Grayson County TX
Historical Markers
Bells
Antioch Baptist Church

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First Baptist Church of Bells

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BELLS**

Originally known as Bell Plain Baptist Church, this congregation was organized in 1879 at the home of J. A. Lindsay. The first services were conducted in the Bailey Junction Schoolhouse by the Rev. Isaac Reed, in 1884. Soon after the school building burned, the members constructed a sanctuary on property donated by A. T. Wilson. They worshiped there as the Baptist Church of Christ until about 1896, when high winds destroyed the structure. Later that year the congregation built a chapel at this location. The present sanctuary was completed in 1954.
Washburn Cemetery

WASHBURN CEMETERY

SAMUEL AND MARY WASHBURN AND THEIR FAMILY MOVED TO TEXAS FROM MISSOURI IN 1836. WASHBURN WAS GRANTED 1280 ACRES OF LAND IN 1838. AS MORE SETTLERS MOVED INTO THE AREA, A BURIAL SITE WAS NEEDED AND A PORTION OF LAND ON THE SOUTH EDGE OF THE WASHBURN SURVEY WAS SET ASIDE FOR A CEMETERY. THE OLDEST MARKED GRAVE IS THAT OF INFANT MARY GENTRY IN 1867. HOWEVER, MANY GRAVES MARKED ONLY WITH ROCKS OR BOIS D'ARC POSTS ARE BELIEVED TO BE FROM THE 1850s. THE 2.5-ACRE CEMETERY CONTAINS ABOUT 300 GRAVES. THE WASHBURN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION MAINTAINS THE SITE.

(1997)
Greenwood Cemetery
Collinsville
Barron Cemetery

NAMED FOR JOHN BARRON (1831–87), A CIVIL WAR VETERAN WHO CAME HERE FROM VIRGINIA AND BOUGHT A GOOD FARM IN 1870. MARRIED FIRST TO DELILAH WARD (31-1860), THEN TO MARGARET McELROY. HE HAD FIFTEEN CHILDREN. ABOUT 1875 HE GAVE LAND FOR A CHURCH-SCHOOL BUILDING AND THIS COMMUNITY CEMETERY, WHERE HE AND SOME OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY WERE LATER BURIED. WILLIAM JENKINS (1829–78), WHO ALSO WAS A CONFEDERATE VETERAN, IS EARLIEST KNOWN AMONG SOME SIX DOZEN INTERMENTS. BURIAL GROUND CLOSED ABOUT 1920, IS CARED FOR BY DESCENDANTS WHO HAVE FORMED THE BARRON CEMETERY ASSOCIATION.
Hiram Lodge No. 433, A. & F. & A. & M.

Chartered on June 7, 1875, Hiram Lodge first met in a building on the original Collinsville Town Square. Since 1881, when that building burned, the organization has met in six locations and shared facilities with local businesses and a school. In 1881, when the Texas & Pacific Railroad came through the area, Hiram Lodge, along with most of the town, relocated to be near the railroad tracks. Civic activities have included aid to Masonic widows and orphans, support of war bonds, and assistance to schools and the Scottish Rite Hospital for Crippled Children.
Denison
Old Bass Home

Old Bass Home

J. K. Miller House
Old Thompson Home

THOMPSON HOUSE

Built by Judge James G. Thompson in the early 1840's on the south bank of the Red River at Preston Road.

In 1942 it was bought by Ms. Nellie Chambers and moved east of Denison to save it from the advancing waters of the newly formed Lake Texoma.

Upon her death, her heirs donated the home to the Village.

It was moved to its present location and restored in 1986.
Present Home of XXI Club
Carpenter’s Bluff Bridge

Origially built as a railroad bridge for the Missouri, Oklahoma and Gulf (MO&G) Line, this landmark structure across the Red River continues to provide a transportation route between Grayson County, Texas, and Bryan County, Oklahoma. MO&G officials determined they needed a line through Grayson County to connect there with other railways in order to secure better freight rates for their shipments from the Oklahoma coal mines. The new line, under construction by 1910, entered Texas via this bridge at the small community known as Carpenter’s Bluff.

Completed in the late summer of 1910, the Carpenter’s Bluff Bridge was designed to withstand major floods such as the one in 1908 that had destroyed several area bridges. Its design also included a wagon shelf, an extra lane to serve travelers on foot and horseback, as well as horse-drawn vehicles, all of whom had to pay a toll for its use.

In 1921, ownership passed to the Kansas, Oklahoma and Gulf Railway Co., which maintained the line until 1966, when the company ceased operations in Texas due to declining rail traffic. The Texas & Pacific Railroad maintained the bridge for a brief time and then deeded it to the counties of Grayson and Bryan. County commissioners agreed to convert the structure for vehicular traffic, and upon completion of that work, the bridge was opened as a free public thoroughfare.

Spanning the Red River since 1910, the Carpenter’s Bluff Bridge remains a significant part of Grayson County’s history.
Hopewell Baptist Church

In 1874, this church was founded to serve the black community of this growing railroad town. Ministers from several Baptist churches in the county helped organize the new fellowship. Some of the charter members transferred from St. John Baptist Church in Preston Bend. In 1877, fire destroyed the congregation's first meeting place. A frame building erected at this site was replaced in 1891 by a brick edifice. The present church was begun in 1915. U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall spoke here in 1950 when Hopewell was host to the NAACP Regional Convention.
Birthplace of Dwight D. Eisenhower

Joseph G. McCoy
Promoter of the Chisholm Trail
COFFMAN CEMETERY

WHILE DAVID HARMAN COFFMAN (1827–1890) SERVED IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY DURING THE CIVIL WAR (1861–1865), HIS WIFE HARRIET (JONES) AND FOUR SONS CAME TO NORTH TEXAS FROM MISSOURI. AFTER THE WAR DAVID JOINED THE FAMILY AND THEY BOUGHT THIS LAND. ALTHOUGH THE EARLIEST MARKED GRAVE WAS DATED 1867, THE COFFMANS DEeded THE ONE-ACRE PLOT TO THE COUNTY FOR A PUBLIC BURIAL GROUND IN 1878. THEY GAVE THE ADJOINING ACRE FOR A SCHOOL AND MEETINGHOUSE FOR MT. PLEASANT BAPTIST CHURCH. J.K. MILLER, PIONEER WHO OWNED LAND ON WHICH DENISON WAS LAID OUT, WAS BURIED HERE.

(1880)
Cold Springs Log Cabin School

Pioneers, who were camped near a spring on property of William S. Reeves (1794-1879) while waiting for their land grants, built this one-room schoolhouse about 1855. The leader of the group was William L. Holder (1795-1874), who migrated to Grayson County from Missouri. His son Clinton L. (1813-1897) later used the cabin as a residence. In 1974, the structure was moved to the Old Settlers Village and restored. Recorded Texas Historic Landmark 1977.
St. Luke’s Church

St. Luke’s Church
Denison’s Oldest House Worship and Oldest Episcopal Sanctuary in Grayson County.
Site given by Denison to company and visitation by Rev. A. E. Gregg, first Bishop of Texas, in May 1873.
Cornerstone was laid in 1871 by the Rt. Rev. A. E. Garrett, Bishop of Missionary District of Northern Texas. Church was consecrated by him in 1876.
The original building form nave of the present church.
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark.
St. Patrick’s Catholic Church

St. Patrick’s Parish was founded in 1872 by the Roman Catholic Bishop of Galveston, Claude Dubuis. The first church building at this site, designed by noted architect Nicholas J. Clayton, was completed in 1898. Destroyed by fire in 1911, the structure was rebuilt, incorporating much of Clayton’s original design into the new facade. Completed in 1914, the Gothic Revival building features fine patterned brickwork and lancet arches.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark – 1983
Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad

In 1865 the Union Pacific Railway Southern Branch was incorporated to build a railroad from the St. Louis-Kansas City area to the Gulf of Mexico. In 1870, with construction completed to the border of Indian territory, the line was renamed the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad. This title was often shortened to M-K-T, which led to the familiar nickname by which the line is best known—"The Katy." Following the route of an old cattle trail, the Katy became the first railroad to cross Indian Territory, now the state of Oklahoma, and enter Texas from the north. On Christmas Day 1872, over 100 passengers rode the first Katy train into Denison. A new townsite named for M-K-T Vice President George Denison. The construction and acquisition of branch lines soon extended the Katy East to Greenville, west to Rotan and Wichita Falls, and south to Galveston and San Antonio. By 1904 the system had over 1,000 miles of track in Texas, the railroad transported cattle, cotton, and other crops to market. It also carried passengers on such trains as the "Texas Special" and the "Katy Flyer" before passenger service ended in 1968. Today (1975) Denison is a division headquarters on the M-K-T and the home of about 600 railroad employees.
Sand Springs

A noted watering place on pioneer trails, known as early as 1840 to settlers and prospectors who camped near the strong currents of water boiling up at the foot of a rocky bluff. The sandstone of the bluff's face became an inscription rock, in which travelers carved names or initials and dates of their visits, sometimes to assure friends or relatives who were to follow later over the same trail.

A campsite for prospectors including California-bound gold seekers passing this way, 1849–1850. The spot was mapped in 1857 as a watering spot for the Southern Overland Mail Coaches of John Butterfield, racing from Saint Louis to San Francisco. After the Civil War (1861–65), many cattle herds passed this way for water while being driven north to market.

When Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad was built to Denison townsite in 1872, Sand Springs gained new importance, feeding Watauga Lake, built in late 1880s and used for many years (prior to 1908) as city's main water supply, but the old campsite was inundated. Other steps in man's progress reduced flow of the water, the area remained a popular picnic ground for years. Its history is revealed by the weathered carvings still visible on the inscription rocks.
Colbert’s Ferry

Established about 1843 by Benjamin F. Colbert, across it sailed thousands of immigrants into Texas in the fifties. The stage of the Southern Overland Mail line which provided mail and passenger service between St. Louis and San Francisco, crossed there, 1856 to 1861. Abandoned in 1881 when a highway bridge spanned the Red River.

Texas Highway Department 1936
Churches and private schools provided early educational training for African American students in Denison until 1886, when Anderson Public High School opened at 530 W. Bond Street, to meet the need for improved and centralized facilities. District trustees opened a new school at this site in 1927. William R. Wims served as the first principal for Terrell School, named in honor of Augustus H. Terrell (d. 1929), noted educator, respected civic leader and first principal of Anderson High.

The original school building served all grades and included four classrooms and a small auditorium. Prominent principals Wims, Mason S. Frazier and Evans Tyree Hardeman directed the school's expansion in its formative years to serve a growing community and provide increased educational opportunities. Early teachers received low salaries, but in 1946, Sammie Taylor Savage, elementary teacher at Terrell, successfully sued for pay equalization throughout the district.

Terrell students set high standards in academics, the arts and athletics. The school produced many accomplished civic, business and professional leaders, as well as performing artists and athletes. The winning traditions of Terrell's Maroon and White Dragons, including state football championships in the 1940s, were a source of community pride and identity.

With the implementation of integration came the close of Terrell High School, and the last class graduated in May 1967. Later used for middle and elementary school classes, the campus was razed in 2000. The year a new Terrell Elementary School opened nearby (200 yds. SE), today the history of the high school, in existence for forty years, continues to live on in the Terrell name and in the memories of its alumni.
Jesse Elvis Hendricks Log Cabin

A native of Missouri, Jesse Elvis Hendricks (1837-1920) came to Grayson County in 1846. In 1863-64, he built this log home five miles southeast of this site. It was originally a one-room cabin with a loft, but Hendricks and his wife, Susan Matilda (Dumas), added more rooms about 1870 after the birth of their fourth child. The Hendricks' log cabin was moved to this site and restored in 1978. Recorded Texas Historic Landmark—1983.
Lone Star Masonic Lodge
No. 403, A.F. & A.M.
E.M. Kohl Building

Ernst Martin Kohl (1857–1939), former German Navy captain who came to Denison in 1885, built the first floor of this structure in 1893 to house a grocery store and saloon. He added the top three floors in 1909–11 as his family’s residence. In the 1930s, this building became the Traveler’s Hotel, drawing business from the nearby railroad district. Purchased in 1968 by Mr. and Mrs. Bud Tucker, it was sold in 1975 to Dr. and Mrs. D.H. Brandt and restored by their sons, Bill, Bob, and Charles.
The Civilian Conservation Corps at Loy Lake Park

Grayson County officials became aware of a growing need for a public recreation facility for the area's approximately 65,000 residents in 1930. Three years later, the federal government agreed to create a small lake on land provided by the county. The county commission's court purchased a site 2.5 miles southwest of Denison in October 1933 and secured the services of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a federal public works program, to construct the dam and build a recreational park.

In early November, 200 men from Wisconsin who comprised CCC Company B57 arrived in Grayson County to begin construction. Many men returned home in April 1934 at the end of the six-month CCC contract. Though it was unusual to employ CCC workers in their own areas, 48 Grayson County men were enlisted to replenish the supply of workers in company B57. By 1934, the CCC men had created a recreation center with a lake, a roadway, 13 culvert bridges, six “battleship” picnic units, a baseball diamond, and a partially completed central tower of native stone.

Initially called Grayson County Park, the facility was renamed Judge Jake L. Loy State Park in 1934 in an effort to secure state assistance in completing the park. The commissioners court retrieved custody of the park in 1937 after no state maintenance had occurred. Under the supervision of the county commissioners court, the facility created by the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps program continues to be enjoyed by area citizens.
Miller’s Spring

ON HOMESITE BOUGHT OCT. 15, 1866, BY J. K. MILLER (1826-1908), THIS SPRING SUPPLIED HIS HOUSEHOLD, NEIGHBORS, TRAVELERS ON NEARBY FERRY ROAD. CIVIC-MINDED MILLER GAVE ALTERNATE BUSINESS AREA LOTS TO THE CITY OF DENISON; ALSO SITES FOR EACH EARLY CHURCH, FIRST PUBLIC SCHOOL, FOREST PARK.

