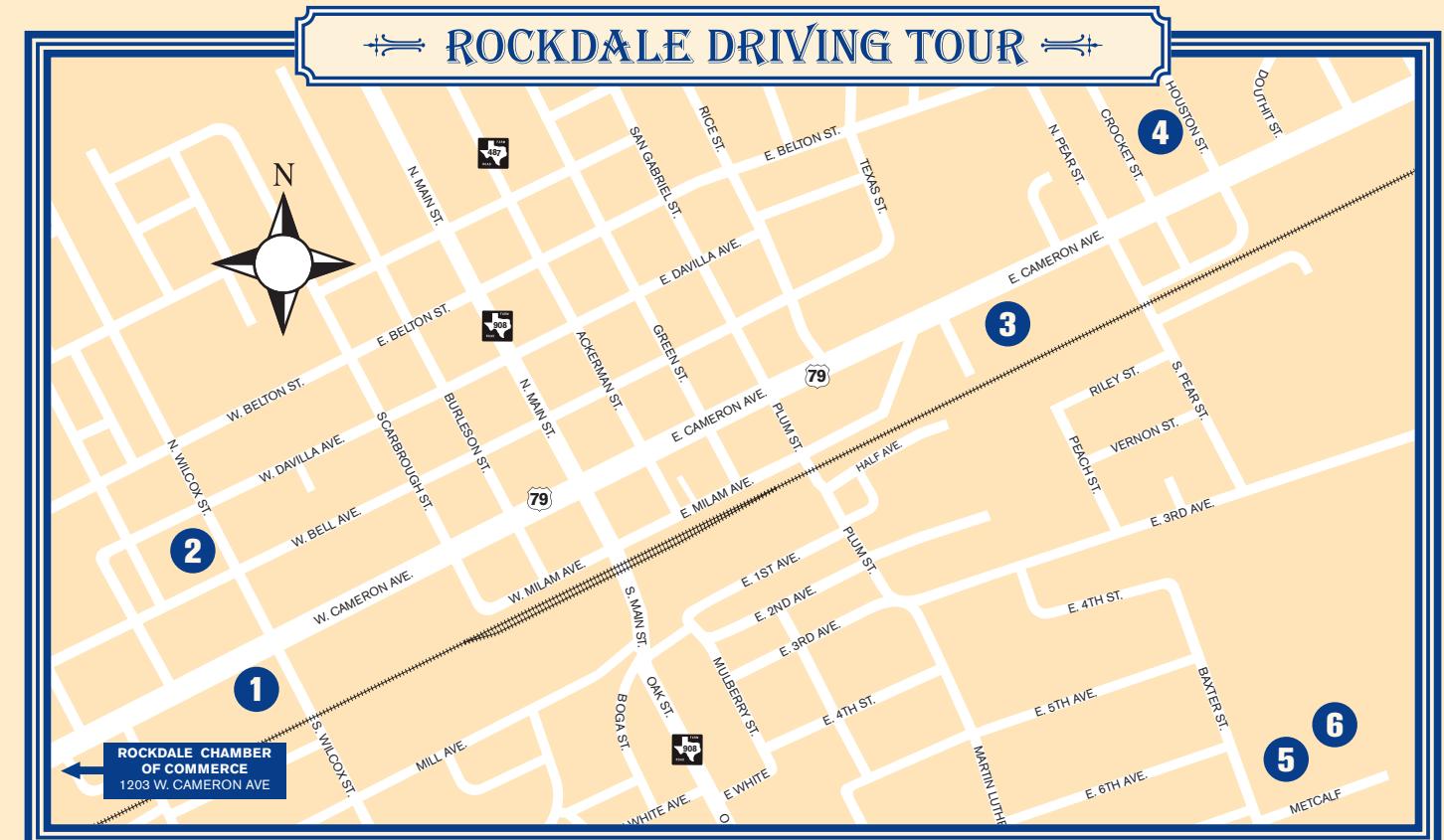


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1. ROCKDALE CITY HALL

The Rock Of Rockdale

There are many accounts of how Rockdale got its name but the most commonly accepted one is that a Mrs. B. F. Ackerman who, after seeing a rock formation while looking down over a dale some two miles north of present-day Rockdale coined the term, Rockdale!! Her husband, B. F. Ackerman, had been one of the key individuals that sold land to the railroad to layout a new town and, when it came time to officially name the town, the railroad delegated the task to Mrs. Ackerman who officially named it Rockdale.



