

Historic Carrollton

isit Carrollton and discover how one early north Texas settlement developed into a vital urban city. Most local historians believe Carrollton received its name from the hometown of settlers from Carrollton, Illinois. The name was officially established in 1878 when the first U.S. Post Office opened. The Texas State Gazeteer and Business Directory for 1882 reported Carrollton's population as 500, with one steam gristmill, four cotton gins, two churches, two schools and cotton and grain as exports. Life in Carrollton moved into the modern age when the first telephone began operation in 1890 and by 1913 a private power plant provided commercial electricity. In 1924 local cotton production was 300 bales.

View these twenty-five historic sites, learn about the city's rich heritage of families and community, and discover Carrollton's yesterday...today!



Downtown Carrollton

1 Town Square - Bounded by Broadway, Fourth, Elm and West Main Streets

The Square's formation as a central commercial site began prior to 1900. A fresh spring flowed through the center of the Square where the gazebo now stands. The Square still has early 20th century charm and continues to be a focal point for many community gatherings.

2 Carrollton Railroad Crossing - College Avenue at North Broadway Street

This railroad track intersection served the Cotton Belt, the Missouri, Kansas & Texas ("Katy") and the St. Louis & San Francisco ("Frisco") railroads which provided commercial and passenger service through Carrollton, enabling the city to grow and prosper.

MOVING TOWARD 2010! North of the Square (across Belt Line Road) this rail line intersection can potentially become one of the major transit hubs in the Metroplex. This unique feature is the heart of the area's redevelopment in preparation for the arrival of the DART light rail train station in 2010.

3 First Carrollton Post Office - Marker located on the west side of Broadway Street, between Third and Fourth Avenues

John Miller Myers made the application for Carrollton's first post office on May 10, 1878. In the 1890s it was moved a few blocks to the Square.

- **1** Pioneer Park Carroll at Main Street Dedicated to the pioneer families who settled in this area, this half-acre mini-park is located on the site of Carrollton's first City Hall.
- **5** Plaza Theatre 1115 Fourth Avenue Built by Mrs. A.R. Lowrey and her son, John, the Plaza Theatre opened December 23, 1949, survived the golden age of motion pictures and operated continuously until December 31, 1994.
- **6** Vandergriff Street Downtown Carrollton
 This street is dedicated in honor of John Thomas
 Vandergriff, a beloved blacksmith, automobile dealer
 and civic leader.
- **7** Carrollton (Gravley) Hardware Elm at Main A. W. Risien built this red brick building on the northwest corner of the Square about 1903. Known as Carrollton Hardware Store, it was sold in 1915 to the Chastain brothers. The name changed to Gravley Hardware when Roy Gravley became the sole owner in 1933 and the store remained in the Gravley family until 1997.

Home Civic Life

8 A.W. Perry Homestead Museum* -

1509 North Perry Road, 972-466-6380 This homestead was the third owned by DeWitt C. Perry, son of founder A.W. Perry. It was completed in 1909 using building materials carefully salvaged from the Perry's second family home built around 1857 on the same site. The museum is operated by the city and displays authentic period furnishings. Free group tours are available.

- **9 Belle Allen Home** 1208 Clint Street This 1910 three-story prairie-style home was built with Carrollton brick and occupied by Mrs. Belle Allen, an historic civic leader for 46 years.
- **10 Boatright House** 1101 Main Street at Belt Line Road Constructed in the early 1900s as a four-room single story home with front and rear porches, the home's 'stick style' architecture is evident in the light skeletal frame, strong lines and diagonal braces. The home is representative of those that lined what was formerly College Avenue from Main Street to Josey Lane.
- **⚠ Bramblitt Woodright** 2335 Sandy Lake Road (now the Elm Fork Nature Preserve at McInnish Park. 972-466-9813)

Wood cut from this 10-acre property, purchased in 1861, was used by the Elkanah Bramblitt family to provide shelter and fuel for cooking and heat.

(L) Carrollton Heights Historic District - Located north of Belt Line Road between Denton Drive, Warner Street and the Cotton Belt Railroad

After a 1908 flood in downtown Carrollton destroyed many homes, development of this neighborhood on an elevated hill began. The area was also the site of a freeflowing fresh spring already serving as the municipal water supply.

Carrollton Heights chronicles the development of American domestic architecture from 1910 to 1960 since examples of virtually every style of middle-class home constructed in north Texas can be seen in the neighborhood. Craftsman bungalows and post-war Minimal Traditional homes are the two most common styles, but examples of multi-level Prairie style, Tudor and Colonial Revival homes also exist along with 1940s and 1950s Ranch-style homes. During a 2002 survey, over thirty Carrollton Heights structures were identified as having architectural or historic importance.

B DeWitt Perry School - 1709 Belt Line Road Land for the first public school in Carrollton was donated by DeWitt Clinton Perry and his sister, Harriet Perry Warner. Students and faculty occupied the two-story school building on January 19, 1916.

Due to increased enrollment, a new Carrollton High School was opened on the site September 14, 1936. The DeWitt Perry name did not become official until 1962 when Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District built R. L. Turner High School on Josey Lane. The original red brick building, "Old Red," was razed in 1966 to allow for other construction but the original cornerstone is still located on the campus.