(1973)
North-South Railway Connection

On December 24, 1873, a Missouri, Kansas & Texas (MKT) Railroad train carrying 100 passengers arrived here in the newly established railroad town of Denison. Its arrival marked the culmination of years of effort by the MKT to construct a rail line from the border of Kansas and the Indian Territory (Oklahoma) south to the Red River and into Texas. The MKT earned this lucrative right-of-way by being first in a national competition to construct a rail line from St. Louis south to the Indian Territory. Several months later, the unheard-of connection of the nation's first north-south rail service west of the Mississippi River was established here when a Texas Central Railroad train pulled into Denison from the south on March 10, 1873.

In a brief ceremony to commemorate the occasion, Denison Mayor J. S. Owen addressed a small crowd by reading the contents of a telegram he had dispatched to Galveston, Houston, New York, Boston, Chicago, St. Louis, and San Francisco proclaiming his town's new role as a key link in the nation's network of rail lines. With this connection, passengers and shippers could depend on continuous rail passage from the Texas Gulf Coast, where the Texas Central originated, through Denison to St. Louis, where rail linkages extended north to Chicago, east to New York, and west to San Francisco.
Site of Saint Francis Xavier Academy

Saint Francis Xavier Academy was founded in 1876 by the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, Belgium, in association with St. Patrick's Catholic Church. St. Francis Xavier Academy was the first of six Texas schools organized by the sisters. After purchasing a house, Sisters Augustine, Adelphine, Anne, and Benedictine opened their doors to 46 day students and 8 boarders, all girls, from Texas and the Indian Territory for the study of the arts, sciences, and classics. A 1901 Gothic brick edifice became the main structure of St. Francis Xavier. The Academy consolidated with the St. Patrick's School and became coeducational in 1924. St. Francis Xavier closed in 1968, and the Academy
Lake Texoma

Completed in 1944, Texoma is today the second largest lake in Texas and the eleventh largest reservoir in capacity in the United States. Its main purposes are flood control, power generation, and recreation. Lake Texoma was promoted largely through the efforts of Sam Rayburn (1882–1961), noted speaker of the House who represented District 4 in Congress for 49 years.

In normal operation, Lake Texoma covers 950 miles with the Red River Arm (45 miles) in Texas and the Washita Arm (30 miles) in Oklahoma. The water covering 93,080 acres is impounded by Denison Dam. When Texoma was created, it caused the relocation of railroads, highways, utilities, and cemeteries. Site of Preston, historically the Red River Cross for the Butterfield Stage, was submerged, as were sites of Hagerman and part of Cedar Mills, Texas.

In 1966 numerous recreation areas on Texoma drew 650,000 tourists who could also visit Eisenhower State Park at the southeast end of the lake. The lake was named in honor of Dwight D. Eisenhower, the 34th President of the United States. Texoma is one of more than 200 major inland lakes and reservoirs in Texas which contribute greatly to the economic and industrial growth of the state.
Thomas V. Munson
Home
L.A. Washington, Jr. and Wife Martha A.

L. A. WASHINGTON, JR.
AND WIFE MARTHA A.

GRANDNEPHEW OF GEORGE
WASHINGTON, WHO HAD BEEN
GUARDIAN OF L.A.'S FATHER.
WAS A DOCTOR. CAME TO TEXAS
1849 WITH INAUGURAL SUIT.
PERSONAL LETTERS OF GEORGE
WASHINGTON. WIFE CAME FROM
NOTED WEST VIRGINIA FAMILY.

RECORDED—1968
Dorchester
Dorchester School

The community of Dorchester was founded on the railroad during the early years of the twentieth century. Two one-room country schools were established to provide for the education of the children of the families who moved to the area. The Dorchester School came into being about 1907 with the consolidation of these schools.

Between 1913 and 1915, a two-story brick schoolhouse was constructed at this site. Its auditorium also served as a location for community gatherings. Under U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt's WPA program, a new school building was constructed in 1940. Its gymnasium served as athletic facility, auditorium, and social center, with the Halloween Carnival as an annual highlight.

The high school was closed in 1949, but the Dorchester School continued to provide classes for elementary grade students until consolidation with the Howe School District in 1959.

For more than 50 years, the Dorchester School played a central and vital role in the town. Some of its graduates returned to the school to become educators, and many have remained in Dorchester to become community leaders.
Gunter
Town of Gunter, on Old Gunter Ranch

GUNTER RANCH
ESTABLISHED 1880's BY JOT GUNTER, DEVELOPER OF TEXAS REAL ESTATE, PROMINENT GRAYSON COUNTY BUSINESSMAN. IN MID-1890'S HIS RANCH EXCEEDED 20,000 ACRES. GUNTER, BORN IN NORTH CAROLINA IN 1845, CAME TO TEXAS TO PRACTICE LAW AFTER HE SERVED IN CONFEDERATE ARMY. THE TOWN OF GUNTER, INCORPORATED IN 1914, WAS NAMED FOR HIM.

(1968)
Whitaker Cemetery

Pioneers in the Clayton School House Community began using this site on J.W. Whitaker's farm as a burial ground in 1866, with the interment of Joseph McLean. The settlers, who were farmers and ranchers from Mississippi and other Southern States, bought this cemetery in 1880 and continued to use it as a burial ground. In 1967 descendants of the pioneer settlers formed the Whitaker Cemetery Association to provide for the maintenance of the gravesites. The organization sponsors an annual memorial service the third Sunday in May.
Howe
Jabez and Harriet Hanning

JABEZ AND HARRIET HANING
Jabez Haning (1827-1883) came to Grayson County with his family in 1846. In the 1850s, Jabez Haning obtained a grant of 320 acres of land from the Peters Colony. His land was located about nine miles south of the town of Sherman. Harriet Campbell (1834-1880) and Jabez Haning were married in 1854 and established a farm. In 1873, the Houston & Texas Central Railway established a line south of Sherman. The route went through the Haning property, and they donated land for a town site in 1876. The town was named Howe, probably in honor of a railroad official.
Mame Roberts

THE DAUGHTER OF JAMES M. AND MARtha SUE (BAXTER) ROBERTS, MAME ROBERTS LIVED HER ENTIRE LIFE IN OR NEAR THE COMMUNITY OF HOWE, LARGELY SELF-TAUGHT, SHE WORKED AS A SUBSTITUTE TEACHER IN THE LOWER GRADES AT THE HOWE PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE EARLY 1900s BEFORE TURNING TO HER LIFE’S WORK—PROMOTING CIVIC IMPROVEMENTS AND BEAUTIFICATION.

AS THE WRITER OF A WEEKLY COLUMN IN THE HOWE MESSENGER, MAME ROBERTS PROMOTED HER HOMETOWN AND ENCOURAGED ITS BEAUTIFICATION. HER CAMPAIGN TO MAKE HOWE THE “PRETTIEST LITTLE TOWN IN TEXAS” MOTIVATED OTHER SMALL TEXAS TOWNS TO TAKE SIMILAR ACTION. A SERIES OF ARTICLES IN THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS PROVIDED STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS FOR CARRYING OUT BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS, AND SHE WAS IN GREAT DEMAND AS A SPEAKER AT GARDEN CLUB GATHERINGS THROUGHOUT THIS PART OF THE STATE. MAME’S WORK ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF LIFE MAGAZINE AND READER’S DIGEST, AND SHE WAS NAMED “WOMAN OF THE DAY” ON MAY 14, 1949, ON ELEANOR AND ANNA ROOSEVELT’S NATIONAL RADIO PROGRAM.

HOWE LODGE NO. 430, A.F. & A.M.

CONSTITUTED ON JUNE 5, 1875, THIS LODGE WAS ORGANIZED IN THE EARLY GRAYSON COUNTY COMMUNITY OF FARMINGTON (S.N. SW). MEMBERS VOTED TO MOVE THE LODGE TO HOWE IN 1887, AFTER THE EARLIER SETTLEMENT WAS BYPASS BY THE RAILROAD. IN HOWE, THE FIRST LODGE HALL WAS CONSTRUCTED ABOVE THE EARLY METHODIST CHURCH CHAPEL. LATER FACILITIES WERE BUILT AS THE LODGE GREW. PART OF ITS GROWTH CAME AS A RESULT OF A MERGER WITH THE DORCHESTER LODGE IN 1966. NUMEROUS WAR VETERANS AND CIVIC LEADERS HAVE BEEN MEMBERS HERE.

TEXAS SESQUICENTENNIAL 1836-1986
First Christian Church of Howe

In the 1840s, settlers moved to this area as part of the Peters Colony. In the early 1870s, plans for the Houston and Texas Central Railroad coming through the settlement brought new residents to the community, known as Summit. Named for railroad official F.M. Howe, the town of Howe was established circa 1872.

That same year, several residents met to organize what would become the First Christian Church of Howe. Founders and charter members included George Miller, J.A. Hughes, Henry Stevens, J.A. Matthews, W.T. Coreland, S.L. Collins, C.E. Wheat, J.M. Davis, J.C. McRee, Jim McCoy and John Grigg, and members held their first Sunday school classes and worship services in homes, schools and other buildings.

The congregation grew and purchased this site in 1893 from John W. and Minnie B. Simpson. The church, led by trustees Charlie Hanna, J.W. Bearden, and John and Frank Grigg, constructed a building on the site. The structure was one of four Protestant sanctuaries constructed in Howe during that period. Each had similar vernacular designs showing Victorian influences. Features included fishscale shingling, steep-pitched gable roofs and neo-Gothic details. The First Christian Church congregation added an annex in 1925 and later purchased a parsonage on adjoining property.

During its years as a congregation, the First Christian Church members held revivals in the churchyard and ministered and witnessed to those in the Howe community. In 1982, because of declining membership, the church disbanded, and members donated the sanctuary and site to the city, which prepared to use the facility for community purposes while maintaining a link to the community’s past.
William Whitley Wheat

William Whitley Wheat (1820-1890) was born in Alabama to Samuel and Cynthia (Stinson) Wheat. He married Cynthia Ann Maynard, and the couple came to Texas in 1842 to Peters Colony. They moved three years later to what is now Grayson County, settling and raising ten children near Farmington. Wheat was an early cattle drover to Northern markets, and he became a respected and successful farmer. He served for many years as Grayson County Commissioner in the 1870s and 1880s and was first presiding president of the Old Settlers Association of North Texas. As such, he worked to ease local tensions in the Post-Civil War Years.

Recorded - 2002
Hall Cemetery

Located on land patented by Anderson White (1833–92), on certificate issued April 23, 1850, by Peters Colony, an immigration project which had received a large land grant in this region from the Republic of Texas. Burial plot was begun Jan. 6, 1857, upon the death of White’s daughter, Sarah White Haning, wife of Aaron Haning. One week later, on Jan. 13, a second grave was added, that of Haning’s mother, Rachel Pierce Haning. In June 1857, White sold his land in the area, but reserved 2 acres surrounding the burial site, deeded April 1859 to trustees for a public cemetery.

Named for Benjamin F. Hall (1802–78), pioneer minister of the Disciples of Christ, doctor, dentist, and lawyer, who owned the White property from 1857 to 1872, and founded several churches in the region.

Among those buried here are the first settlers of this part of Grayson County, who migrated to Texas from the eastern United States, a number of veterans of the Army of the Confederacy States of America, and several rural victims of the great Sherman tornado of May 15, 1896.

Subsequent donations of land by J. D. Barnett and Lee Bivins increased the cemetery to present size by 1918.
Pilot Grove
Pilot Grove Baptist Church

This congregation traces its history to the establishment of the United Baptist Church here in 1848 on 3.5 acres of land donated by Hezakiah Warden. By 1850 the town of Pilot Grove contained the Baptist Church, a post office, Christ Hill Drugstore, several saloons, and a cotton gin. Warden donated an acre of land along Pilot Grove Creek to the Baptist Church in 1854. Pilot Grove Baptist Church was established as a mission of the United Baptist Church by elders John A. Piars, Benjamin Wilson, and George F. Calcornd and a number of other charter members in 1858.

Early worship services were held in members' homes and in a local schoolhouse until a sanctuary was built in 1876. During this time and until the early 1920s, new converts were baptized in nearby Pilot Grove Creek. According to local tradition, the original sanctuary was destroyed in a tornado and replaced with a new church building at this site in 1917. During World War II, the town of Pilot Grove began a rapid decline and today is a small rural community with only this congregation and two cemeteries remaining. Pilot Grove Baptist Church nevertheless continues a tradition of hosting social events and providing worship services for the community.
Binion Homestead

Georgia natives Thomas Noel Binion (1827-1900) and Pauline Walker Binion (1829-1915) migrated to Texas after the Civil War. They moved to the Oxford community in Grayson County where they purchased this 107-acre farm in 1872. Thomas and Pauline reared four children here: Zeph (1855-1926), Homer (1855-1926), Robert E. Lee (1869-1945), and Sarah (1872-1935). After Thomas and Pauline died, they were buried in the family cemetery northwest of their homestead. The farm was inherited by their children.

Eddie Binion became a merchant in nearby Pilot Grove, but moved back to the family homestead with his sister Sarah after the death of his wife, Eddie raised sugar cane and operated a syrup mill here from the turn of the century until the 1940s. He used mules to operate the crusher, and wood fires to cook the molasses. When fuel oil and coal were readily available in the 1920s, a piston engine replaced the mule, and coal replaced the wood fires. During the Depression years, cane continued to arrive, but money to purchase coal and fuel oil diminished. The mule was reinstated, but the Binion syrup mill was dismantled and the iron and steel sold for use in World War II.
Pilot Grove

PILOT GROVE
FOUNDED IN EARLY 1850'S ON BONHAM-MCKINNEY STAGE LINE CALLED LICK SKILLET RENAMED 1858 FOR L. DUMAS RANCH SITE OF LEE-PEACOCK FEUD 1865 BETWEEN EX-CONFEDERATE CAPT. BOB LEE AND UNION SUPPORTER J. W. PEACOCK. ALTHOUGH LEE WAS KILLED IN 1865 HIS FOLLOWERS CARRIED ON THE FIGHT UNTIL PEACOCK WAS SHOT. (1966)
Pottsboro
George R. Reeves

George R. Reeves
(JAN. 3, 1826 - SEPT. 5, 1882)

Man for whom 2600 sq. mi. west Texas County was named. Born in Tennessee. Married Jane Moore in 1844 in Arkansas. Came to Texas about 1845. Was Grayson County Tax Collector, 1848-1850; Sheriff, 1850-1854.


