



Downtown Beaumont

A National Register District

A National Main Street Community



On January 10, 1901, the world's economy changed. The Petroleum Age was born. The Lucas Gusher on Spindletop Hill exploded with such force that nine days later the oil column was still gushing nearly 200 feet high and producing around 100,000 barrels a day. Suddenly, the United States became the world's leading petroleum-producing nation with the first six wells brought in at Spindletop!

Within a few days, over 40,000 curious sightseers, speculators and job-seekers descended upon a small lumber town of 9,000. That town was Beaumont, Texas.

Dozens of oil companies were chartered. Restaurants, hotels and retail establishments were simply overwhelmed! A building boom was the result.

Today, downtown is experiencing another boom. A partnership between Beaumont Main Street and the City of Beaumont is stimulating historic preservation, promotional opportunities and job growth.

Beaumont's National Register District is rich in landmarks that reflect the 1901 and 1925 oil discoveries. Take a short walk and you will find these landmarks of mystery, glamour and commercial prominence.

And while the walk won't leave you breathless, the view will...



Crockett Street Dining
& Entertainment District

Begin your journey at the Crockett Street Dining and Entertainment District. Parking is plentiful and a dramatic restoration has created five turn-of-the-century properties into THE hot spot! A feast of live music and cuisine is waiting for you! Make sure and peruse the insert for breakfast, lunch, dinner, drinks and dancing on Crockett Street.

**1. Historic Names: George Wilson Building, Littleton Building, Millard Building, Dixie Hotel
Today: Crockett Street Dining and Entertainment District**

Location: 200 block of Crockett Street

Construction Date: c.1900

These buildings exemplify the commercial prosperity generated by the timber and rice industry as well as the Spindletop oil discovery. Originally constructed for stores, restaurants and offices, these brick and stucco structures have been beautifully restored and still display decorative cornices, window hoods and transom windows indicative of the early 1900s. One of the most infamous buildings is the Dixie Hotel which became a brothel in the 1950s.

In the 1990s, Tom Flanagan, Walter Umphrey and Joe Penland undertook a full-scale restoration of these five structures. These developers planned and executed the largest restoration the citizens of Beaumont have ever



witnessed. Exterior architectural elements were retained, yet the interior of each building now houses entertainment venues.

Whether dining, partying, dancing or just strolling the brick sidewalks, the atmosphere at Crockett Street is magic!

These buildings contribute to the historical significance of Beaumont's Commercial Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



Spindletop Restaurant was named Texas' Best Rehabilitation in 2003 by the Texas Downtown Association.

ABOUT SPINDLETOP...

In the 1890s, Pattillo Higgins became interested in the potential of Spindletop Hill when he traveled the country seeking a better way to make bricks. He learned that one of the factors that produced a superior brick was a kiln heated by liquid fuel, not coal, giving off a more uniform heat at less expense.

People laughed at Pattillo Higgins and his dream of oil on Spindletop Hill. They referred to him as "The Millionaire."

2. Historic Name: Edson Hotel

Today: **Liberty/Pearl Building-Offices**

Location: 301 Pearl Street

Construction Date: 1929

Just behind Crockett Street is the Edson Hotel, a 22-story hotel completed in 1929 at a cost of \$1.5 million. It was designed by F.W. and D.E. Steinman of Beaumont and was the tallest hotel in Texas for many years. In 1955, the building was purchased by Gulf States Utilities, Beaumont's only company listed on the New York Stock Exchange at the time. The corporate headquarters for GSU remained in the building until the completion of Edison Plaza in 1982.

The structure is a typical example of early 20th century commercial architecture and has attractive detailing such as decorative pilasters and detailed cornices and quoins.

The Edsons were early citizens of Beaumont and played an integral role in the economic growth of the area.

The Edson Hotel contributes to the historical significance of Beaumont's Commercial Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



3. Historic Name: Hall & Hall

Today: **Offices**

Located: 278 Pearl Street

Construction Date: c.1900

Across the street from the Edson Hotel is the Hall and Hall Building. At one time it belonged to the Szafir Family and was home to a bookstore owned by Mrs. Szafir. Gulf States Utilities occupied the building for many years. In the 1960s, Willard Hall and Phil Hall operated Hall & Hall, a real estate and appraisal business.

The building contributes to the historical significance of Beaumont's Commercial Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



ABOUT SPINDLETOP...

Pattillo Higgins contacted oil tycoon John D. Rockefeller for help in developing Spindletop.

The usually astute petroleum baron politely said no.

