

Area Attractions

Pidgeon Community Center & Visitor Center #2 on map
The Visitor Information Center and Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce are both located in the Pidgeon Community Center. Come visit the Chamber/Visitor Center office to learn more about what the Franklin area has to offer. The Pidgeon Center is a 12,500 square foot facility that features a Main Hall that can seat up to 800 people and meeting rooms for smaller groups. The Pidgeon Center is available for rental through the Chamber office. Hours for Visitor Center & Chamber Office: Monday-Friday 8:30am-4pm 979-828-3276 www.franklintexas.com "Community Center"

Robertson County Courthouse
National Register of Historic Places
The Robertson County jail was completed in 1879 and the courthouse was completed in 1881. In 1924, the courthouse was reconstructed and the original roofs and cornices were removed and replaced with parapets and overhangs covered with tile to suggest a Spanish Renaissance character. A new 27,700 square foot annex located directly behind the courthouse was completed in 2010.

Carnegie Library Texas Historic Landmark
In 1913, Franklin Mayor R.M. Cole applied to the Carnegie Corporation of New York for funds to build a new library. The Carnegie Corporation approved plans and granted \$7,500 to the project, which was completed in 1914. Currently, the library is one of four (out of 31) Carnegie Libraries in Texas still being used for its original purpose as a library.
Hours: Monday-Friday 8am-noon 1pm-5pm 979-828-4331

Franklin Cemetery Texas Historic Landmark
The Franklin Cemetery was established in 1880. A tall shimmering white marble obelisk marks the oldest burial site. The cemetery includes markers of six Civil War veterans and two Spanish American War veterans, as well as twenty-three handsome Woodmen of the World markers. Franklin Cemetery is the final resting place of famed musicians Texas Ruby Owens Fox and Doie "Tex" Owens, writer of the song "Cattle Call". Markers for vocalists Laura Lee McBride and Dick McBride who performed and recorded with Bob Wills' Band are found in the cemetery as well.
www.franklintexas.com "Cemetery Information"

Historic Trails & Markers
Two Historic Trails come through Franklin - the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail and the Texas Historic Brazos Trail. Brochures and maps showing the locations of the trails, as well as historic makers located in the area, are available at the Visitor Information Center (#2 on map).
www.elcaminoaldestejas.org www.thc.state.tx.us/travel

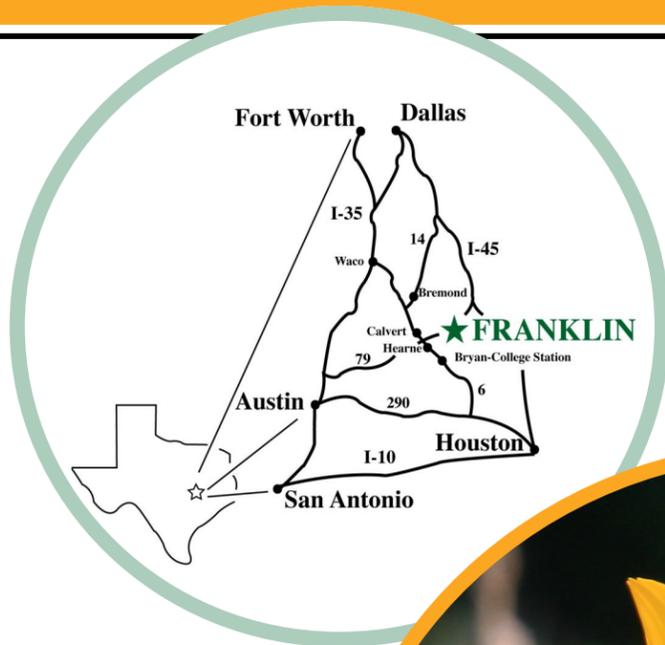
Historic Gravesite Texas Historic Landmark
Mount Pleasant Cemetery, four miles southeast of Franklin on FM 2446, is the final resting place of General Walter Williams. General Williams is reputed to be the last surviving soldier of the Civil War. During the war, General Williams was a forage master for the celebrated Hood's Texas Brigade. Soon after the war, he moved to Texas and farmed near Franklin.
www.franklintexas.com "Landmarks"

George Bush Presidential Library and Museum
1000 George Bush Dr. West, College Station (43 miles south of Franklin)
979-691-4000 http://bushlibrary.tamu.edu