Recorded 1967.
Site of the Trading Post of Holland Coffee

SITE OF THE TRADING POST OF HOLLAND COFFEE

Established about 1837 for trade with the Indians of the Red River region and the Western Plains. Here many white captives of the Red Men were redeemed. From its vicinity the Snively Expedition set out for New Mexico on April 25, 1843, abandoned after Coffee's death in 1846.

Erected by the State of Texas 1936
Site of Fort Johnson

SITE OF
FORT JOHNSON

ESTABLISHED BY WILLIAM G. COOKE IN 1840 AS A PART OF THE DEFENSE OF THE MILITARY ROAD FROM RED RIVER TO AUSTIN • NAMED IN HONOR OF COLONEL FRANCIS W. JOHNSON (1799-1888) • COMMANDER OF THE TEXAS ARMY AT THE CAPTURE OF SAN ANTONIO, DECEMBER 10, 1835 • PLACE OF RENDEZVOUS FOR THE SNIVELY EXPEDITION WHICH SET OUT APRIL 25, 1843 • THE SETTLEMENT IN THE VICINITY WAS KNOWN AS GEORGETOWN

Erected by the State of Texas 1951
Pottsboro

CADD AND WICHITA INDIAN TRIBES OCCUPIED THIS AREA BEFORE ANGLO SETTLEMENT BEGAN IN THE 19TH CENTURY. AMONG THE EARLY SETTLERS WAS JAMES G. THOMPSON, WHOSE DAUGHTER, SARAH VIRGINIA, MARRIED JAMES A. POTTS (1838–1905), A CONFEDERATE VETERAN, RANCHER, AND LAND DEVELOPER WHO MOVED TO GRAYSON COUNTY IN 1868.

RECOVERING FROM A LONG CONSTRUCTION DELAY CAUSED BY THE CIVIL WAR, RAILROADS BEGAN BUILDING LINES THROUGH THIS AREA OF TEXAS IN THE LATE 1870s. JAMES AND SARAH POTTS DEEDED LAND FOR A RIGHT-OF-WAY TO THE DENISON AND PACIFIC RAILWAY, A SUBSIDIARY OF THE MISSOURI-KANSAS-TEXAS RAILROAD, IN 1878. JAMES POTTS IS CREDITED WITH DRAWING UP THE PLAT FOR THE NEW RAILROAD TOWN NAMED IN HIS HONOR. WITHIN A DECADE POTTSBORO BOASTED HOMES, CHURCHES, GENERAL STORES, GRISEYHILLS, A COTTON GIN, POST OFFICE, HOTEL, SALOON, AND SCHOOL. THE TOWN WAS INCORPORATED ON JUNE 19, 1895.

POTTSBORO SUSTAINED SERIOUS DAMAGE FROM MAJOR FIRES IN 1892, 1926, AND 1928, BUT THE CITIZENS REBUILT AND THE TOWN PROSPERED. UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTION OF PERRY ARMY AIR FIELD AND LAKE TEXOMA DURING THE 1940s BROUGHT ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS TO THE TOWN, WHICH CONTINUES TO PLAY A VITAL ROLE IN THE HISTORY OF GRAYSON COUNTY.
Preston Road/Shawnee Trail

PRESTON ROAD/SHAWNEE TRAIL

In 1840, authorized by an 1838 act of Congress of the Republic of Texas, Col. W. G. Cooke and the Texas First Infantry Regiment laid out a military road from Austin north through what became Dallas to the Holland Coffee Trading Post on Red River (later covered by Lake Texoma).

Coffee developed the town of Preston near the trading post, and Cooke’s Military Road became known as Preston Road between the Red River and Dallas. Immigrants came from Missouri and Arkansas through Indian Territory (Oklahoma) into Texas along Preston Road. In one six-week period in 1845, roughly 1,000 wagons crossed the river into Texas.

From the mid-1850s the road marked the route for Texas’ first cattle drive. Later known as the Shawnee Trail, it probably was named for a Native American village called Shawnetown north of what became Denison. Cattle swam the Red River at Rock Bluff Crossing, a natural rock formation that served as a chute into the water, later the site of the city of Sherman’s water intake station on Lake Texoma. This remained the principal route to the north for Texas cattle until the Civil War. The last large herds moved through Grayson County in 1871.

The old route remains visible at Rocky Point on Lake Texoma, and along Hanna Drive. The overall passage is followed by parts of Preston Road in Grayson County, a Farm-to-Market Road and State Highway Route 289, and Preston Road in Dallas.
HAGERMAN

IN 1904, JAMES PATILLO (J. B.) SMITH PLANTED STREETS HERE IN A 10-ACRE WHEAT FIELD, AND ESTABLISHED THE TOWN OF HAGERMAN, NAMED FOR RAILROAD ATTORNEY JAMES P. HAGERMAN. THE TOWN CONSISTED OF 250 RESIDENTS, A COTTON GIN, SCHOOL, CHURCH, POST OFFICE, RAILROAD DEPOT, AND SEVERAL BUSINESSES BY 1910. THE TOWN PROSPERED AND GREW TO CONTAIN THREE CHURCHES AND A THREE-TEACHER SCHOOL. HOWEVER, IN THE 1920s RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES BEGAN TO ABANDON THE AREA WHEN IT BECAME KNOWN THAT THE CREATION OF LAKE TEXOMA WOULD COMPLETELY INUNDATE THE TOWN. LAKE TEXOMA WAS CREATED IN 1943.
Sophia Porter

CONFEDERATE LADY PAUL REVERE
SOPHIA PORTER
(1813-1899)
SETTLED 1839 AT GLEN EDEN,
A SITE NOW UNDER LAKE TEXOMA
(N OF HERE). HER HUSBAND, EARLY
TRADER HOLLAND COFFEE, BUILT
FINE HOME. GUESTS INCLUDED
ROBERT E. LEE, ULYSSES S. GRANT,
OTHER ARMY OFFICERS, 1845-60.
DURING CIVIL WAR, WINED AND
DINED PASSING FEDERAL SCOUTS,
FOUND OUT THEY WERE SEEKING
COL. JAS. BOURLAND, CONFEDERATE
DEFENDER OF TEXAS FRONTIER.
WHILE GUESTS WERE BUSY, SHE
SLIPPED OUT, SWAM HER HORSE
ACROSS ICY RED RIVER, WARNED
COL. BOURLAND, HELPED PREVENT
FEDERAL INVASION OF NORTH TEXAS.
(1965)
Sadler
LOUIS WILMOUTH

A SAN JACINTO VETERAN • BORN IN KENTUCKY, 1806 • DIED NOVEMBER 11, 1893

HIS WIFE
ELLEN VITTITOE WILMOUTH

DIED JANUARY 22, 1896

Erected by the State of Texas 1936
Sadler United Methodist Church

First called Quillin’s Chapel, this church was organized in Sept. 1876 in a schoolhouse just west of Sadler Cemetery. The Rev. William M. Robbins (1839-1912) then served the Dexter Circuit. The founding pastor, J.P. Collier, E. L. Craven, William Jones, James Mitchell, and W.S. Robinson were the original trustees. Renamed Salem Methodist Church in 1880, the congregation became Sadler Methodist when it moved to this site in 1895. Local contractor Joe Cariker erected the present church building in 1910.
Sadler Cemetery

This land was already in use as a burial ground known as Bethlehem Cemetery when it was officially dedicated in county records in 1884. Bethlehem Church, the source of the original name, was originally across the road before the congregation disbanded. In 1884, S.M. and Maggie Lester conveyed nearly four acres to trustees R.L. Belsher, H.C. Hall, and B.S. Hackleman. The Sadler Cemetery Association was formed and the burial ground was renamed Sadler Cemetery. The cemetery was recorded in deeds "to be used by the public as a public cemetery, and for no other purposes, whatsoever." The cemetery expanded through land conveyed by R.G. and Gertrude Mood in 1917 and by Almedia Flannery in 1955 and 1966.

J.J. Sadler (1836-1923) moved here in 1870 and donated land for his namesake town; he is the only known Civil War veteran in Sadler Cemetery. A total of thirty-seven veterans have been identified, including veterans of both World Wars, the Merchant Marines, Korean War, and Vietnam War. Three known Grayson County Commissioners are also among the approximately one thousand burials. Funerary materials include granite, limestone, marble, concrete and wooden grave markers, obelisks, Masonic and Odd Fellows of the world markers are noteworthy. The Sadler Cemetery provides an invaluable record of pioneer area families, as well as beloved teachers, preachers and business and civic leaders. Still in use, the cemetery reflects the continuum of the area's history, with a clearly discernible pioneer and modern sections which help educate about the names, events and heritage of the past.

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY - 2009
MARKER IN PROPERY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS
Sherman
First Congregation of the Methodist Episcopal Church South in Sherman, Established in 1859 with the Rev. J. M. Binkley, Pastor. The church was born of labors of circuit riders who braved this frontier area even before the county was organized. The first members worshipped under a brush arbor located on what is now the Sherman Public Square.

The first permanent building, a frame structure, was erected in 1860. Located in the 300 block of South Travis Street, this building burned in 1885. For four years the congregation worshipped in the City Opera House while a brick sanctuary was being erected on the original site. This structure was occupied in 1889 and used until 1910, when a new and larger domed edifice, located at North Travis and Mulberry Streets, was occupied. For 44 years' Travis Street Methodist Church served as a focal point of Methodist activity in Sherman and north Texas.

To meet the needs of a growing congregation, the present structure was erected in 1935 (Mulberry and Elm Streets) on property once belonging to Kidd - Key College, a Methodist school. The church was named "First Methodist Church" with denominational union in 1968, it became "First United Methodist Church."
Home County of Allison Mayfield, Conservationist
Trinity United Presbyterian Church

IN THE 19TH CENTURY, PROTESTANT DENOMINATIONS BEGAN SENDING REPRESENTATIVES INTO TEXAS TO ORGANIZE NEW CHURCHES. BY 1850, THE CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAD ESTABLISHED SEVEN CONGREGATIONS IN GRAYSON COUNTY. THE FOLLOWING YEAR, THE REV. W.A. PROVINE LED SHERMAN RESIDENTS IN ORGANIZING THEIR OWN CHURCH, WHICH BEGAN MEETING IN 1852 IN THE MASONIC LODGE HALL, WHICH WAS USED BY SEVERAL LOCAL CONGREGATIONS. AFTER SUBSEQUENTLY USING SPACE AT THE METHODIST CHURCH, THE CUMBERLAND CONGREGATION CONSTRUCTED ITS OWN SANCTUARY IN 1872 ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF TRAVIS AND CHERRY STREETS. THROUGHOUT THE EARLY YEARS OF THE CHURCH’S LIFE, REGULAR REVIVALS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE.

IN 1906, AFTER ALMOST A CENTURY OF SEPARATION, THE NATIONAL CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH REJOINED THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA), AND INDIVIDUAL CONGREGATIONS WERE GIVEN THE CHOICE TO FOLLOW SUIT. THE SHERMAN CHURCH VOTED TO REJOIN BUT MAINTAINED ITS NAME, CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, UNTIL 1909, WHEN IT BECAME KNOWN AS GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. AS THE CHURCH’S MEMBERSHIP GREW, IT BUILT ADDITIONAL AND LARGER FACILITIES AT THAT SAME SITE OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL DECADES. IN 1921, THE CONGREGATION VOTED TO BE KNOWN AS CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, AND IN THE EARLY 1960s, AS THE CONGREGATION MOVED TO A NEW SITE IN NORTHWEST SHERMAN, THE NAME CHANGED AGAIN, TO TRINITY UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY, THE CONGREGATION THAT BEGAN AS SHERMAN’S CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH EMPHASIZED YOUTH, MISSION AND BENEVOLENCE PROGRAMS AT THE LOCAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS. THESE EFFORTS CONTINUED AFTER THE CHURCH UNITED IN 1995 WITH SHERMAN’S FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FORMING COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.
First Presbyterian Church

By 1870, The Presbyterian Church in the United States sent the Rev. R.E. Sherrill to organize new congregations in northeast Texas. He led a group of Sherman residents in forming a church in 1871, and by late 1874 the members had constructed a sanctuary on Travis Street, between Pecan and Mulberry Streets. Throughout the 1870s, the city of Sherman grew as a result of new rail lines through the community. The congregation, known as First Presbyterian Church, grew along with the city. By 1886, the church had established a chapel in a growing part of town, and in 1894 the congregation moved to a larger sanctuary at the corner of Travis and Mulberry.

After Austin College moved to Sherman in 1876, First Presbyterian fostered a strong relationship with its students and faculty, leading to the creation of a new congregation, the College Park Presbyterian Church, closer to campus. First Church and the school's pre-ministerial students also established a short-lived Sunday school mission in the 1940s. During the 20th century, First Church's members maintained other educational services, including kindergarten and pre-school programs, as well as foreign mission projects.

For more than a century, First Presbyterian Church grew and served its community, building new facilities as needed. The congregation developed close ties with the Trinity United Presbyterian Congregation (Sherman), with which it united in 1995, forming Covenant Presbyterian Church. Today, Covenant Presbyterian continues the programs and services established by its historic congregations in their decades of work and worship in Sherman.
Judge C.C. Binkley

Christopher Columbus Binkley came to Texas in 1852 and became a law partner of Sherman’s first mayor. He served as district judge from 1870 to 1874 and Republican national committeeman for many years. As a founder and the first president of merchants and planters’ bank, Judge Binkley was the financial leader of the county and was considered one of the most trusted and outstanding businessmen of his day. Upon his death, Judge Binkley was acknowledged as Sherman’s leading citizen.
Central Christian Church

This congregation traces its beginnings to the late 1850s, when pioneer minister Benjamin Franklin Hall came to this area to preach and organize a church. Early meeting places included a brush arbor and a union meeting house at the local Masonic Hall. A sanctuary was built in 1875 on the corner of Montgomery and Houston streets. A site on the corner of Travis and Cherry streets was acquired in 1895, and a new church structure was erected in 1905. A part of Grayson County history, this church has served the people of Sherman for over 130 years.

