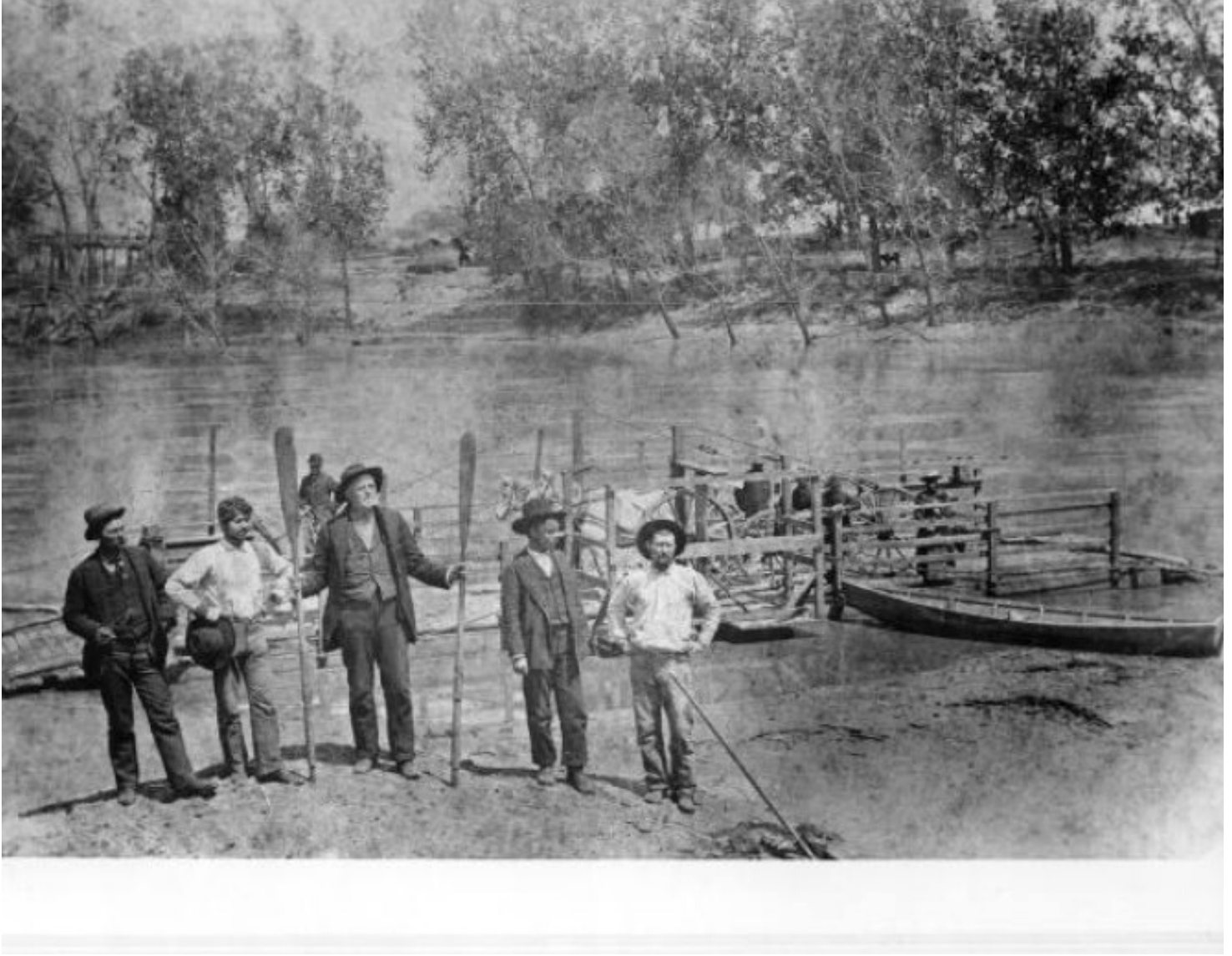




RICHMOND WALKING TOUR

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Historic Tour

HISTORIC PLACES IN
RICHMOND, TEXAS

There are so many interesting and historical places to visit in Richmond and Fort Bend County. Here are a few you can walk to from the museum! We suggest starting at the Richmond Historical Marker.

Richmond Historical Marker

Richmond, the county seat of Fort Bend County, sits along the Brazos River. In 1822, a group of men led by William Little set up a campsite near the present-day city. As settlers from Stephen F. Austin's Old Three Hundred began to arrive, they built a log fort at the bend in the River that later became known as the "Fort Settlement." In 1837, the town of Richmond was established by Robert Eden Handy and his business partner William Lusk.

Richmond was incorporated by the Republic of Texas in May of that same year. By 1838 Fort Bend County had been formed, with Richmond as the county seat. The town's earliest residents also included many famous figures in Texas history, including Jane Long, Mirabeau B. Lamar and, Deaf Smith.