4. Historic Name: Goodhue Building

Today: **Mixed Use**

Location: 398 Pearl Street

Construction Date: 1926

The Goodhue Building reflects the exuberance of 1920s oil wealth. Forrest Goodhue and Gussie Goodhue Solari formed the Goodhue Company and built this handsome structure which originally boasted 190 offices. Its stunning lobby, featured on the front cover, includes iron and solid brass trim and an extensive use of marble, natural white oak and walnut woodwork. The building was designed by Tisdale and Stone of Nashville, Tennessee. Penthouse buttresses and Mediterranean balcony ledges contribute to the building's distinctive features.

The Goodhues were early Beaumont entrepreneurs. They were responsible for several downtown buildings including the Crosby Opera House and the Goodhue Opera House.

In 2004-2005, Joe Penland, Jr. completed extensive renovations to the Goodhue Building including improvements to the exterior and the lobby.

The Goodhue Building contributes to the historical significance of Beaumont's Commercial Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



5. Historic Name: Gilbert Building

Location: 486 Pearl Street

Construction Date: 1903

In the 1850s, Nathan Gilbert moved to Southeast Texas from Pennsylvania. His early death forced his son, John Gilbert, to begin working at the age of 11. Nathan Gilbert's tremendous investment savvy and real estate holdings paved the way for his descendants to become giants of business and fortune in Southeast Texas.

John Gilbert invested in oil, lumber, cattle and real estate including this building that carries his family name. Dramatic hallways, floor-to-ceiling windows and interior transoms provided an air stream for offices, financial institutions and retail stores.

This four-story structure has early Sullivanesque features with a prominent front entry on Pearl Street and an additional entry with decorative brickwork on Bowie Street.

The Gilbert Building contributes to the historical significance of Beaumont's Commercial Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



TEXAS ENERGY MUSEUM

6. Art Museum of Southeast Texas

Location:

500 Main Street

Construction Date:

1987



The Art Museum of Southeast Texas offers exciting exhibitions and enrichment programs for the entire family. AMSET exhibits 19th through 21st century American paintings, sculpture, graphics, drawings, decorative arts and photography. The museum also hosts national and international traveling exhibits. Previous exhibitions include works by Robert Rauschenberg, Morris Graves, John Alexander, Paul Manes and Keith Carter.

AMSET hosts an interactive children's gallery and children's computer lab. Each summer the museum offers Summer ArtVentures for children. Quarterly "Free Family Arts Days" offer hands-on art activities and entertainment for kids of all ages. A lovely gift shop features art books, museum reproductions, children's items and jewelry.



7. Historic Name: YMCA

Today: **Texas Energy Museum**

Location: 600 Main Street

Construction Date: 1911

Adaptive Reuse: 1990

Explore the fascinating world of petroleum geology, energy and science as colorful exhibitions unfold the story of Texas oil. Talking robotic replicas of Pattillo Higgins and Captain Anthony Lucas tell of early oil field life.



8. Tyrrell Historical Library

Location: 695 Pearl Street

Construction Date: 1903

Originally built as Beaumont's First Baptist Church, the building was purchased by Captain W.C. Tyrrell and donated to the City for use as a library in the 1920s. It is an excellent example of the style of Henry Hobson Richardson's Romanesque Revival architecture.

In 1990, the City of Beaumont and the Tyrrell



The Tyrrell Historical Library Association was the recipient of Beaumont's Preservation Award in 1997.

Historical Library Association restored the structure. The combination of a contemporary library and a historic church is beautifully illustrated in this building. The stained glass windows, the dome ceiling and the subtle paint scheme create a quiet ambience in this historic site that is now home to a research library with collections devoted to the study of Texas as well as genealogy.

The Tyrrell Historical Library contributes to the historical significance of Beaumont's Commercial Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It is also a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark.



9. Julie Rogers Theatre for the Performing Arts

Location: 700 Pearl Street

Construction Date: 1928

This Classical Revival structure was built to house city offices and a 2,200-seat auditorium. In the early 1980s, the building was renovated and became the Julie Rogers Theatre for the Performing Arts. The auditorium now seats 1,700 and is home to national and regional touring acts, community rentals, Lamarissimo and the Symphony of Southeast Texas.

During renovation, the stagehouse was rebuilt with the addition of a fly loft and an active basement. New continental seating with excellent site lines and acoustics was achieved with a redesign of the auditorium shell.

By eliminating original office space and opening the stairways, the lobby area is now two stories high. A new orchestra shell and an orchestra pit, that can be raised and lowered, completed the renovation.

The exterior of the theatre is an excellent example of Greek Revival architecture with its Corinthian columns, balustrades and stone and brick façade. Mature oak trees frame the entrance to this historic theatre.