(1987)
Oliveann Oatman Fairchild

Olive Ann Oatman Fairchild (1837-1903)

Captured in Arizona at age 13 (1851) by Yavapai Indians, who massacred 6 members of family. Sold to Mojave Indians, she was treated kindly but bore mark of a slave—blue, cactus needle tattoo on chin—for rest of life. Ransomed by Army at Fort Yuma, 1856. Lived in California, then New York. There she married J.B. Fairchild in 1865. About 1872 moved to Sherman, where husband founded city bank. Resided in Sherman until death in 1903.

Recorded 1970
Friendship Methodist Church

FRIENDSHIP METHODIST CHURCH. ORGANIZED 1867 IN LOG SCHOOLHOUSE. IN 1892 BUILT FIRST SANCTUARY; SECOND, 1914; ADDED GRAVES RECREATION HALL 1958.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK—1967
Odd Fellow’s Hall
St. Mary’s Catholic Church

The first recorded mass in Sherman took place in 1872, and three years later Bishop Claude Dubuis of the Diocese of Galveston created a parish here and sent the Rev. Louis Granger to serve as first pastor. A wooden chapel housed worship services until this church building was completed in 1906. St. Mary’s is an excellent example of the work of noted Galveston architect Nicholas Clayton, who included Gothic and Romanesque elements in his design. Built by contractor William Cornish & Sons, the church is a significant part of Sherman’s architectural heritage.
The Rev. John Silliman Moore

Born in Mississippi in 1840, John Silliman Moore attended college in Georgia before serving in the Civil War, where he was wounded at Seven Pines, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. In 1870, after graduating from the Presbyterian Seminary in Columbia, South Carolina, he pastored churches in Jefferson, Tyler, McKinney and then Sherman, Texas, where he led the first Presbyterian church from 1879 until his death in 1903. He sat on Austin College's Board of Trustees from c. 1875 to 1902, helping relocate the school from Huntsville to Sherman.

John Silliman Moore
1840 - 1903
Pastor First Presbyterian Church, Sherman, Tex.
1879 - 1903
Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors and their works do follow them.
Federal Building
(United States Courthouse)

FEDERAL BUILDING
(UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE)

After the Sherman Division of the Federal District Court for the Eastern District of Texas was established in 1902, plans were made to construct this building to serve the court and the postal service. U. S. Treasury Department Supervising Architect John Knox Taylor designed this Spanish Colonial Revival-Beaux Arts Style building, located in the commercial center in close proximity to the rail station. The structure was completed in early 1907 at a cost of $140,000. With its terra cotta roof tiles, faux balconies, wrought iron grillwork, lamp brackets at both entrances, and two eagles overlooking the main entry, it was an imposing edifice and a significant addition to Sherman's downtown environment.

In addition to the Federal Court, the building has housed local offices of other federal agencies, including the Selective Service Administration, Internal Revenue Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, General Services Administration, and the departments of agriculture, labor and defense. From 1907 to 1963, the U. S. Postal Service occupied the entire first floor. The original design of the building has remained essentially unchanged except for the first floor, which was remodeled when the post office moved in 1963.
Andrew Hanson

Andrew Hanson (1835-1940)

Owned Sherman's first bakery for 35 years. Born in Schleswig-Holstein, Denmark. Came to United States, 1872, and to Texas, 1878. With F.W. Boedeker (whose interest he soon bought) started the Star Bakery, 1879. Had first delivery service. First commercially made ice cream in town. Built family residences at two midtown sites. Married (1880) Anna Lundorf; had 4 children. His father, mother, and brothers came from Denmark to join him. All are buried here.

Recorded - 1972

Hanson

Anna 1855-1915
Andrew 1855-1940
Hendrix Cemetery

A native of North Carolina, John Hendrix (1788-1854) came to Texas in 1846 with his wife, Ruth (Strader), (1804-1882), their children, and seven other families. Their first camp in the area is marked by a large boulder in this cemetery. Hendrix ran successful farming and nursery operations and became a prominent and influential citizen of Grayson County.

Shortly after his arrival, Hendrix established this cemetery located on land he acquired after his settlement here. The one-acre burial ground eventually was expanded to Grayson County. The first known burial at the cemetery of M. and D. Perdue took place in 1849; John and Ruth Hendrix are buried here as is their son Jolin Tompkins and daughter Nancy Hendrix Winstead.

There are approximately forty-five marked graves in the Hendrix Cemetery; many date from the last half of the nineteenth century and some are fully illegible. Inscriptions. An unmarked section in the northwest corner of the graveyard was reserved for slave burials.

Used for more than one hundred years by Hendrix family relatives and descendants, close friends, and associates. The cemetery is a significant reminder of early Grayson County history.
Capt. John Henry LeTellier


Received several wounds, one serious (at Plymouth). Resumed teaching at end of war. Came to Texas and operated the Sherman private school, 1871-1913.

A dynamic teacher and expert in math, he taught many persons who later rose to prominence.

Capt. J. H. LeTellier
1842 — 1913
Butterfield Overland Mail Route

Butterfield Overland Mail Route Through Grayson County

In the mid-19th century, mail traffic between the Eastern United States and the Western States and Territories was accomplished via Panama and Cape Horn. In 1857, Congress authorized the Postmaster to contract a new Overland Mail Service. The successful bidder for the Southern Route was John Butterfield, who agreed to convey mail twice weekly in 25 days per run. The "Oxbow Trail" originated at St. Louis, Missouri, and Memphis, Tennessee, then merged at Fort Smith, Arkansas. The stagecoaches traveled through Indian Territory (later Oklahoma) and across northern Texas to Tucson, Arizona, and on to Los Angeles and San Francisco, California, traveling 2,795 miles from St. Louis.

The trail entered Grayson County by crossing the Red River at Colbert's Ferry and proceeding into Sherman. It crossed the county toward Gainesville in Cooke County, en route to Franklin (later El Paso). The citizens of Sherman are credited with especially courting the mail route to use Colbert's Ferry instead of entering Texas near Preston (8 mi. upriver). Sherman became a distribution point in 1858, bringing mail service to Texas settlements.

Waterman L. Ormsby of the New York Herald was the first through passenger on the Butterfield Trail in September 1858. He described Sherman as "a pleasant little village of about six hundred inhabitants," and chronicled the remainder of his trip across Grayson County, writing "our course lay across a fine rolling prairie, covered with fine grass,...The beautiful moonlight lit up the vast prairies making its sameness appear like the boundless sea and its hills like the rolling waves." The Southern Route was terminated in March 1861. The course of the trail is still visible in a number of locations in Grayson County.
Old Sherman Public Library

Old Sherman Public Library

A Subscription Library was established in Sherman in 1901 and housed in a rented room. In 1911, the city submitted a request to the Andrew Carnegie Foundation, and received $20,000 for a library. This lot was purchased in 1912 for $2,500, and plans were drawn for a structure of simplified Beaux-Arts styling by the local architect John Tulloch (1860-1947). The building served as a library from 1915 until 1973. Of note are the three interior murals, completed in 1934. Recorded Texas Historic Landmark - 1966.

Lee Simmons

Ran for sheriff at request of citizens of Denison, elected in 1912 and served two years.

Was appointed by Governor Pat Neff to special commission in 1920's to inspect Texas prison system named by Governor Dan Moody to prison board. 1928, in 1930 became general manager of prison system, where he made an outstanding record.

Organized prison rodeo, died before completing autobiography, "Assignment Huntsville."

Lee Simmons

Sept. 9, 1873

Oct. 12, 1957
WASHINGTON IRON WORKS, INC.

IN 1875, SOLON TOTTEN (1845-1922), MADE TWO HORSEBACK TRIPS TO TEXAS FROM QUINCY, ILLINOIS, SEARCHING FOR BETTER CONDITIONS FOR THE FAMILY BLACKSMITH BUSINESS. FINDING STAGE COMPANIES OPERATING OUT OF SHERMAN WHICH REQUIRED BLACKSMITH SERVICES, HE PERSUADED HIS FATHER AND FAMILY TO MOVE HERE. IN 1876, SOLON AND HIS BROTHER LEVI TOTTEN (1844-1916) OPENED "TOTTEN BROS. BLACKSMITH" ON CHERRY STREET. THE BUSINESS MADE WHEELS FOR FREIGHT WAGONS AND STAGECOACHES AND REPAIRED THE VEHICLES.


THE FOUNDRY SECTION CLOSED IN 1938. DURING WORLD WAR II, THE SHOP MADE GUN BARREL MOLDS. THIS INDUSTRY, THE OLDEST IN SHERMAN, HAS EXPANDED TO A WORLDWIDE SERVICE FOR OIL AND GAS PROCESSING, PETROCHEMICAL PLANTS, POWER GENERATION AND MARINE INTERESTS.

(1976)
Born near Fair Dealing, Kentucky, Mita Holsapple moved with her family to Sherman as a child and graduated from Mary Nash College. Wed to Hugh E. Hall in 1919, she organized the first Camp Fire Girls group in Sherman two years later. For the next 44 years, her commitment to the Camp Fire movement endeared her to the young women of Sherman and led to local, district and national leadership positions and honors in the organization. In addition to numerous other civic and cultural activities, she co-authored a history of Grayson County for the Texas Centennial in 1936.

Recorded - 2002
Old Cedar Community

Settled in 1848 by Grayson County Pioneers, who reclaimed land from wilderness, raiding Indians, and hardships of frontier life soon created need for a cemetery, established the same year. The plots were free to any person. Many noted settlers are buried here, including one Union and 18 Confederate veterans of the Civil War. Of some 400 graves, half are marked.

After Community was well established, a school—Cedar Academy—was organized in 1871. D. H. Dumas gave the land for a 5-acre campus. Enrollment reached 79 in 1892. Here, besides the usual subjects, students learned how to make ink and split goose-quills for pens. Later, name was changed to Cedar High School. It merged with the Tom Bean District in 1937.

Cedar Methodist Church was organized in 1871. The congregation worshipped in a log house on property deeded by J. W. Vestal and Col. J. R. Cole. A half mile south of Church on Whitney-Mound-Cedar Road, a 7-acre tract donated by Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Carr was used as camp ground for revivals. Each summer people would come for miles, pitch their tents there, and attend services under a brush arbor. A frame church built in 1891 was destroyed by a tornado in 1960. The present structure was dedicated October, same year.
Jesse P. Loving

Missouri native Jesse "Jess" P. Loving came to Texas with his family in 1847. They settled first near relatives in Denton County, and moved to Sherman in Grayson County in 1852. Loving married Lydia Ellen Bomar in 1859. A Confederate veteran, he became a prominent civic leader, serving multiple terms as county treasurer and state representative. In 1879 Loving was the driving force behind the establishment of the Old Settlers Association of Grayson County. Jesse and Lydia Loving were charter members of the Houston Street Christian Church and were the parents of nine children.

Recorded - 2000
PETER W. GRAYSON

Peter Wagener Grayson was born in 1788 in Bardstown, Virginia (later part of Kentucky) to Benjamin and Caroline (Taylor) Grayson, members of a politically prominent family. He served in the war of 1812 and worked in Louisville as an attorney, businessman and legislator. Well-spoken in legal matters and also a poet, he nevertheless amassed substantial debts and privately combated mental illness. In 1830, Grayson wrote to Stephen F. Austin about acquiring land in Texas, and by 1832 he had established a plantation near Matagorda. He also became a friend and advisor to Austin.

During Austin's imprisonment in Mexico City in 1834, Grayson and Spencer Jack went there with petitions in hopes of freeing the empresario. In December 1834, they secured Austin's bail, although he was not free to leave until the following summer. Settlers began preparations for revolution soon after Austin returned to Texas, and Grayson worked with him to outline an independent government. Grayson also served as President of the Council of War and aide-de-camp to both Austin and Gen. Edward Burleson. After Texas' victory at San Jacinto on April 21, 1836, Grayson acted as interpreter and Attorney General, signing the treaties of Velasco on May 14, 1836.

Grayson went with others to Washington, D.C. to gain recognition of the Texas Republic and discuss annexation to the United States, but the efforts were unsuccessful. He served as Texas Attorney General and as naval agent, and was Sam Houston's candidate for the Texas presidency in 1838. On July 9 of that year, though, while traveling through Tennessee, Grayson took his life, leaving a note that his previous mental illness had returned. In 1846, following the eventual annexation of Texas to the United States, the Texas Legislature created Grayson County, naming it for the Texas patriot.
Grayson County, C.S.A
LYON HOUSE

METZ HOUSE

EDWARD METZ (1854-1913) CAME TO TEXAS FROM MICHIGAN AS A YOUNG MAN TO JOIN HIS BROTHER, CHARLES, IN A LEATHER GOODS BUSINESS. IN THE 1870S, THEY BUILT A PROFITABLE TRADE, BUYING BUFFALO Hides AND OTHER FURS FROM INDIAN TRIBES IN OKLAHOMA TO SELL TO EASTERN MARKETS. METZ IS CREDITED WITH HELPING KEEP PEACE BETWEEN THE INDIANS AND SETTLERS IN GRAYSON COUNTY. IN 1883 HE BUILT THIS HOUSE, WITH VICTORIAN FISH SCALE SIDING, AS A PRESENT FOR HIS BRIDE, LILLIAN (CRAYCROFT). OCCUPIED FROM 1909 TO 1939 BY PROMINENT LOCAL PHYSICIAN DR. J. D. MEADOW, IT WAS RESTORED IN 1975-76 BY BYRON RICE (b. 1957).

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK-1978

Metz House
Grayson Bible Baptist Church

ON THE EVENING OF MONDAY, JUNE 22, 1931, JOHN R. RICE BEGAN A REVIVAL SERVICE ON THE GRAYSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE SQUARE. THE REVIVAL TOOK PLACE WHERE THE 1870s COURTHOUSE HAD STOOD THAT BUILDING WAS BURNED TO THE GROUND IN MAY 1930 DURING MOB VIOLENCE THAT CAUSED THE DEATH OF AN AFRICAN AMERICAN MAN WHO HAD BEEN ACCUSED OF A CRIME. BUSINESSES AND HOMES OF AFRICAN AMERICAN RESIDENTS WERE ALSO DESTROYED.


