1. ROCKDALE CITY HALL

The Rock Of Rockdale

There are many accounts of how Rockdale got its name but the most commonly accepted one is that a Mr. B. F. Ackerman who, after seeing a rock formation when looking down over a dirt area two miles north of present-day Rockdale, decided on an area name of Rockdale which is on the street from a row of saloons called “Rat Row”.

Burlington, the city’s first hotel, was built in 1872. Mrs. B. F. Ackerman, who traveled throughout Texas and the United States until the early 20th century. Burlington was used to describe small structures used as jails throughout Texas and the United States until the early 20th century. Burlington was used to describe small structures used as jails throughout Texas and the United States until the early 20th century.

2. BRIDGE PARK

Bridge Park gets its name from two out-of-service Milam County bridges, Shackle Bridge and the Galbraith Bridge, that were moved to the park in 2015.

3. RAINBOW COURTS MOTEL

Rockdale’s Rainbow Tourist Camp was established in 1918 by Monroe Bullock. Highway 79 wasn’t yet paved but that didn’t stop Monroe Bullock from building an ‘oasis’ for tourists traveling the Llano River. Benjamin Bullock, joined later at the Rainbow in the early 1930s and they became a Central Texas bed and breakfast business before ‘Bed and Breakfast’ even became a Central Texas bed and breakfast business before ‘Bed and Breakfast’.

4. AYCOCK HIGH SCHOOL

Ayerck High School was opened in 1902, and was originally known as the Rockdale Colonial Public School. Its building consisted of two rooms furnished with a few battered desks, a small table and chair for each teacher. Two boxes of crayons, a few erasers, two boxes of crayons, a few erasers, and a tin water pail and dipper made up the supplies. Over the years it was expanded to the current structure. The school was named Aycock High School in 1904 after Bryant Yearling Aycock who served as principal from 1902 to 1921. In the 1915-1916 school year, Aycock High School won state championships in both football and basketball.

5. MOUTHLY PARK

Moulty Park is dedicated to Paul Moultry, who was born a slave in South Carolina in 1853. He became a “free” man at the age of 12 and in 1864 he traveled to Georgetown, Texas where he opened a blacksmith shop. In 1882, he moved to Rockdale where he planned to work for the Valentine and Hooks general store. Moultry Park is dedicated to Paul Moultry, who was born a slave in South Carolina in 1853. He became a “free” man at the age of 12 and in 1864 he traveled to Georgetown, Texas where he opened a blacksmith shop. In 1882, he moved to Rockdale where he planned to work for the Valentine and Hooks general store.

6. VOLUNTEER FIREMAN’S MEMORIAL

The memorial honors the volunteer firemen who have selflessly served to help keep Rockdale citizens safe since 1872. One of the slabs specifically honors those firemen who lost their lives while on duty, John W. Williams and J. W. Hooper who died while combating the historic Scarborough & Hicks fire in 1935.

7. GALLERY OF COMMERCE

Rockdale Museum

The mural, located inside City Hall, was designed and painted in 2015 by City Hall artist, Santiago Balderas who, while a student at Rockdale High School, won a football championship in both football and basketball.

8. WHERE TO STAY

1. America’s Best Value Inn

2. Budget Inn

3. Quality Inn

4. Days Inn

5. Kountry Inn Motel

6. Regency Inn

7. Budget Inn

8. America’s Best Value Inn

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WALKING TOUR - HISTORY HAPPENED HERE!

1. INTERNATIONAL AND GREAT NORTHERN PASSENGER DEPOT
   The Depot building was built in 1906. It was purchased by the Rockdale Historical Society in 1999. Renovation was completed in 2008. The building is a Recorded Texas History landmark and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

2. MUNDOINN HOTEL
   The Munoidin Hotel stood on this site from its construction in 1840 until its destruction by fire in 1888. Completed six years after Rockdale incorporated along the International & Great Northern Rail Line, the hotel was built near the Depot to accommodate Rail travelers. The fire that destroyed the three-story structure also killed 11 of its 13 occupants. Never rebuilt, the Munoidin Hotel remains a part of Rockdale’s history.

3. WOLF PARK
   Located on the grounds of the Patterson Library, the time capsule was placed as the early owners of the Witcher-Coffield office building as W. L. Witcher and C. H. Coffield. The property was ultimately passed down through the Coffield family to Preston Perry and wife Helen. Preston Perry ran a bank right out of this location in the 1940s. After Mr. Perry’s death, the building remained as it left in until his son, James Perry, restored the building in 2012. On Nov. 1, 2012, 102-129 N. Main received a Rockdale Downtown Association Historic history landmark and is listed in the Rockdale’s new post office building.

4. BILL Pickett
   The mural, located on the side of the building at 114 East Cameron Avenue (adjacent to Citizens Bank), was painted in 2008 by former Rockdale artist, Kim Finely, and depicts significant people and events from Rockdale’s history.