The Julie Rogers Theatre for the Performing Arts contributes to the historical significance of Beaumont's Commercial Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



10. Historic Name: Beaumont Dry Goods

Today: Offices

Location: 905 Orleans Street

Construction Date: 1919

In 2000 the law firm of Sheldon, Jordan and Dunham, LLP completed an outstanding restoration of this early 19th-century commercial structure. The façade of the building is original with storefronts and second-story windows that were repaired or restored. All mechanical systems were replaced, yet the sprinkler piping and original fire doors are exposed. The original delivery bay on the west side of the building was closed for years but reopened during restoration.

The building envelope is complemented by the dramatic interior restoration. Every light, chair, table and floor covering are sympathetic to the architecture of this historic site.

The firm of Sheldon, Jordan and Dunham, LLP was the recipient of Beaumont's Preservation Award in 2000 and was named a finalist for Best Adaptive Reuse in

Texas by the Texas Downtown Association in 2001. This restoration utilized historic tax credits. The building contributes to the historical significance of Beaumont's Commercial Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

11. Hotel Beaumont

Today: **Retirement Home**

Location: 625 Orleans Street

Construction Date: 1922

Beaumont was booming after the first Spindletop oil discovery. In response to this growth, 277 investors formed the Beaumont Hotel Company in 1919 in order to build a hostelry. One-million dollars was spent on this magnificent 250-room hotel. The building also hosted two ballrooms, the Rose Room and the Sky Room on the Roof, as well as restaurants including the Black Cat Café and the Kitten.

In 2000 a \$7.5 million restoration by the new owners, the National Development Council, returned the building to its rightful place as an anchor in downtown Beaumont. Conrad Schmitt Studios of New Berlin, Wisconsin, completed the dramatic decorative paint scheme in the lobby of this magnificent structure.

This restoration utilized historic tax credits. The Hotel Beaumont contributes to the historical significance of Beaumont's Commercial Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.





12. Jefferson Theatre

Location: 345 Fannin Street

Construction Date: 1927

The Jefferson Theatre is Beaumont's best example of Renaissance Revival style and is the town's only surviving historic movie theatre. The theatre was designed by architect Emil Weil and was built by Sol E. Gordon and J.C. Clemmons of the Jefferson Amusement Company for \$1 million.

The theatre opened on November 14, 1927, with the movie "Rose of the Golden West" starring Mary Astor and Gilbert Roland. The Jefferson Theatre also hosted traveling shows, vaudevillians and community talent.

Perhaps the most distinctive feature of the theatre is a magnificent Robert Morton Wonder Organ that is voiced for the acoustics of the Jefferson. The organ, shipped via the Panama Canal, rises from the orchestra pit to stage level. The organ's 778 pipes and many percussive effects produce a variety of sounds rivaling those of an actual orchestra.

In 1995, Beaumont Main Street and the Jefferson Theatre Preservation Society formed a partnership to restore the building. A Business Plan was written and the Master Restoration Plan completed.

The community then raised \$6.5 million to restore this historic theatre.

After approval by federal and state agencies, restoration began. The infrastructure of the building

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The Jefferson Theatre was named Texas' Best Restoration in 2004 by the Texas Downtown Association and received a Restoration Award from PreservationTexas.

was renovated, dressing rooms were added and the projection room was updated. Conrad Schmitt Studios, the nation's premier decorative painters, recreated the original paint scheme of the ceilings, beams, the grand chandelier and the proscenium arch.

The Restoration Grand Opening was celebrated on November 3, 2003, with a concert by Lou Rawls. The celebration continued with an organ concert, the Vienna Choir Boys, "Celebration '76," featuring local talent and finally, "Spirit: Stallion of Cimarron," a DreamWorks production directed by Beaumont native Kelly Asbury.

The Jefferson Theatre is listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places and is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark. This restoration utilized historic tax credits.

