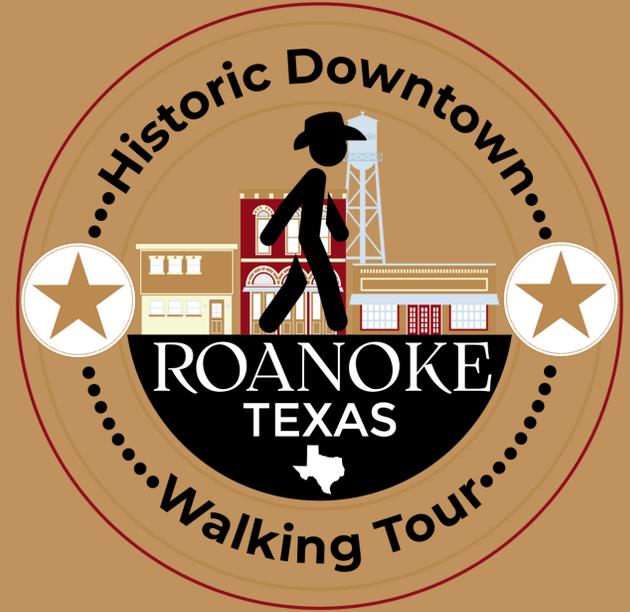
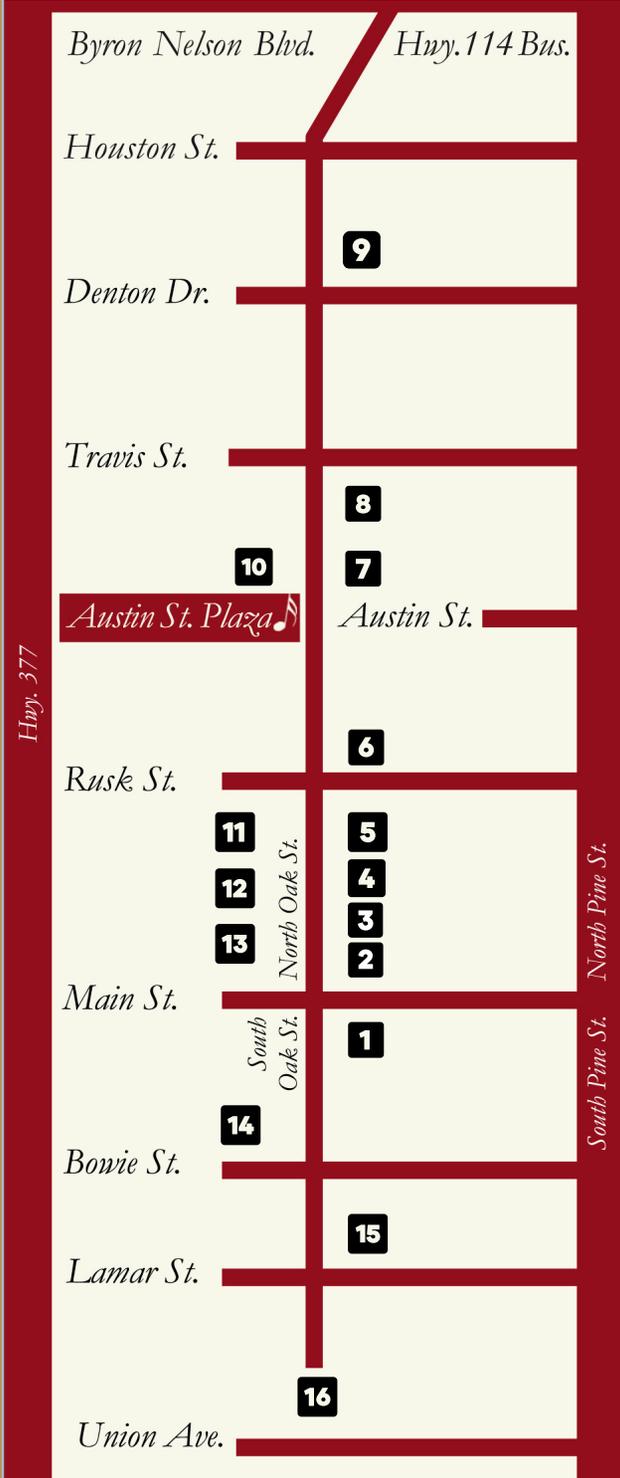


# THE ROANOKE ROUTE

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# Historic Downtown Roanoke

## 1 200 Main St.



Constructed around 1941, this structure was established on the grounds where Roanoke's first post office-dating back to 1881-possibly once stood. It initially served as Roanoke's primary fire station and city jail, housing the night watchman's cell. In 1949 an addition housed the City's first fire truck, a 1923 American LaFrance. The City's original city hall, library and community center were once located on the eastern side of this building.

## 2 104 N. Oak St.



Built in 1906, this structure initially served as a retail store for Thomas Brand, a prominent Roanoke businessman who built this as a furniture store. In subsequent years, it house Bourland and Son - Furniture, Hardware and Lumber. For many years, James Noah and his father, Monroe, operated a grocery store in this space. At one point there were at least three grocery stores operating within a two-block stretch of Oak Street. Today it houses the original Babe's Chicken restaurant.

## 3 110 N. Oak St.



In the late 1880s and early 1890s, this site originally housed the town's first livery stable. This 1930s building was initially home to Newman's Grocery. Over the years it underwent several transformations, including becoming Newman's Barbershop. Adjacent in the parking lot, Andy Alexander's garage once occupied the space that used to house the town's blacksmith's shop. Today is it the home of Oak Street Pie Company.

