

The mission of the City of Cedar Hill is to deliver the highest quality municipal services to our citizens and customers consistent with our community values.

We envision Cedar Hill as a premier city that retains its distinctive character; where families and businesses flourish in a safe and clean environment.



The mission of the Cedar Hill Museum is to collect, preserve and protect historic and prehistoric materials relating to Cedar Hill in order to use these materials to interpret its history through exhibits, publishing materials relevant to the community's history and conducting educational programs to benefit present and future generations.

### **CEDAR HILL MUSEUM OF HISTORY**

332 Cedar Street  
P. O. Box 1021  
Cedar Hill, Texas 75106

Phone: 972.293.3806  
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## **Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour**

*Where the past meets the present*

### **CEDAR HILL MUSEUM OF HISTORY**

**972.293.3806**



**Self-guided walking tour of  
historic Old Town Cedar Hill**

Visit our website at [www.cedarhillmuseum.com](http://www.cedarhillmuseum.com)

## **Where the past meets the present**

*T*ake a leisurely stroll around Old Town and discover the charm and distinctive character that is Cedar Hill.

Step into the Southwest Corner Gallery and imagine how it may have looked in 1932 the day Raymond Hamilton, a sidekick of notorious bank robbers Bonnie and Clyde, robbed what was then the First State Bank, and don't forget to check out the vault.

Capture the charm of The Depot House, one half of the former Cedar Hill train depot, relocated and now a residence.

Take in the majestic beauty of the Robert G. Brandenburg House with its sweeping antebellum porch and stately 100-year old trees.

And don't miss the two-story "Gingerbread House," believed to be the oldest standing structure in Cedar Hill, built by Confederate Army Surgeon, Dr. Rufus Alston Roberts.

*T*he City of Cedar Hill City Council, the Main Street Development and Preservation Board and the Cedar Hill Museum of History recognize these properties as significant in history and architecture. We acknowledge the valued contributions to the preservation and protection of these historic resources for the education and enjoyment of future generations of Cedar Hill citizens and visitors.



*Church of the Nazarene c. 1912*

*L*earn more about these and other historic resources at the Cedar Hill Museum of History or the Zula B. Wylie Library.

# Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour

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The walking tour is 2.2 miles in length and can be completed in just over an hour. Look for the Historic Resource medallion and story plaque at each site.



★ Denotes Texas State Historic Marker



*The Gingerbread House c.1884*

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## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ E. E. Straus House



### 400 Cedar Street

E. E. Straus built his home at 400 Cedar Street circa 1884. The ornately decorated, two-story, late Victorian home features a broad front porch and spacious yard. An early prominent merchant in the village, Mr. Straus began as a traveling salesman, but later joined his brother E. C. Straus, doing business as Straus & Brother, Dealers in General Merchandise. The home was sold to members of the Bryant/Wylie families around 1920 and it serves as a family gathering place and homestead to this day. The home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places



## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ Zula Bryant Wylie House

2



### 404 Cedar Street

James L. Straus, of the pioneer Straus Mercantile family, built his house at 404 Cedar Street circa 1900. The modest one-story, wood-clad structure featured a wide front porch with gable roof.

Frank Wylie and his wife, Zula Bryant Wylie, purchased the house in 1919. The brick veneer was applied in 1945 and featured large, square columns on the porch typical of mid-twentieth century, craftsman bungalow-style architecture. An addition was constructed circa 1950 creating a large I-shaped structure with hip roof design and a detached garage. Ownership of the house, which serves as a family gathering place, remains in the hands of Wylie family descendants to this day.



## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ Texaco Station

3



### 108 South Main Street

The service station at 108 South Main Street was built in 1924 on what was then the primary road between Cedar Hill and the city of Dallas to the north. One of three service stations along a one block stretch, it was constructed of masonry block on a concrete slab with tilt roof and featured two gasoline pumps with covered drive, three mechanic bays and a brick façade. Hugh Kirk Plummer was the station's first operator.

The Texas Fuel Company introduced Texaco brand gasoline in 1926, rapidly expanding distribution of Fire Chief and Havoline products over the next five years. It is believed the station took the Texaco brand name during this period.

