

FAYETTEVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
FAYETTEVILLE: THE WAY TEXAS USED TO BE
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History of Fayetteville, Texas
Walking Tour

Fayetteville's Town Square commercial buildings surrounding the Courthouse display the town's 19th century origins and are rich with local history. The Courthouse is a good place to start.



1. The **Courthouse on the Square**. Built in 1880 at the cost of \$800, it is a two-story precinct courthouse in which the old jail still exists on the second floor, complete with leg irons attached. The structure is mostly mortised with few nails used, and opened for its first court on February 17, 1881. A calaboose was added in 1887 at the cost of \$11. There was a city attorney's office here at one time as well as the constable's office. The bandstand gazebo was built in 1932, and the four-faced town clock erected in 1934 by the Fayetteville women's "Do Your Duty" club, in advance of the Texas Centennial. The clock still strikes the hour and the half-hour, making Fayetteville the smallest town with a working four-faced town clock. On the Square's southeast corner, the Picnic Oak tree is over 100 years old! The two granite markers on the west side of the Square commemorate Fayetteville's founders (erected in 1936) and the 1937 sewer project.



2. The **Fayetteville Area Heritage Museum**—on the west side of the Square—comprises two buildings, one which once housed the first Fayetteville post office, and then the Cufr Store. The Western Auto Store operated first by the Dybalas and then the Heinsohns, occupied the other building. Both buildings were combined to house the Museum in 1995. The Museum includes many artifacts of the good ol' days including the historic altar from the original St. John's Catholic Church (removed for rebuilding in 1969), the pipe organ from St. Mary's Catholic Church, pre-historic bones & arrowheads, a cotton gin, the Dawn Theater's movie projector, a fire engine pump, farm equipment and even a restored 1965 Chevy Bellaire. Memorabilia from the Baca Band is also displayed as well as that from numerous local schools, civic organizations, elected officials, etc. Museum hours are Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 2pm to 4pm and Saturday morning 10am to 12noon. For more information, to book a tour, etc., call 979/378-2210 or 979/378-2378 or 979/224-5130.



3. The **old Sarrazin Mercantile Store**—left (south) of the Museum and now the Cottage Garden—was built in 1875, and from 1892 was the location of Ed and Leopold Sarrazin's business. The Sarrazins were an early pioneer family who settled in Ross Prairie, just west of Fayetteville. They were cotton buyers, and also sold groceries, dry goods and hardware in the front part of the building, and had an office in the back. Feed, farm equipment, buggies and wagons were kept in the rear warehouse. Chickens were raised in the coops in the yard and shipped by rail to Houston. After Leopold died, Edward bought the store; Edward Jr. inherited it upon his father's death in 1925. It thrived in this business, employing as many as 18 clerks, until 1967.



4. The **Spacek House**—next door, and now Jane's Joys—is the small white building south of the Sarrazin Store built in the late 1800s as the Forres family home; it was also the Kaderka Shoe Shop at one time.

5. The **old Heinsohn House**—on the corner of N. Washington St. and W. Main St. (Hwy 159)—was moved to this location; the site was the location of the old Forres Store building which was a saloon and general merchandise store in the 1880s.

6. The **Fayetteville Community Center and the Fayetteville Fire Department and EMS**—corner of W. Main St. (Hwy 159) and S. Washington St.—are dedicated to Sylvester Schmitt and have replaced the original buildings which held a hat store, a café, the Lange Mercantile store, a broom factory and a feed store. There was also an old house known as the Hottman House which has since been moved to a rural location. Located further south on S. Washington St. was the old Hottman Zdaril Lumber Yard, once a livery stable owned by the Langes.



7. The **Blacksmith Shop and Filing Station**—down W. Main (Hwy 159) at the corner of Ross Prairie Church Rd—is a red building once operated by Mayor Langlotz and Fred Schultz. The old Kovar gin, which burned down in the 1920s, was catty-corner to that.



8. The **Gulf Service Station**—southeast corner of W. Main St. (Hwy 159) and S. Washington St. and now "Blast From the Past"—was built in 1927 and owned by J. R. Kubena (the great grandfather of current Fayetteville mayor Ronnie Pflughaupt). It was managed first by his son, Jerry, and then later by his other son, Rudy. The brand changed to Humble and then to Exxon as John W. Kovar assumed the management followed by his son, Erwin. It operated as a gas station until 1996. (Side note: the curved tricycle tire tracks on the west end of the pump island were made in the wet concrete in 1927 by a little five-year-old girl who lived next door.)