500 Houston Street
Richmond, Texas 77469

The John and Lottie Moore Home

In 1884, Congressman John and Lottie Moore built the Moore Home, the same year they married. John Moore was a prosperous rancher and one of the largest landholders in Fort Bend County. John and Lottie had five children. John was elected to the Texas State Legislature in 1896 and later served as a United States Congressman from 1905 to 1913, representing the people of Fort Bend and surrounding counties. John Jr. followed in his father's political footsteps by serving as Mayor and Fort Bend County Judge. He inherited the Moore Home in 1940. Hilmar Moore, the Congressman's grandson, would go on to become one of the longest-serving mayors in United States history. Several generations of the Moore family called this beautiful mansion a home until the Fort Bend Museum took ownership in 1975.



Above
The John and Lottie Moore Home

500 Houston Street, Richmond, Texas 77469

Fort Bend County Courthouse

The historic Fort Bend County Courthouse was built in 1908. It was Richmond's fifth courthouse and the first not to be located on Morton Street. The courthouse was designed by C.H. Page and Brothers of Austin, one of the state's prominent architects. The structure is a three-story masonry structure. On the roof is a large copper dome, a clock tower that was once wound by hand, and a copper statue of "Miss Liberty" holding a sword and the scales of justice. In 1935, a three-story addition was made to the south wing of the courthouse. Inside, you can still see the beautifully restored historic courtroom with original furniture, light fixtures, and a balcony. On the courthouse grounds, you can find monuments to Erastus "Deaf" Smith, Mirabeau B. Lamar, the Second President of Texas, and a Memorial to local fallen soldiers. Today the Courthouse is the home of the County Judge and the District Attorney's Office.



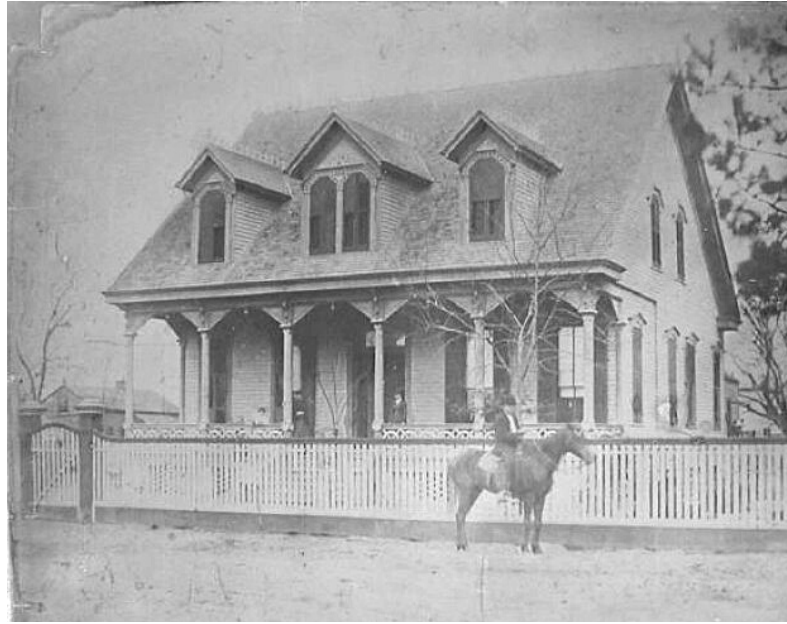
Above
The Fort Bend County Courthouse

301 Jackson Street , Richmond, Texas 77469

Isaac McFarlane House

Scottish-born Isaac McFarlane came to Fort Bend County in the early 1850s. Following the Civil War, McFarlane established his career as a merchant, cotton broker, and country judge. The McFarlane House, built in 1882 by Thomas Culshaw, the same architect that built the John and Lottie Moore Home a year later. During the Jaybird-Woodpecker Battle of 1889, shots were fired from the McFarlane House's back second story window. The house is now home to the administrative offices of the Fort Bend Museum Association.

410 Jackson Street, Richmond, Texas 77469



Above
Isaac McFarlane House

St. John's United Methodist Church



Above
St. John's United Methodist Church

St. John's United Methodist Church, founded in 1839, is home to the earliest continuous congregation in Fort Bend County. On December 26, 1838, Reverend Jesse Hord arrived in Richmond, where he spent the evening delivering a sermon to a congregation. Following that evening, he organized the First Methodist Society in Richmond consisting of six people, which continued to grow over the years. The infamous hatchet-wielding prohibitionist, Carrie Nation, was a member of the Methodist Church and taught Sunday School classes. The current Gothic Revival building was constructed in 1922.

400 Jackson Street , Richmond, Texas 77469



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Downtown Morton Street

Historic Downtown Morton street has historically been the center of Richmond. In its time, Morton Street has been home to several famous residents and even a gunfight. Morton Street was named after William Morton, one of the first settlers of Richmond. William Morton was a farmer and stock raiser and established a ferry route across the Brazos River. Part of his land grant was used to create Morton Street and Morton Cemetery. In 1837, Jane Long, the Mother of Texas, moved to Richmond and opened a boarding house that became a center for social and political activities and lodging. Mirabeau B. Lamar, the second President of Texas, ran his Presidential Campaign from the boarding house. Another famous resident is the infamous ax-wielding prohibitionist Carrie Nation, who, along with her husband David, were the proprietors of the National Hotel. Today you can take a stroll down the street, shop and dine in some of these historic buildings, and take a step back into history.