## 4 112 N. Oak St.



Built around 1890, this building started as a one story but later added a second floor. Unfortunately the second floor was destroyed by fire. While it's believed to have been a bank, a local legend suggests it had a secret passage to the Silver Spur Saloon. Photos prove this story false as the second story was added long after the saloon and brothel closed. Jenkins Hardware and Ross Brown's Grocery Store used to be housed here.

## 5 114 N. Oak St.



The Silver Spur Saloon was constructed from native rock in 1886 for brothers R.M. and B.S. Sneed, just five years after the Texas & Pacific Railroad laid out the community of Roanoke. The building was a saloon and brothel for about 10 years before housing various businesses such as the justice of the peace, grocery store, café, mechanic's garage, and telephone switchboard operator. Eventually it fell into disrepair. In 2004 owners John and Linda Moore donated the building to the City, and the Visitor Center and Museum opened in 2008. It is a Texas Recorded Historic Landmark.

## 6 200 N. Oak St.



This building was constructed ca. 1914 on the former site of the Eureka Hotel, which was built around 1893 and owned by the Brand family. The hotel burned down around 1914, and Hugh W. Jenkins bought the site for his hardware store and lumber yard. Mr. Jenkins arrived in Roanoke in 1905 and became the first mayor of Roanoke.

## 7 300 N. Oak St.



The Roanoke Masonic Lodge was granted a charter in 1888 and has been housed in its current location on Oak Street since the building was constructed in 1908. The lodge originated in 1871 in Elizabethtown, a now-abandoned settlement located west of Roanoke. At one point the building served as both a meeting space and the town hall. It also was a stopping point for Texas Rangers law enforcement.

## 8 308 N. Oak St.



Although the current building was constructed in 1908, the original land survey dates to October 1871. The 'Stationmaster's House' belonged to H.G. McDonald, who began his career with the railroad as a telegraph operator and worked his way up to stationmaster, a position he held for 32 years until the train depot closed in 1955. The building is notable for its distinctive arched front porch.

## 9 504 N. Oak St.



Dating to around 1910, the small building in the back originally served as Ward's Creamery. It initially was located farther south on Oak Street. During the 1940s, Raymond and Bessie Clark relocated the building to its present location, where it became their residence. Following WWII, Mr. Clark brought three Army barracks from Abilene to add to his home. This is the last surviving barrack. In 1993, the Classic of Roanoke purchased and renovated the building.

## 10 301 N. Oak St.



Constructed between 1909 and 1910, the Gillespie/Seagraves House served as the residence for the Gillespie family until the Seagraves purchased it in 1914. Dr. Seagraves had his office on the second floor of the Silver Spur Saloon building. William Hise Seagraves and his brother James Henry were prominent merchants on Oak Street. In 2019 the house underwent renovation and is now Old Oak Street Reception and Event Center.

## 11 115 N. Oak St.



In the early days of Roanoke, the west side of Oak Street housed such businesses as Lane's Grocery, Robinson's Drug Store, Prewitt's Dry Goods, Horton & Son Dry Goods, Cade's Dry Goods and Seagraves' Hardware. In 1910 a major fire started in Mr. Lane's store, and it destroyed those six businesses. J.H. Jones rebuilt one of the businesses as Jones' Grocery Store, and eventually the old structure was replaced with the current building. A covered patio was added in recent years.

## 12 109 N. Oak St.



This building originally was the Continental State Bank when it was built circa 1910, with Eliphaleth 'Lifey' Brand as cashier and president. In 1936 the building was deeded to Claude 'Buster' Fanning (mayor from 1946-1958), who operated the Roanoke Federal Credit Union until 1959. The building is a National Historic site.

## 13 101 N. Oak St.



The post office was constructed in 1912 by postmistress Ida Cowan after enduring years of robberies and fires. 'Miss Ida' succeeded her father William Cowan in 1910. She served 37 years, and her gravestone epitaph says, 'Any mail, Miss Ida?' The city stopped using the building in 1962, and the original structure was torn down in 1980. Later, when the replacement building was a residence, a second story was added.

## 14 111 N. Oak St.



The current Hey, Sugar building was built on the site on the Hood-Jenkins house, which was built around 1905 for Berry Hood and Rachel Caroline 'Callie' Freeman. The house was given to their daughter Hattie as a wedding gift when she married prominent businessman Hugh Jenkins, the city's first mayor. Later, Mr. Jenkins' stepdaughter 'Miss Alberta' Lincecum lived there, where she welcomed local country musicians to play on her porch during the City's early Celebrate Roanoke festivals.

## 15 208 S. Oak St.



A well-to-do rancher who moved to Roanoke from Virginia, Charles Stone lived for a time at the Eureka Hotel before building a home at the south end of Oak Street in 1913. The structure is a fine example of pyramidal folk-style architecture. Upon Mr. Stone's death, the building was donated to the Presbyterian Church for use as the parsonage. Since then it has housed various businesses.

## 16 500 S. Oak St.



For much of Roanoke's early history, whenever there was a fire, residents had to hand each other water in buckets. That all changed in 1948 when Roanoke purchased this 1923 American LaFrance fire truck for \$500 from Fort Worth. Finally, Roanoke had a working fire engine to help save lives and property. The truck was first renovated in 1975 and then again in 2000. The engine takes part in open houses and parades every year. In 2019 the engine was moved from its previous home in the Old Fire Station at Oak and Main streets to its new building behind the new City Hall.