9. The **Old Kurtz House**—next door on the left, continuing east on W. Main St. (Hwy 159)—is white with red trim and was built about 1890. It is now a private residence.



10. The **S. S. Munger Home**—next door, continuing east on W. Main St. (Hwy 159)—is now the Tennessee Guest Cottage and Windmill's Hair Design. Built about 1850, it is one of Fayetteville's oldest homes and had a detached kitchen. The Munger family was one of earliest settlers and had a Mercantile Store in Fayetteville as early as the 1830s.



11. The **Red & White Store**—corner of W. Main St. (Hwy 159) and S. Live Oak St.—is a two-story building believed to be the oldest commercial building in the area, built about 1835 by S. S. Munger. It was used as a grocery store, then an opera house, a mortuary, a Masonic Hall, a hat shop and eventually a grocery store again. In the 1880s it contained the H. Kurtz Furniture Store. In the early 1900s it was occupied by Doctor Levine, who later built an office to the right of the store. The ornate cornices are an unusual detail under the eaves. The upstairs was a residence for many years and a café. It is now a private residence. The addition on the right side

of the Red & White Store was the Dawn Theatre from the early 1900s to the 1960s, providing entertainment for the community until television became common. Later it housed the Blaha cleaners and tailors.



12. Continuing east down E. Main St. (Hwy 159) are two buildings once owned by the Knippel family: the left building held both the **Old Fayetteville Ice Plant** and the **Power Plant**. The Power Plant provided electricity for Fayetteville residents for scheduled periods during the day. (In 1920, a petition was signed protesting its air pollution.) Later the plant was sold and discontinued, though the Ice Plant continued until the 1960s. The house to the right was the Knippel family home and was also a display area for drummers' (traveling salesmen's) wares.



13. The **Water Tower**, visible from the Square, is located further east behind the current post office at S. Scott St. and E. Main St. (Hwy 159). Dating from the 1920s, it is one of the best examples of its kind, and has been called the "Tin Man's head." It was repaired and repainted in 2006, now greeting all "Welcome to Fayetteville." Fayetteville has received a Class A rating from the Water Tower Appreciation Society.

14. The southeast corner of the Square—at E. Main St. (Hwy 159) and S. Live Oak St.—was once the **location of Phillip J. Shaver's house and store**, the founder of Fayetteville. In 1893 it was sold to Alois Polansky and later that year burned.



15. The **Zapalac Drug Store**—north of the Shaver House and Store—was constructed in 1926 by Emil Zapalac who previously shared a store with Rudolf Baca and Dr. Schramm further up the block. It is now The Trading Post.



16. The **Otto Vetter Saddle Shop**—north of the Zapalac Drug Store, and now Yesterday's Past—was partly destroyed by fire in 1893 and later rebuilt. Mr. Vetter lived on the second floor. The bottom floor also included the post office as well as the Knippel Meat Market, later the Bertsch Meat Market. At one time the building also housed a floral shop among other shops.



17. The **Art Guild of Rural Texas**—next to the Otto Vetter Saddle Shop—occupies two buildings that once contained the Fojtik Tin Shop and the Kubala Saloon. Its history includes time housing a liquor store, a shoe shop, a real estate office, and at one point the office and courtroom of Precinct 2 Judge Fred Ross, followed by his daughter Judge Terry Ross, who also served as precinct judge. The Art Guild of Rural Texas, a non-profit organization exhibits artwork of local artists and student artists. Classes for children, young adults and adults in visual arts and music are also held, as well as weekend concerts. Exhibition hall hours are Monday to Saturday, 10am to 2pm.



18. The **Baca Saloon & Confectionary**—the two buildings next up the square—now house Joe's Place. Both buildings are over 100 years old and that closest to the Art Guild was once a grocery store and an antique store. The second, larger building on the left was once the old Rudolph Baca Ice Cream Parlor, shared by Rudolph Baca, Emil Zapalac and Dr. Schramm. It has an ornamental bar with stained glass. For many decades, the Baca family had a band and performed regularly there. Baca made delicious ice cream and custard, and it is said that some of his recipes may now be used by a popular ice cream company.