13. Historic Name: San Jacinto Building

Today: Offices

Location: 595 Orleans Street

Construction Date: 1921

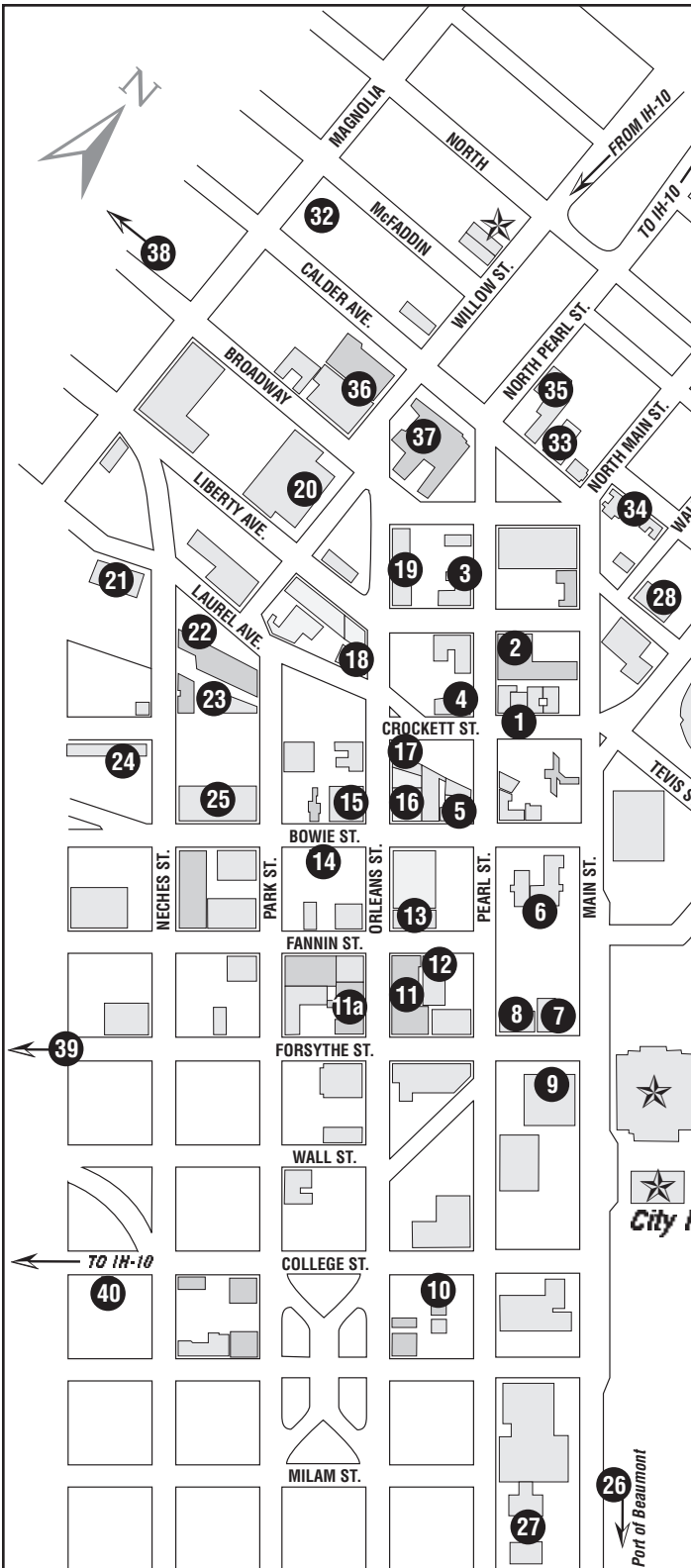
The San Jacinto Building is an excellent example of Neoclassical architecture as a traditional three-part skyscraper. Floor one has a marble veneer base and floor two is complete with rounded arch windows. Three one-over-one double-hung sash windows per bay on the third through the sixteenth floors, a floral entablature between floor fourteen and fifteen and a brick clock tower on the roof complete this historic building.

At the time of its installation, the four-faced clock, measuring seventeen feet across, was the fourth largest clock in the United States. The San Jacinto Building was the largest office building in Beaumont from the 1920s through the 1950s.

The building was dedicated on April 21, 1922, by the San Jacinto Life Insurance Company.

In 2003 the building was purchased by Tom Flanagan, whose goal was to retain the historical integrity of the property while offering modern amenities to professionals. Mr. Flanagan also purchased the Petroleum Tower, now aptly-named Century Tower, located at 550 Fannin Street. His interests have broadened beyond his successful restorations to include more contemporary structures.

The San Jacinto Building contributes to the historical significance of Beaumont's Commercial Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.





