

HISTORIC Burton, Texas WALKING TOUR & SOUNDWALK

15. Old Burton State Bank/City Hall 1906

Site of the first Burton State Bank. Restored in the 1980s by Burton Heritage Society. Now the Burton Roadhouse event venue.

16. Ed Schatz Store 1906 (Burton Frozen Food Plant)

Operated as a grocery and dry goods store with millinery shop upstairs. Later, housed meat lockers for locals to store meat.

17. Knipstein Plumbing Co 1948

The C.H. Knipstein Plumbing Co. Shop building was built in 1948 and officed there until the 1970s. After various owners, it sold to the current owners in 2014 and now operates as Flown the Coop and The Roost.

18. Burton High School 1940

Construction began in 1938 as part of the Federal Works Progress Administration (WVPA) and the school was completed in 1940.

19. Knipstein Gin 1913

Cotton gin and grist mill on this site was first powered by a small steam engine made by Beaumier Iron Works in Brenham, Texas. In 1915, the record was 72 bales of cotton ginned in about 15 hours. The Burton Farmers Gin bought the mill in 1948, remodeled it and moved all milling operations here. Has been home to Market Realty since 2014.

20. Schultz's Corner 1920s

Built in 1928 by Herbert Nienstedt, this site was leased to Max A. Zuehlke who operated a Chevrolet dealership here between 1928 and 1939. Thereafter, the Nienstedt family leased the building to other locals who operated an automotive service garage from the site. The building is known locally as Schultz's Corner for Edmund Schultz who owned it in the 1970s. Now home to Burton Bridge Ministry.

21. Knipstein Garage 1913

Built by C.L. Knipstein, this garage has seen plenty of uses over the years including a Humble gas station, Model T repair shop and feed store. Today it acts as an office space for Faubion Studio, a design and custom furniture/woodwork collaboration.

22. O.K. Saloon (empty site) Unknown

The O.K. Saloon, with a café and rooms above, was operated by Longine Foehner for many years. After being closed for several years, it was reopened in 1936 by Bill and Margie Fischer. It burned down August 1, 1937. Empty site remains today.

23. Burton Café 1937

Outhouses built by the WPA graced the backyard (hidden by rosebushes) until 1984. Now the café has 'in-houses'. Texas Monthly has counted the café among the eight best of Texas. The infamous JR Ewing of old TV series *Dallas* ate here! Now open as the Blue Willow Café.

24. Burton State Bank/ Citizens State Bank 1965

The historical marker in front commemorates the famous Texas Ranger Leander H. McNelly who lived close by. He and his daughter are buried at Mt Zion Cemetery, two miles east of Burton at the intersection of FM 390 and FM 1948. Now Citizens State Bank.

25. Burton Drugstore 1873

Site of Burton's first post office. It has been a drug store, ceramics shop and antiques shop. Currently operates as The Nesting Company, a florist and gift shop.

26. Washington Hotel 1880s

Originally built as a one story hotel, it was sold in 1885 to the Schwendener family from Sweden. They added a second story. It welcomed visitors for 30 years before unfortunately being torn down. Today, only the first entry step remains on the site, which is now Burton City Park.

Interesting Folklore
A Lantern to Guide the Way
Mr. Schwendener had a lantern on a post to the left of the hotel which he lit every night. He walked to the railroad depot to meet passengers on the train who wished to spend the night at the hotel and escorted them back for their stay.

27. Weber's Service Station 1920s

Operated as a service station for many years. As of the 1940s, it housed Weber's Service Station (Phillips 66) and Menk's Ice Cream Parlor. Later it became a real estate office and is currently a private residence.

28. Henry's/H & H Grocery/ My Way Feed 1928

Erected about 1928 as a grocery store for Mr. and Mrs. George Foehner. It operated as My Way Grocery until its sale in 1963. Its use as a store continued as H&H Grocery & Feed until 1980 and as Henry's Grocery until 2015. Currently operates as Pigs Fly Round Top bed and breakfast.

29. Buck's Blacksmith Shop 1937

Operated by C.B. Buck until 1937.

30. Stelter Tin Shop 1933

Owned and operated by August Stelter. Also housed Schulenberg Radio TV Repair. Now Texas Tin Haus, a seasonal bed and breakfast.

31. The Washington House 1914

Built as the family home on the Sander Farm south of Brenham, this classic farmhouse was moved onto the property in 2003 and restored as guest accommodations for the Knittel Homestead Inn. Now a private residence.

