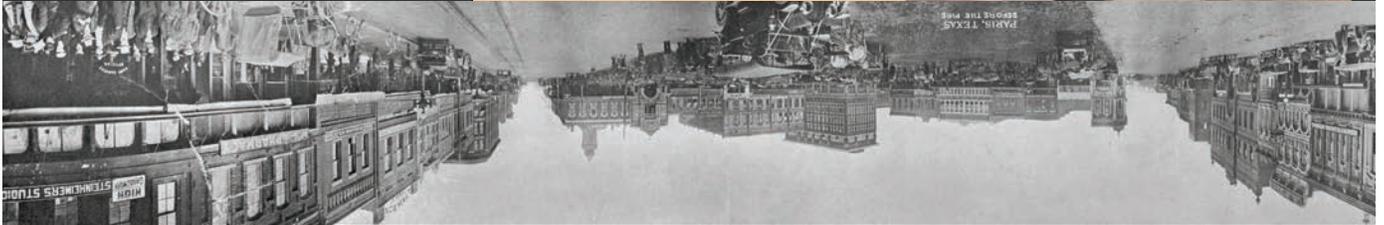
PARIS MAIN STREET 903.784.9293
CITY HALL 903.785.7511

135 S.E. 1st St
PO Box 9037
PARIS, TX 75461



HISTORIC DOWNTOWN *Paris Texas*

ANTIQUES, BOUTIQUES, GOOD EATS & MORE



THE RESTORED FACADE OF THE HOME OF THE LATE JUDGE JIM NOBLE THOMPSON LEADS INTO THE CORNER OF THE MUSEUM WHICH CONSISTS OF MILITARY ARTIFACTS DATING FROM THE TEXAS REVOLUTION. CAMP MAXEY MEMORIAL, BUCKNER ORPHANAGE ARTIFACTS AND LAMAR COUNTY RURAL LIFE EXHIBITS. THE FIRE ROOM DETAILS THE GREAT FIRE THAT RAAGED THE CITY IN 1916. OPEN FRIDAY - SATURDAY 10 - 4 OR BY APPOINTMENT.



MARKET SQUARE - 410 SOUTHWEST 1ST
MAY THROUGH OCTOBER. AVAILABLE MONDAY - SATURDAY 8:00 A.M. TO 6:00 P.M. FOR AREA FARMERS. FRESH PRODUCE, FLOWERS, AND VALUE ADDED ITEMS INCLUDE TEXAS WINES, GOAT CHEESE, POTTERY AND MUCH MORE. SATURDAY MORNING MARKET DRAWS 20+ VENDORS.

RUFUS SCOTT MANSION - 425 SOUTH CHURCH
THE ROBBEN HOME - 425 S. CHURCH ST
CURRENTLY THE STARRETT FUNERAL HOME, WAS BUILT IN 1910 BY EUROPEAN TRAINED ARCHITECT, J.L. WEES FOR INVESTOR RUFUS SCOTT. ONE OF THE FINEST EXAMPLES OF DISTINGTIVE LOCAL ARCHITECTURE. THIS HOME IS LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

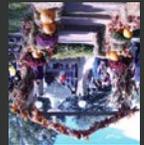
EVERGREEN CEMETERY - 560 EVERGREEN ST
IN OPERATION SINCE 1866. KNOWN FOR ITS MANY UNIQUELY CARVED HEADSTONES AND MONUMENTS AND FOR ITS SIZE (35 TO 40,000 INTERD.). OF SPECIAL NOTE IS THE BABCOCK MONUMENT, A TWELVE FOOT STATUE OF JESUS WITH COWBOY BOOTS.



SAM BELL MAXEY HOUSE - 812 CHURCH ST
THE HISTORIC HOME OF CONFEDERATE GENERAL MAXEY WAS RESTORED BY THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION. FOR TOUR SCHEDULE AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CALL 903.785.5716.



FESTIVAL OF PUMPKINS - OCTOBER
CELEBRATE FALL DOWNTOWN WITH VENDORS, FOOD, AND GAMES. VISIT THE HAUNTED THEATRE, ENJOY "FISHING" IN THE FOUNTAIN, AND EXPLORING THE UNIQUE DOWNTOWN SHOPS. THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE.



MOVIES IN THE PARK - JUNE AND JULY
JOIN US AT BYWATERS PARK EVERY THURSDAY FOR MOVIES UNDER THE STARS! DATE NIGHT, KIDS NIGHT, '80S NIGHT...WE'VE GOT IT ALL! FUN FOR ALL AGES!



EASTER EGG DECORATING - APRIL
BRING THE KIDS DOWNTOWN FOR EASTER EGG DECORATION AND PICTURES WITH THE EASTER BUNNY!

BROWN BAG LUNCH - MARCH
TIRED OF THE SAME HUMDRUM LUNCH ROUTINE? CALL IN AN ORDER AT ONE OF OUR MANY DOWNTOWN EATERIES AND HEAD TO THE PLAZA FOR ENTERTAINMENT FROM LOCAL MUSICIANS!



Points of Interest

HOLIDAY IN PARIS - DECEMBER
THE MUSIC, TASTES AND SMELLS OF CHRISTMAS CAN BE YOURS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON IN DOWNTOWN PARIS. HORSE DRAWN CARRIAGE RIDES, ART WALK, HOLIDAY PRODUCTIONS, TOUR OF HOMES & MORE!



Annual Events