

FRISCO HERITAGE TIMES

Heritage Association of Frisco

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Researching, Preserving, and Sharing Frisco's Rich History

www.friscoheritage.org

FRISCO'S 11TH DECADE

2000-2009

The 21st Century Arrives in Frisco



The world waited anxiously on December 31, 1999 to herald the new year. Would computers crash? Would planes fall out of the sky? The acronym 'Y2K' became a part of our daily vocabulary when discussing all the possibilities for 2000 A.D. and the new millennium. The year 2000 arrived with a lot of fanfare, but things would take a dramatic turn in 2001 when, on September 11th, planes did fall from the sky, but because of terrorism, not technology. America would soon find itself at war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Technology evolved at a fast and furious pace during the first decade of the 21st century. The iPod was introduced in 2001, contributing to the demise of the popularity of CDs as digital media put thousands of songs at the disposal of the user in one small device. The iPhone was launched in 2007 and has a fierce following of fans who shelled out \$499 for the first 4-gigabyte version of the phone. Those who had trouble with their Apple products could visit the 'genius bar' inside the Apple Store for tech support. We moved from flip phones to smart phones, which increased in popularity during this decade.

The internet continued to expand as social media platforms like MySpace, Facebook, and YouTube became popular.

Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans in 2005 as the failure of more than 50 levees and flood walls caused flooding in over 80% of the city. Many refugees from the area found themselves in the DFW Metroplex—including Frisco.

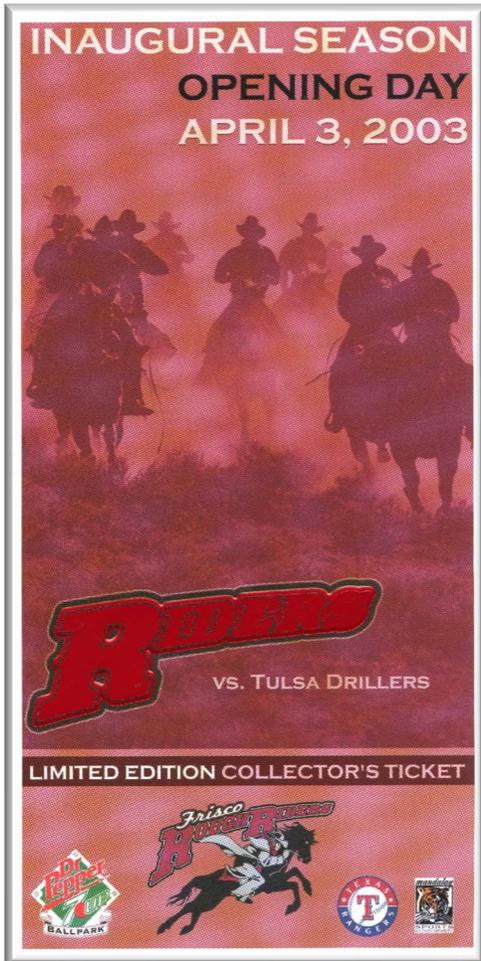
America saw its first black president with the election of Barack Obama in 2008 and its first Hispanic Supreme Court Justice with the appointment of Sonia Sotomayor in 2009.

The financial crisis of 2008-09 was brought on by mortgage foreclosures due to subprime loans and created the worst economy in America since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

In pop culture the television phenomenon known as American Idol was introduced in 2002 with Kelly Clarkson of Burleson, Texas taking home the win and launching her career, which is still going strong. The long-running TV show *Friends* said goodbye in 2004. Author J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series ended with the release of *Deathly Hallows* in 2007. The loss of Michael Jackson in 2009 at the age of 50 was a sad finale on the first decade of the 21st century.

In Frisco, we celebrated the town's 100th birthday. Growth continued with the population crossing the 100,000 mark in this decade. We saw the opening of the Stonebriar Mall and IKEA, and we welcomed the RoughRiders and FC Dallas. The Dallas North Tollway expanded from 121 to 380, which figuratively and literally paved the way to Frisco's future with the development of the "5 Billion Dollar Mile" along the "Platinum Corridor," which now extended from Dallas into Frisco. For the Heritage Association of Frisco, we marked our 10th Anniversary in 2008 and celebrated as that first decade of effort culminated in the opening of the Frisco Heritage Museum. We'll revisit that day in this edition of Heritage Times.