Hugh Plummer and son Jessie operated the Texaco station for many years. After his father's death, Jessie's brother, Burlon Troy "Buck" Plummer, joined him in running the station. For years the station was a gathering place for anyone wanting to sit a spell or discuss topics ranging from pistons to politics. It was said that the Plummer brothers, with mechanic Jack Moore, Jr., could get most any car back on the road in record time. In 1950 Alton Forbis briefly operated an Esso station out of the building, but in 1951 the brothers reopened as Buck Plummer Texaco. At the time the station was sold to the Wylie Family in 1983 it was the oldest continuous business operation in the city. The property was donated to the First Baptist Church in 2008.





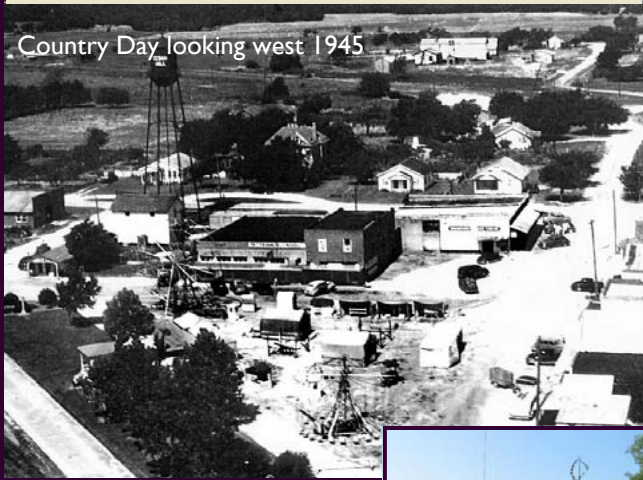
# Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ Cedar Hill Town Square

Newly  
Added

Cedar Hill looking north c. 1940



Country Day looking west 1945



## 200 South Main Street

The tiny settlement of Cedar Hill was established in 1846. Families set their roots around a special plot of land donated by Abraham Hart, one of the first settlers in the area and recipient of land through the 1841 Peter's Colony land grant.

William C. Hart donated the land for the town square in 1847, although the plat was not laid out until 1871 when J. M. Williams of the Santa Fe Railroad put pen to paper and officially filed the plat with Dallas County. The streets around town square became the hub of local government, business and social activity, but the actual town square piece of property remained vacant for decades as a park. The square was the site of a community well and was furnished with rough-hewn cedar seating known as 'whittler's benches'.

In the early 1900's a thoroughfare was created that bisected the square diagonally and featured a landscaped median. In the 1940s a bandstand was constructed and the square served as the site for the annual fall festival that became Country Day on the Hill. Not until 1962, over 100 years after the land was donated, did the city build on the property, constructing a shared facility that housed city government offices, the library and a modern, three-bay fire station.

The library and fire department relocated in 1987 to make room for the newly renovated City Hall. In 2003, citizens approved a bond to construct a new facility. In 2008 the city consolidated all departments under one roof on Uptown Boulevard, vacating the old city hall and making room for Babe's Chicken Dinner House.



## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ Citizens Bank of Cedar Hill

4



### 515 Cedar Street

Citizens Bank of Cedar Hill was built circa 1904 by J. M. Ramsey and “other men of means and influence,” including George Riddle and Robert G. Brandenburg. The one-story brick commercial building with an ornate corner entry features two chimneys spaced along the east elevation. The bank was chartered as the First Guaranty State Bank in 1913 and operated under that name until 1926 when it was changed to the First State Bank, then again in 1963 to the First Bank and Trust. Since its construction, the building has housed various commercial ventures including furniture, insurance, a title company, law and dentist offices.

On October 8, 1932, the then First State Bank, was robbed by Raymond Hamilton, a sidekick of notorious bank robbers Bonnie and Clyde. When Hamilton got wind of reports that some of the cash had been hidden during the first robbery, he returned to rob the bank again. The bank, owned by the First Baptist Church of Cedar Hill, has been home to the Southwest Corner Gallery since 2001.





## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ Wilson Building

5



### 601 Cedar Street

The Wilson Building, located at 601 Cedar Street, was constructed in the early 1900s. The simple stud framed, rectangular-shaped structure was typical of the Frontier Commercial buildings of the time. It featured a gable roof and shed wing on the west side, with a false front that stretched the length of the façade. The original front elevation had a double door with a single-pane transom centered symmetrically on the building and a window on each side.

