

## THE CARRIAGE DISTRICT

The city of Corsicana has a long and colorful history. This site was chosen in 1848 as the location for the seat of government of the newly formed Navarro County. Jose Antonio Navarro, hero of the fight for Texas Independence and signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, was given the honor of naming the city; He said "Call the town Corsicana after Corsica the island of my father's birth."

In the beginning, the early settlers built log cabin structures. That began to change as some began to prosper. Cotton was king during the last half of the 1800s. The Houston & Texas Central Railroad line arrived in Corsicana in 1871, which brought new people such as entrepreneurs and merchants. During this time, many fine homes and commercial buildings were built due to Corsicana being a railhead and the agricultural center for Navarro County.

Corsicana's first trolley system pulled by mules was established in the 1880s. At that time the trolley car would travel west from downtown along 3rd Ave to N. 28th and back to downtown. Access to the trolley line allowed more people to live further away from the downtown area. Part of this tour will travel along that old trolley line route. The early wealth of Corsicana was also derived from cotton and mercantile business. They were the catalyst in building fine homes in what was to become the Carriage District.

A majority of the city's surviving buildings and homes were built following the big oil booms of the 1910's and 1920's. This tour guide of the Carriage District focuses on surviving structures built between 1846 and 1900 within the Carriage District. However there are structures of the period elsewhere in Corsicana, and there are homes within the Carriage District built after 1900. These other homes will be a part of future tours to be developed.

As you travel, note that there are several of the homes with either a Texas Historic Landmark Plaque or a Corsicana Historic Landmark Plaque, or in some cases both plaques.



Corsicana Historic Landmark Plaque for designated local landmarks obtained via the Corsicana Landmark Commission.

To find information for Corsicana Landmark Commission go to Corsicana, TX - Official Website - Landmark Commission



Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHL) these are properties judged by Texas Historical Commission (THC) to be historically and architecturally significant. THC awards RTHL designation to buildings at least 50 years old that are worthy of preservation for their architectural and historical associations. THM

## PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

*"It is a national policy to preserve for public use historic sites, buildings, and objects of national [and regional] significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people."*

-Historic Sites Act of 1935, United States Congress

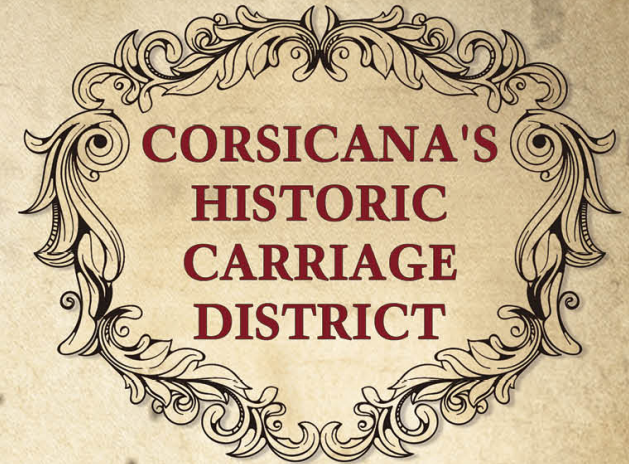
Corsicana Preservation Foundation is a leading advocate in successful efforts to save threatened historic structures, such as the Historic Corsicana Homes, Downtown Historic Buildings, and Corsicana's brick streets.

Remember, the ability to deliver our precious historic past for generations is in your hands now. Your donations and support of Corsicana Preservation Foundation are greatly appreciated. With your help we can lay a cornerstone for tomorrow.

**MISSION** The Foundation is organized and will be operated exclusively for charitable purposes, which may include architectural and historic preservation as well as, religious, scientific, literary, or educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or the corresponding provision of any subsequent United States revenue law.

Corsicana Preservation Foundation will....