200-400 block Morton Street, Richmond, Texas 77469



Carrie Nation



City Hall Park Plaza

City Hall Park Plaza was originally deeded to the founders of Richmond, Robert E. Handy and William Lusk. It was the site of two courthouses. In 1888, a magnificent two-story brick courthouse with a bell tower was completed and soon became the pride of the city. It also played an essential role in the infamous Jaybird-Woodpecker gunfight. The Jaybird-Woodpecker political feud culminated here in a bloody shoot-out in 1889. There is still a monument next to City Hall marking the occasion. In 1909, the new courthouse on Jackson Street was completed, and all county offices moved there. For the next 30 years, the courthouse became a venue for recreation and events. Richmond's City Hall was built in 1940. The nearby statute of Hilmar Moore was erected in his honor for his service as mayor from 1949 until his death in 2012, making him the longest-serving mayor in United States history.

402 Morton Street, Richmond, Texas 77469



Top: J.H.P. Davis Bank Building. Mr. Davis owned the bank in 1886. It was also the headquarters of the first telephone exchange located on the second story. Today the George Foundation is located in a building on that corner. The current building is a replica of the original.

Middle: Jane Long's Boarding House. Jane Long established her lodging here in 1837. She was a successful entrepreneur and rancher during her time in Richmond, Texas.

Bottom: Today, this building is the home of Sandy McGee's restaurant. It was originally a pharmacy and café with a doctor's office on the second story.

Historic Richmond Jail

The imposing Romanesque structure served as the Richmond City Jail for almost 100 years, from 1897 until 1955. The jail was completed in 1897 by the Diebold Safe and Lock Company and included living quarters for the sheriff and his family on the first floor. The sheriff's wife was also responsible for preparing meals for the prisoners in the family kitchen. The entry to the jail facility was on the first level, through an iron door. Rather than bars, iron latticework covered the inside of windows and formed cells. Prisoners were held on the second floor of the building in double-decker cell blocks. In the center of the jail were more cells and the gallows. There is a record of two hangings taking place in 1898. The building also has a basement that held additional prisoners.

Basements were quite unusual in this area, especially with the tendency for flooding. In 1996, Fort Bend County completed renovations, including a new addition that the Richmond Police Department offices.

600 Preston Street, Richmond, Texas 77469



Above
The Richmond Jail

Decker Heritage Park

Decker Heritage Park is located in downtown Richmond and is home to several historic properties that have been to their current location.

In 1855, Richmond welcomed the first train to town on the Bayou, Brazos & Colorado Railroad. In 1901 Southern Pacific built the depot in Richmond, Texas.

The McNabb House, built in the 1850s and purchased by A.D. McNabb and his wife Charlien Gloyd. Charlien was the daughter of Carrie Nation. A.D. McNabb was a partner in McNabb & Vargas, a successful saddle shop in Richmond, Texas.

The Kochan-Reed House was built in 1896. Mrs. Kochan ran the first ice cream parlor on Morton Street, and Mr. Kochan had a blacksmith and hardware shop. It was later owned by the Reed family.

501 Preston Street , Richmond, Texas 77469 Preston



Above
The Richmond, Train Depot



Long-Smith Cottage

The Long Smith Cottage was built in 1855 by James Winston, a grandson of Jane Long, the “Mother of Texas.” Several families have called this house a home over the years, including the Smith Family. Thomas Jefferson Smith fought in the Texas Revolution and served under Fannin at the Battle of Goliad. He, and a few others, were spared execution to repair guns for the Mexican Army. He was kept as a prisoner of war until he escaped at the Battle of San Jacinto. Following the war, he settled in Richmond and operated a blacksmiths shop, hotel, and livery stable. He later served as Sheriff from 1853 – 1857. They remained in the home through the Civil War. The Fort Bend Museum Association acquired the house and moved it from its original location on Jackson Street. Following restoration in the 1980s, it was relocated to its current site.

500 Houston Street, Richmond, Texas 77469



Erastus “Deaf” Smith Monument

Erastus “Deaf” Smith was born in Dutchess County, New York, but later moved to Mississippi with his parents. A childhood illness caused him to lose much of his hearing and eventually led to his famous moniker. Deaf settled in Texas in 1822 and eventually joined the Texian Army at the beginning of the Texas Revolution. Due to his intimate knowledge of the area around San Antonio and his skills as a scout, he became a legendary spy for General Sam Houston and the Texian Army. William Barrett Travis considered him the “Bravest of the Brave.” Deaf Smith later fought at the Battle of San Jacinto and destroyed Vince’s Bridge, thereby preventing the Mexican Army’s escape. Smith died in Richmond in 1837. While he was given a proper burial, unfortunately, the location of his grave was lost over time. Today his final resting place remains a mystery.