Camp Hearne
Camp Hearne was a World War II Prisoner-of-War Camp located in Hearne on Highway 485 West (14 miles southwest of Franklin). 5,000 prisoners were housed in the camp. Today's historic campsite has many building foundations that outline the camp's original footprint as well as remnants of various prisoner built amenities such as garden fountains and a theater with orchestra pit. An exhibit depicting the daily life of the camp's mostly German prisoners may be viewed in a reconstructed U.S. Army barracks on the historic site.
Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 11am-4pm 979-814-0733 www.camphearne.com

Hearne Depot
In Hearne's turn-of-the-century, arrow-shaped depot, antique furnishings & exhibits containing local, railroad & depot memorabilia are featured.
Hours: Wednesday-Saturday 11am-4pm 979-279-2351 www.hearnetexas.info.index2.htm

Antiques
Visit the Lamp Stand on the square in Franklin, or visit the Victorian village of Calvert, 12 miles west of Franklin, for a diverse selection of antiques and modern day collectibles.
www.calverttx.com



Visitor's Guide & Map

Franklin

& Surrounding Area



Franklin Chamber of Commerce & Visitor Information Center

located in the Pidgeon Community Center at 351 Cooks Lane (off Highway 79)
Hours: 8:30am-4pm
P.O. Box 126
351 Cooks Lane
Franklin, TX 77856

Phone: 979-828-3276

Fax: 979-828-1816
Email: franklincc@valornet.com
Website: www.franklintexas.com

Photos courtesy of Stacey Reynolds Photography



Welcome to Franklin Texas!

Whether you are a resident or a visitor, the Franklin Area Chamber of Commerce is glad to have you! We are proud of our area - its past, present and future - and are eager to show you why this is a great place to visit and live.

It is exciting to see the Franklin area continue to experience significant growth. A new 84 acre park and athletic complex will be completed in the fall of 2012. The park includes baseball/softball fields for Little League and tournament play, football fields for Pop Warner Football League play, restrooms, concessions, playgrounds, walking trails and pavilions for community and family events.

The City of Franklin is working to develop a 44-acre Industrial Park which has access to US Highway 79 and the Union Pacific Railroad. A 4,500 square foot medical clinic was completed in Spring 2012, and the historic County Courthouse and jail are currently being renovated. Other examples of recent expansion in the area are:

- completion of a 27,700 square foot annex to the Robertson County Courthouse in downtown Franklin,
- completion of the new Oak Grove Power Plant, located northeast of Franklin,
- new high school,
- remodeled/expanded elementary and middle schools, and
- new and expanded school sports facilities.

Franklin continues to be an excellent location for reunions, corporate meetings and other events, large or small. The 12,500 square foot Pidgeon Community Center provides ample meeting space and over 200 new hotel rooms are available in the area for out of town guests.

Come by the Visitor Information Center or visit www.franklintexas.com, to discover more about what the Franklin area has to offer.

Info

Franklin is the county seat of Robertson County. Franklin is centrally located among Dallas, Houston and San Antonio. US 79 is the major highway that serves Franklin. Starting near Texarkana, US 79 crosses all of East Texas ending in the Austin Metroplex. The central location of Franklin allows the best of both worlds - the shopping and arts offered in large cities and the luxury of quiet country living.

Robertson County offers beautiful wildflowers, lakes, and rolling green pastures.

History

The community of Franklin was established in 1872 and named "Morgan" for a railroad official. Located on the right-of-way of the International Railway Company, the town contained a depot and three stores in its first year. By 1879, the town had 200 residents and voters transferred the county seat from Calvert to Morgan.

The community applied for a post office in 1880. Another Texas post office was named Morgan, so the town name was changed to Franklin after the name of the original county seat. A stone courthouse was completed in 1881.

Population

Year	City	County
1980	1,349	14,653
1990	1,336	15,511
2000	1,470	16,000
2010	1,564	16,622

Climate

Annual average temperature: 68 degrees
Rainfall: 35.8 inches average
Elevation: 450 feet

Schools

Franklin Independent School District (FISD) is a AA Texas School District. FISD covers 413 square miles of eastern Robertson County. All three FISD schools received the top ranking in the Texas Education Agency ratings for the 2009-10 school year.

