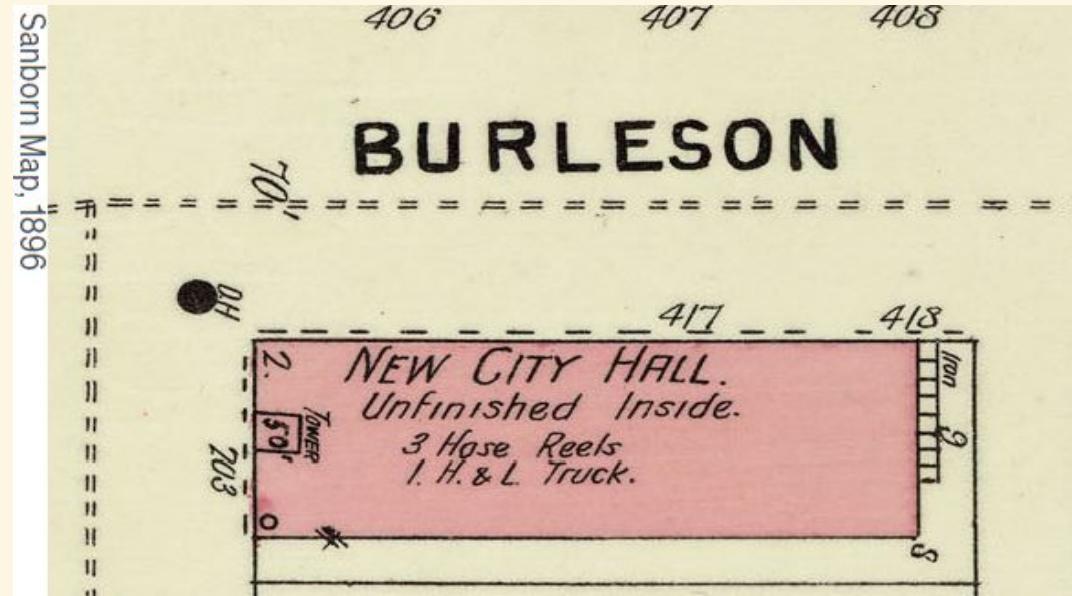


The 1895

By Brayden Chaires

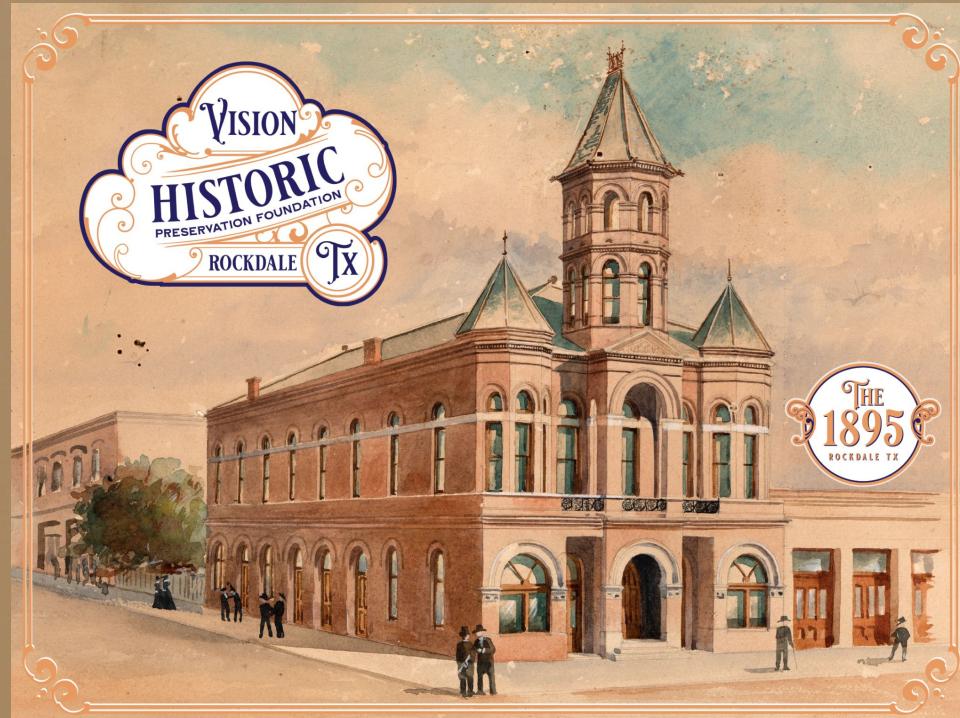
The making of the 1895

In 1883, Rockdale began making plans for a City Hall with a bond election providing \$10,000 for its construction.