- Provide opportunities for education and events that foster the development of neighborhood appreciation and civic pride.
- Collaborate with other interested groups to develop and rejuvenate a sense of community pride in the township area by facilitating or providing special entryways, signage, landscaping or other fixtures that distinguish the township area.
- Work to educate the community to preserve and save the endangered buildings in Corsicana that are part of our unique heritage.
- Provide assistance to interested persons in grant applications for funds to make repairs and to assist with restoration of buildings that represent the architecture from Corsicana's early days.
- Become a resource to source and disseminate property history in order to advise property owners and potential property owners as to the historical importance of structures in Corsicana.
- Where possible, work closely with the The Texas Historical Commission, Navarro County Historical Society, Corsicana Landmark Commission, Corsicana Main Street Program and others to facilitate and deliver projects to preserve historically significant areas, buildings and artifacts.



*Landmarks  
from a genteel  
place and time*



1846-1900



Corsicana Preservation Foundation

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  [corsicanapreservationfoundation.org](http://corsicanapreservationfoundation.org)  
[www.facebook.com/corsicanapreservationfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/corsicanapreservationfoundation)

*Corsicana Preservation Foundation is a non profit 501 (c)(3) organization that advocates educating the community towards the value of preserving landmarks and saving endangered buildings of Corsicana that are part of our unique heritage.*

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**Start at 300 West 3rd Ave.**

**1 Navarro County Courthouse:** The Navarro County Courthouse was built in 1905 and is the fifth Courthouse in Corsicana. The current Courthouse was designed by a well-documented architect, James Edward Flanders (1849-1928), in the Beaux Arts style. Flanders gave the interior Prairie School design details which were influenced by Louis Sullivan of the Chicago School of Architecture. The Navarro County Courthouse also has the distinction of being one of five places in the United States to have

Scaglioli columns, (a technique that makes the columns appear to be marble). The Navarro County Courthouse was the second to last Courthouse designed by Flanders. Of the 15 or so courthouses Flanders designed in Texas, only Navarro County Courthouse and the Shackelford County Courthouse in Albany, TX survived. The Shackelford County Courthouse was the first Courthouse to be restored under the Texas Courthouse Preservation Program.

**TURN LEFT ON 13TH AVE.  
TURN RIGHT ON 4TH AVE.,**



**2 220 N. 14th Street - The Scales-Fortson Home.** One of its early owners, Mr. H. L. Scales, built this mansion in 1898 with redwood from California, tile from Italy, and wallpaper and stinaway from France. Mr. Scales was the owner of a 1500 acre farm north of town, managed by the Corsicana Cottonseed Oil Mill, and owned, what was reputed to have been the world's largest cotton gin, processing ten bales of cotton at one time. Mr. Scales was also known as "One Arm Scales", having lost an arm in a cotton gin incident.

**TURN RIGHT ON 15TH**



**3 Proceed W. on 3rd Avenue to First United Methodist Church -THL -** Founded 1851; sanctuary built in 1874 and was not yet consecrated when State Democratic Convention met here in 1872 and laid plans to free Texas from Reconstruction rule. The first missionary society west of the Mississippi was organized here, in 1880. H. A. Boaz, was ordained here, and later became president of Polytechnic College, S. M. U., and was a bishop. The present building dates from 1896 and became a recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1967.

**TURN LEFT ON 3RD AVE.**



**4 711 W. Third Avenue - Queen Anne Style** built in 1890



**5 714 W. Third Avenue -** Built in 1886, this is one of the oldest homes in Corsicana.



**6 729 W. Third Avenue - The Tatum Home -THL -** The Tatum Home, a massive two story Victorian home, was built well before 1900 by pioneer hardware merchant, William Tatum. The home has over 7,000 sq. feet including a full third floor attic with a 20' ceiling, an ornate "S" staircase, and seven fireplaces carved in mahogany & oak.



**7 733 W. Third Avenue.** The John D. Cunningham Home was built in 1900 by the brother-in-law and business partner of Mr. W. Tatum. The house was designed by an architect named Lockhead and built by Whiteselle Lumber Company. The spacious house has six fireplaces, two of which are back to back in the dining room and the parlor.



**8. 745 W. Third Avenue -THL & CHL** Mr. A. L. Lemon built this home in 1895 of Louisiana Cypress. In 1902, it was sold to John Wesley Edens. The owner of 2400 acres of local farm and ranch land, Edens had served the area as Deputy Sheriff, Tax Collector, and City Councilman. The late Victorian style house which features some Eastlake and Queen Ann detailing, remained in the Eden family for more than forty years.