1. Crockett Street Dining and Entertainment District, 200 Block of Crockett Street
2. Edson Hotel, 301 Pearl Street
3. Hall & Hall, 278 Pearl Street
4. Goodhue Building, 398 Pearl Street
5. Gilbert Building, 486 Pearl Street
6. Art Museum of Southeast Texas
500 Main Street
7. Texas Energy Museum, 600 Main Street
8. Tyrrell Historical Library, 695 Pearl Street
9. Julie Rogers Theatre, 700 Pearl Street
10. Beaumont Dry Goods, 905 Orleans Street
11. Hotel Beaumont, 625 Orleans Street
- 11a. The Market on Orleans
12. Jefferson Theatre, 345 Fannin Street
13. San Jacinto Building, 595 Orleans Street
14. Coale Building, 461 Bowie Street
15. American National Bank, 470 Orleans Street
16. First National Bank Building
495 Orleans Street
17. Levy Building/Rosemont Hotel
441 Orleans Street
18. Nathan Building, 336 Orleans Street
19. Kyle Building, 387 Broadway Street
20. Jack Brooks Federal Building
300 Willow Street
21. Wells Fargo Building, 909 Laurel Street
22. Southern Pacific Freight Office
801 Laurel Street
23. Crockett Street Station
390 Park Street/590 Park Street
24. Santa Fe Depot, 400 Neches Street
25. Stedman Building, 490 Park Street
26. Port of Beaumont, 1225 Main Street
27. Jefferson County Courthouse
1149 Pearl Street
28. Fire Museum of Texas
C.A. "Pete" Shelton Plaza
World's Largest Fire Hydrant
400 Walnut Street
29. Edison Museum at Edison Plaza
350 Pine Street
30. Sanders House, 479 Pine Street
31. Effie Sanders Cottage, 495 Pine Street
32. Y.M.C.A., 934 Calder Street
33. Y.W.C.A., 660 Calder Street
34. Westminster Presbyterian Church
530 North Main Street
35. St. Mark's Episcopal Church
680 Calder Street
36. First Baptist Church, 900 Calder Street
37. First United Methodist Church
701 Calder Street
38. Temple Emanuel, 1120 Broadway Street
at Forrest
39. St. Anthony Catholic Cathedral Church
700 Jefferson Street
St. Anthony Catholic Cathedral School
850 Forsythe Street
40. Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church
675 College Street

14. Historic Name: Coale Building

Location: 461 Bowie Street

Construction Date: c. 1927

The Coale Building was named for Beaumont native Ray Coale. Mr. Coale attended Beaumont schools until enlisting in the Navy during WWI. Upon his return to Beaumont, he founded the Coale Lumber Company. Mr. Coale served as Mayor of Beaumont and president of the Port of Beaumont Board of Commissioners.

The building was home to offices and retail establishments including the appliance department of the Coale Lumber Company. For many years the offices of Stone, Doiron & Wolfrom were located in this building until it was sold to Dr. Heryv Hiner.

Dr. Hiner restored the building in 2005 and opened Suga's, a restaurant specializing in southern cuisine.

The Coale Building contributes to the historical significance of Beaumont's Commercial Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



15. Historic Name: American National Bank

Today: **The 470 Orleans Building**

Location: 470 Orleans Street

Construction Date: c. 1925

This twelve-story building is rich in classical detailing. Note the first floor with its two-story pilasters flanking large arched openings. The uppermost floors repeat the arched-opening motif with a classical cornice and balustrade.

This building contributes to the historical significance of Beaumont's Commercial Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



16. Historic Name: First National Bank Building

Location: 495 Orleans Street

Construction Date: 1937

The First National Bank Building is a unique example of the Art Deco style. The building has a four-story limestone vault with three-story wings and granite base. Note the central bay facing Orleans Street, its brushed aluminum clock and relief figures of industrial workers and professional people set in carved limestone. Beaumont artist Herring Coe carved these reliefs.

This building not only contributes to the historical significance of Beaumont's Commercial Historic District, but is also a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark.

17. Historic Name: Levy Building/Rosemont Hotel

Location: 441 Orleans Street

Construction Date: 1893

This Italianate-style building is one of the earliest surviving structures in Beaumont. The first-floor display areas are separated by mirrored cast-iron columns. Brick pilasters with corbelled capitals divide the second and third floors. The building is trapezoidal due to the location of a once existing railroad right-of-way on its north side.

For many years the building was known as the Rosemont Hotel and until the mid 1990s was home to a retail clothing store called Adler's.

The Levy Building contributes to the historical significance of Beaumont's Commercial Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

18. Historic Name: Nathan Building

Location: 336 Orleans Street

Construction Date: 1902

This Neoclassical structure with Italianate details was originally a two-story structure. Today, it is four-stories tall. The building is trapezoidal because of a once-existing railroad right-of-way.

The Nathan Building originally housed Nathan's, Beaumont's first department store. Jake Nathan came to Beaumont in 1896. He rented a building and began selling discount dry goods for cash only. This new concept was very successful.

Just before the Great Depression, Mr. Nathan sold the store to Montgomery Ward. After the stock market crash of 1929, Mr. Nathan's son Irving left college and returned to Beaumont to help the family. Irving opened a millinery shop and created a line of cosmetics called Deeyã. The Nathan family continues to contribute to Beaumont through their leadership in business, cultural and community affairs.