Mr. Pony Wilson was the first occupant of the building, operating Wilson Drug Store. The post office was located in the back of the drug store. J. C. Potter moved into the store in 1916, sharing the space with barber, William Lay. D. M. Angle operated a general merchandise store in this building between 1922 and 1929, offering temporary space to Jack Moore, Sr. while his burned building was being reconstructed. Since that time the building served as a drive-in, café, food store, a country market and antique mall. The building was purchased by the Lushaj Family in 2005.





## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ T. A. Bray Building

6



### 210 Houston Street

Thomas A. Bray and his wife, Eva Potter Bray, purchased the property at 210 Houston Street in 1918. The building constructed on the site circa 1920 housed T. A. Bray General Merchandise. The original one-story brick structure had two entry doors flanked by large front display windows and featured a dentil course spanning the façade top. The building also had a wooden awning beneath transom windows, typical of early twentieth century commercial-style construction.

In 1945 the building was divided and the south storefront was leased to Pauline and William Shaw who transformed the space into Cedar Hill's first movie house. *The Cedar* had a large triangular-shaped marquee decorated in green and pink neon. In the mid 1950s an old projector caught fire and the incident proved fatal for the movie house which closed shortly thereafter.

The library took up residence in the building from 1956 to 1961, rent free, compliments of the Brays. The building stayed in the Bray Family until 1976 when it was sold to a group of local businessmen operating the Cedar Mountain Combine, Inc., who rehabilitated the interior space. Jimmie Ruth White purchased the building in 1980, opening Spotlight Dance Studio that same year. Donnie and Stacia Woodlan purchased the property in 2001, painstakingly restoring the façade of the aging structure to its former distinction.



# Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ Old City Hall Electromagnetic Wave Contraption

Newly  
Added



## 505 Texas Street

The tiny settlement of Cedar Hill was established in 1846. Abraham and William Hart donated the land for the town and the square in 1847. The streets around town square became the hub of local government, business and social activity, but the actual town square piece of property remained undeveloped until 1962, over 100 years after the land was donated.

In a controversial move, city officials proposed actually utilizing the, by then, sacred ground as the site for a multi-purpose municipal services building. On June 21, 1962 the city dedicated the new shared facility on Cedar Hill Town Square, in the shadow of *the towers*, that housed government offices, the library, a modern, three-bay fire station and the state-of-the-art communication contraption you see here, that sat atop the X-shaped building.

The central structure, a miniature version of the towers, initially supported the fire department warning sirens, but the sirens only brought firefighters as far as the station. The task of communicating the location of the emergency to firefighters fell to then City Secretary, Marie Vincent, who would hang out the window and yell the address of the fire. Originally twice as tall, a gust of wind blew the antenna over in 1992 and only half made it back atop the building.

As technology advanced the tower began sprouting peculiar-shaped paraphernalia, but in City Hall below it was business as usual; dogs tied to the porch, a bag of dead fish on the door, blue-dyed water bill payments, typical government stuff. Then on a Sunday evening in August 2000, Dr. Jannay Valdez of DeSoto sited a UFO near the towers, speeding through the sky toward town. Although Police Chief Steve Rhodes reported no other UFO sightings that night, Dr. Valdez was undeterred, reporting the incident to the International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell, New Mexico.

Babe's founder, Paul Vinyard, has meticulously preserved the contraption to ward off marauding chicken hawks.





## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ Atkins / Prior House

Newly  
Added



### 302 South Main Street

The house at 302 South Main Street was built in 1940 by Ollie and Nellie Atkins. The modest one-story I-shaped structure has classic cottage styling and features a gable roof, a center entry with shed-roof covering, four symmetrically-spaced, six over six sash windows and a small dormer window at the rear. The house was dubbed by locals as the ‘community house’ because much of the material used in construction of the home was recycled from throughout the community.

Ollie Atkins ran the service station behind his house at the corner of Texas and Houston streets in the former livery stable and Von Barrett had the mechanic shop in the back. Nellie Atkins was a quiet, reserved woman who frequently walked the Old Town area in the evenings and was a popular baking contributor in the fire department’s pie fundraisers on the square beside her home. Nellie Atkins died in 1993 and the home remained vacant until 2003 when it was purchased from her grandson by Frank and Kenna Prior.

Kenna Prior served on the Cedar Hill Development and Preservation Board in the early 2000s. Kenna, husband Frank and daughter Anna Stasia continue to take active roles in historic downtown affairs and have lovingly restored the home to its former charm.



## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ S. T. Moore House

7



### 321 South Houston Street

S. T. Moore built his home at 321 South Houston Street in 1913. A local café and market owner, S. T. and his wife, Cloe raised their family in the single-story home just south of the town square. The ell-shaped construction, with detached carriage house, features a wide front porch with a cross-gable roof. The 1954 addition at the back of the structure was built in a style consistent with the original house.

The house was purchased from Cloe Moore in the early 1970s, by Harvey H. Newton who passed it to his granddaughter, Shannon Newton Hill, in 1992. The home has been lovingly restored to its original charm and character and is a showplace in the Old Town district.





## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ William Bryant, Jr. House

8



### 398 South Broad Street

William Bryant, Jr. built his home at 398 South Broad Street in 1889, on the southwestern edge of the original Cedar Hill Town Square. The two-story, ell-shaped house features a long covered porch on the rear of the structure. A successful rancher, William and his wife Sarah Louisa McCan raised eight children in the home; Juan, Mary Elizabeth, Georgia, Mabel, Zula, Leon, Wilson, and Byron.

Bryant family descendents retain ownership of the home to this day.



## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ Dr. Rufus A. Roberts House

9



210 South Broad Street

Dr. Rufus Alston Roberts built his home at 210 South Broad Street in 1884. A former Confederate Army Surgeon, he closely supervised construction of the ornately detailed, two-story, Victorian-style home.

Dr. Roberts built an office on the rear of the home and the outhouse still stands in the back yard. Believed to be the oldest standing structure in Cedar Hill, the “Gingerbread House,” as it has come to be known, carries a Texas State Historical Marker and is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



★ Denotes Texas State Historic Marker



## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ 608 Cedar Street Commercial Block ~ Moore Bakery

10a



### 608 Cedar Street

The Cedar Street Commercial Block was built circa 1911. The original Commercial Block consisted of a rectangular-shaped, brick building, constructed in the Frontier Commercial style, with a partition wall, creating two retail stores, each with its own entry door and flanked by early twentieth century display windows. A third, identical space was added to the east of the original building, circa 1924, on the former site of Moore's Café and Meat Market that burned the previous year.

Jack Moore, Jr. temporarily located his Café across Cedar Street in the Wilson Building while constructing a new building at 208 Houston. His father, Jack Moore, Sr. opened a bakery in the new addition to the Cedar Street Commercial Block where he baked bread in large ovens. In later years the space housed a washeteria.

The Potter and Bennett families retained ownership of the Commercial Block, including the addition, until 1964 and the building remained virtually unaltered after its construction until the interiors and business facades were rehabilitated in the early 1980s.



## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ 610 Cedar Street Commercial Block ~ Lay's Barber Shop

10b



### 610 Cedar Street

The Cedar Street Commercial Block was built circa 1911. The original Commercial Block consisted of a rectangular-shaped, brick building, constructed in the Frontier Commercial style, with a partition wall, creating two retail stores, each with its own entry door and flanked by early twentieth century display windows. A third, identical space was added to the east of the original building, circa 1924, on the former site of Moore's Café and Meat Market that burned the previous year.

Local barber, William H. Lay, first occupied the center space, followed by a series of stores including Potter's Drug.