32. Old American Legion Hall 1915

The hall was originally located about a mile west on Washington Street and served as the American Legion Hall and Burton Community Center. Moved to its present location in 1984, it now serves as a private residence.

33. Historic Knittel Homestead 1870-1902

Local businessman/merchant Herman Knittel built the Victorian mansion between 1870 and 1902 to resemble a Mississippi Steamboat. The home was saved from the wrecking ball in the mid-1980s and restored by Doug and Donna Hutchinson. It is now a private residence.

34. Dallmeyer/Steiner Store 1871

This is Burton's oldest commercial structure. It has served as a doctor's office, post office, grocery and dry goods store, hardware and implements, beer parlor, antiques shop and most recently The Brazos Belle restaurant.

Interesting Folklore
Shootout at Steiner Store
Several shootouts happened here and supposedly a bullet is still lodged in the ceiling! When Steiner Store was still in operation, Leander Morris came in and complained that Steiner was overcharging him (etc) and he shot at Steiner. Steiner ducked (or hid) and shot back and hit Morris. Morris died from his wounds.

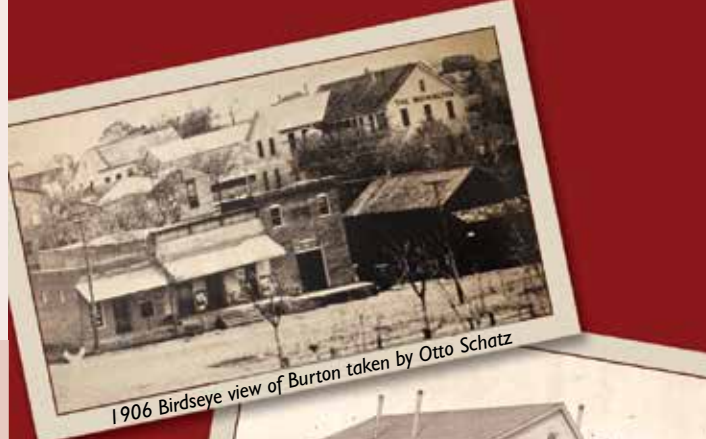
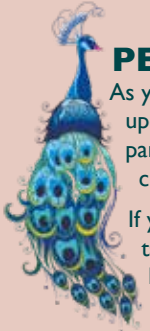
35. Burton Short Stop & Icehouse 1950s/1954

As of 1956, Pearlie and Harding Harmel opened a meat market here. It was sold to several other owners and operated as a market and café. Charlie Harmel built the garage as Harmel's Garage in 1954. Now operates as Burton Short Stop & Icehouse, another favorite spot for live music and cold beverages.

The Story of PERCY the Town Peacock

As you walk or drive through Burton you may come upon Percy, the town peacock. He came to us as part of a traveling petting zoo, made his escape and claimed Burton as his forever home.

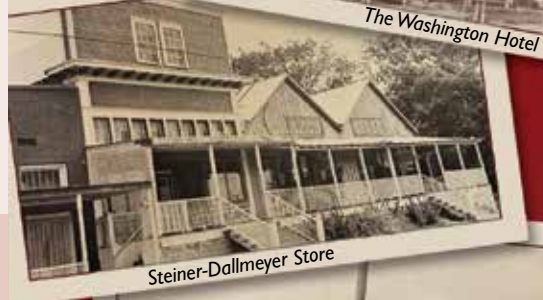
If you're lucky, you might catch him fully fanning his tail feathers in what is known as 'train rattling'. Listen closely, too. If you don't see him, you will most definitely hear his calls as he struts around town.



1906 Birdseye view of Burton taken by Otto Schatz



The Washington Hotel



Steiner-Dallmeyer Store



Burton Farmers Gin shortly after construction

1. The Burton Farmer's Gin 1914
National Historic Landmark

The Smithsonian Institution, the National Trust for Historical Preservation, and the Texas Historical Commission consider this gin one of the best preserved and most complete in the nation. **Now part of the Texas Cotton Gin Museum.**

2. Annie and Otto Wehring Shoe Shop and Residence 1933

Already at age 12, Otto learned the cobbler's craft from his father William, who had started the business in 1920 in the smaller structure in the back. In 1921 he constructed a larger shop on Main Street which was moved to the back where the present building replaced it. In 1931, four days after William died, Otto took over and operated the business for 45 years. It has been left exactly the way it looked when Otto died in 1976. **Now part of Texas Cotton Gin Museum.**

3. Long Life Brotherhood Lodge 1919

Originally built by the United Brothers of Friendship, "Matson Lodge" also served as a community gathering place and meeting site for other African American fraternal groups. As of 1940, Long Life Brotherhood Club was formed and continues to preserve this history and the "First of August" celebration.

