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Photos by Mark Canada

Conroe Art Bench Walking Tour

**Art you can sit on.
History you can reflect on.**





1. **George Strake** discovered oil in Conroe during the Depression and later became one of the wealthiest oil men in Houston. He was partner with his father in the GW Strake Company Petroleum Holdings. Designed and painted by Joe Kolb.



4. **History of Art** depicts art through the centuries—including cave paintings, sculpture, architecture, music, and the movies. Designed and created by Jerry Parker.



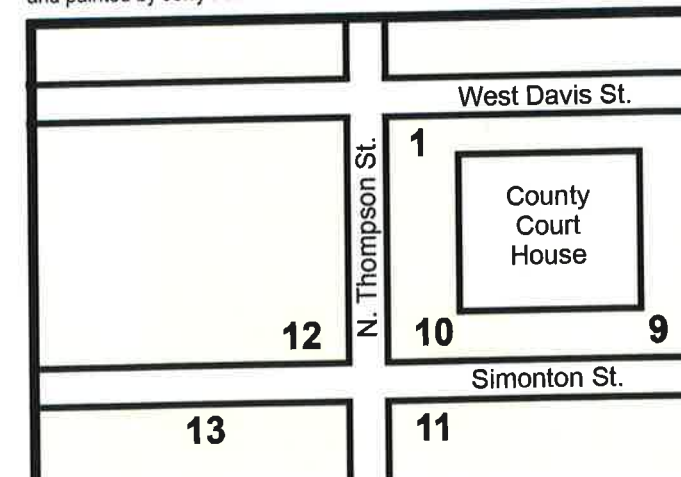
2. **Dr. Charles Stewart** served as the first Secretary of the State of Texas, signed of the Texas Declaration of Independence, designed the original Lone Star Flag, and represented Montgomery County in the first, fourth, and fourteenth legislatures. Laser etched by Mark Clapham.



5. **Train Depot** demonstrates the importance that commuter trains had in the development of our county. Conroe prospered the most in 1889 when commuter travel increased and brought economy to the developing town through the International and Great Northern Railroad. Designed and painted by Jerry Parker.



3. **Boogie Bench** is a tribute to local music history in Conroe. Many professional musical performances contribute annually through the





6. **The Visual Arts- on Track** honors the impact of the Art League in the community. Created by artists of the Conroe Art League in ceramic, glass tiles and paint.



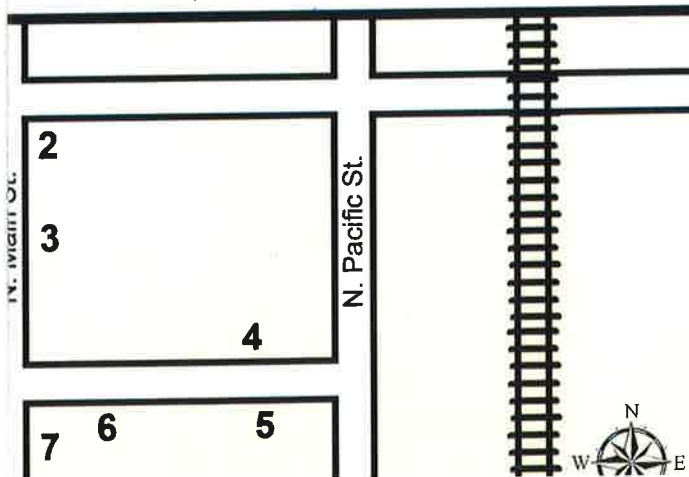
8. **Crighton Players** honors the original theatre group that was founded in 1967 to produce theatrical performances at the Historic Crighton Theatre. Created by Lynn Peverill.



7. **The Beat Goes On** –The Crighton Theatre, built in 1934, was donated in the 1970s to Montgomery County citizens who helped fund and restore the building. It has become the centerpiece of Conroe and is still "The Crown Jewel of Montgomery County". Created by Jerry Parker.



9. **History in Brief** celebrates Conroe's earliest industrial businesses of lumber and oil. During the 1930's, Conroe had more millionaires per capita than any other US city. The top was laser etched and sides were painted by Joe Davenport



10. **World War II** is a tribute to the people who staffed the Conroe naval base constructed in 1939 by the Civil Aeronautics Authority to



11. Boomtown is a tribute to the lumber industry and to Isaac Conroe who founded the town with its first lumber mill in 1881. The lumber trade brought new families, schools, a post office, churches, and additional sawmills to the prospering town. Painted by Jerry Parker.



12. County Fair highlights the annual Montgomery County Fair which moved to its present location in 1968 with a rodeo, carnival, and BBQ cook-off. Created by Lynn Peverill and her art students.



13. Airport the Conroe airport has evolved since its role during World War II. Presently, the Conroe/North Houston Regional Airport hosts two FBOs, a restaurant, an Army Reserve Aviation Unit,

The Conroe Art Bench Project *Where did this idea come from?*

Completed in 2009, truly is "Art you can sit on, and History you can reflect on" while enjoying Historic Downtown Conroe. The Conroe Art Bench Project was an initiative of the Texas Main Street Program to beautify and preserve the downtown district, encourage tourism, to celebrate the local artists, and to enjoy the rich history of Conroe.

The thirteen concrete benches are works of art illustrating important moments of historical relevance in Conroe. Local prize-winning artists competed to be able to have their creations represent Conroe. Benches show the lumber industry, the oil boom in Conroe, the creation of the Lone Star flag, the railroad system, the impact of the Conroe Art League, the original theatre group, the local airport as it was in World War II to the present time, the Crighton Theatre, the local musicians, and the Montgomery County Fair.

The Conroe Art Bench Project was funded through generous donations of local individuals, government, and corporate sponsors that absorbed the cost of the artwork.

Downtown Conroe is alive daily with music, artists, live performances, places to shop and great restaurants. Take a walk, sit, and reflect on the history of Conroe!



For more information on fun things