

# WHITE DEER LAND MUSEUM PAMPA HISTORIC BUILDING WALK

2016



Throughout its history, Pampa has been graced with amazing architectural buildings. As early as 1917, W R Kaufman was a design force in Pampa, Texas. Mr. Kaufman and other architects' use of Terra Cotta, Carrera glass and exquisite building design is still present in Pampa today. Art Deco, Beaux Arts, Spanish Renaissance, Mission Spanish Revival, and many other architectural styles grace the many buildings, some of which are 100 years old. Please join us for an in-depth view of the buildings and the stories they tell.

Sponsored by:  
White Deer Land Museum  
116 S. Cuyler, Pampa TX 79065  
(806) 669-8041  
[pampamuseum.org](http://pampamuseum.org)  
and  
Pampa Chamber of Commerce Tourism  
200 N Ballard, Pampa TX 79065  
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## WHITE DEER LAND MUSEUM

116 S. Cuyler

The first building in this tour is, of course, the White Deer Land Museum. The Museum is located in the building which was built in 1916. This building was the last headquarters of the White Deer Land Co. (1886-1957), organized after English bondholders foreclosed on the Francklyn Land and Cattle Co., formed in 1882 with some 631,000 acres in what became Gray, Roberts, Carson and Hutchinson Counties.

The company was a strong influence in settlement of the area. The firm managers were George Tyng, T.D. Hobart, C.P. Buckler and M.K. Brown. In 1970 the Museum was organized. The adjacent Holland Wing at 112 S. Cuyler was remodeled in 1995. The annex at 124 S. Cuyler was acquired in 1988, remodeled in 2007 and contains one of the largest collections of Red River War artifacts in the Texas Panhandle.

The Museum also hosts many public events throughout the year and some special events are held for Friends of the Museum. If you would like more information on becoming a "Friend", please talk to museum staff or Board members.





## SCHNEIDER HOUSE

120 S. Russell

As you leave the Museum, turn right toward Atchison Street where you will walk around the corner and see a large building across the park to the west - a Mission/Spanish Revival style building - the first of many buildings in Pampa's "Million Dollar Row".

Alex Schneider of Switzerland purchased the Holland Hotel in 1912, located across the street at McCarley Park. In 1927 he built the Schneider Hotel, known for elegant meals and guest performances by Bob Willis, Hank Thompson, Tex Ritter and Guy Lombardo. With its exquisite dining room and beautiful staircase, the Schneider Hotel was known for its elegant parties. M.K. Brown and his wife kept an apartment in the hotel for many years while they traveled the world.

In 1987 the building was remodeled into apartments. Sunny afternoons will still find residents sitting on the porch visiting, reading and watching the traffic go by.



## CENTRAL FIRE STATION

203 W. Foster

Part of "Million Dollar Row" constructed in 1930, this Beaux Arts building still functions as the main fire house in Pampa. Voters approved a bond in the amount of \$33,000 and the two-story building was built on the site of Pampa's first fire station, which had been erected in 1919, the year before the Pampa's first volunteer fire department was formed.

Various organizations met in the "Club Room" of the Fire Station for many years. One of those groups was the Boy Scouts earning their Firemanship Merit Badge. And, there is no estimation of the number of toys for underprivileged children that have been collected, repaired and donated through the Pampa Fire Department over the years. Also, many of our local residents will recall casting votes at this location.

Of interesting note is the story of A J Hindman who was a volunteer for the Pampa Fire Department for over 43 years. He began as a volunteer fireman while living at the fire station and loved it so much that he continued to volunteer for the same pay of \$1-\$2 per call.

The B-Model Mack is still in use - mostly to carry Santa in the Christmas Parade.





## CITY HALL

200 W. Foster

Constructed in 1930 in the Beaux Art style, this building is in the center of the original "Million Dollar Row." The two-story building with raised basement complements the Courthouse and the Fire Station. The exterior features pilasters from the first floor to entablature that create 11 bays on the east and west and five on the north and south.

