



17. 105 East Main: Main Street Gallery was originally two stores built in 1885. In 1919 the two were made into one large general store.

18. The Alford Building, 109 East Main: The structure was built in 1885. The property was operated as a drug store, until 1909, then a general merchandise store. The upper floor served as the Woodmen of the World lodge until the turn of the century. **(National Register)**

19. Stewart Building, 111 East Main: the first floor was built in 1885, the second floor, added in 1915, served as a lodge. Except of a few years in the 1890's, this building has housed a drug store for over 100 years. Following this long tradition is Strong-Hurt Pharmacy, the present owner. **(National Register)**

20. 113 East Main: Built in 1885. Fire damaged the building in 1905. Building still has the iron column dated 1906. **(National Register)**

21. 115 East Main: Known as the Richardson Building built in 1885. Fire damaged building in 1905. **(National Register)**

22. Marwil Building, 117 East Main: This building, built in 1885, was originally a public saloon. Most of this block burned in 1905 and the businesses were gutted. Many of the store fronts were altered in the renovation.

23. 119 and 121 East Main: The 1905 fire started next door and damaged the rest of the block. These 1885 buildings were able to keep much of their original structure.

24. 123 East Main: The building housing Rayford Florist was gutted by fire in 1905. It was rebuilt in 1910. The building has an outstanding example of art deco black glass trimming on the front facade.

25. 125 East Main Built in 1885: Gutted by fire in 1905, Rebuilt in 1910, housed Ray Pharmacy for many years.

YEAR AROUND ACTIVITIES

- Henderson Civic Theatre
- Spring and Summer Festivals
- Pep Rallies
- Heritage Syrup Festival - 2nd Saturday in November
- Christmas Parade
- Christmas Home Tour/Buildings

ATTRACTIONS

Howard Dickinson House Museum, 501 South Main, was built in 1855 by David and Logan Howard. The Howard's were brick masons and contractors, who built many buildings in the downtown district. the bricks for this and many other buildings were manufactured at a brick yard located on the grounds of the house. Open by appointment for groups of 10 or more.

Depot Museum Complex, at 514 North High St. houses a county history museum and children's discovery center. Located on the grounds are a 1908 outhouse, an 1841 log cabin, a barn, a caboose, an oil derrick, a doctor's office and an 1884 dogtrot house. The Museum is open Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Closed on Holidays).



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1920's Downtown ~ East Main Street

HENDERSON T E X A S

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR



Opera House around 1900

Henderson, Texas was designated the county seat of Rusk County when it was formed in 1843. The downtown business district was laid out around the court-house square. Henderson grew into an important commercial, cultural and governmental center for the area. The first building was built in 1838.★

The downtown has maintained its integrity through the tragic fire of 1860, which destroyed most of the businesses in the area, the Civil War Reconstruction, the oil boom of the 1930's and the oil bust of the 1980's.

In 1988, Henderson was designated a **Texas Main Street Project City**. The City and State made a commitment to improve the downtown area and encourage economic development through renovation of the historic buildings and recruitment of new businesses. Today the unique character of Downtown has been preserved and the area has new life.

We invite you to walk with us through Historic Henderson!

1. Wathen-March Building, 100 North Marshall: Locally known as the Mays and Harris building, after the department store that occupied the building through three generations of these two local families. The building was built in 1885 by the Howard Brothers. **(National Register)**

2. Southwestern Hotel, 114-122 North Marshall: Built by Calvin Barber, Sr. in 1913, with guest quarters upstairs and retail space on the first floor. The hotel, later called the Liberty, was briefly the home of "Dad" Joiner, discoverer of the Great East Texas Oil Field.

★ **3. First National Bank Building, 101 South Marshall:** the first two floors were built in 1902. The original architectural style was Classical Revival, but the building was remodeled in 1932, when two more floors were added due to increased business from the oil boom. ★ **The bank building stands on the site of Henderson's first commercial enterprise, a dry goods store which opened in 1838.**

4. Old Fire Station, 109 South Marshall: Served until the early 1940's as the city fire station and police office. The building has cast stone cornice on parapet with art deco details.

5. Edward Barthold House, 116 S. Marshall: One of the oldest brick residences in town, this home was built in 1877. The building displays elements of the Greek Revival architectural style.



South Main Street

Most buildings in this block were built between 1885 and 1920.