The Nathan Building contributes to the historical significance of Beaumont's Commercial Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

19. Historic Name: Kyle Building

Today: **Offices**

Location: 387 Broadway

Construction Date: 1933

Wesley and Brudge Kyle built the Kyle Building in 1933. It is considered one of Texas' best examples of Art Deco. The Kyles were early citizens of Beaumont and constructed one of Beaumont's first theatres, the Kyle Opera House.



The Kyle Building provided second-floor space for offices and a first-floor retail area that included Kyle's Men's Store. It is laid out in two-story blocks, connected by two single-story blocks, further joined by a center block with a vaulted ceiling.

The exterior of the Kyle Building is composed of limestone, terracotta and

aluminum ornamentation with diffused glass and oak doors. The elaborate aluminum floral patterns above the entrances create a rich texture and most of the entry floors are still in soft colors of pink, green and gray terrazzo. The building was beautifully restored in the 1980s and underwent another interior and exterior renovation in 2005.

The Kyle Building contributes to the historical significance of Beaumont's Commercial Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



20. Historic Name: United States Post Office and Federal Building

Today: Jack Brooks Federal Building

Location: 300 Willow Street

Construction Date: 1933

The Jack Brooks Federal Building is a good example of both the Neoclassical and Federal “make work” projects style completed during the Great Depression. The building is the major symbol of our Federal government in Beaumont and houses Federal courts, offices and a post office. In the late 1980s, President Jimmy Carter came to Beaumont to rename the building for longtime Congressman Jack Brooks.

Architectural features include Corinthian columns, floral entablatures, an Art Deco masonry cornice and the Great Seal of the United States.

The Federal Building contributes to the historical significance of Beaumont’s Commercial Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



Jack Brooks
Federal
Building

ABOUT SPINDLETOP...

Giants of the petroleum industry born at Spindletop included the Texas Company, which became Texaco, and the J.M. Guffey Petroleum Company, which became the Gulf Oil Company.

Sun Oil became a major company at Spindletop, and Magnolia Refinery, today ExxonMobil, was built in Beaumont in 1903.

21. Historic Name: Wells Fargo Building

Today: **Offices**

Location: 909 Laurel Street

Construction Date: c. 1890

The Wells Fargo office was part of the freight complex so important to Beaumont in the hectic times of Spindletop. The building displays a railroad-style influence with a wide overhang and large curved brackets supporting it. Wayne Reaud completed an excellent restoration of the building in the 1980s and it serves as offices today.

The Wells Fargo Building contributes to the historical significance of Beaumont's Commercial Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

22. Historic Name: Southern Pacific Lines

Freight Office

Today: **Offices**

Location: 801 Laurel Street

Construction Date: c. 1910

This railroad office was originally part of a warehouse extending east across Park Street. Around 1935, Park Street was extended north to join Willow Street. The portion of the warehouse on the right-of-way was demolished and a new front added to the remaining end of the warehouse. This façade still stands.

In 1991 Wayne Reaud completed the renovation and adaptive re-use of the building. A new entrance was added on the north side and the south side was extended into the original service alley.

The original columns, brackets and pressed metal trim above the loading doors remain as well as the roofline and overhang.

This building contributes to the historical significance of Beaumont's Commercial Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

ABOUT SPINDLETOP...

The Spindletop boom created enormous wealth and building opportunity. Many downtown landmarks including the 1903 Gilbert Building and the 1903 First Baptist Church, now known as the Tyrrell Historical Library, were built during this time.

23. Historic Name: Friedman Building and Hegele Building

Today: **Crockett Street Station**

Location: 390 Park Street

Construction Date: c. 1915-1917

The Friedman Building once housed the Copeland Hotel. The Copeland began life as a “drummer’s” hotel during the Spindletop boom days. The hotel became a popular bordello because of its proximity to the railroads. Originally from Cuba, Mr. Hegele opened a cigar factory in the historic Hegele Building.

Both structures were beautifully renovated by Tom Flanagan in the early 1990s and now house professional offices. This renovation utilized historic tax credits. The buildings contribute to the historical significance of Beaumont’s Commercial Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



24. Historic Name: Santa Fe Depot

Today: **Offices**

Location: 400 Neches Street

Construction Date: c. 1910

The Santa Fe Depot played an important role in the city’s economic development at the turn of the century. Various railway companies utilized the land and building before it closed. Evidence of Jim Crow Laws existed in the structure as thousands of travelers passed through the depot doors.