Becoming Sports City, USA



Above: A commemorative ticket from the Frisco RoughRiders Inaugural Season.

Right: Frisco's semi-professional baseball team circa 1921.



Below: Pizza Hut Park



Frisco's march toward becoming 'Sports City, USA' began in earnest during the early 2000s. Dr. Pepper Park opened, where the Frisco RoughRiders minor league baseball team set up shop in 2003, followed by Pizza Hut Park (now Toyota Stadium) and the FC Dallas soccer team in 2005.

Both stadiums would host other events including concerts and sporting events. Jimmy Buffet made Frisco a regular stop on his tour starting in 2007.

The Dallas Stars moved their headquarters to the StarCenter (now Comerica Center) which also became home to the Texas Legends basketball team, an affiliate team of the Dallas Mavericks.

Many residents today do not know that Frisco had a semi-professional baseball team in the early 1920's and prior to that a community team since 1902. Sports has always been a part of Frisco's history!

Play Ball Frisco! Groundbreaking for Dr. Pepper Ballpark, February 6, 2002



Above: State Senator Florence Shapiro speaks at the groundbreaking

Top Right and Right: Participants prepare to break ground for the new ballpark.

Photos by Kathy Erickson

Below: Dr. Pepper Ballpark

Photo by Gail Folwell



Stonebriar Center Mall and IKEA—Fueling the Economic Development

Competition for what would become the Stonebriar Center mall was stiff between Plano and Frisco, but Frisco won the day when the northwest corner of Preston Road and Highway 121 was selected as the place for a massive 1.7-million-square-foot shopping mall. This led to even more economic development and the Frisco boom was on—full speed ahead! The mall opened in August 2000 featuring 160 stores and restaurants, an ice rink large enough to host NHL hockey games, a 24-screen movie theater, and a carousel.

Outside the Stonebriar Center to the north came the Center at Preston Ridge with another 115 stores and restaurants making the small town of Frisco one of the largest concentrated retail centers in Texas. Hotels like the Westin Stonebriar soon followed.



When IKEA opened its doors in August 2005, it was only the second IKEA in Texas making Frisco a destination for shoppers wanting to visit the European store. The impressive blue building anchors the northeast corner of the intersection of the Dallas Parkway and Highway 121 greeting all who came north to Frisco. Meandering through the 300,000-plus-square-foot store, a shopper is guided by arrows

on the floor and a Las Vegas-casino-style marketing plan: no windows or clocks to remind you that time is passing. You can, however, purchase a clock in the Ikea Marketplace. By the time you reach the Marketplace section you're convinced you can't live without something with an unpronounceable Swedish name that requires three boxes of parts and hours to assemble. That and Ginger Thins. You must stop and pick up the Pepparkaka Ginger Thins.



Dallas North Tollway Expansion

The Dallas Platinum Corridor, which lines the Dallas North Tollway (DNT), extended even further north with the expansion of the DNT through Frisco.



The tollway reached Gaylord Parkway by 2004. In 2007 the expansion to U.S. Route 380 changed the landscape of Frisco's future with the creation of the "5 Billion Dollar Mile," which included an early believer in Frisco's future, Craig Hall's office park and sculpture gardens.

Frisco was opposed to State Highway 121 becoming a tollway between Frisco and McKinney because of the potential expense to drivers but was overruled by the majority of the Regional Transportation Council. The S.H. 121 toll road was renamed the Sam Rayburn Tollway (SRT) in 2008 in honor of the late U.S. Speaker of the House from Bonham, who was partly responsible for the creation and expansion of Highway 121.

With the opening of the new DNT expansion north, it quickly became apparent that there was no easy way to transfer from it to the SRT. Construction of a Texas-style Stack Interchange begins in 2010 to connect the two tollways and will eventually overshadow the view of the Frisco IKEA.

A Growing Diversity

Frisco continued to grow exponentially as economic development, schools, and new housing drew the town into the limelight on a national and international stage. Frisco's population in the year 2000 was 33,714. By 2010 it grew to 116,989—having crossed over the 100,000 mark sometime in 2008. Frisco is now a city.