Roland Reynolds Elementary:	Pre K-Grade 5	Teachers: 46	Pupils: 536
Franklin Middle School:	Grades 6-8	Teachers: 28	Pupils: 250
Franklin High School:	Grades 9-12	Teachers: 38	Pupils: 301



Franklin Chamber of Commerce Members*

Accommodations	Map Location		
Best Western Franklin Inn & Suites	8	979-828-9090	
Sleep Inn & Suites	21	979-828-2550	
Holiday Inn Express & Suites	Hearne	979-279-6600	
ITLDO Ranch B&B, 2706 Henry Prairie Rd.	Franklin	979-828-3489	
Weekend Verandah	New Baden	979-828-3142	
Apartments			
Bremond Street Apartments	30	979-846-8878	
Crossroads Apartments	33	979-828-1498	
Attorneys			
Stephen Boykin, Guaranty Title Co.	24	979-828-4688	
Jami Lowry	31	979-828-2382	
Palmos, Russ, McCullough & Russ	20	979-828-3663	
Palmos, Russ, McCullough & Russ	Hearne	979-279-3456	
Kenneth M. Robison	28	979-828-3265	
Smitherman Law Firm	23	979-828-3265	
Banks			
Farmers State Bank - Loan Production Office	16	979-828-1211	
First Star Bank	10	979-828-4168	
Robertson County Bank	5	979-828-2200	
Wells Fargo Bank	26	979-828-3272	
Chamber of Commerce	2	979-828-3276	
Churches			
First Baptist Church	18	979-828-4120	
Franklin Church of Christ	29	979-828-4205	
Franklin United Methodist Church	20	979-828-3355	
Franklin Worship Center	3	979-828-3461	
Robertson County Cowboy Church	34	979-218-4975	
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church	1	979-828-1269	
Community Center - Pidgeon Center	2	979-828-3276	
Daycare			
Dragonfly Creative Learning Center	6	979-828-1810	
Dry Cleaner			
Franklin Wash Depot	12	979-828-1453	
Smith Laundry & Dry Cleaners	24	979-828-2409	
Funeral Home - McCauley			
	22	979-828-3246	
Gifts			
Country Flowers & Gifts	24	979-828-3415	
Duffey Drug Company	24	979-828-3536	
Exa Jeans	Wheelock	979-828-3366	
Leap of Faith Designs	23	979-828-1373	
Lone Star Tanning & Gift Shoppe	24	979-828-5000	
M&M Farm Supply	32	979-828-3516	
Radio Shack	24	979-828-3536	
Timeless Designs	9	979-828-1118	
Grocery/Bakery/Deli - Franklin Supermarket	11	979-828-4143	
Hardware			
Franklin Auto Parts	35	979-828-4445	
Carquest Auto Parts & Hardware	Hearne	979-279-3454	
Knucklehead's True Value	4	979-828-5177	
Health & Beauty			
Franklin Nursing Home	15	979-828-5152	
Magic Nails Salon	13	979-828-2960	
Merryman Home Health	20	979-828-1173	
St. Joseph Health Point	7	979-828-4540	
Shear Country Full Service Salon	27	979-828-3154	
TAME Hair Salon	14	979-828-1945	
Laundromat - Franklin Wash Depot			
	12	979-828-1453	
Pharmacy - Duffey Drug Company			
	24	979-828-3536	
Real Estate			
Leamon Realty & Appraisals	23	979-828-5499	
Texas Land & Homes	19	979-828-4000	
Robertson County Appraisal District	23	979-828-5800	
White & Associates	Hearne	979-279-6878	
Restaurants			
Amigos y Familia	9	979-828-9991	
Blue Moon BBQ, 18746 East OSR		979-549-4800	
Country Donuts	17	979-828-5324	
Lion's Den Exxon	9	979-828-4344	
Lone Star Burger Bar & Coffee House	25	979-828-5000	
Pizza Hut-Wingstreet	Hearne	979-279-5386	
Subway	9	979-828-5299	
Trammel RV Park, 2435 FM 1644	Franklin	979-828-2338	
RV Relay Station, 1698 W. US Hwy 79	Franklin	979-828-5377	
Title & Abstract Companies			
Guaranty Title Company	24	979-828-4688	
Love Title & Abstract	23	979-828-3285	
Veterinary - Robertson County Veterinary			
	New Baden	979-828-4421	

*Visit www.franklintexas.com for a complete listing of Franklin Chamber of Commerce members.

Franklin, Texas

Home of the Franklin Lions



Distance from:

Hearne Municipal Airport...	14 miles
Bryan/College Station.....	35 miles
Interstate 45.....	40 miles
Easterwood Airport.....	43 miles
Waco.....	60 miles
Interstate 35.....	88 miles
Austin.....	100 miles
Houston.....	130 miles
Dallas.....	130 miles
San Antonio.....	184 miles