- **Josey Ranch** 1440 Keller Springs Road at Josey Lane In the 1940s, C.W. ("Colonel") Josey purchased the first 70 acres of what became the 1,000-acre "Josey Rancho" where he raised buffalo and longhorns, and hosted elaborate July 4th rodeos that attracted large crowds. Today the city's Josey Ranch Sports Complex, Carrollton Senior Center and a Carrollton Public Library are here. The lake near Josey Lane is the result of a quarry which supplied clay to one of Carrollton's two brick factories.
- **(b) Trinity Mill Community** Near the intersection of IH-35E and the President George Bush Turnpike About 1851, brothers W.H. and Preston Witt began building a steam mill on the property of brother-inlaw A.W. Perry to serve settlers in Dallas and Denton counties. In 1855 Perry sold his interest to W.H. Witt. By 1858, a store and post office were added. The Scott family bought the business after the Civil War and later platted and sold 50 acres to the railroad for a depot. The Trinity Mill community prospered by farming and mining gravel but eventually the store closed in 1915, the depot closed in 1923 and the gravel operation ceased in 1966.

16 City of Carrollton - Marker on the south side of City Hall, 1945 E. Jackson Road

Carrollton incorporated June 14, 1913, with a 52-23 vote. A city council was elected July 19, 1913. With 40 votes. William Forest Vinson was elected as Carrollton's first mayor. Vinson, who also served as the presiding officer of the election, school board trustee. precinct chairman and Dallas County sheriff, declined the office and on August 5, 1913, Junius Tribble (J.T.) Rhoton qualified and served as mayor

through 1915.

Belle Allen Home

Churches Cemeteries

(b) A.W. Perry Cemetery* - West of the intersection of Sherwood Drive and Perry Road

The first Carrollton cemetery was established in 1896 with the burial of Mrs. A.W. Perry. Members of pioneer families are buried in many of the 482 marked

B Carrollton Black Cemetery - Approximately 1,000 feet west of Hutton Drive and 600 feet south of Belt Line Road

Although dating back more than 100 years, this cemetery was not formally dedicated until 1915. Despite periodic flooding, several gravestones are still visible.

(I) First United Methodist Church Congregation -2201 East Hebron Parkway

In August 1901, a group met under a brush arbor near the corner of Walnut Street and Jackson Street forming what became First Methodist Church. A circuit preacher, John Major, preached monthly and the church built in 1903 at Jackson Street and Belt Line Road was the first within the city limits. A second church was built at the same location in 1915, a third was built on Pearl Street in 1957, and ground was broken in 2003 for the fourth on Hebron Parkway. The congregation celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2001.

20 Furneaux Cemetery* - East and west sides of Cemetery Hill Road, south of Rosemeade Parkway In 1884 this cemetery was established with the burial of Mr. William Furneaux, who immigrated to Texas in 1857 from England. A Methodist church was originally located on the site.

4 Hebron First Baptist Church Congregation*

- 3000 Hebron Parkway Organized in 1883 at the Willow Springs School, this congregation was originally known as the Big Valley Baptist Church. E.C. Bramblitt served as the first pastor.

Riley Cemetery - 1328 Riley Drive Born in Indiana in 1815, Jacob Riley came to southeastern Denton County in the mid-1850s and claimed a preemption grant of 160 acres on Indian Creek. He and his descendants held the land for more than 100 years. Family members were buried in this burial ground overlooking the Elm Fork of the Trinity River. The cemetery was high enough to avoid flooding and remained undisturbed until development of the property in 1996.

Simms Chapel AME Church Congregation -1229 West College Avenue

Around 1890, a plot of land near the current intersection of Crosby Road and IH-35E was donated by a Reverend John Miller Myers, one of the organizing members of the Union Baptist Church of Carrollton, for an African-American church. The Reverend Wash Simms, called the "Black Angel" because of his fiery sermons, was the first pastor. In 1939, the church moved to West College Avenue due to the construction of U.S. Highway 77, now IH-35E. Note: This congregation is no longer active and the historical marker is currently in storage.

Union Baptist Church Congregation* -4561 North Josey Lane

Established on May 11, 1846 this is the first and oldest continuing Baptist congregation in Dallas County. The first meeting was held in a pioneer cabin near the Keenan Cemetery in Farmers Branch. The site of the first Carrollton location cannot be verified but the church moved to the southwest corner of College Avenue (present-day Belt Line Road) and Myers Street in the 1940s and was called College Avenue Missionary Baptist Church. In 1961, the congregation moved to 1225 N. Josey Lane and changed the name to Highland Baptist Church. In 2000, they moved to 4561 N. Josey Lane and became Castle Hills Baptist Church.

25 Warner Cemetery* - 2600 Belmeade Drive Robert and Sarah Warner established this family cemetery in 1873. It contains ten marked graves.

* Texas Historical Commission recognition



Today Carrollton
is a vibrant,
37-square-mile
community in
the Dallas-Fort
Worth metroplex.
As the region's
population grows toward
the north and northeast,
its geographic center is
also moving - toward Carrollton.

Crossed by Interstate 35E and the President George Bush Turnpike and minutes away from Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, Carrollton is poised to become a major hub of the Metroplex—the center of it all!