In 1992 Mike Matthews saw potential and restored the depot. Mr. Matthews was very sympathetic to the history and architectural significance of the property. Architectural features include a gorgeous ornamental iron marquee at the entrance, stone sills at the windows, brick segmented arches below stepped brick lintels and a corbelled stringcourse between the first and second floors. Note the masonry “Santa Fe Railroad” logo centered in the front gable area.

In 1993 the Santa Fe Depot was named a Finalist for Best Rehabilitation in Texas by the Texas Downtown Association and was also awarded a Beaumont Historical/Cultural marker. The Depot contributes to the historical significance of Beaumont’s Commercial Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



25. Historic Name: Stedman Fruit Company

Today: **Stedman Building**

Location: 490 Park Street

Construction Date: 1923

The Stedman Building was originally home to the Stedman Fruit Company and included a cold storage warehouse. Its proximity to the railroads provided the perfect location for shipping. The Stedmans were prominent local businessmen and owned the structure for almost 70 years.

Tom Flanagan and Walter Umphrey have beautifully restored the building. The façade of the two-story brick warehouse is basically an unaltered structure.

Architectural features include brick pilasters with modified Doric capitals, arched transoms, a stepped masonry parapet and engraved masonry that reads “Stedman Fruit Company.”

This restoration was named Texas’ Best Restoration in 1991 by the Texas Downtown Association. The Stedman Building contributes to the historical significance of Beaumont’s Commercial Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The restoration utilized historic tax credits.

...Even More Historic Downtown Sites

26. Port of Beaumont

Location: 1225 Main Street

Officially Opened in 1916

The Port of Beaumont ships cargo of grain, rice, lumber and steel to destinations including South America and European countries. The Port is one of the top strategic commercial ports in the nation for shipping military cargo.

A Texas Historic State Marker is located at the entrance to the Port.

ABOUT SPINDLETOP...

In 1951 during the 50th Anniversary of Spindletop, Anthony Lucas’ son and Pattillo Higgins attended ceremonies in Beaumont. During the 100th Anniversary of Spindletop, former President George H. W. Bush was the special guest.



27. Jefferson County Courthouse

Location: 1149 Pearl Street

Construction Date: 1930 - 1932

Jefferson County passed a \$1 million bond issue on August 10, 1929, to build this Art Deco-style courthouse. The Great Depression hit a few months later, but falling prices and Depression scale wages produced better materials at a lower cost.

Plaster friezes depicting traditional symbols of justice, as well as local images such as steer heads, pine cones and rice shocks, adorn the outside of this historic property. One of the most dramatic decorative elements can be found in the lobby with its multicolored terrazzo inlaid with metal strips that point to a circular map of the county. The courtrooms are paneled in oriental walnut with a diamond or herringbone pattern.

In 1981 the building was restored for \$7 million.

The Jefferson County Courthouse is listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places and is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark.





28. Historic Name: Central Fire Station

Today: Fire Museum of Texas

World's Largest Fire Hydrant (well, sort of!)

Location: 400 Walnut Street

Construction Date: c. 1927

In 1999 representatives of Buena Vista Home Entertainment (dba Walt Disney Home Video) contacted the Fire Museum of Texas. Walt Disney was preparing to re-release the video *"101 Dalmatians"* and needed a site to erect the world's largest fire hydrant and shoot a promotional video. Downtown Beaumont's Fire Museum of Texas was selected because of its historic designation and because everything is bigger in Texas!

With spotted umbrellas and Turnout gear, 101 Beaumont firefighters became instant entertainers as they danced across America's television screens. This 24-foot-tall working hydrant weighing 4,500 pounds was the perfect backdrop for a national debut! Today, this fire hydrant is the centerpiece of a beautiful memorial honoring firefighters, including New York City emergency personnel who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

The Plaza is named for C.A. "Pete" Shelton who was Beaumont's Fire Chief for 20 years.

Behind the fire hydrant are the headquarters of Beaumont's Fire Department and the Fire Museum of Texas.

The building is an unusual example of the Renaissance Revival style in Southeast Texas. Note the masonry eagle above the first-floor bays and the lovely colored tiles and glazed brick set in a repeating pattern below the masonry cornice.

The Fire Museum of Texas combines state-of-the-art interactive fire safety exhibits with a collection of antique fire equipment dating as early as 1856.

Children love the two-story interactive playhouse! Wearing fire gear and sitting in a simulated cab of a fire truck provide a rare opportunity for children to learn fire safety.

The building is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark.

ABOUT SPINDLETOP...

On November 13, 1925, the Spindletop oil field was reborn when an oil well was brought in on the flanks of the original salt dome.

