

FAYETTEVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FAYETTEVILLE: THE WAY TEXAS USED TO BE

PO Box 217 - Fayetteville, TX 78940

888/575-4553

History of Fayetteville, Texas

Historical Sites Nearby



Fayetteville Public School

Northwest on Hwy 159 near the Fayetteville city limit—is a red, two-story building from 1911. Ground was broken for the \$10,000 structure on February 13, 1911 on land purchased from J. R. Kubena for \$300. The opening ceremonies on July 19, 1911 are described fondly: all of the businesses closed and the entire town, as well as large crowds from neighboring communities, met and formed a procession leading around the Square and out to the new school building. The ceremonies included speeches by the school trustees, music by the famed Baca Band and school children waving flags. Little Miss Lester Stierling presented the keys to the building to School Board President Ed Sarrazin, who then opened the doors, inviting everyone to enter and inspect the building. The spacious hall on the upper floor was crowded to capacity when County Superintendent Stierling addressed the crowd. Upon the conclusion of the addresses and after a photograph was taken of the assembly, the procession brought the guests down to Germania Hall where a bountiful supply of food—for which Fayetteville is so well known—was served, including BBQ, pickles, bread and cake, and liquid refreshments. The remainder of the afternoon was passed with additional speeches and various amusements. A ball was held in the evening which was well attended and greatly enjoyed by everyone.



The Water Tower

Visible southeast of the Square, the water tower—called the “Tin Man’s head” and located behind the post office on S. Scott and E. Main (Hwy 159)—dates from the 1920s and is one of the best examples of its kind. It was repaired and repainted in 2006, earning Fayetteville the “Class A” rating from the Water Tower Appreciation Society.



Fayetteville City Cemetery and Catholic Cemetery

Four blocks south on S. Scott St. (FM 1291), across the railroad tracks—are two adjoining cemeteries containing graves for many prominent pioneers. In addition, there are veterans from the war of 1812: Dr. William P. Smith (surgeon general of the Texas army as well as Methodist preacher, Board Member of Rutgersville College and editor of the Texas Monument Newspaper), David Wade (an early settler to Fayetteville) and Umbleton Gregory; the three fought in the historic battle of New Orleans. The first Catholic priest of Fayetteville, Father Josef Chromcik, is also buried there. An unmarked grave holding Civil War

soldiers is situated next to the City Cemetery.

- www.rootsweb.com/~txfayett/cemeteries_f-g.html

Sites of first Catholic and Lutheran Churches in Fayette County

3½ miles southeast of Fayetteville on Wecheta Road—though the buildings are now gone and all that remains is the old Lutheran Cemetery. The Catholic Church here was St. Joseph's and in 1861 it was moved to a site near Ellinger and renamed St. Mary's (see below). Directions: from Fayetteville, take FM 955 west to Wecheta Road at Kasmiersky Road.

Fayetteville Brethren Church

Two miles south of Fayetteville on Ross Prairie Church Road and Kramr Road—is a Czech-Moravian Brethren Church, and about 100 years of age is one of the older area churches; a cemetery is adjoining. The church is near the site of the first Czech Protestant service in the state of Texas. Directions: take Ross Prairie Church Road south from town.



St. Mary's Catholic Church

South of town near Ellinger on St. Mary's Church Road—was recently beautifully restored to retain its original character with painted wood altars and sanctuary. From the church is a magnificent view of the surrounding countryside. Directions to the church: take Ross Prairie Church Road south out of Fayetteville, then right on FM 2503, about three miles to St. Mary's Church Road and turn left; the church is on the hill. The church is locked, but arrangements for a tour may be made by calling

- 979/378-4202.



Historic Bridges

Old steel truss bridges are found on Willow Springs Road (1/2 mile off FM 159, east of Fayetteville), and off Haw Creek Road, 3 miles east from FM 1291.

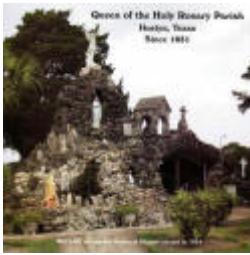
Breeding School, Albert Family Cemetery and Breeding Family Cemetery—on Hwy 159, 5½ miles east of Fayetteville, on private land—is the location of the first school and two pioneer family cemeteries. The Breeding family sponsored the school in a log house on their land in 1834 for children of the Breeding family, the Burnham family, the Alexander family and others—all important pioneers. Albert bought land in 1877 from the Breeding family, who reserved one-half acre for the cemetery. The Albert Family's grave markers are placed within an iron fence; grave markers for the Breeding family members have disappeared. A historical marker located across Hwy 159 on the south side of the road shows the site where the Breeding home stood.



Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery

State Historic Sites Picnic, nature walks and historical tours on Texas history. Monument Hill is a crypt and memorial to men killed in the fight for Texas independence. Kreische Brewery began in 19th century. Both are now governed by Texas Parks and Wildlife and can be booked for weddings and special events. Open Thursday to Monday, 8am to 5pm. Check website for brewery tours. Address: 414 State Loop 92 in La Grange. Directions: from Fayetteville, take 955 west to 71 north to 77 south, drive through La Grange.

- 979/968-5658
- www.tpwd.state.tx.us



Queen of the Holy Rosary Catholic Church

In Hostyn—celebrated the area’s first mass in about 1831. In early 20th century, with the erection of the Lourdes Grotto in 1924, the church came into the limelight as one of the leading Czech parishes in Texas. Directions: from Fayetteville, take FM 955 to Hwy 71 towards La Grange, then Hwy 77 south about five miles, turn right on FM 2436, one mile to the Grotto located on the hill which overlooks surrounding farmlands. Open daily during the day.

- www.rootsweb.com/~txfayett/hostyn_catholic_cemetery.htm

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