THE CHURCH HAS CHANGED LOCATIONS SEVERAL TIMES THROUGH THE YEARS, AND THE CURRENT STRUCTURE WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 2005 ON EAST HIGHWAY 82. DURING THE LATE 1940s THE CHURCH'S NAME CHANGED TO CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, AND AGAIN CHANGED IN 1973 TO GRAYSON BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH. THE CHURCH HAS ACTIVELY SUPPORTED MISSION WORK AND OUTREACH. DURING THE 1950s A CHURCH BUS WAS SENT TO NEARBY PERRIN AIR FORCE BASE TO BRING SOLDIERS TO CHURCH SERVICES. GRAYSON CHRISTIAN ACADEMY WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1973 AS AN OUTREACH MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH.
Sherman Little Theater
(The Sherman Community Players)
Jacob Monroe Binkley came to Texas from Tennessee in 1852. Before being licensed to preach in 1855 he was an effective orator for the cause of temperance. In 1859 he organized and was first pastor of the church later known as First United Methodist Church of Sherman. From 1865 until his death, the Rev. Mr. Binkley was a Methodist presiding elder, retaining his Sherman residence. A strong supporter of education, he was board chairman at Southwestern University and Kidd-Key College.
Fred Douglass School


FIRE PLAGUED THE FRED DOUGLASS SCHOOL; IN 1904 AND AGAIN IN 1919 THE WOOD BUILDINGS WERE DESTROYED. IN 1920 A THREE-STORY BRICK STRUCTURE WAS ERECTED AT THE CORNER OF COLLEGE AND EAST STREETS. THE SCHOOL GREW RAPIDLY, AND BY 1939 PLANS FOR EXPANSION WERE NECESSARY. IN 1943, EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS BEGAN TO TAKE PLACE. MORE FACULTY MEMBERS HAD ADVANCED DEGREES AND THE CURRICULUM WAS EXPANDED TO INCLUDE AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY, BUSINESS AND VOCATIONAL COURSES. A NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY CHAPTER WAS FORMED, AND THE SPORTS PROGRAM WAS EXPANDED.

A MODERN BUILDING WAS ERECTED IN 1957; TEN YEARS LATER, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT BECAME FULLY INTEGRATED, AND THE FRED DOUGLASS SCHOOL BECAME THE DISTRICT'S SPECIAL EDUCATION FACILITY. IN THE LATE 20TH CENTURY IT REMAINED THE CENTER FOR A VARIETY OF PROGRAMS FOR ALL SHERMAN STUDENTS.
The Great Sherman Storm of 1896

In the late afternoon of Friday, May 15, 1896, a disastrous tornado swept Sherman, killing about 66 persons, injuring many others, and causing severe property damage. The twister touched down near here, then cut a 2-mile-long path through the city. The same funnel and several smaller ones struck at other locations in the area. Most of the storm’s victims were buried in this cemetery. After the tragedy, citizens of Sherman and neighboring towns helped with the rebuilding, and relief contributions were sent from many distant places.
Courthouse of Grayson County

From pioneer log cabins to a native Texas limestone structure, Grayson County courthouses have taken many shapes and sizes since the county’s establishment in 1846. The first courthouse, a frame building on Bald Prairie a few miles west of the current county seat, was completed in 1847 for a cost of $220. It served for one year, until Sherman was relocated to this site, and the commissioners' court ordered the construction of a log cabin on the southeast corner of the square. Neither it, nor the third courthouse—a two-story frame building on the north side of the square, nor the 1853 brick fourth courthouse were in service for any substantial period of time. An 1859 courthouse, intended to provide the county with a large and structurally sound facility, fell into disuse by the early 1870s.

Thus, by the time the Houston & Texas Central Railroad reached Sherman in 1873, Grayson County had seen five courthouses in fewer than 40 years. The coming of the railroad was a boon to the local economy, and the availability of better building materials led to the construction of the majestic 1876 courthouse—a two-story edifice with tower supporting a cupola containing a clock and a bell—which served the county until it burned in 1930. Due to the depression, it was six years before the current limestone courthouse was built, in part with federal grants and loans. As centers of politics and government, Grayson County’s seven courthouses have played a significant role in the county’s history.
Austin College

Oldest college in Texas operating under original charter. Founded in 1849 by the Presbytery of Brazos under leadership of Daniel Baker. Named for Stephen F. Austin, father of Texas. Opened in Huntsville with Sam Houston, Anson Jones, and Henderson Yoakum — Texas statesmen among original trustees. Bell donated by Houston hangs in present chapel. For years competence in Greek and Latin was required for admittance.

In 1856 opened the first law school in state, and became the first college in Texas to award graduate degrees in 1856. Had the first chapter in Texas of any national fraternity (Phi Delta Theta). Remained open during Civil War although most students joined Confederate Army. Post-war problems and epidemics caused move to Sherman in 1876. Oldest building is Luckett Hall (1903), the first building on this campus having been destroyed by arson in 1913.

Erected first college Y.M.C.A. building west of the Mississippi River, 1911. In World War I, cooperated with the student army training corps and admitted first coeds. In World War II, aided army air training corps. Founded to serve youth of pioneer families, college now enrolls students from all over the world and is a leader in creative Christian liberal arts education.
THOMAS JEFFERSON SHANNON

THOMAS J. SHANNON CAME TO TEXAS IN 1839 AND SETTLED IN WHAT BECAME GRAYSON COUNTY IN 1845. ELECTED FIRST GRAYSON COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE TO THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE, HE WORKED FOR RELOCATION OF THE COUNTY SEAT TO THE PRESENT SITE OF SHERMAN. SHANNON EARNED THE NAME "FATHER OF SHERMAN" AFTER DONATING LAND FOR THE TOWNSITE. HIS DAUGHTER JULIA NAMED THE FIRST STREETS. A PIONEER STOCKMAN, SHANNON IMPORTED DURHAM CATTLE, A GIFT FROM QUEEN VICTORIA, IN 1848.  

RECORDED 1983

BY MEMORY OF

COL. T. J. SHANNON;  
BORN, IN WARREN CO., KY.,  
JAN. 17, A.D. 1808;  
DIED, LEB., IS A D N. 1.

I was the dear husband of Ros. A. Emma's mother, as it were;  
And I should have thought that more,  
And I should have thought that more.  
Oh, these tears can adjust them,  
And God hath stored them, all away.  
In their heart's core, then, then.

[Emblem: Cross and Shield] 

TEXAS
KENTUCKY NATIVE JOHN HUMPHREYS REYNOLDS SERVED AS A METHODIST CIRCUIT RIDER IN TENNESSEE, WHERE HE MARRIED AND BEGAN A FAMILY IN 1879. HE MOVED HIS MINISTRY TO TEXAS, WORKING TO SERVE CHURCHES IN THE NORTH CENTRAL PART OF THE STATE. IN SHERMAN, HE ORGANIZED THE WILLOW STREET METHODIST CHURCH, LATER NAMED KEY MEMORIAL FOR BISHOP J.S. KEY. REYNOLDS SERVED AS PASTOR TO NUMEROUS AREA CONGREGATIONS AND PREACHED WELL INTO HIS NINETIES. KNOWN AFFECTIONATELY AS UNCLE JOHNNY, HE WAS A SUPPORTER OF TEMPERANCE AND EDUCATION, AND WAS A 32ND DEGREE MASON.

RECORDED - 2004

A.F.C. REYNOLDS
MAR. 24, 1835
OCT. 8, 1914

REV. J.H. REYNOLDS
AUG. 1, 1832
FEB. 16, 1927
Kidd-Key College and Music Conservatory

Established in 1876 as North Texas Female College, a finishing school for young ladies and operated by North Texas Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South.

Rechartered in 1919 as Kidd-Key College and Music Conservatory, renamed in memory of the famed educator Mrs. Lucy Ann Kidd-Key, school president 1888 to 1916.

Educational program emphasized music, literature, and the fine arts. Through its many students and excellent faculty, Kidd-Key exerted strong cultural influence on the Sherman area as well as much of the nation.

(1967)
President T. Roosevelt’s Visit to Grayson County

ONE OF THE MOST FESTIVE EVENTS IN SHERMAN’S EARLY HISTORY, THEODORE ROOSEVELT’S 1905 APPEARANCE HERE MARKED THE FIRST VISIT OF A PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO GRAYSON COUNTY.

TRAVELING TO SAN ANTONIO TO ATTEND A REUNION OF THE “ROUGH RIDERS”—HIS SPECIAL TROOPS IN THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR—ROOSEVELT STOPPED FIRST IN DENISON ON THAT SAME DAY, APRIL 5, AND WAS THERE PRESENTED WITH A TEXAS-SHAPED FLORAL PIECE FROM EXCITED YOUNGSTERS. HIS TRAIN PROCEEDED THEN TO SHERMAN, WHERE A RECORD CROWD OF 35,000 HAD COME BY BUGGY, HORSE, AND SPECIAL TRAINS FROM AS FAR AS 17.5 MILES TO SEE HIM. LED BY A UNIT OF ROUGH RIDERS, ROOSEVELT AND HIS PARTY RODE UP THE BANNER-DECKED STREETS IN NINE HANDSOME CARRIAGES. PASSING BETWEEN LINES OF UNION AND CONFEDERATE CIVIL WAR VETERANS, THEY ARRIVED AT THE SPEAKER’S STAND AMID LOUD APPLAUSE. HERE (AT THIS CORNER) HE SPOKE FOR 15 MINUTES, PRAISING TEXAS AS “ONE OF TWO OR THREE GREATEST STATES IN THE UNION.” HE EMPHASIZED HIS OWN HERITAGE FROM THE SOUTH AND THE NORTH AND HIS DELIGHT IN NATIONAL REUNIFICATION.

WITHIN AN HOUR ROOSEVELT LEFT FOR DALLAS, HAVING PROVIDED FOR THE PEOPLE OF THIS AREA ONE OF THE MOST MEMORABLE OCCASIONS IN THEIR LIVES.
MATTIE DAVIS LUCAS
JANUARY 12, 1869 - OCTOBER 27, 1936

MARTHA ORA "MATTIE" DAVIS WAS BORN IN MISSISSIPPI AND MOVED TO TEXAS AS AN INFANT. SHE EARNED A TEACHING CERTIFICATE IN 1884 AND IN 1889 MARRIED WILLIAM H. LUCAS. ACTIVE IN CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS AND WOMEN'S CLUBS, MATTIE SPEARHEADED MANY CIVIC IMPROVEMENTS IN GRAYSON COUNTY, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CARNEGIE LIBRARY, HOME FRONT WAR WORK, AND THE COLLECTION AND PRESERVATION OF LOCAL HISTORY. HER EFFORTS TO COMMEMORATE THE TEXAS CENTENNIAL RESULTED IN THE PLACEMENT OF SEVERAL HISTORICAL MARKERS. SHE CO-AUTHORED THE FIRST HISTORY OF GRAYSON COUNTY, PUBLISHED HER DEATH IN 1936.

MATTIE DAVIS LUCAS
1869 — 1936
Carr-Taliferro House
Grayson County

In the mainstream of Texas history for more than a century this area was, in 1835, the site of Colonel Holland Coffee’s trading post, a landmark structure at the Preston Bend crossing of the Red River.

It was a focal point beginning in 1845, for settlers of the important Peters Colony. In 1848 the county was created from part of Fannin County by the 1st State Legislature. It was named for Peter W. Grayson, who immigrated to Texas in 1829, served in the Texas Revolution, and was attorney general in the Republic.

Also in 1849 the county was organized and Sherman was made county seat. The original townsite was 14 miles W of here. It was moved to its present location in 1849. Honors of the town name was Colonel Sidney Sherman, a hero of the battle of San Jacinto. The place is distinguished for having had at least five courthouses and for its superior schools of the 19th century. It was once known as the ‘Athens of Texas’.

In 1858, the famous Butterfield Trail crossed the county and in the same period and later, a number of cattle trails and early railroads traversed the area.

Today Lake Texoma, created 1939-1944, is a county tourist attraction. The Sherman-Grayson region was named a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, 1960.
TENNESSEE NATIVE THOMAS RANDOLPH CAME TO GRAYSON COUNTY WITH HIS FAMILY IN 1859. GROOMED TO BE A BUSINESSMAN, HE WAS INVITED AT AGE 19 TO JOIN C. C. BINKLEY AT THE MERCHANTS AND PLANTERS BANK, WHICH GREW INTO A VERY PROSPEROUS AND INFLUENTIAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTION. RANDOLPH SERVED AS BANK PRESIDENT FROM 1886 UNTIL HIS DEATH. IN THAT CAPACITY, HE HELPED ATTRACT NEW INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS TO SHERMAN, AND WORKED TO ESTABLISH THE CITY’S FIRST HOSPITAL. HE ALSO SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF THE NATIONAL BANK OF COMMERCE OF ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, BUT ALWAYS CONSIDERED SHERMAN HIS HOME.

RECORDED - 2002
JAMES NELSON DICKSON
(1890-1986)

BORN AND EDUCATED IN GRAYSON COUNTY, JAMES NELSON DICKSON BEGAN HIS LONG ASSOCIATION WITH COUNTY GOVERNMENT IN 1914 AS DEPUTY TAX ASSESSOR. FOLLOWING A 1930 COURTHOUSE FIRE, HE WORKED TO REPLACE DESTROYED RECORDS, INCLUDING IMPORTANT SCHOOL BOND PAPERS. IN 1945, THE COMMISSIONERS COURT NAMED HIM TO FILL AN UNEXPIRED TERM AS COUNTY JUDGE, A POSITION HE HELD THROUGH SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS UNTIL 1962. UPON RETIREMENT, HE DEVOTED HIS EFFORTS TO THE PROMOTION OF LOCAL HERITAGE THROUGH MUSEUMS, EVENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS, AND COMPILED A HISTORY OF GRAYSON COUNTY SCHOOLS.