After completion, all the City officials moved into their new office spaces. Also, many civic organizations and clubs met in the "Palm Room" on the third floor. From wedding showers to National Guard meetings, the room was put to good use.

In 1954, a town meeting was held to decide the fate of the Pampa Oilers and in 1973, Pampa Beautification Foundation met to form. Even the Pampa High School HI-Y Cupids' Ball was held in the Palm Room which is currently the City Commissioners' Courtroom.

City Hall still remains home to the Mayor's office, the majority of the City officials, Texas Railroad Commission, Pampa Water Department and Pampa Police Department.



## GRAY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

205 N. Russell

The Gray County Courthouse is a four-story, steel frame Beaux Arts building with a raised basement and flat roof. The courthouse is downtown, on the north end of "Million Dollar Row," a series of three compatible civic buildings (Fire Station, City Hall and Courthouse) constructed in 1929-30. Adjacent to the courthouse on the east are the Gray County Jail (1992) and the Combs-Worley Building (1931). In excellent condition, the courthouse retains its historical and architectural integrity to a high degree.

The fourth floor once served as the jail with six compartments designed to accommodate six prisoners each and today, they provide additional office space for county employees. For many years, Gray County "High Sheriff" Rufe Jordan, along with his wife Viola and their beloved poodle "Honey" lived in an apartment area next to the jail.

Unconfirmed reports of ghosts have been made by maintenance employees. And, at one time, an "exorcism" was requested by inmates. However, when told the cost would be \$50, the inmates advised they would "live with the ghost".





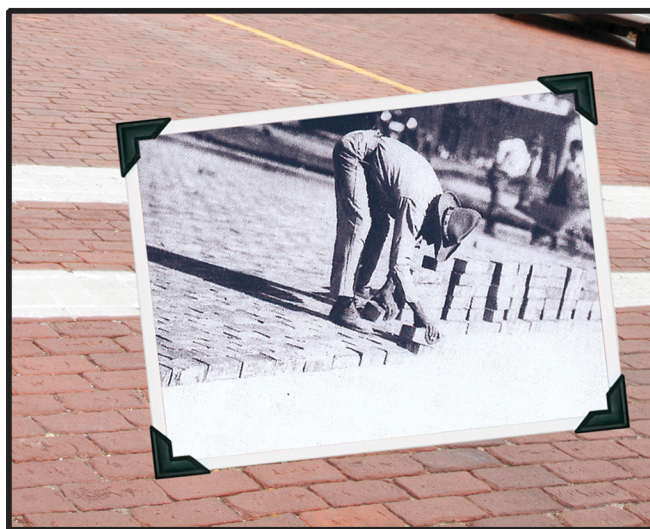
## COMBS-WORLEY BUILDING

120 W. Kingsmill

The bright, graceful and mildly modernistic edifice that is the five-story Combs-Worley building, which was formally opened on August 22, 1931, represented \$165,000 worth of liquid gold that flowed from oil wells on the builders' ranch southeast of Pampa. Part of what Gray County earth yielded in crude oil was put back on the good and beloved soil in the shape of Pampa's tallest and largest structure. With this truth, Mrs. Phoebe A. Worley and Albert Combs regarded it fitting that their cattle brands, the "Rafter T-Bar" which was burnt into the hide of all Combs' cattle, and the "O-40" brand on Mrs. Worley's cattle, are carved above each of the two entrances to the building.

First tenants to move in were Charles C Cook, Dean of Pampa lawyers, and his partners, William Smith, Arthur Reed, John Sturgeon and Tom Wade. The firm occupied 13 rooms on the 5th floor.

Successors to that law firm have continuously occupied space on the 5th floor since that time.



## BRICK STREETS

Downtown Pampa

Prior to 1927, now-bustling Pampa had not had a single paved street. But on March 3, the Wichita Falls-based Stuckey Construction Co. began a project to get Pampa "out of the mud." By that November, 24.5 city blocks extending along 11 streets had been paved with bricks, the bulk of the work accomplished by one man – "Indian Jim" Brown.