Important Facts

The 1895 is owned by the-



VISION HISTORIC PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

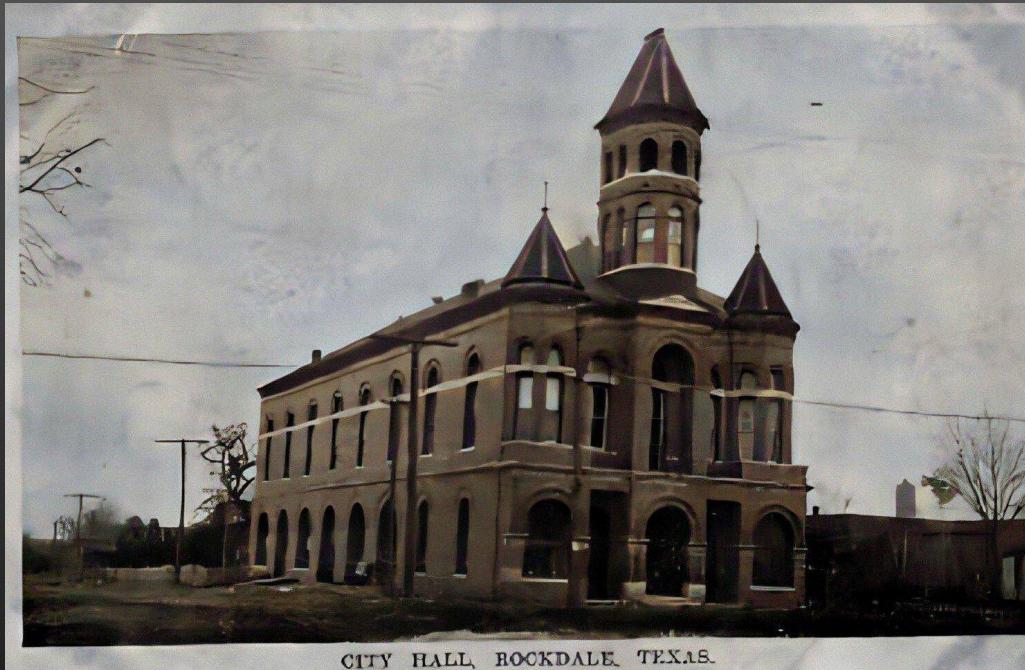
Constructing the 1895

In 1894, Rockdale began locating a site and commenced construction at the northeast corner of Burleson Street and Cameron Avenue in 1895. The two-story Romanesque Revival style structure designed by Austin architect Arthur O. Watson, and was constructed by R.G. Scott of San Antonio. Construction costs totaled \$8,015 and the lot cost \$1,850. The structure was built using bricks from the Rockdale Brick Works.



It's importance to Rockdale

It's important to rockdale because its a historic land mark to rockdale,

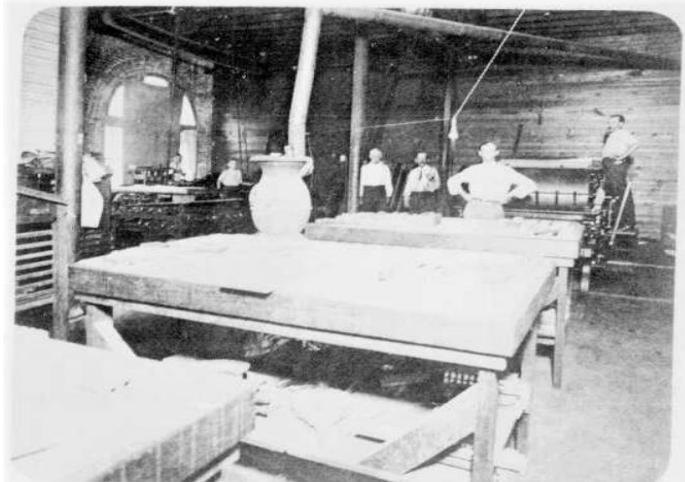


Events

In June 1911, John Esten Cooke purchased the paper & continued operations at the city hall for several decades. It is believed the Rockdale Reporter & Messenger operated at the City Hall until the 1939 renovation.



In 1906, R. W. H. Kennon merged the Rockdale Reporter & Rockdale Messenger newspapers and set up shop in the southeast office of City Hall.



ROCKDALE REPORTER IN 1912—This picture shows the printing department of The Rockdale Reporter in 1912 when it was located in the City Hall in what is now the Rockdale fire station. John Esten Cooke, publisher and editor, is in white shirt (center of picture) standing between the old sheet-fed newspaper press and the makeup stone tables in foreground. Folding machine and type cases are at left. Note old "pot bellied" coal stove.

Timeline

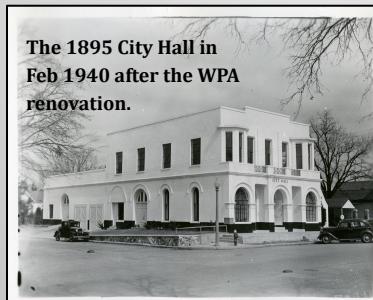


Application gets approved!

In October 1938, the City of Rockdale's application for \$20,000 in WPA funds for improvements to the City Hall received federal approval. i

Modernized city hall

Work began February 1939, and was completed November 1939. The project "modernized" the building, resulting the exterior brick being stuccoed, plastered interior walls, and provided new wood floors. This is also when the iconic bell tower was removed and it is unknown why the back half of the upstairs was removed.



Turned into police station

In 1986, the police department & city offices utilized the entirety of the building, until the city offices relocated to a new City Hall at Cameron & Wilcox in 2002, and a new police station and jail were built in 2019.

Purchased, renewing

In 2020, a new Vision for "The 1895" was born with a goal to restore the building to its original Victorian glory. Vision Historic Preservation Foundation purchased The 1895 from the City of Rockdale with the Mission to enrich the arts & cultivate economic development by restoring the historic 1895 City Hall for the citizens, businesses, and visitors of Rockdale.