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.

Today, Paris is reviving 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.

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