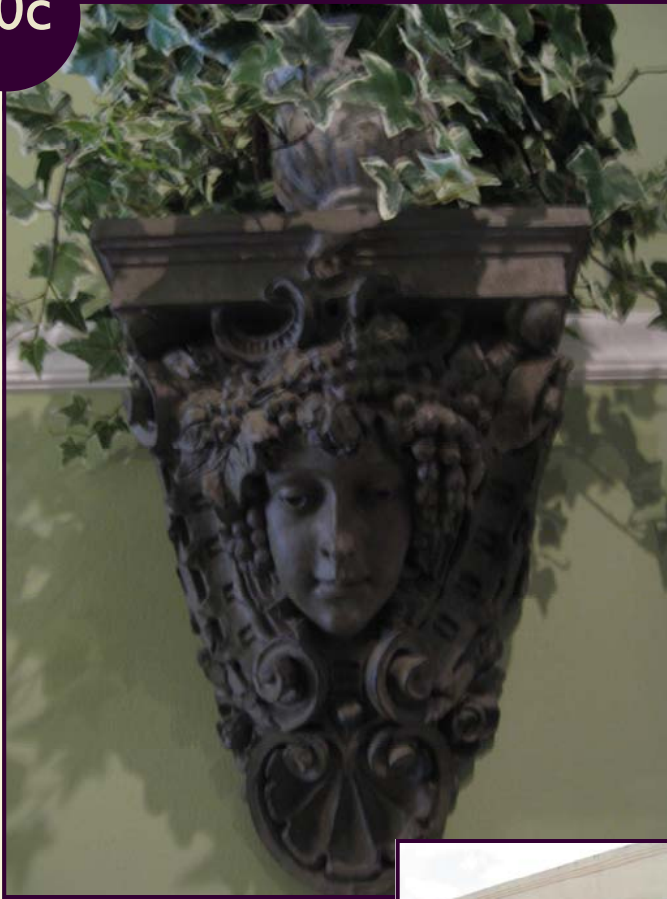
The Potter and Bennett families retained ownership of the Commercial Block until 1964 and the building remained virtually unaltered after its construction until the interiors and business facades were rehabilitated in the early 1980s.





## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ 612 Cedar Street Commercial Block ~ J. C. Potter Drug

10c



### 612 Cedar Street

The Cedar Street Commercial Block was built circa 1911. The original Commercial Block consisted of a rectangular-shaped, brick building, constructed in the Frontier Commercial style, with a partition wall, creating two retail stores, each with its own entry door and flanked by early twentieth century display windows. A third, identical space was added to the east of the original building, circa 1924, on the former site of Moore's Café and Meat Market that burned the previous year.

The first occupant of the westernmost space was J. C. Potter who ran a drug store there, followed by E. C. Bennett Grocery and Fred Nafus, also a grocer. Eventually the space reverted to its original use as a drug store followed by a series of other commercial uses.

The Potter and Bennett families retained ownership of the Commercial Block until 1964 and the building remained virtually unaltered after its construction until the interiors and business facades were rehabilitated in the early 1980s.



## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ Cox / Chapman House

11



### 701 West Belt Line Road

The pioneer Cox family built their home at 701 West Belt Line Road in the mid 1930s in the Victorian cottage-style architecture. The one-story, wood-clad structure features three I-shaped wings with intersecting cross-gable rooflines, a modest front porch and two fireplaces.

George and Kitty Chapman purchased the home in 1940 and raised their family here. In the spring of 1949 Willis and Fannie Chapman built the adjacent home at 116 North Broad Street for a cost of approximately \$3,000. Local carpenter Charlie Taylor built the small bungalow using only hand tools and with materials purchased from Millard Potter's Lumber Yard located on the current site of Phillips' Lumber.

The Mobley family purchased both homes in 2002.





## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ D. M. Angle / Potter House

12



800 West Belt Line Road

D. M. Angle purchased the 1895 Victorian cottage at 800 West Belt Line Road in 1909. The one-story, ornately decorated, ell-shaped dwelling has a full covered porch on three sides of the house. A farmer and local merchant, Mr. Angle sold the house to the Potter family in later years and they retained ownership of the home until 1992.

The building was purchased by Dr. Jeri Morgan and has been restored, serving as a residence and medical therapy office.



## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ Robert G. Brandenburg House

13



### 901 Brandenburg Street

The Brandenburg House was built in 1888 by Sarah Margaret Brandenburg Emmerson and her husband. The Country Victorian-style house was later sold to Sarah's brother Robert, who occupied the home another 50 years.

When David F. and Nancy Abbett Jenswold Anderson moved to Cedar Hill in 1984 they purchased the severely deteriorated structure and, over the next two years, painstakingly restored the home to its original grandeur, adding a garage workshop on the west end of the property. The Andersons operated a bed and breakfast inn at the Brandenburg House for about three years during the 1980s.





## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ Ramsey / Nafus House

14



### 1007 West Belt Line Road

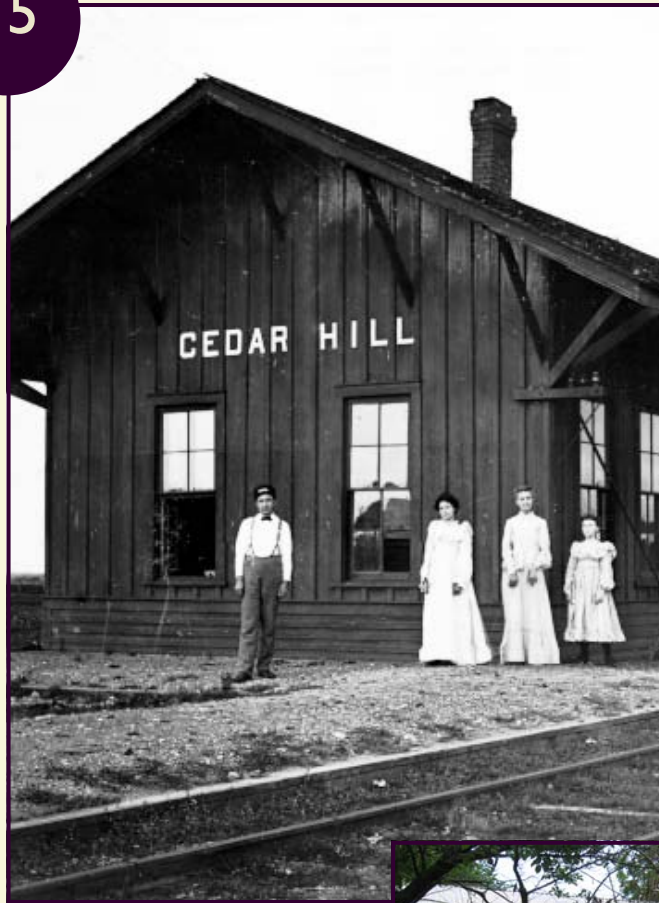
The Ramsey/Nafus House located at 1007 West Belt Line Road sits on 1.9 acres of land and dates back to the 1860s, when the Ramsey family moved to Cedar Hill from Missouri. Samul Ramsey received a land certificate from Thomas Ward, of the Peters Colony, and later divided his land in Cedar Hill among his nine children. Additions to the original house date to the late 1890s, and feature a T-shaped structure, redwood frame construction, a sweeping hexagonal-shaped porch, large columns and a gazebo-style overhang topped with a gable roof.

Vera Ramsey, who married Fred Nafus, inherited the home from her parents, James Commodore and Mary Elizabeth “Millie” (McCann) Ramsey. Jim Carrell, great-grandson of James and Millie, visited the homeplace in the 1990s with other members of the Ramsey Family. The home remained in Ramsey/Nafus family hands until 2003 when it was purchased by Faye Williams.



## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ The Depot House

15



### 126 North Potter Street

During the winter of 1880, our city forefathers learned of the railroad's plan to build a line in this area. Recognizing the importance of the railroad to Cedar Hill's economic future, Dr. R. A. Roberts began a campaign to have a line in our city, arranging transfers of deeds, gifts, rights-of-way and donation of land for a depot. The first trial run was made through Cedar Hill in 1882 and a depot was built shortly thereafter.

The rectangular-shaped wooden structure featured a freight door on the south end, eight-panel sash windows and an extra wide roof overhang. The depot served passenger and freight trains for over fifty years, but by the late 1940s the depot had closed. The railway station was spared demolition, but was bisected and the halves sold.

Claude Potter bought half of the structure, moved it to its current location at 126 North Potter Street, and converted it to rental property. Little was done to the building except for enclosure of the open end and the addition of a shed-roof porch over the existing door.

The Depot House was purchased by Eric and Merilee Iverson in 2007 and the interior has been updated, but the façade remains virtually unchanged.





## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ Hawkes / Harrington House

16



132 North Potter Street

Zachariah T. “Tip” Hawkes, built his home at 132 North Potter Street in 1899. A railroad section foreman, Tip sold the home to the Harrington family in 1920. Joe B. Harrington was one of three rural delivery mail carriers in Cedar Hill in 1903.

The home is an I-style construction with a two-story front façade and one-story back. The home has been lovingly restored by current owners Gary and Frances Reed. The home carries a Texas State Historical Marker and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



★ Denotes Texas State Historic Marker

## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ Haswell House

17



### 115 North Roberts Street

Henry Forrest Haswell came to Cedar Hill in the late 1800s as a Notary Public with the railway and worked as a book-keeper for several retail merchants in Dallas. Here he met and married Margaret Ann Merrifield in 1895. In addition to his bookkeeping job, he also built houses in Cedar Hill. He built the house at 115 Roberts Street in 1898 to accommodate his growing family. The one-story, T-shaped structure has Victorian styling and features a gable roof with dormer window over a three-sided protrusion, each with double hung sash windows.