6. Chamberlain Chevrolet Building, 125 South Main: Built by H. B. Chamberlain and D. W. Farley in 1931 to house the first Chevrolet dealership in Rusk County. The building is distinguished by decorative brick work featuring the Chevrolet logo.

6a. 128 South Main: Renovated in 2004

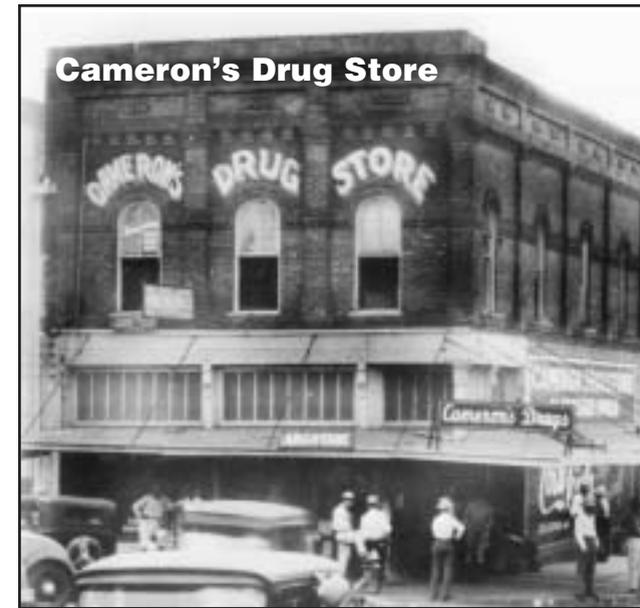
7. Rusk County Courthouse, 115 North Main: This "art deco" structure was the fourth courthouse to serve the county. In 1933 a jail was added on the grounds. The county was named for Thomas Jefferson Rusk, pioneer statesman. A statue was erected in his honor during the Texas Centennial, and now stands in front of the Courthouse.

8. Old U. S. Post Office, 202 North Main: For nearly 45 years this Classical Revival building served as the county's main post office.

9. Masonic Lodge Building, 101 North Main: Built in 1884 by S. W. Mims, Clinton Lodge No. 23 bought the building in 1893 and used it until 1935. **(National Register, Texas Historical Marker)**

Designated a National Register Historic District in 1995.

***Heritage Square:** Built in 1990 by the citizens of Henderson and Rusk County, this area serves as the focal point of the downtown and is used extensively for community wide events. As you walk through our Main Street area we invite you to sit and relax as you enjoy downtown area.*



Cameron's Drug Store

10. Merritt Building, 100 East Main: Built in 1883, by J. F. Merritt as a saloon. The construction is attributed to Dave and Logan Howard. Around the turn of the century, James Cameron leased the building and opened Cameron Drug Store. The drug store operated for nearly 50 years. The Merritt building was the first building restored on the square. **(National Register, Texas Historical Marker)**

11. Kangerga Building, 102 East Main: Built in 1931, this art deco building was built to house the Kangerga brother's oil leasing, cotton brokerage and investment business. **(National Register, Texas Historical Marker)**

12. Rusk County Library, 104-106 East Main: The first floor was built in 1909 by Mille and Rade Kangerga to house their mercantile business. The second floor of offices was added in 1916. M. E. Moses occupied the building for many years. In 1988 the building was donated to the Rusk County Library. **(National Register)**

13. 110 East Main: Built in 1885, a 5 & 10 store occupied this building for many years. **(National Register)**

14. Opera House, 122 East Main: Built in 1885 by J. T. Turner as an Opera House. Irregular performances were held until 1918 when the building was purchased by E. M. Dotson and J. E. Norvell who operated a general mercantile business. The second floor galley was partitioned as offices in the 1930's. The Henderson Civic Theatre holds seasonal performances at the theatre today.



**Palace Theater, 1931
(Western Auto Store)**

15. Old Palace Theater, 101 North Jackson: Constructed in 1929, by H. C. Griffin, who leased it out as a movie theater for over 30 years. The theater stands on the site of the old Davenport Hotel. Art deco was a popular choice for buildings built during the oil boom of the 1930's. **The building at 109 North Jackson was renovated in 2002.**

16. Old Sinclair Service Station, 126 West Main: This early service station in Henderson was built in 1929 by Louisiana Oil Refining Co.



**Kangerga Bros., 1917
(Rusk Co. Library)**