19. The **Schumacher's Bank of Fayetteville**—next up the Square and now Pat Johnson's art studio—was built in 1907 as Fayetteville's first bank, and later the Fayetteville State Bank where SPJST business was conducted. For many years, this building was a liquor store and watch repair shop.



20. The **J. R. Kubena Store**—next up the Square on the corner of E. Fayette St. and N. Live Oak St. and now Jerry's General Store—originally had a dance hall on top. Later the corner was made into a Ford car dealership operated by Kubena's son and John Cufur, Sr. Still later it was the SPJST business office until such moved to temple in about 1950, following which it housed the Kubena Café. At one point, the middle section operated as the Cufur Dry Goods Store in the 1930s and 1940s. It is now Jerry's General Store, operated by Jerry Chovanec, who took the business Chovanec General Store from his father.



21. **Henry Steves' Furniture & Hardware Store**—northeast corner of N. Live Oak St. and E. Fayette St. and now Robyn's Nest Antiques, Collectibles & Gifts—is a two-story building. Steves was the postmaster and the store held the post office from 1889 to 1893, before most of the northeast side of the Square was destroyed by fire. Steves was the first captain of the Fayetteville Volunteer Fire Department. The Fayetteville Masonic Lodge no. 240 occupies the second floor.



22. The **Henry Steves House**—yellow building on E. Fayette St., east of Robyn's Nest Antiques—was the Licksillet Hotel in the 1980s and is believed to be one of the oldest houses in Fayetteville, built about 1847.



23. **St. John's Catholic Church**—continuing up N. Live Oak St. to Bell St.—displays historic, 19th-century paintings by Moravian painter Johann Ignaz Berger on its altar (after decades forgotten in storage).



24. The **E. J. Knesek Building**—on the Square's northwest corner at N. Live Oak St. and W. Fayette St.—contains both a hardware store (Kubala Hardware) on the left and a funeral home (Koenig Peel Funeral Home, Inc.) on the right. Built in 1875, one of its first owners was Frank J. Spacek, an agent for newly arrived Czech immigrants. The recognition of Fayetteville as "cradle of Czech immigration to Texas" was due in part to Spacek's helping new immigrants find homes and jobs. The right part of the building once housed the first town newspaper, *Vestnik*, printed by the SPJST, then later the *Fayetteville Fact* newspaper; it was also once Drawe's Barber Shop. The left section of the building was once a furniture store and the Buckhorn Saloon. Upstairs contained the offices of Spacek Sr. and was also a dance hall. The Knesek family ran the funeral home before Koenig Peel and were also beer distributors; the family might have been involved in the ownership of the Janak Brewery. The funeral chapel, to the north on N. Live Oak St., was once a car

dealership.



25. **Keilers Restaurant & Lodge**—west of the Knesek building—has been rebuilt and was once the site of the C. J. Klimicek Saloon and the Wertzner Barber Shop. Part of the building was a general merchandise store and offices for R. B. Spacek while he was a state legislator and insurance agent. The Klimicek Saloon building was one of the oldest in town and had a wine cellar.

26. The **Old Garage**—west of Keiler's Restaurant and Lodge—contains two structures, built in 1917 by J. Cufu, Sr., and included a garage and International Harvester Dealership; later it held the Forres Confectionary, the John Vitek Electric Company and then the John Mynar Café.



27. The **Kaderka Building**—now Town Square Realty on W. Fayette St. west of the Old Garage—is a nostalgic store front building constructed in the 1870s. The first occupant was a bakery providing delicious Czech baked goods. The store was purchased in 1913 by Dr. Charles Kaderka, one of Fayetteville's first physicians. Dr. Kaderka had his practice next door (in the current insurance office) and leased the building to Kenny Halamicek who opened an ice cream parlor called the Horn Place, after the collection of horns mounted on the wall of the parlor. Halamicek's collection was so extensive that when he closed his doors he donated the horns to the Pearl Brewery in San Antonio where they still hang. In 1955, the building was purchased by Frank and Mildred Uhyrek who opened Frank's Plumbing & Hardware. In 1977, the building became an antique store, Blue Meadows, then a malt shop and an antique store.



28. **Kaderka's Office**—now the Fayetteville Insurance—served as Dr. Kaderka's office and his music studio where he made violins. Later it housed Kyle Tailor Shop for many years.