**9 753 W. Third Avenue-** The Pace Home was built in 1894 by S.A. Pace, wholesale grocer, for his daughter and her family. This Eastlake Victorian Architecture beauty boasts app. 3129 sq. ft. Constructed with cypress wood with pine tongue and groove porches.



**10 756 W. Third Avenue pre-1900 Queen Anne Style**



**11 1003 W. Third Avenue -THL** The Stephen A. Pace Home was

built in 1887 by S.A. Pace, Corsicana wholesale grocer. The house was built by Whiteselle Brick & Lumber. A handsome house for its day; and a place where the sound of children playing on the large lawn was a common event.



**12 1012 W. Third Avenue -** The Henry G. Damon Home. This Classic Revival style home was built in 1900 by Henry G. Damon. A Confederate Veteran, Mr. Damon arrived in Corsicana in 1873. Mr. Damon began the study of law and was admitted to the Texas Bar. By 1884, he had formed a partnership with W.R. Bright and established one of the first real-estate mortgage companies in the state.



**13 1227 W. Third Avenue - 1895**

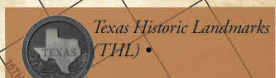


**14 1250 W. Third Avenue - The J.L. Halbert House -** This home was built in the 1890s by the widow of pioneer Corsicana attorney, J.L. Halbert, a Confederate veteran. Almost everything about the home is of massive proportions. The wide front porch with its rounded apron, features large columns supporting a full balcony on the second level of the house.

**TURN LEFT ON 24TH  
TURN LEFT ON 4TH**



**15 1416 W. Fourth Avenue - 1898 The Fuller Home**



**16 1306 W. Fourth Avenue - THL & CHL -** The Smith-McCreary Home was built by Dr. Smith in 1880. Dr. Smith was a Mayor of Corsicana, and responsible for organizing the first volunteer fire department in the city. In 1898, Mrs. A.W. McCreary, a widow, bought the home for her family of 10 daughters and her mother-in-law.



**17 1303 W. Fourth Avenue - THL & CHL -** The Dunn-Ransom Home was built in 1866 as a typical Texas "shotgun" house by E.E. Dunn. Dunn was later elected sheriff of Navarro County. The S.M. Ransom family later re-modeled and enlarged the house.



**18 1214 W. Fourth Avenue- 1890**



**19 1119 W. 4th - 1890**

**TURN LEFT ON 20TH  
TURN LEFT ON 3RD  
TURN RIGHT ON 21ST**



**21 1200 W. Second Avenue - THL & CHL.** The Rodger Q. Mills Home. Built in 1855. Oldest home in Corsicana.

**TURN RIGHT ON 2ND**



**22 514 W. Second Avenue THL** The Judge Simkins Home was built in 1873. This home is Greek Revival style, and is one of the earliest homes in Corsicana. Elred James Simkins served 4 years in the Confederate Army. A brother, William S. Simkins was credited with firing the first shot at Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861. Elred James Simkins relocated to Corsicana in 1871. He established

a law practice, and built the first rooms of this house in 1873. E.J. Simkins was a Regent of Texas University from 1881-1893; served as a State Senator, from 1887-1892, and as a Justice on the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, from 1893-95.



**23 504 W. Second Avenue - THL & CHL -** Senator James Woods House was built in 1900, of long leaf pine lumber. The children had a skating rink and gym in the attic. Occupied by Senator Woods and family, 1900-1931; by his son, from 1931-1939. Senator Woods (1858-1931) came to Corsicana from Tennessee, in 1873. He became a lawyer, served as city councilman, mayor, commissioner of the fire department, director of public library, was a school trustee. He was State Representative, from 1911 to 1919; and State Senator, from 1919-1923. The ornate beveled glass door & sidelights came from the Fleming Home that sat on the northwest corner of W. 6th and 14th, which was torn down in 1955.

**TURN RIGHT ON 13th**



**24 418 N. 13th Street** The Templeton Home, was built in 1883 and is now Corley's Funeral Home.

**END OF THE TOUR**



These are private residences and are not open to the public.