Calaboose - Old Jail From Burlington, Texas

The term "calaboose" comes from the Spanish "calabozo" which means "jail, dungeon, or cell" and was used to describe small structures used as jails throughout Texas and the United States until the early 20th century. The calaboose at City Hall is believed to have been built around 1910 and was previously located in Burlington, Texas, across the street from a row of saloons called "Rat Row". Rockdale once had its own calaboose located at 123 West Bell, but it is long gone. So, in 2016, the city of Rockdale obtained permission from the Milam County Commissioner's Court to relocate the Burlington calaboose to its present location behind Rockdale City Hall where it will be preserved as a reminder of Rockdale's past.



City Hall Mural

The mural, located inside City Hall, was designed and painted in 2015 by Santiago Balderas who, while a student at Rockdale High School, won a city-sponsored contest to design a mural depicting Rockdale's history and landmarks.

2. VOLUNTEER FIREMAN'S MEMORIAL

The memorial honors the volunteer firemen who have selflessly served to help keep Rockdale citizens safe since 1872. One of the slabs specifically honors those firemen who lost their lives while on duty, John W. Williams and J. W. Hooper, who died while combating the historic Scarbrough & Hicks Co. fire in 1935.

3. BRIDGE PARK

Bridge Park gets its name from two out-of-service Milam County bridges, the Sheckels Bridge and the Galbreath bridge, that were moved to the park in 2015.



4. RAINBOW COURTS MOTEL

Rockdale's Rainbow Tourist Camp was established in 1918 by Monroe Bullock. Highway 79 wasn't yet paved, but that didn't stop Monroe Bullock from building an 'oasis' for tourists and migrant workers alike. His brother, Ira Benjamin Bullock, joined him at the Rainbow in the early 1930's and they became a Central Texas bed and breakfast business before 'Bed and Breakfast' was all the rage.



5. AYCOCK HIGH SCHOOL

Aycock High School was opened in 1902 and was originally known as the Rockdale Colored Public School. Its building consisted of two rooms furnished with a few battered desks, a bench or two for additional seating, a small table and chair for each teacher. Two boxes of crayons, a few erasers plus a tin water pail and dipper made up the supplies. Over the years it was expanded to the current structure. The school was named Aycock High School in 1904 after Bryant Yearling Aycock who served as principal from 1903 to 1921. In the 1955-1956 school year, Aycock High School won state championships in both football and basketball.

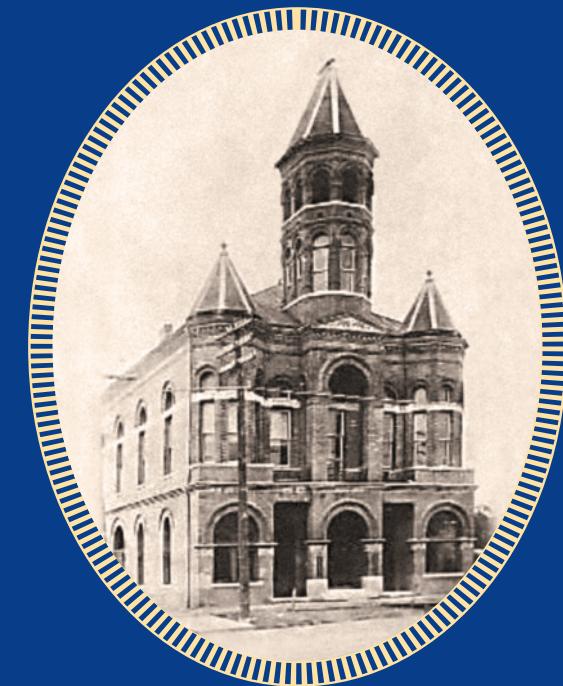


6. MOULTRY PARK

Moultry Park is dedicated to Paul Moultry, who was born a slave in South Carolina in 1853. He became a "free" man at the age of 12 and in 1868 he traveled to Georgetown, Texas, where he opened a blacksmith shop. In 1882, he moved to Rockdale to work for the Valentine and Hooks general store, where it is said that he was Rockdale's first blacksmith. In 1885, he purchased the shop and made enough money running it to buy two farms.