RECORDED - 2005

DICKSON

J. N. (JIM)
OCT. 24. 1890
APR. 5, 1986

MARRIED
OCT. 19. 1916

CALLIE M.
JAN. 15. 1893
APR. 16. 1965
Site of Old Sherman Opera House

Formerly a 3-story Victorian structure with twin cupolas. Built by Capt. L. F. Ely, who made the bricks in his city factory. Lavish interior had carpeted aisles, damask curtains and red plush seats. Benches in economy section were called the "Buzzard Roost." From its completion (1881) until closing (1918), it helped make Sherman a cultural center. First show was operetta "The Mikado." Also given here were Shakespearean plays, musical reviews, temperance lectures and trained animal acts.

Remodeled (1961) for commercial use. Original bricks remain.
Travis Lodge No. 117, A.F. & A.M.
Site of Binkley Hotel

In the 1870s, a joint stock company was organized to construct a hotel in Sherman. One of the largest stockholders was Judge C.C. Binkley, a community leader for whom the hotel would be named. Binkley was also president of the merchants and planters (M & P) Bank, established in Sherman in 1872.

The first two hotels at this site burned, and the second fire was reportedly set to cover an attempted robbery. The next hotel was built by the Sherman Hotel Company and operated by bank president C.B. Dorchester. The bank, then the Merchants and Planters National Bank, served farmers, ranchers, counties, and Indian tribes, becoming a financial hub for Texas and Oklahoma, and the close ties between bank and hotel attracted and accommodated business in the growing community. The Sherman Opera House, which brought in touring dramatic companies, added to the list of popular and prominent men and women who visited the hotel. Ladies would enter on the north, at the carriage entrance, and avoid passing the bar on their way to receptions in the dining room of the three-story hotel. Former President William Howard Taft visited Sherman in 1919 and spoke briefly from a wrought-iron balcony on the hotel's north side.

The hotel's name changed to Texas Hotel in 1947. The third and final Binkley Hotel building burned in 1967. During its many decades of operation, the business contributed to Sherman's development. The hotel, bank, and opera house together formed a unique, functionally integrated business, civic, and cultural complex. The hotel served the many guests of the bank and opera house and was a popular spot for travelers as well as local residents.
Ninth Texas Cavalry

THE NINTH TEXAS CAVALRY CONSISTED OF ABOUT 1,000 MOUNTED VOLUNTEERS FROM GRAYSON, TARRANT, HUNT, HOPKINS, CASS, RED RIVER, TITUS, AND LAMAR COUNTIES. THEY GATHERED ABOUT 15 MILES NORTHWEST OF HERE AT BROGDON'S SPRINGS ON OCTOBER 2, 1861, AND WERE MUSTERED INTO CONFEDERATE SERVICE UNDER COLONEL WILLIAM B. SIMS.

UNDER COLONEL SIMS THE NINTH CAVALRY SAW CONSIDERABLE ACTION IN THE INDIAN TERRITORY OF PRESENT-DAY OKLAHOMA BEFORE JOINING GENERAL BEN McCULLOCH'S ARMY IN ARKANSAS IN LATE JANUARY 1862. COLONEL SIMS WAS WOUNDED DURING THE BATTLE OF PEA RIDGE IN MARCH 1862 AND LT. COLONEL WILLIAM QUAYLE TOOK COMMAND.

THE NINTH CAVALRY NUMBERED 857 MEN IN LATE SPRING 1862 WHEN THEY MARCHED TO MISSISSIPPI TO JOIN THE THIRD, SIXTH, AND TWENTY-SEVENTH TEXAS CAVALRY UNITS AND FORMED A CAVALRY BRIGADE UNDER THE COMMAND OF LAWRENCE S. ROSS. FOR 15 MONTHS ROSS' BRIGADE SAW ALMOST CONTINUAL ACTION IN MISSISSIPPI, ALABAMA, TENNESSEE, AND GEORGIA, THEY PARTICIPATED IN THE ASSAULT THAT CAPTURED AND BURNED THE FEDERAL GUNBOAT 'PETREL' IN 1864, BY NOVEMBER 1864 THE NINTH CAVALRY CONSISTED OF ONLY 110 MEN. ROSS' BRIGADE SURRENDERED TO FEDERAL TROOPS AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, ON MAY 4, 1865. VETERANS OF ROSS' BRIGADE FORMED AN ASSOCIATION IN 1878.
ROBERTS HOUSE

CONNECTICUT NATIVE CHARLES NATHAN ROBERTS (1836-1920) MOVED TO ARKANSAS PRIOR TO THE CIVIL WAR. HE SERVED AS A CAPTAIN IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY, AND AFTER THE WAR HE MARRIED EMMA ROYSTON. BY 1876 THEY HAD MOVED TO SHERMAN, WHERE ROBERTS ESTABLISHED A RETAIL HARDWARE BUSINESS, PURCHASED THIS PROPERTY, AND BUILT A SMALL COTTAGE FOR HIS FAMILY.

AS ROBERTS' BUSINESS PROSPERED AND EXPANDED INTO THE WHOLESALE MARKET, HE BECAME ACTIVE IN CIVIC AFFAIRS, SERVING ON THE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD AND THE AUSTIN COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. BOTH HE AND EMMA WERE ACTIVE LAY LEADERS IN SHERMAN'S FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. IN 1896 THEY HIRER THE ARCHITECTURAL FIRM OF MOAD AND ELLIOTT TO DESIGN A NEW HOME TO REPLACE THEIR COTTAGE ON THIS SITE.


RECORDS TELL OF SHERMAN HISTORIC LANDMARK - 1952
Sherman Manufacturing Company

Sherman Seamless Bag Mill was founded here in 1891 to serve the cotton industry of North Central Texas. Elected to Board of Directors on March 16, 1891, were C.A. Andrews, Edward Eastburn, W.C. Eubank, Thomas Forbes, J.B. Jaques, J.C. Jones, Tom Randolph, R.E. Raney, and J.C. Tassey to serve as Chairman.

Elegant cornerstone was shipped from Cromwell, Mass., to go into the original structure, suffering from financial problems during those early years, the plant operated and closed intermittently.


Cornerstone of original building opened 1891, closed old coins, 1891, newspaper timetable for trains to Indian Territory (now State of Oklahoma), saloon tokens and menu from Binkley Hotel Coffee Shop.

A portion of the original structure remains as a useful part of this modern plant.

Through Burlington's international organization, products made here are sold in market places throughout the world.
Masonic Temple
1924

1924 MASONIC TEMPLE
TRAVIS LODGE NO. 117, A.F. & A.M.,
WAS CHARTERED IN 1852. THIS SITE
WAS ACQUIRED IN 1916, ALTHOUGH
THIS CLASSICAL REVIVAL TEMPLE
WAS NOT BUILT UNTIL 1924. DESIGNED
BY LOCAL ARCHITECTS JOHN TULLOCH
AND THE FIRM OF CLYCE & ROLFE, THE
BUILDING FEATURES GIANT ORDER
COLUMNS AND PORTICO, FIFTEEN OVER
FIFTEEN WINDOWS, AND A SEGMENTAL
ARCH ENTRY PEDIMENT. IT REMAINED
THE HEADQUARTERS FOR THE MASONIC
LODGE UNTIL 1985.
RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 1986
Perrin Air Force Base

Plans began in early 1941 for a U.S. Army Air Corps installation to be located in Grayson County. This 1,160-acre site was acquired in June, and Air Corps personnel began arriving in August. The base was to serve as a basic flight training facility. During its construction, the U.S. was drawn into World War II following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7. The first class of flight students, which arrived on December 16, graduated in February 1942 in ceremonies which included the dedication of the base in memory of Lt. Col. Elmer D. Perrin, a Texas test pilot killed in the line of duty in 1941.

Pilots trained here served in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. Their airplanes ranged from basic trainers of the 1940s to jets of the 1960s and 1970s. The presence of the air base became important in the life of Grayson County, creating jobs and boosting the local economy. Following the death in 1961 of Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, many dignitaries, including the President and Vice President, arrived here and were transported by base personnel to the funeral in nearby Fannin County.

Partly because of increased air traffic in the area, Perrin Air Force Base was closed in 1971.
Saint John Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

THIS CHURCH, ORGANIZED IN 1875 AS SAINT JOHN CHRISTIAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL (CME) CHAPEL, HELD ITS INITIAL SERVICES IN A SANCTUARY LOCATED IN A LOCAL COMMUNITY OF FREEDMEN KNOWN AS "BRUHTOWN." THE REV. E. W. MOSELEY (1854–1911) SERVED AS ITS FIRST PASTOR. THE CHURCH RELOCATED HERE IN 1912 AND IN 1926 CONTRACTORS J. A. SIMMONS AND JERRY WALL COMPLETED THIS 2-STORY GREEK REVIVAL SANCTUARY DURING THE PASTORSHIP OF THE REV. J. E. RAINES. IT FEATURES A CENTRAL PEDIMENTED TEMPLE ENTRY WITH FOUR IONIC COLUMNS RISING FROM A GRAND ENTRY STAIRCASE; DEFINED BAYS ON ALL SIDES; AND PILASTERS.
B.H. Zauk

Bruno H. Zauk came to America alone at age 16 from his native Germany. He founded Sherman's first cigar factory in 1876, and became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1880. Mr. Zauk acquired extensive land holdings in west Texas and Oklahoma. A successful immigrant who took full advantage of opportunities available in America, he served as vice president of the Commercial National Bank in Sherman and the first National Bank in Bennington, Oklahoma.

B. H. Zauk

1857 - 1919
Eleventh Texas Cavalry

In May 1861, a frontier unit was organized at Camp Reeves in Sherman. Drawing volunteers from Cooke, Grayson, Hopkins, Red River, Fannin, Collin, Titus and Bowie Counties, the regiment began with nearly 900 men and officers. Initially led by the noted Col. William Cocke Young, the unit fought its first battles in Indian Territory, now Oklahoma, securing the territory for the Confederacy. In October of that year, the unit was inducted into Confederate service as the 11th Texas Cavalry and joined with other forces in Arkansas.

Beginning in March 1862, at the Battle of Pea Ridge, or Elkhorn Tavern, the 11th Texas supported the Confederate Army. Following the battle, the unit became an infantry regiment, designated the 11th Texas Cavalry, dismounted. For the remainder of the year, the troops were active in Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky. In early 1863, the 11th Texas fought at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and shortly thereafter became a cavalry unit again. For the remainder of the war, the cavalry fought in Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina, participating in more than 100 battles and skirmishes. Notable engagements included Chickamauga, Knoxville, Dalton, Resaca, Allatoona Pass, Dallas/New Hope Church, Kennesaw Mountain, Atlanta, Savannah, and, finally, Bentonville, North Carolina. A small number of 11th Texas troops were present at the Confederate surrender at Durham Station, North Carolina, in April 1865.

One of the most active Texas Confederate units, the 11th Texas Cavalry served with distinction throughout the Civil War, continuing until the last major Confederate offensive had ended.
Pioneer Cotton Seed Oil Mill

Here the Sherman Cotton Oil Company was created by John Clement Tassie between 1877-1879 to become, at one time, largest of its kind in the world. Company was first housed in frame buildings.

In 1893 a permanent building was erected, spacious engine room contained white marble slab floor, oak paneled walls, red brick fireplace of English design, and a carved oak staircase. The new facility had a peak capacity of over 400 tons of cotton seed oil a day.

By 1893 was called largest cotton seed oil mill in the world in geography textbooks. Texas Almanac 1904.

Oil from this plant went to ports throughout the world. Tassie was known in Europe as Mr. Sherman and Sherman as the city where the oil comes from.

A pioneer in use of cotton seed for edible purposes. In 1902 a preparation of cotton seed oil for cooking was added to company’s production.

Smaller mills began competing for available seed, by 1903 plant closed because of inability to secure sufficient cotton seed to operate economically.

It was reorganized and reopened in 1913 as the Interstate Cotton Oil Refining Company.

The original permanent building facing Pecan Street is now a part of this modern Sherman Plant.
Walnut Street Church of Christ

Completed in 1920, this classical Revival sanctuary first served the congregation of the Walnut Street Church of Christ. Known as Travis Street Church of Christ since 1963, when it moved to a new site, the congregation has ties to the 1850s. Members built this edifice to serve as their third sanctuary. The chapel is a two-story raised structure with a central stairway, grand portico, and 48 stained glass windows.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark - 1986
Captain N.A. Birge House

Captain N.A. Birge (1832-1902) came to Texas prior to the Civil War. Settling in Jefferson with his wife and children, he was the first elected sheriff of Marion County in 1860.

Following his service as a captain in the Confederate Army, Birge became a leading businessman in Jefferson. The owner of a livery stable and numerous city lots, he was an active civic leader involved in such endeavors as a railroad company and a navigation company.

The Birge family moved to Grayson County in 1874, settling first on a farm north of Sherman. N.A. Birge soon became a prominent local businessman and industrialist, operating a large cotton brokerage firm and other cotton-related businesses.

This home was built for Birge in 1894, shortly after the great Sherman tornado destroyed an 1877 structure on the same site. Exhibiting both Queen Anne and Classical Revival style influences, the house features flamboyant Classical Revival touches in its gables with garlands, giant order Roman Ionic columns, pedimented (segmental arch) windows, and smaller columns that are half-Doric and half-Turned. The home remained in the Birge family until 1969.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark - 1966
Site of Captain LeTellier’s School

This school for boys, founded in 1871, was officially known as the Sherman Private School but informally as “the Cap’n’s”. It was established and run by former Confederate Army Captain John H. LeTellier (1822-1893), who was born and educated (at Bethany College) in Virginia.

Pupils who attended his school, housed in a large frame building, were mainly boys, but a few younger girls were admitted. Tuition in 1871 was $3 a month.

The roll contained names of many future leading citizens of this area, and scholastic standards were high. The captain demanded constant drill in English, spelling, and math, stressing oral arithmetic. For each subject completed, a certificate was given. In later years, LeTellier's daughter, Clifford, taught here.

The captain, an energetic man who was respected by his boys, joined them in sports at recess, told them stories of his war experiences, sang, and played the guitar. Occasionally he held dances upstairs, for which Old Jim, the handyman, played the fiddle.

Each fall, the fathers of the students furnished wagons and all the children rode to the Choctaw bottoms for their favorite annual pecan hunt.