As in 1901, two visionary men, this time Marrs McLean and Frank Yount, had discovered oil where many thought none existed.

*(From "Historic Beaumont, An Illustrated History"
by Ellen Walker Rienstra and Judith Walker Linsley)*

29. Historic Name: Travis Street Substation
Today: The Edison Museum at Edison Plaza
Location: 350 Pine Street
Construction Date: 1929

The Edison Museum interprets the inventions and innovations of Thomas Alva Edison. Guests can hear his first recorded music and view some of Edison's first motion pictures. The museum manages over 2,000 Edison and related artifacts and offers hands-on opportunities through four Experiment Stations. A complete computerized database featuring Edison's 1,093 United States patents is also available.

The Edison Museum is operated as a private nonprofit education foundation through the Entergy Corporation.

The building has been honored with a Texas Historical State Marker.



ABOUT SPINDLETOP...

Before Spindletop, an impressive oil well produced 50 barrels a day. Spindletop produced an estimated 100,000 barrels a day for nine days!

The Gladys City Oil, Gas and Manufacturing Company was chartered on August 24, 1892.

It was named in honor of one of Pattillo Higgins' Sunday School students, a seven-year-old named Gladys Bingham.



30. Historic Name: Sanders House

Today: **Offices**

Location: 479 Pine Street

Construction Date: 1895

Robert Washington Sanders and his wife Ida Mae built what is now one of the oldest existing homes in Beaumont. Mr. Sanders was a master woodcarver and cabinetmaker. The home is an excellent example of Queen Anne architecture with its gingerbread ornamentation.

The building was saved from demolition by the Beaumont Heritage Society and restored by Mr. and Mrs. Alan McNeill in 1981.

The house is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark.

31. Historic Name: Effie Sanders Cottage

Today: **Offices**

Location: 495 Pine Street

Construction Date: c. 1889

The Effie Sanders Cottage is a one-story wooden frame house that is significant because of its Classic Revival Style evidenced by drop siding, cornices and shingle roof. The Victorian Style was incorporated into the house during later renovations. This included the bracketed lathed columns on the porch and four light windows with shutters. The home was restored by Mr. and Mrs. Alan McNeill in 1985.

The Effie Sanders Cottage has been awarded a Beaumont Historical/Cultural marker.

32. Historic Name: Y.M.C.A.

Today: **Senior Citizens Y House**

Location: 934 Calder Street

Construction Date: 1928

In the late 1990s, the Y.M.C.A. was beautifully restored and became home to the Senior Citizens Y House.

The Y.M.C.A. of Metropolitan Beaumont was the recipient of the Beaumont Preservation Award in 1998. The Y.M.C.A. building is listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places and was awarded a Texas Historical State Marker.

33. Historic Name: Y.W.C.A.

Location: 660 Calder Street

Construction Date: c. 1925

The Y.W.C.A. was established in 1911 and chartered in 1914. For over 90 years, the group has offered much-needed housing and programming for women and children in Southeast Texas. Renovation of the building is underway.

The Y.W.C.A. was awarded a Texas Historical State Marker in 1980.

ABOUT SPINDLETOP...

*There is a marker on the original site of the Lucas Gusher.
To this day, Spindletop continues to be a working oil field.*

*The Spindletop 2001 Commission built a working replica
of the Lucas Gusher and a visitor center at the
Spindletop/Gladys City Boomtown Museum.*



Sacred Places

- 34. Westminster Presbyterian Church**
530 North Main Street
*Texas Historical State Marker
- 35. St. Mark's Episcopal Church** (*above*)
680 Calder Street
- 36. First Baptist Church**
900 Calder Street
*Texas Historical State Marker
- 37. First United Methodist Church**
701 Calder Street
*Texas Historical State Marker
- 38. Temple Emanuel**
1120 Broadway Street at Forrest
*Recorded Texas Historic Landmark
- 39. St. Anthony Catholic Cathedral Church**
700 Jefferson Street
St. Anthony Catholic Cathedral School
850 Forsythe Street
- 40. Ebenezer Missionary Baptist Church**
675 College Street

**“Downtown Beaumont....
A National Register District”**

is a project of Beaumont Main Street.
Main Street, a project of the 501(c)(3) organization BUILD,
Inc., has established a partnership between the public and
private sectors that is dedicated to the revitalization of
Beaumont's Historic Central Business District.

Beaumont Main Street is in association with the
National Trust for Historic Preservation,
National Main Street Center,
Texas Historical Commission and the
Texas Main Street Center.



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The Texas Forest Trail Region is one of these regions.*



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Front Cover: The Goodhue Building

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