ROCKDALE TEXAS



HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR



*Catch the Spirit of the
El Camino Real Trail*



1. INTERNATIONAL AND GREAT NORTHERN PASSENGER DEPOT

The Depot building was built in 1906. It was purchased by the Rockdale Historical Society in 1999. Renovation was completed in 2008. The building is a Recorded Texas History landmark and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



2. MUNDINE HOTEL

Historical Marker

The Mundine Hotel stood on this site from its construction in 1880 until its destruction by fire in 1888. Completed six years after Rockdale incorporated along the International & Great Northern Rail Line, the hotel was built near the Depot to accommodate Rail travelers. The fire that destroyed the three-story structure also killed 11 of its 13 occupants. Never rebuilt, the Mundine Hotel remains a part of Rockdale's history.



3. WOLF PARK

Former site of the Hotel Wolf

Wolf Park features an outdoor pavilion and park benches and is located on what was once the site of the Hotel Wolf. In its day the Hotel Wolf was Rockdale's finest. It boasted 'we meet all trains' and kept horses and a buggy for that purpose. The hotel was managed by Anton Wolf and later his son, Edmund. For many years the bottom floor was the American Legion Building.

4. BILL PICKETT

On this spot in 1903, it is said that Bill Pickett, the first black man to be inducted into the National Cowboy Hall of Fame and Western Heritage Center in Oklahoma, invented the rodeo sport of Bulldogging while trying to subdue an unruly cow. The sport consists of jumping on a steer from a horse and wrestling the steer to the ground.

5. WITCHER-COFFIELD OFFICE BUILDING

Located at what is now the Perry Building, Milam County deed records list the early owners of the Witcher-Coffield office building as W. L. Witcher and C. H. Coffield. The property was ultimately passed down through heirship of the Coffield family to Preston Perry and wife Helen. Preston Perry ran a ham radio shop in this location in the 1940's. After Mr. Perry's death, the building remained as he left it until his son, James Perry, restored the building in 2011. On Nov. 5, 2012, 227-229 N. Main received a Rockdale Downtown Association Historic Marker funded by Milam County Historical Commission Preservation Trust Fund. Another prominent Coffield family member, H. H. Coffield, posthumously donated the land that would ultimately become the city owned H. H. Coffield Regional Airport.

6. MURAL: HISTORY OF ROCKDALE

The mural, located on the side of the building at 114 East Cameron Avenue (adjacent to Citizens Bank), was painted in 2008 by former Rockdale artist, Kim Finely, and depicts significant people and events from Rockdale's history.

7. MURAL: HISTORY OF MILAM COUNTY

This mural (located inside the Citizens bank) depicts the history of Milam County.