Upon LeTellier's death, the school closed. He and his family are buried in West Hill Cemetery.
Aaron S. Mangum

South Carolinian Aaron Mangum came to Texas with a Georgia battalion in 1835 and served under Colonel James Fannin at Goliad. Mangum took ill during an expeditionary mission and fatefully avoided death at the Goliad massacre. He married Leonora Snively in 1836 and together they lived in Mississippi and Georgia before moving here to Grayson County about 1869. After his death the town of Mangum, Oklahoma, was named in his honor.

A. S. MANGUM
SEPT. 3, 1812
AUG. 9, 1884
Andrew L Randell

ANDREW L. RANDELL
(Aug. 15, 1880 - Mar. 14, 1931)

A native of Denison, Andrew Randell graduated from Princeton University and the University of Texas. He opened a law practice in Sherman and was active in civic and church affairs. He and his wife Vera (Harrison) had two daughters. It was in Freemasonry that he marked his greatest achievements, serving as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Texas, as Executive Secretary of the Masonic Association of the U.S., leading disaster relief efforts, as a director of Dallas Masonic Homes, and as an advocate for Masonic education programs, philosophy and ideals.

RECORDED: 2005

ANDREW LAWRENCE RANDELL
1880 — 1931
PAST GRANDMASTER OF MASONIC ASSOCIATION, 1921.
A public spirited group dedicated to preservation of history and enrichment of contemporary life. Founded in 1879, when oldtimers traveled by wagon and camped near Sherman to reminisce about days of Republic of Texas, the frontier, and the Southern Confederacy. Speakers at first meeting included Mrs. Julia Shannon King (daughter of donor of part of Sherman townsite) and Mrs. Sophia Porter, who came to Grayson County in 1838 as bride of Holland Coffee, owner of Indian trading post at Preston Bend.

The Association was incorporated on Oct. 31, 1898. Having met in various groves, it purchased this popular and accessible site in 1899 as permanent headquarters. Financing was hampered by adversities (bad weather, smallpox, power failure on commuting streetcar line), but purchase cost was paid by 1909. The auditorium, named for the veteran association secretary Jesse Loving, was built in 1923.

Noted orators at annual conventions have included statesmen Joseph Weldon Bailey, James S. Hogg, Roger O. Mills, Sam Rayburn, John H. Reagan, Morris Sheppard. Used for years by Red River Valley Fair, and now by civic and youth groups, this park serves as a reminder of the foresight of pioneer citizens.

1976
Tioga
Primitive Baptist Church of Tioga

Tioga Cemetery

In November 1881, settlers established the community of Tioga on the eastern edge of the East Cross Timbers, and it incorporated as a city in 1906. For the first decades of Tioga’s history, residents buried their loved ones on private land in family cemeteries. In February 1904, W. F. and Sally J. Gillespie deeded five acres of their farmland to the local woodmen of the World Camp for use as a burial ground. The first grave dates to that year. Many of the early headstones are woodmen of the World Markers. The community continued using and improving the cemetery over the years, adding a pavilion in 1924 for funeral services.

Today, the burial ground is a tie to generations of Tioga area residents, and is the final resting place for veterans of military conflicts dating to the Civil War, including both Union and Confederate soldiers. Other notable persons interred here are Texas Senator Olin R. Van Zandt and the Rev. H. G. Ball, a Primitive Baptist preacher who presided over the funeral service for U.S. Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn. An association maintains the burial ground for future generations.
Tioga United Methodist Church

SERVICES BEGAN IN HOMES OF THE SHILOH COMMUNITY, TWO MILES TO THE EAST OF HERE. IN 1887, THE WORSHIPERS ORGANIZED THE SHILOH METHODIST CHURCH, WITH THE REV. MR. ALLEN AS PASTOR. AFTER TIoga WAS FOUNDED, THE CONGREGATION MOVED HERE AND ERECTED ORIGINAL BUILDING ON THIS SITE IN 1893. ADDITIONAL ROOMS AND FACILITIES HAVE SINCE BEEN ADDED TO THE CENTRAL STRUCTURE. THIS CHURCH HAS FAITHFULLY SERVED TIoga. ONE OF ITS MEMBERS, OLAN R. VAN ZANDT, WAS A REPRESENTATIVE, THEN SENATOR, IN THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE FOR 16 YEARS, 1926-1942.
Tom Bean
Site of Early Grayson County Settlement - Whitemound

Named for two large white mounds of rock nearby, settled 1849 by Henry Lackey and his 9 children, from Missouri. Town grew up around A.S. Lackey grist mill. It had a post office, churches, businesses, several doctors, and Bosworth Academy. Most residents moved away after cotton belt railroad bypassed this site in 1888.
THOMAS BEAN, A WEALTHY BONHAM LANDOWNER AND SURVEYOR, DONATED FIFTY ACRES OF LAND IN SOUTHEAST GRAYSON COUNTY TO BE USED FOR A BRANCH RAILROAD LINE FROM SHERMAN TO COMMERCE. BEAN DIED IN 1887; IN THAT YEAR THE CITY OF TOM BEAN WAS ESTABLISHED NEARBY WHITEMOUND, WHICH WAS BYPASSED BY THE RAILROAD, LOST ITS POST OFFICE TO TOM BEAN’S CITY IN 1888; MANY WHITEMOUND SETTLERS MOVED TO THE NEW TOWN. MR. BEAN’S ESTATE BEGAN TO SELL TOWN LOTS SURROUNDING THE RAILROAD IN THE 1890s. THE CITY SCHOOL WAS MOVED IN 1891 FROM A ONE-ROOM STRUCTURE TO A TWO-STORY BUILDING WITH AN AUDITORIUM. SEVERAL CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS, INCLUDING THE CHURCH OF CHRIST, BAPTIST, PRESBYTERIAN, AND METHODIST, ESTABLISHED CHURCHES IN TOWN. THE CITY CHARTER WAS SIGNED IN 1897 AND THE FIRST MAYOR WAS ICE B. REEVES.


First United Methodist Church

This congregation was organized in the mid-1880s, growing out of brush arbor meetings at the Cedar Campground near Whitemound. The original church building at Whitemound was moved, in 1906, to Tom Bean, where it burned in 1924. Methodists worshiped in the Presbyterian Church until it was destroyed by a tornado a short time later. A new edifice was built, serving both denominations until 1972. In 1974, the sanctuary was moved here, and the heritage of the old Perrin Air Force Base Chapel was preserved when it was added to the facility.

(1975)
Van Alstyne
Elliott Cemetery
Umphress-Taylor Home
CANNON CEMETERY

ELIJAH CANNON, HIS ELEVEN SONS, AND SLAVES MOVED FROM SOUTH CAROLINA TO TEXAS IN 1852 AND SETTLED NEAR BY IN 1874. THE FAMILY GRAVEYARD WAS INCLUDED IN LAND DEEDED BY O.M. CANNON AS A COMMUNITY BURIAL PLACE. THE OLDEST DOCUMENTED GRAVE IS THAT OF TEN-YEAR-OLD NANCY J. BOWEN IN 1857. AN ADJACENT SECTION WAS ESTABLISHED FOR FORMER SLAVES, AND THE EARLIEST KNOWN BURIALS ARE THOSE OF BILLY AND GLORY BOYD IN AUGUST 1880. AMONG THE MORE THAN 700 GRAVES ARE THOSE OF PIONEER SETTLERS, VETERANS OF SEVERAL WARS, AND MEMBERS OF FRATERNAL ORGANIZATIONS. THE CEMETERY CONTINUES TO SERVE THE AREA.
The U.S. Congress chartered the Boy Scouts of America organization in 1910. Just two years later, three Van Alstyne boys, Rowland Barnett, Otis White and Rae Nunnamaker, received a Boy Scout Storybook. Barnett made a Christmas wish and, in March 1912, the Van Alstyne Troop received its charter—one of the first in the state. W.F. Barnett, Rowland’s father, and Van Alstyne School Superintendent became the Troop’s first Scoutmaster. Within a few years, Troop 1, as it was known then, helped establish other Boy Scout Troops in the area, beginning with the communities of Anna and Elmendorf.

The Van Alstyne Troop worked from its founding date to serve its community. Through the 1920s, the Troop helped in citywide cleanup to control disease and insect population. In 1930, the Troop’s name changed to 44 and in 1948, the city donated land for a Scout Hut. Which has since been used for meetings. In 1959, the Troop took part in the relay of the Pan American Games torch as it traveled from Mexico City to Chicago. The Van Alstyne Troop also became the first integrated Troop in the Texoma Valley Council.

Beginning in 1919, Van Alstyne’s First United Methodist Church became an official sponsor of the Troop. It has since been sponsored by various local organizations and churches. As well as being continuously supported by the Methodist Church. Scout leaders have included many men and women from the community. Including one whose interest was piqued in 1912 by the Storybook. Rae Nunnamaker was an active Troop member for 70 years. Serving as a Boy and later serving in a number of key roles, both locally and nationally. For his dedication and service, the Chapel at nearby Camp Geagton was named in his honor. Setting an example others in the community have followed. Nunnamaker generously gave his time, labor and care for the Boy Scouts in Van Alstyne.
Grave of Collin McKinney

A PIONEER LEADER OF NORTH TEXAS AND SIGNER OF THE TEXAS DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, COLLIN MCKINNEY WAS BORN IN NEW JERSEY, A SON OF SCOTTISH IMMIGRANT PARENTS. IN 1780 THE FAMILY MOVED TO KENTUCKY AND IN 1824 MCKINNEY MIGRATED ACROSS THE RED RIVER AND SETTLED NEAR PRESENT TEXARKANA.

IN JANUARY, 1836, HE WAS ELECTED A DELEGATE TO THE GENERAL CONVENTION AT WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS AND THERE SERVED ON A COMMITTEE OF FIVE THAT DRAFTED TEXAS' DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE FROM MEXICO. ON MARCH 2, HE SIGNED THE DOCUMENT. HE ALSO SERVED ON THE COMMITTEE WHICH PREPARED THE CONSTITUTION FOR THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS. LATER HE SERVED IN THE 1ST, 2ND AND 4TH CONGRESSES OF THE REPUBLIC. IN PRIVATE LIFE, MCKINNEY WAS A LEADER IN ESTABLISHING THE FIRST DISCIPLINE OF CHRIST CHURCH IN TEXAS.

IN 1846 HE SETTLED NEAR THE GRAYSON-COLLIN COUNTY LINE, THIS BECAME HIS PERMANENT RESIDENCE. IN 1793 HE MARRIED AMY MOORE; THEY HAD FOUR CHILDREN. HE AND HIS SECOND WIFE, BETSY LEAEX (COLEMAN), BY WHOM HE HAD SIX CHILDREN, ARE BOTH BURIED IN THIS CEMETERY.

COLLIN COUNTY AND ITS SEAT, MCKINNEY, WERE NAMED IN HIS HONOR. IN 1936 THE TEXAS CENTENNIAL COMMISSION HAD HIS HOUSE MOVED TO FINCH PARK IN MCKINNEY.
Mantua Masonic Lodge
No. 209, A.F. & A.M.


AFTER VAN ALSTYNE WAS ESTABLISHED ON THE HOUSTON AND TEXAS CENTRAL RAILROAD IN 1872, MOST OF THE BUSINESSES AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS IN MANTUA, INCLUDING THE MASONIC LODGE, MOVED TO THE NEW TOWN. THE LODGE MEMBERS HELD MEETINGS IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS UNTIL 1898, WHEN THEY PURCHASED THE CARTER BUILDING ON THE TOWN SQUARE. IN 1976 THE LODGE MOVED TO ITS CURRENT LOCATION.

MANTUA MASONIC LODGE NO. 209 HAS PROVIDED VALUABLE SERVICE TO SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, AND NEEDY PERSONS, AND REMAINS AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE HISTORY OF THIS AREA. (1933)
First Christian Church

The predecessor of this church, the first Disciples of Christ congregation in Texas, was founded during the winter of 1841-42 at McKinney’s Landing in Bowie County near the Texas-Arkansas border.

Collin McKinney, pioneer settler and signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, was the leader of the Bowie County congregation, which had worshipped informally since 1841. Between 1844 and 1846, the group moved to Liberty (later called Van Alstyne) three miles southwest of here. In 1846, under McKinney and J. B. With, the congregation was reorganized as the Liberty Church with eighteen members.

In 1854, the first Wuntua Christian Church was built. In this early structure, a rate in the center aisle separated men from women. No offering plate was passed; donations were placed on the communion table. Members constructed their own hymn books which doubled as souvenirs and recipe books. Founders of churches in many cities, including Galveston, Sherman, and Glen Rose were members of the Wuntua Church.

In 1877, the Wuntua group organized the church on this site in the near town of Van Alstyne. Located on the Houston & Texas Central Railroad, in 1881, the Wuntua and Van Alstyne churches joined memberships.
Van Alstyne

The town of Mantua was established about 3 miles southwest of here in 1854. Mantua prospered but was unexpectedly bypassed in 1873 when the Houston and Texas Central Railway (HTC) extended its track through this area instead. That year a depot was built and a post office established in the new town named for Maria Van Alstyne, the widow of Van. Van Alstyne who had been a principal stockholder of the HTC.

Churches, businesses, and people of Mantua and other area towns moved here to be near the railroad. Van Alstyne was incorporated and a newspaper established in 1889. Columbia College was founded in 1899.

Van Alstyne contained banks, schools, hotels, an opera house, a literary club, and electric service by 1900. When cotton and other farm production dominated the local economy, interurban transportation began in 1908. The local "Crays" semi-pro baseball team, established about 1902, played for many decades and produced a number of major league players.

Many local businesses, churches, and social organizations trace their origins to Mantua and 19th century Van Alstyne. The historic downtown area, the former site of popular Saturday night social activities, continues as a business and social center.
In 1889, an association composed of merchants and landowners from the Van Alstyne area saw the need for quality education and established Columbia College. The school served all grades through college level, emphasizing vocational training as well as the arts and sciences. The institution was housed in a three-story frame structure on this four-acre fenced site. There were 40 students in the first class and the enrollment increased to 578 by the 1893-1894 school year. Students from a large section of North Texas studied at this coeducational facility.