4. Burton Mercantile 1939

Known as Matthes' Grocery for 47 years, the mercantile is now a private residence.

5. Dr. Hodde's Office and Drugstore 1920

A doctor's office and drug store until 1933. Now a private residence.

6. Kessler's Garage 1931

Dr. F.H. Hodde built a "modern filling station and garage" next to his drug store which continues to thrive today as an auto repair company. Now houses Goldberg's Garage. Over the years it has also been a welding shop for building gooseneck trailers and, on occasion, a temporary pen for holding wayward cattle.

Excerpt from Brenham Banner - Press story October 14, 1931

In the 1900s, A.S. Whitener Jr. was leasing land for cattle in Burleson County and had to move the herd back and forth from there to Burton. To avoid moving them during the day, they moved them at night during full moons. On one occasion, a lunar eclipse occurred just as they were going through Burton. The cattle started running and the riders had to try and head them in the dark. They finally headed them at the gas station. They held the cattle as best they could in the lot behind the station until the eclipse was over!

7. The White Horse Café 1922

Built originally as a grocery store, it became a café in 1939. Closed in 1974. Today Juanita's Tacos serves breakfast and lunch. In the evenings The White Horse Tavern becomes a favorite watering hole with live bands performing regularly.

8. Burton Auto Company 1916

First the City Garage, then a Ford dealership in 1919. Owned and operated by August Muehlbrad from 1922 until 1988. Possibly the longest operating Texaco in the State.

9. Heine's Barber Shop 1906

Built by Fritz Buch as a grocery store in 1906, the building has served as a barber or beauty shop under different ownerships. Owned and operated by F.H. Heine from 1927 until his death. Now a private residence.

10. Farmers Cotton Warehouse c. 1942

This site has been occupied by a cotton warehouse since the 1920s. It was used for warehousing, weighing and loading cotton for rail shipment. The building was sold in 1956 to the Burton Farmers Gin Association and continued to serve the same purpose until the closure of the gin in 1974. **Now part of Texas Cotton Gin Museum.**

11. Hohlt's Meat Market & Café 1900

Served as a meat market/café for many years under different owners. Last remaining building built by F.W.E. Fisher that was adjacent to Fisher Store. Now Neon Moon Coffee.

12. Historic Burton Railroad Depot 1898

Originally built in 1870, it burned and was then rebuilt in 1898. Burton was an important stop between Houston and Austin for the Houston and Texas Central Railroad. For some time, when the H&TCR was under construction, Burton was the terminal where you could take connecting stagecoaches to LaGrange, Bastrop, San Antonio, Austin and New Braunfels. The depot has been saved and restored by the Burton Heritage Society.

13. Burton Lumber & Supply Co. 1892

This historic business was continuously operated for 100 years by various owners and now houses a seasonal antique store and retail.

14. H. Knittel Store 1898

Originally two stories, it sold dry goods, clothing, groceries and heavy hardware. The adjoining building was rebuilt in 1940 and sold to Burton Farmers Gin Association in 1957. It was used as a feed store.

Historic Walking Tour & Soundwalk of Burton, Texas



Interesting Folklore

John Chinaman and the 1898 Fire (as told by Sawdust Bill)
John Chinaman did odd jobs in town. He usually stayed in somebody's barn in the winter where he could crawl under the hay. In summer, he slept in a wagon under the wagon shed.

One evening, just as the night passenger train pulled in, Knittel's store was found burning. The engineer blew his whistle to wake up the town. He saw a man running up the street away from the fire and took a shot at him. This same man set fire to the hay in the wagon shed. The women folk in the area saw the fire and went there to put it out. First, they pulled the wagons out and, while pulling one, someone gave a terrible scream when they found John Chinaman using the wagon for a bed. With the help of John Chinaman, the women put the fire out and saved the barn.



Scan the QR code for more information and to listen to Burton's Soundwalk, a guided listening tour of interesting historical sites and stories of the area.

 Indicates sites on Soundwalk.