8. TIME CAPSULE

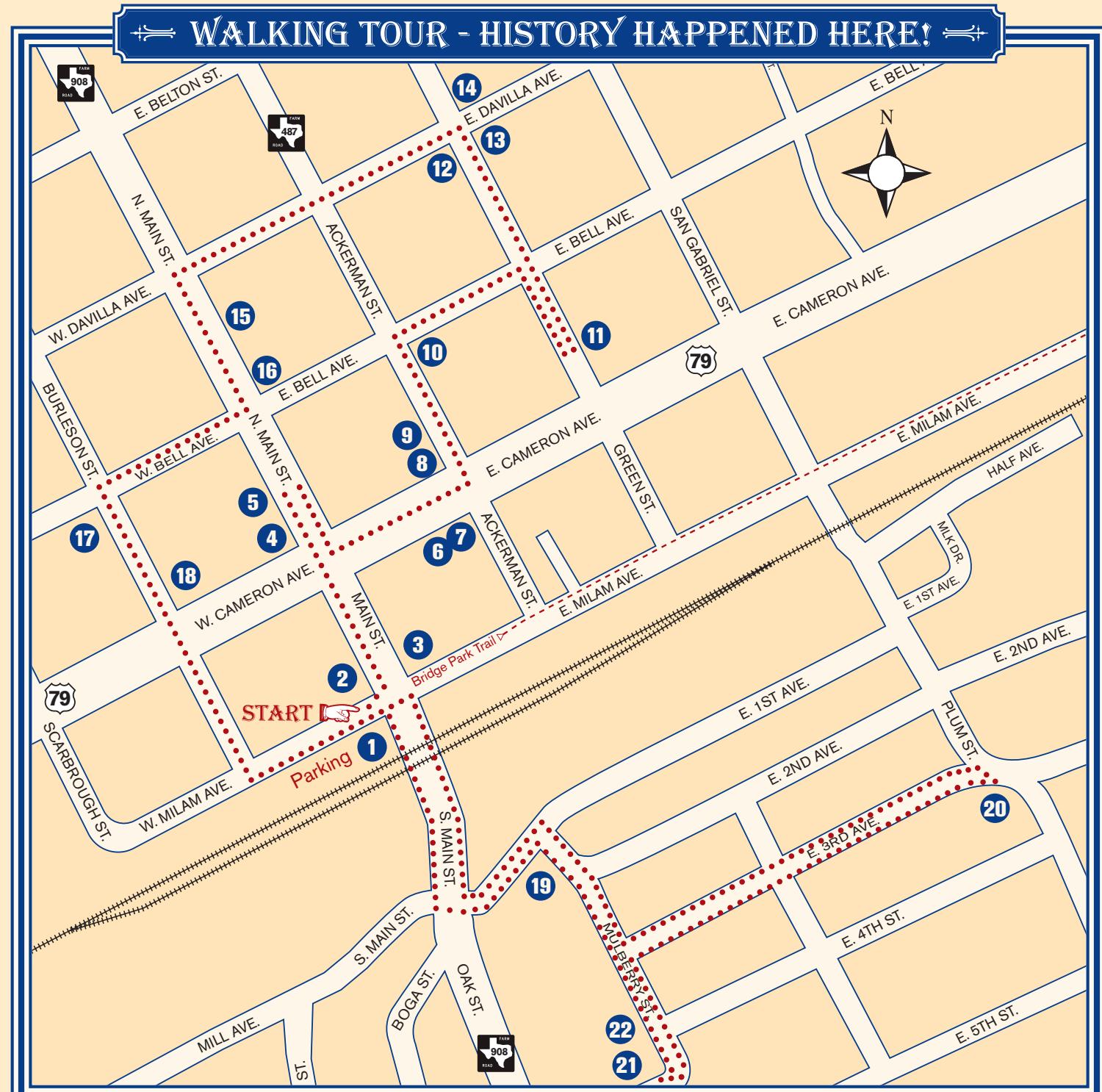
Located on the grounds of the Patterson Library, the time capsule was placed as part of Rockdale's 1974 centennial celebrations, to be opened in 2024.

8. WAREHOUSE FIRE MEMORIAL

Also located on the grounds of the Patterson Library, the memorial is dedicated to E. M. Scarbrough, whose descendants deeded the property to the city of Rockdale. The site was previously the location of the Scarbrough & Hicks Co. building which burned in 1935, claiming the lives of two volunteer firefighters, John W. Williams and J. W. Hooper. Both firefighters perished while fighting the fire when an awning collapsed.

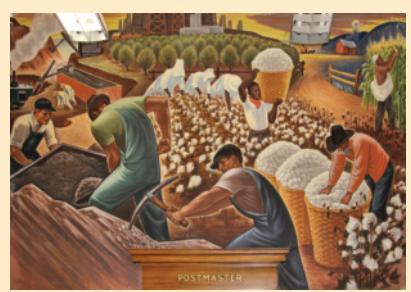
9. GEORGE SESSIONS PERRY

The historical marker at this location acknowledges George Sessions Perry. Perry was born May 5, 1910, in Rockdale, and was a well-known author of books that depict life in Rockdale and the surrounding area. As a World War II correspondent, he brought first hand accounts of the war to readers of 'The New Yorker' and 'The Saturday Evening Post'. Perry won several major awards for his writing, including the 1941 National Book Award.