The home remained in the Haswell/Merrifield families for many years. Michael and Amanda Wait purchased the house in 2003, meticulously restoring the building to its original condition.

The Waits maintain offices in the historic home.





## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ First United Methodist Church

18



127 North Roberts Street

The First United Methodist Church of Cedar Hill was formed in 1894. The congregation's first church building was destroyed in the great tornado of 1856. A later frame building was constructed north of the present structure. In 1900 that building was torn down and reconstructed at 127 North Roberts Street, the site of the present Sanctuary. The historic structure features beautiful stained-glass windows, a functioning bell tower and Gothic detailing. The Church carries a Texas State Historical Marker and is a Recorded Texas Historical Landmark.



★ Denotes Texas State Historic Marker

## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ Straus / Cannady House

19



### 202 North Broad Street

J. M. Ramsey built the house at 202 North Broad Street in 1908, as a wedding gift for his daughter, Winnie, and son-in-law, M. M. Straus. The house was sold to Wardlow Cannady in 1930. A barber and veterinarian, Wardlow and his wife Minnie Lee Cannady raised four children in the home including T. W. “Turk” Cannady, two time mayor of Cedar Hill.

The one-story, cottage home features a wide front porch, detached carriage house and beautiful English-style garden. The exterior design of the home has never been altered. The home was purchased by the late Joseph Walker Cannady and his wife, Lois Duvall, in 1980, and is lovingly maintained by Lois to this day.





## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ Edward C. Bennett House

20



### 215 North Broad Street

E. C. Bennett built the house at 215 North Broad Street in 1924, replacing the first house on the property with modern style and construction reflective of his mercantile success in the Cedar Hill business community. The house is a near-picture-perfect example of the craftsman bungalow style with its ell-shaped front porch and hip roof design.

Robert and Jolynda Williams purchased the home in 1954 and began raising rabbits to supplement Robert's income working nights at the *Dallas Times Herald*. An enterprising entrepreneur, Williams began raising worms under the rabbit hutches and the Oakhaven Worm Farm was born. The Bennett House property became nationally famous as a result of the worm farm. It was featured on the evening news, in the Wall Street Journal, and on the television program Four Country Reporter. Hannah Foster, a worm counter for Oakhaven, appeared on 1960s game show, "What's My Line?"

The house was again owned by Bennett family members briefly before being sold to Kelly and Brenda Adkerson in 2001.



## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ Church of the Nazarene Parsonage

21



### 707 Wylie Street

In 1912 a group of Cedar Hill pioneers completed construction of the church on Straus Road, four years after inviting Pastor Frank Daniel to lead the newly formed Nazarene congregation. Three years later in 1915, church members built a parsonage for the pastor, his wife Angela, and their five children. The one-story rectangular-shaped house with hip-roof has two symmetrically centered entries flanked by three-over-three, double hung windows, under a gable-roof porch. The wood-clad structure was modest, but a marked improvement over the two small tents the Daniel Family had previously occupied, one which they lived in, the other to cook in, since their arrival in the summer of 1908.

The congregation remained quite active until the 1970s when the church and parsonage were sold to the Assembly of God. The properties were later sold to investors who leased the church building as a studio and the parsonage became offices. Members of Journey Baptist Church began meeting in the chapel in 1995 and six years later purchased both properties with the parsonage providing a study, two classrooms and kitchenette.





## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ Church of the Nazarene

22



### 201 Straus Road

Pastor Frank Daniel was holding a revival meeting at the Methodist Church in Webb, Texas when he was approached by a group of interested Cedar Hill pioneers about organizing a chapter of the Nazarene church in their community. Daniel arrived in Cedar Hill with his wife, Angela, and their five children in the summer of 1908. The first services were held in a tent on a vacant lot west of the Baptist Church, then in the high school auditorium, until construction of the building was completed in 1912. The parsonage was added in 1915 and the church remained active until the 1970's when a series of owners and businesses occupied the building.

The clapped-board frame structure features beautiful leaded-glass windows, a bell tower with steeple-style shingled roof and cottage detailing. In 1998 the church was featured in the made-for-television movie *Still Holding On: The Legend of Cadillac Jack*, starring Country entertainer Clint Black and his wife, actress Lisa Hartman. In 2001 the building was purchased by Journey Baptist Church, returning once more to its original purpose.



## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ Elliott / Abernathy House

23



### 408 West Belt Line Road

The Elliott/Abernathy House at 408 West Belt Line Road was built in 1889 by Furney Z. Elliott on a tract of land that appears on the city's first recorded town square plat. The 1910 census listed the house as the site of Elliott's Telephone Switchboard. Mr. Elliott and his wife operated the business from their home for many years. During the early 1950s, Southwestern Bell purchased all the independent telephone companies in Cedar Hill and the home was sold to the Richard Erdle Family.

The Country Victorian-style house is one of a handful in the area with a bois d'arc block foundation. Bois d'arc block construction is often referred to as "everlasting" because of its hardness, flexibility, durability and resistance to moisture and soil.

The aging structure was home to the Erdle Family until the late 1980s when it passed to their daughter, Dorothy Abernathy, a local counselor. In 2002, the home was purchased by Phillips Properties. Over the next year the building and small carriage house were painstakingly restored to their current condition and a separate office structure on the south end of the property was built in a complimentary style.





## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ Ground / Sims House

24



### 406 West Belt Line Road

The first house at 406 West Belt Line Road was probably constructed in the late 1890s on land owned by the pioneer Ground family. The original structure was lost to a fire in the mid 1930s and replaced by the current house built in 1938 for Mildred Ground. The classic craftsman, bungalow-style house, reminiscent of early 1900s construction, is believed to have closely replicated the previous house and features a gable roof, weatherboard façade, wide porch with brick accents and a fireplace.

Floyd and Iola Tidwell paid \$1,400 for the house in the mid 1940s, living here until the early 1950s when it was sold to the Sims family. Comer Sims, a widower, was joined in the house by son John Harvey “Bud” Sims and his wife Flossie who lived in the home until 2002.

Except for the addition of central heat and air, the house has not been altered since its 1938 construction and is lovingly maintained by Sims family descendants to this day.



# Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ Rose Plummer House

Newly  
Added



## 405 West Belt Line Road

The house at 405 West Belt Line Road was built in 1940 by Alexander Newt Vincent on land that had been in his family since the late 1800s. The modest wood-clad structure is an I-shaped construction on Bois d'Arc piers with a gable roof and small enclosed back entry. More prominent than the adjacent house is a domed storm shelter with brick ventilation flue built years before, around 1900, for Alexander's grandmother, Patricia Vincent Johnson.



Rose Bordner Plummer was born October 15, 1914, in Desoto, Texas and received her Bachelor of Arts from Trinity University. She taught second grade in Cedar Hill schools from 1935 to 1980. She also taught high school typing, shorthand and coached girls basketball for many years. She married Jess Plummer in 1936 and they resided at 609 West Belt Line Road before moving to this location in 2001. Rose Plummer was awarded an Honorary Lifetime Membership in the P.T.A., crowned Queen of the Hill in the annual Country Day celebration, and in 1980 South Hills Elementary on South Clark Road was renamed Plummer Elementary in honor of her 45 years of service to the Cedar Hill Independent School District.

Rose Plummer passed away November 25, 2005 at the age of 91. She is survived by her daughter, Jadene Plummer Brown who still lives in the area. The home was purchased by Phillips Properties in 2007 and has been lovingly restored to its former distinction.





## Cedar Hill Historic Walking Tour ~ Pogue House

25



### 230 West Belt Line Road

The house at 230 West Belt Line Road was constructed on land conveyed to Russell H. Pogue in 1913. The house is believed to have been built in the mid 1920s by Russell and his wife Martha Prince Pogue. This picture-perfect example of late craftsman bungalow architecture, inspired by the arts and crafts movement, features a low-pitched roof with wide eaves and thick, square columns supporting the deep front porch.

The house later passed to their son Guy and his wife Margaret. The Pogue Place, as it was known, extended southeast beyond current day U.S. Highway 67 and featured a barn behind the house from which Guy ran his farming operation. Known throughout town as a frugal man, it is said that Guy replaced the original worn wallpaper inside the house entirely with newspaper.

The house was purchased by the pioneer Wylie family in the 1960s as investment property. In 2007 family member Chris Parvin directed the extensive interior renovation for the White Rhino Coffee House.