29. **Orsak's Café**—next building west on W. Fayette St.—comprises two buildings. The right building was the first Fayetteville movie house and was operated by the Michalsky family; it was also a saloon. The left building was the old Pagel Tire building, formerly a steam cleaning and pressing tailor shop, and a ladies' ready-to-wear operated by R. B. Spacek. The building still contains the old clothing racks.



30. The **Zapp Building**—northwest corner of the Square on N. Washington St. and W. Fayette St. and now the Country Place Hotel—displays the name of the first owner, Zapp, a prominent local family who started their business in 1865. Constructed in 1900, the building served first as a mercantile store with office upstairs for dentist, doctor and photographer as well as space for a small hospital. The building was used as a hotel for the drummers' (traveling salesmen's) trade. There was a "speak-easy" in the basement during prohibition and a saloon during World War II.

31. The **Compton-Zapp House**—up N. Washington St. on the corner of Market St.—dates from the 19th century. Its central hall plan is typical of Texas vernacular homes of the time. It was occupied by many prominent Fayetteville residents including the Zapp family who lived in the house from 1865 to 1945.



32. The **Sladek-Hillman House**—at the corner of Hwy 159 and FM 955—was built in 1896 by R. J. Sladek, a Bohemian immigrant. In 1897, ownership was transferred to Anna Hillman, widow of Ludwig Hillman, an early settler to the area. The cottage features 12-foot ceilings and millwork carvings of intricate detail. The front porch columns are bracketed and the bay window is decorated with fish scale siding.



33. **St. Paul Lutheran Church**—at the corner of Rusk St. (Hwy 159) and W. Fayette St.—reflects the length of time the area has had Lutheran worship. In 1851, Pastor J. C. Roehm of Basel Switzerland organized the first Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Texas and then began preaching in the area, establishing St. John Lutheran Church of Ross Prairie in 1859. In 1894, the growing number of St. John members in Fayetteville erected a church building on this site, calling the Rev. Vaclav Pzadral who served until 1911. By 1938, the church's name had changed from St. John to St. Paul; services were held in English and German until 1947.

34. The **Old Germania School site**—across W. Fayette St. from St. Paul—was under leadership of Prof. William Eilers and was the public school until 1910 when the Fayetteville Public School was built.

35. The **Kubena Chevrolet building**—at end of block at corner of Rusk St. (Hwy 159) and W. Fayette St.—was later Jerry Vavra Chevrolet and then various garages, including those held by Emil Sury and Joe Orsak.



36. **Ye Old Garage**—on the opposite corner of Kubena Chevrolet building—is the Old Kubena Garage.



A Little Further Away, a little longer walk....

37. **Fayetteville Public School**—northwest on Hwy 159 near city limit—was built in 1911 and is a red, two-story brick school building. Ground was broken for the \$10,000 building on Monday, February 13, 1911 on land purchased from J. R. Kubena for \$300. On July 19, 1911, all of the businesses closed and the entire town, as well as large crowds from neighboring towns and communities, congregated to form a procession around the Square and out to the new school building. The opening ceremonies included speakers, trustees, Baca Band, school children with flags. Little Miss Lester Stierling presented the keys to the building to the president of the school board, Ed Sarrazin, who then opened the doors, inviting everyone to enter and inspect the building. The spacious hall on the upper floor was crowded with capacity with County Superintendent Stierling addressed the crowd on the consolidation of the two schools—Germania School and a Bohemian? school—existing earlier. Upon the conclusion of the addresses and after a photograph was taken of the assembly, the procession brought the guests down to the Germania Hall where a bountiful supply of BBQ, pickles, bread and cake, and liquid refreshments were served for which Fayetteville is so well known. The remainder of the afternoon was passed with additional speeches and various amusements. At night, a ball was held which was well attended and greatly enjoyed by everyone.

39. The **Railroad Hotel**—the yellow building across R.R. tracks down Scott St. (FM 1291)—housed men working on the railroad. Their restaurant was to the right where

the old well is still visible. The old M. K. T. Depot was once nearby.



40. The **Fayetteville City Cemetery and Catholic Cemetery**. Located four blocks from town, on the outskirts of town off of FM 1291. These two adjoining cemeteries contain 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 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.

41. **SPJST Hall**

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