10. ROCKDALE POST OFFICE MURAL

In 1939 postmaster John Esten Cooke received word that the Rockdale's new post office building had been chosen to be one of eleven in the states of Texas and Oklahoma to be decorated with a mural in the lobby. Reportedly because of World War II, the installation was delayed and the 12 x 8 foot canvas painting was not actually installed until 1947. It depicts the agrarian and industrial lifestyle of the area in the early to mid-twentieth century. Painted by the artist Maxwell B. Starr, the piece is titled *Industry in Rockdale*. Adapted from article written by Amie Stone King of Austin.



11. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Historical Marker

The original First Baptist Church building was constructed on this site in 1881. The present structure was erected in 1972. Father of well known movie star Dana Andrews once pastored this church.

12. HOME OF GEORGE SESSIONS PERRY

Built in 1922, this two-story house is one of the Sears Roebuck and Company Mail Order Houses and was the home of well-known author George Sessions Perry. Much of Perry's writing was done in this house, and it was also the home of the grandmother made famous in Perry's book, *My Granny Van*.



13. ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Historical Marker Located Inside Church

The church door will be open if you want to go inside to view the historical marker. The church was organized in 1875 and the present structure built in 1880.

14. MATINEE MUSICAL CLUB

Historical Marker

In January 1909, Mary Ann (Coffield) Perry organized the Matinee Musical Club on the front porch of her home at this site. Pearl Cauthon served as the first president of the club, which met regularly to study and perform music. The group, active in both the Texas and National Federations of Music Clubs, continues to share and study music, bringing culture and art to its members and to Rockdale through annual programs and regular meetings.



15. KAY THEATER

The Kay opened at 352 North Main Street, Rockdale, TX in 1947 and operated until the early 60's. The building was purchased by the Kay Theater Foundation which has spent much of the past decade restoring the long-vacant theater. The Kay Theatre was presented with a Texas Historical Marker on March 15, 2014.



16. HENRY'S GARAGE

Built in the early 1920s, Henry's Garage was owned and operated by the legendary Rockdale businessman and civic leader E. "Buck" Henry for seven decades.

17. FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Historical Marker

Organized in 1887, this Church was first served by the Rev. A. J. Bush, Sr. (1846-1920), a Civil War Veteran who was instrumental in establishing Christian Churches in many areas of the State. Previous buildings on this site were replaced in 1958. The First Christian Church continues to be an important part of the Rockdale community.

18. ROCKDALE'S ORIGINAL CITY HALL BUILDING

Work on a Rockdale's original City Hall, designed by well known Austin architect A. O. Watson, began at this site in 1895. The building has provided space for city programs, social gatherings, school functions and political meetings, and housed the Volunteer Fire Department for 80 years. It now houses Rockdale's police department. Alterations in the 1930's, resulted in the loss of the tall bell tower.



19. OLD CITY CEMETERY

Rockdale's Old City Cemetery was established in the 1870s, and includes the graves of 12 Civil War Confederate Soldiers, as well as many prominent early Rockdale residents.

20. SPRINGFIELD MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Historical Marker

Springfield Missionary Baptist Church Members established this church in 1872, under the guidance of the Rev. Riley Williams. Though buildings have changed, the congregation still gathers on the same land they met on that year. From its beginnings to the present, the church has served as a focal point for social and religious gatherings for Rockdale's African American community.

21. JEWISH OLD CITY CEMETERY

In 1879, a reported 100 Jewish residents lived in Rockdale. Land at this site was purchased by the Hebrew Benevolent Association to be used as a dedicated Jewish Burial Ground. Among those interred here are a Confederate veteran and a victim of the disastrous fire in 1888 at Rockdale's Mundine Hotel.

22. BLACK OLD CITY CEMETERY

Also known as the Fulcher cemetery due to the prominence of the Fulcher name, this cemetery is located between the main Old City Cemetery and the Jewish Old City Cemetery. The cemetery is unfenced and there are very few marked graves.