5. WITCHER-COFFIELD OFFICE BUILDING
   The mural, located on the site of the Hotel Wolf, was once the site of the Hotel Wolf. In its day, the Hotel Wolf was Rockdale’s finest. It burned “we meet all train and keep homes and bring for that purpose. The hotel was managed by Anton Wolf and later his son, Edmund. For many years the bottom floor was the American Legion Building.

6. MURAL; HISTORY OF ROCKDALE
   The mural, located on the side of the building at 114 East Cameron Avenue (adjacent to Citizens Bank), was painted in 2008 by former Rockdale artist, Kim Finely, and depicts significant people and events from Rockdale’s history.

7. MURAL; HISTORY OF MILAM COUNTY
   This mural located inside the Citizens bank depicts the history of Milam County.

8. TIME CAPSULE
   Located on the grounds of the Patterson Library, the time capsule was placed as part of Rockdale’s 1974 centennial celebrations, to be opened in 2024.

9. WAREHOUSE FIRE MEMORIAL
   Also located on the grounds of the Patterson Library, the monument is dedicated to E. M. Scbaugh, whose descendants donated the property to the city of Rockdale. The site was previously the location of the Scbaugh & Hickey Co. building which burned in 1935, claiming the lives of two volunteer firefighters, John W. Williams and W. H. Hosper. Both firefighters perished while fighting the fire when an amzing conflagration.

10. GEORGE SESSIONS PERRY
    The historical marker at this location acknowledges George Sessions Perry Perry was born May 8, 1908, in Rockdale, and was a well-known author of books that depict the East Texas area. As a World War II correspondent, he brought first hand accounts of the war to readers of The New Yorker and The Saturday Review. Perry won several major awards for his writing, including the 1941 National Book Award.

11. FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
    Historical Marker
    This original First Baptist Church building was erected in 1872. Father of well known movie star Dina Andrews has pastored this church.

12. HOME OF SESSIONS PERRY
    Built in 1922, this two-story house is one of the first Rockedall and Company Merchant’s houses. Built of brick, it was owned by Sessions Perry. The house was later destroyed by fire.

13. ST. THOMAS EPISPOLAL CHURCH
    The church door will be open if you want to go inside to view the historical marker. The church was organized in 1873 and the present structure built in 1880.

14. MATINEE MUSICAL CLUB
    Historical Marker
    In January 1908, Mary Ann (Coffield) Perry organized the Matinee Musical Club in Rockdale. This club was formed to study and pursue music. The group writes in the Musical and National Federations of Music Clubs, committee work with the state federation and some of its members and to Rockdale through annual programs and regular meetings.

15. RAY THEATER
   The RAY Theater is located at 102 N. Main Street. Rockdale, TX in 1947 and completed until the early 80s. The building was purchased by the Ray Theatre Foundation which has spent much of the past decade restoring the long vacant theater. The Ray Theatre was re-opened in 1986.

16. HENRY’S GARAGE
   Built in the early 1920s, Henry’s Garage was located on the property of former Rockdale businessman and code leader E. B. ‘Buck’ Henry for seven decades.

17. FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
   Historical Marker
   Organized in 1887, this Church was first served by the Rev. A. J. Bush, Jr. (1846-1931), a Civil War Veteran who was instrumental in establishing Christian Churches in many areas of the State. Previous buildings on the site were replaced in 1910. The First Christian Church continues to be an important part of the Rockdale community.

18. ROCKDALE’S ORIGINAL CITY HALL BUILDING
    Work on the Rockdale’s Original City Hall, designed by well known Austin architect A. O. Warren, began at this site in 1894. The building has provided space for city programs, social gatherings, school functions and political meetings, and housed the Volunteer Fire Department and Rockdale’s police department. Abandoned in the late 60’s, the building sat in the live of the tall ball.

19. OLD CITY CEMETERY
    Rockdale’s Old City Cemetery was established in the 1870s, and includes the graves of 12 Civil War Confederate Soldiers, as well as many prominent early Rockdale residents.

20. SPRINGFIELD MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
    Historical Marker
    Springfield Missionary Baptist Church Members established this church in 1872, under the guidance of the Rev. R. B. Washington. Though buildings have changed, the church continues to gather on the same site on the same site. From its beginnings to the present, the church has served as a focal point for social and religious gatherings for Rockdale’s African American community.

21. JEWISH OLD CITY CEMETERY
   Located on the grounds of the Patterson Library, the Jewish Cemetery was established in the 1870s, and includes the graves of 5 Jewish families.

22. BLACK OLD CITY CEMETERY
   Also known as the Felker cemetery due to the prominence of the Felker family, this cemetery is located on the grounds of the Old City Cemetery and the Jewish Old City Cemetery. The cemetery is unfenced and there are very few marked graves.