His name was James Garfield Brown, but he was much better known simply as "Indian Jim." Born in the 1880s, on the Oneida Reservation in central New York State, Jim stood six-feet-one and weighed 180 pounds.

City engineer A.H. Doucette timed the Indian, finding he averaged placing three bricks per second. If he kept that up for eight hours, the engineer calculated the total would be 80,000 bricks. That pace would break Brown's own world record set on a job in Olathe, Kansas when on September 12, 1926 he put down 64,644 paving bricks in 7 hours and 48 minutes. Brown left Pampa after laying nearly a million bricks. More than 80 years later, many of them are still there.





## ROSE BUILDING

110 W. Kingsmill

In 1929, Bonnie Rose began construction on a building at the corner of Cuyler and Kingsmill Streets in Pampa and a home at 1929 Mary Ellen. Both were the Southwest design which they had come to love from many trips to areas surrounding Raton and Eagle Nest, New Mexico. On January 1, 1929, Mr. Rose announced his plans for this new building and that he had agreed to a 20-year contract with JC Penney. The Penney store occupied the entire ground floor and had a decor of yellow and black. Upon completion of the building, many of the doctors and other professionals who had previously rented office space in the White Deer Land Building moved into the Rose Building. JC Penney remained in the building for 50 years.

Many Pampa residents will recall attending luncheons, style shows, meetings, parties and other functions in the party room on the second floor. Since JC Penney move from the building, there have been several businesses in this building.

It is currently the home of Faith Bible Church.



## FINLEY'S FOUNTAIN

114 N. Cuyler

Although the original building is long gone, the story behind this location just has to be told. In 1919 Howard A. Gilliland and his wife Nora came to Pampa. In the 1920s they operated the Crescent Theater at 114 North Cuyler Street, the main street of the then little town. The theater showed mainly silent movies; however it was renovated in 1930 to accommodate "talkies". Unfortunately, that renovation resulted in a fire that destroyed the theater in May 1930. A new theater was constructed and opened December 30, 1930 named La Nora after Mr. Gilliland's recently deceased wife. The La Nora could accommodate 1048 people in its plush furnishing. Sadly, it too burned on March 23, 1959, in one of the largest fires ever fought in Pampa. The location sat empty for several years until Heard-Jones Drug was constructed in the mid-1960s and continued there until 2016. Finley's Fountain now occupies the address providing another great atmosphere where Pampa people can gather.





## FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING

100 N. Cuyler

The First National Bank in Pampa was organized on July 14, 1906, under state charter with a capital stock of \$10,000.

M.K. Brown, the first depositor, rode horseback from the White Deer Land Company barns to give a check drawn on the Bank of Miami for \$200.

In 1907 a two-story building was constructed at 100 North Cuyler where the bank has been located ever since, even though remodeling and expansion have changed the building's appearance. In its early days, the building also provided space for The Ladies' Library Club which had over 700 books, doctors offices, "The Crony", one of Pampa's early newspapers, and attorney offices.

One of the most exciting days in the history of the bank was March 31, 1927, when the bank was robbed of \$32,000 while more than 20 people were herded into the vault. At the same time, men employed to carry bricks to Indian Jim were calmly eating their lunches under the locust trees in front of the White Deer Land Building .



## PIONEER COTTAGE

Cuyler & Atchison

The last location on this tour is this little two-room frame house was built in 1903, one year after county was organized, by settlers Wiley Vincent and wife Katie. This small early Texas cabin has 2 rooms. In 1907, a huge prairie fire missed it by only 600 yards. The cabin was bought in 1920 by E. S. Carr, Pampa mayor, 1917-1918 and 1938-1940. He gave it as a wedding present to daughter Edna and her husband Clifford Vincent, a son of the builders. In 1963, the Cliff Vincents gave the cabin for use as a museum to the Pampa Genealogical and Historical Society. It has been furnished with period pieces and restored to its original appearance.

Occasionally, the Pioneer Cottage is opened for public viewing.

Thank you for joining us on this tour. Please stop by the museum to find more stories about these and other buildings in Pampa; and, be sure and ask how you can become a "Friend of the Museum".