Howell Lake Piner (1848-1938) served from 1890-1875 as the school's first president. He was born in Kentucky, reared in Honey Grove, Texas, and received his education at Vanderbilt University. After selling his interest in Grayson College, Whetworth, Texas, Piner came to Columbia and skillfully directed the development of the institution.

As the area grew, Van Alstyne residents recognized the need for a community high school. Columbia College became part of the Van Alstyne Public School System in 1906. The college building continued to serve the schools until 1915 when it was destroyed by fire.
Van Alstyne Cemetery
Old Town of Cannon

Founded 1857 by Elijah Cannon, who came from South Carolina with his children and slaves, to develop 700 acres of land. Family established a church, cotton gin, grist mill, wagon factory. By 1885 town had an academy and 400 people bypassed by Houston & Texas Central Railroads; it declined rapidly in the 1890's.
First United Methodist Church of Van Alstyne

OUTGROWTH OF LIBERTY CLASS, FORMED 1847 FOR BIBLE STUDY AND WORSHIP. IN LOG CABIN OF JIM CREAGER (1.25 M.I.S.) BY THE REV. JOAB BIGGS, OF THE DALLAS METHODIST CIRCUIT, AND M. F. COLE. IN 1855, AFTER A RAINSTORM THAT DETAINED QUARTERLY CONFERENCE DELEGATES TO LISTEN TO AN ALL-NIGHT SERMON, THE REV. Y.S. MCKINNEY PREACHED FOR THREE WEEKS AND HAD 60 CONVERSIONS. THE ENLARGED CLASS MOVED TO MANTUA, WHERE IT BUILT A FRAME CHAPEL ON THE TOWN SQUARE AND WAS NAMED MT. ZION METHODIST CHURCH. AT FOUNDING OF VAN ALSTYNE ON HOUSTON & TEXAS CENTRAL RAILROAD IN 1873, MT ZION MOVED ITS BUILDING INTO TOWN, TO A SITE NOW IN VAN ALSTYNE CEMETERY. BY 1890 MEMBERSHIP EXCEEDED 400. THE CONGREGATION IN 1894 ORGANIZED THE FIRST DISTRICT EPWORTH LEAGUE OF THE SOUTHERN METHODIST CHURCH. HERE IN 1912 EX-PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT GAVE AN ADDRESS, AND IN 1913 ONE OF TEXAS' EARLIEST BOY SCOUT TROOPS WAS FORMED.

PRESENT SANCTUARY WAS COMPLETED AND DEDICATED IN 1917, WITH DEDICATORY SERMON GIVEN BY THE REV. SAM R. HAY. THE PRESENT NAME WAS GIVEN AFTER A NATIONAL ECUMENICAL ACCORD WAS REACHED IN 1968.
Whitesboro
Allison Cemetery

Believed to date from the mid-1800s, Allison Cemetery occupies three acres of land. The oldest dated marker is that of a 53-year-old man who was buried in 1865, though some headstones have been moved or were destroyed over time, and older graves may be noted only by roughly shaped rocks. Most of those interred on this site are descendants of H. Dennis, Sr., and other area families. Notable graves include a family of influenza victims believed to have been buried in 1858 and several war veterans. Managed and maintained by descendants, the cemetery is still in use.

(1992)
R.N. Younger Home
Whitesboro

SETTLERS MOVED TO THIS SITE AFTER AMBROSE B. WHITE (1811-83) CAMPED HERE ON HIS WAY WEST FROM ILLINOIS IN 1848. HIS INN HERE WAS ON THE BUTTERFIELD STAGE ROUTE AFTER 1858. THE POST OFFICE, OPENED IN 1860, WAS NAMED FOR WHITE, WHO SURVEYED (1869) THE TOWNSITE WITH DR. W.H. TROLINGER (1827-95), DONOR OF LAND FOR A PARK. WHEN WHITESBORO INCORPORATED IN 1873, WHITE WAS ELECTED ITS FIRST MAYOR. THE DENISON & PACIFIC RAILROAD, LATER PART OF THE MISSOURI, KANSAS, & TEXAS, ARRIVED IN 1879; THE TEXAS & PACIFIC IN 1881. TODAY THE AREA’S ECONOMY IS BASED ON RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND PEANUT PRODUCTION.
Bennett-Richardson House

Bennett-Richardson House

This residence was built in 1902 for the family of local business leader Bland Bennett and Grace (Dunlap) Bennett, exhibiting Victorian and Classical Revival detailing. Its prominent features include a 1-story wraparound porch with a pedimented primary entrance, a hipped roof, and corbelled chimneys. Its transitional floor plan is reminiscent of both center passage and American foursquare plans. The H.S. Richardson family purchased the house in 1942.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark - 1991
Mary Florence Cowell

MARY FLORENCE COWELL
(November 10, 1860 - July 13, 1940)


(2000)
Sanborn Ranch

SANBORN RANCH

Established in late 1870's by H.B. Sanborn, one of the major promoters of barbed wire. Ranch (a showplace) was first large area in Texas to be fenced with barbed wire, a model demonstration project, contributing to decline of open-range west. In 1888, Sanborn founded City of Amarillo and thereafter sold ranch.

(1967)
Diamond Horse Ranch

Diamond Horse Ranch
Founded 1850 by James R. and John Diamond, joined later by their brother George, who had founded Diamond Station, 1858–1861, on Butterfield Stage Line. The Diamond brothers were political leaders and active in Texas frontier defense and masonry. James is buried here.

Diamond Station
Butterfield Overland Mail Stage Stop

The Diamond Station was a stop along the nearly 2,012-mile stretch across the Lone Star State for the Butterfield Overland Mail Stage Line Company. The Butterfield Overland Mail Company held the U.S. Mail contract for the first cross-country trip from St. Louis to San Francisco. Marked as the first intercontinental mail route, the Butterfield Overland Mail Stage coach made its first stop at the Diamond Station on September 21, 1858.

The complete route took 24 days and covered 2,812 miles, carrying mail and passengers. At that location Waterman Ormsby witnessed "the operation of herding a wild mule." He estimated it took thirty minutes per route (four were used). The Diamond Station was home to John R. Diamond from 1858–1861.
Whitewright
Kentuckytown Baptist Church
First Methodist Church of Whitewright

This congregation traces its history to Sears Chapel (one mile southeast), a union church established in the late 1850s at the home of early settlers Christopher and Mary Sears. In 1876 the Sears family deeded the land on which the Sears Chapel church building stood to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

The village of Whitewright was established in 1878. The Methodist congregation associated with Sears Chapel organized the First Methodist Church of Whitewright in 1882. By 1885 the congregation had completed a sanctuary and a parsonage and was served by the Rev. W. M. Robbins, a circuit-riding Methodist preacher. A Sunday school, organized in 1886, averaged about 50 pupils during its early years of operation. A new sanctuary, built at this site in 1895, served the congregation for over 100 years. A new parsonage was completed in 1930, and in 1942 the church erected an education building. Major renovations to the church and education buildings were completed in 1979.

The church, renamed First United Methodist Church in 1948, supports a variety of special annual events and continues to be active in many local and foreign outreach programs.

1854-Centennial of Texas Statehood 1845-1995
First Presbyterian Church and Manse

On October 30, 1853, a Cumberland Presbyterian Church was organized in the home of Christopher Sears in nearby Lick Skillet (Pilot Grove). J. A. Zinn served as moderator, and T. E. Montgomery, J. D. Barbee, and J. T. Clark as first elders. The church established the Canaan and Sears Chapel congregations in the 1860s. Sears Chapel moved to Whetworth in 1883, built a sanctuary in 1899, and became First Presbyterian Church in 1907. This classical revival church building, erected by the congregation in 1930, features art glass windows and doors. The adjacent manse has provided housing for pastors since 1902.
Vittitoe Cemetery

Vittitoe Cemetery, which is cared for by the Vittitoe Cemetery Association, is an important reminder of the early history of this part of Grayson County.

This graveyard was begun as a family burial plot by Samuel and Ellen Vittitoe, who settled on land surrounding this site in 1852. Their son, Frank, probably was the first to be buried here sometime before the outbreak of the Civil War. Although his headstone is undated, the Vittitoe family made it known to the residents of Kentucky Town (now called Kentucky) that their plot was open for burial outside the family, but the cemetery was not used as a public burial ground until it was legally established as such in 1885.

More than 700 graves have been recorded in the Vittitoe Cemetery, most of them bear tombstones with legible inscriptions, but others are marked only by stakes or pieces of stone or rock. Included among those buried here are early settlers such as Andrew Thomas, who brought his family to the area in 1857; numerous Civil War veterans; the Rev. Isaac Teague, pastor of the Kentucky Town Baptist Church during the early 1900s; and Benjamin Earnest, who helped establish a general store soon after settling in Kentucky Town in 1859.

Vittitoe Cemetery, founded in 1885, is an important reminder of the early history of this part of Grayson County.
Whitewright

Early settlers in this part of Texas were mostly from communities at the intersection of the Appalachian and Kentucky-Tennessee-Mississippi river valleys. After the war, Kansas, and Texas, and the USA were built, like other cities in the area. This area, named Whitewright by Col. W. A. White, is the birthplace of the official flag of the President of the Union, the White. In the early 1800s, the founding fathers of Whitewright were looking for a name for their town. They decided on Whitewright, which was later changed to Whitewright. The town was founded in 1850 and incorporated in 1880. Today, Whitewright is a small town with a population of about 2,000. It is located in the northeast corner of Texas, near the Louisiana border.
EVERHEART-CANAAN CEMETERY

SAMUEL AND BACHEL MONTGOMERY EVERHEART ARRIVED HERE IN 1848 WITH THEIR SON, WILLIAM, AND MEMBERS OF HER FAMILY. BY 1850, THE EVERHEARTS OWNED 3,346 ACRES, INCLUDING THIS LAND. FAMILY HISTORY HELDS THAT THE OLDEST BURIALS HERE (IN THE NORTHWEST CORNER) DATE PRIOR TO 1863 AND ARE THOSE OF THE EVERHEARTS' SLAVES.

PILOT GROVE CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ORGANIZED AT KENTUCKY TOWN, MOVED TO EVERHEART-LAND A MILE EAST OF THIS SITE AND BECAME KNOWN AS THE CANAAN CHURCH. MEMBERS UTILIZED THIS CEMETERY AND SHARED THEIR SANCTUARY WITH A METHODIST EPISCOPAL CONGREGATION THAT MOVED FROM PITMAN'S CHAPEL.

THE OLDEST MARKED GRAVES, FROM JUNE 24, 1873, IS THAT OF W.H. RUMSWORTH, ONE OF SEVERAL CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS BURIED HERE. OTHER BURIALS INCLUDE WILLIAM C. EVERHEART, THE GRAYSON COUNTY SHERIFF FROM 1876 TO 1880 'AND LATER A DEPUTY, UNITED STATES MARSHAL.' MANY OF THE PIONEERS OF THE CANAAN COMMUNITY ARE BURIED IN FAMILY PLOTS HERE. NELL ARNOLD-EVERHEART CARED FOR THE CEMETERY UNTIL HER DEATH IN 1973, AND THE EVERHEART CEMETERY ASSOCIATION LATER FORMED.

HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY — 2004
Bethel Baptist Church
Samuel E. and Mary C. Marshall House
Whitewright Masonic Lodge No. 167

In 1855, men in Kentucky town organized a Masonic lodge, receiving their charter the following year as the Kentucky town Masonic Lodge No. 167. More than 20 years later, in 1878, the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad bypassed Kentucky town, running three miles east in the newly established town of Whitewright. Many residents of Kentucky town, Orangeville and Pilot Grove moved their homes and businesses to Whitewright. The Masonic Lodge moved in 1883, and in 1893, members changed the name to Whitewright Lodge No. 167 but kept the original Kentucky town charter.

The lodge has occupied several buildings since its founding. It has also served several affiliate Masonic orders, including Whitewright, Chapter No. 198 of Royal Arch Masons, which merged with a Denison group in 1949. Whitewright Council No. 136, which merged with a Denison group in 1971, and the local order of the Eastern Star, which received its charter in 1948. The order of the Eastern Star, comprised of men and women, continues to support the work of the lodge.

Several Lodge members have been leaders in government and in the Masonic order. These men include Dan Scott McMillin, Grand Master of Texas Masons in 1912, who served as both a state representative and state senator; James J. Gallaher, Grand High Priest of the Royal Arch Chapter of Texas, who served as Grand Treasurer of Texas Masons for 20 years; and John Thomas Bean, Grand Master of Texas Masons in 1959, who chaired the conference of Grand Masters of Masonry in North America in 1960. Lodge membership has also included other prominent leaders.

Today the lodge is the second oldest Masonic group in Grayson County, with continuous service. The history of the lodge and its members reflects the formation of Whitewright and the county.
Grayson College
Kentucky Town

When first settled in 1830's was known as Annaliza. Renamed by Kentucky emigrants in 1858. Unique layout gave town protection against Indian attacks on freight and stage routes. "Sacred Harp," a robust frontier gospel style of singing and composition began here during Civil War era. Ranching and sheep raising were major activities.
Other
First Texas Interurban

Electric railways (trolleys) provided convenient travel between many Texas cities for more than forty years. The first interurban line was established in Grayson County, connecting the cities of Sherman and Denison. Founded in 1900 by Fred Fitch and John P. Crenkel, the Denison and Sherman Railway began operations on May 1, 1901, with a single 10.6-mile track.

The company built a power plant, offices, and a car barn near this site halfway between its passenger stations in the two cities. In order to provide water for the power plant, they built a dam below Tanyard Springs, creating a small lake named Wood Lake. It provided recreational facilities for passengers on the line’s excursion trains.

The Texas Traction Company, founded in 1906, began construction of a second interurban line from Dallas to McKinney in 1906. Merged with the Denison and Sherman Railway in 1908, the company expanded its operations, eventually connecting a number of north Texas cities and changing its name to the Texas Electric Railway in 1912. The advent of automobile travel signaled the decline of the Texas Interurbans by the 1930s. The last train passed this site on December 31, 1948, on its route from Denison to Dallas.
1931 Free Bridge Controversy