Even as the population grew in leaps and bounds, one demographic exploded. The Asian community grew from 794 in 2000 to 11,664 in 2010—a whopping 1369% increase. Part of the interest in Frisco is the Karya Siddhi Hanuman Temple, which was built on land purchased in 2007 and blessed by His Holiness Parama Pujya Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Swamiji, who continued to visit Frisco, supervise the construction of the temple and bless the land around it.

The African American community increases by 644% during this decade growing from 1,271 in 2000 to 9,459 in 2010.

In Frisco schools, where only a few decades earlier the main native languages spoken by students were English and Spanish, now more than 60 languages are spoken by this growing diverse community.

Freedom Meadow



Tucked away in the northwest corner of the Warren Sports Complex is Freedom Meadow, which was dedicated in 2002 in memory of those lost on September 11, 2001. A Remembrance is held every year on 9/11 hosted by the Frisco Garden Club, who maintain the gardens and annually spread native wildflower seeds across the 5-acre meadow. Within the garden area is a tribute to those who have suffered at the hands of terrorists.

September 11, 2001 is one of those dates that almost anyone who was alive at the time will be able to tell you exactly where they were when they heard the news that a plane struck a tower of the World Trade Center that morning and the shock as the events of the day unfolded. It changed our world forever, but for those who were personally connected to the tragedy, their world was torn apart.

In Frisco, some members of the community have very personal stories of loss. For Vaughn Lohec, it was her sister, Lauren Grandcolas, who was returning to California after attending her grandmother's funeral. She was three months pregnant with her first child when she perished with the other passengers on Flight 93 in Shanksville, Pennsylvania. A bench in Freedom Meadow bears Lauren's name.

Another passenger on that flight was Linda Gronlund, friend of HAF president, Donna Schmittler. When asked about her friend, Donna said, "Linda was very accomplished. I knew her through volunteering at the Winslow Therapeutic Academy where we worked with autistic children. It was sad to lose someone who was so talented, capable, and giving. I am sure that can be said about so many lost that day."

Freedom Meadow is a place of reflection and remembrance.

Heritage Highlights: The First Decade

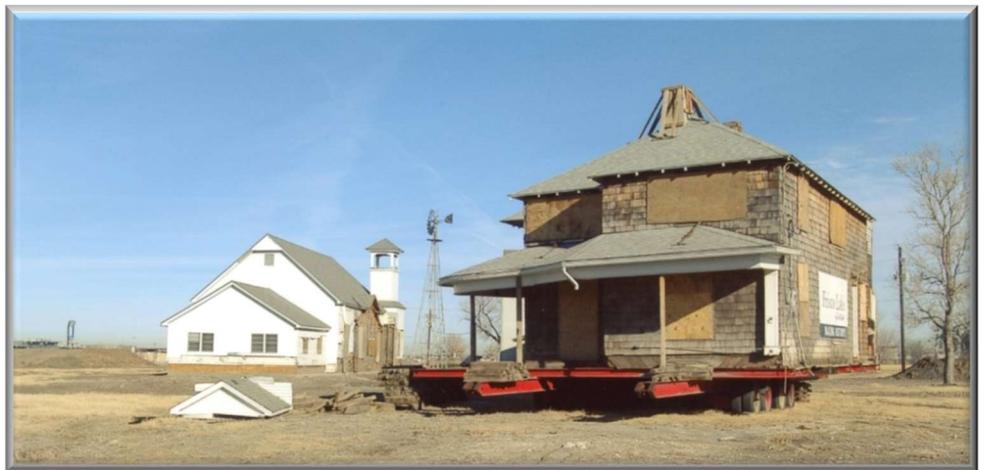
The Heritage Association of Frisco (HAF) formally organized in 1998 under the leadership of its first president, Dr. Erwin G. Pink. Heritage members who knew him will tell you he was passionate about preserving Frisco's history, persistent about how it would be done, and persuasive when it came to delegating assignments to volunteers—whether or not they raised their hand.

Teams of volunteers collected donated artifacts, gathered oral histories, wrote books, sold calendars, community cookbooks, T-shirts, and more, and traveled countless miles to visit museums and historical villages with the idea that Frisco could create a wonderful place to showcase its history.

A bond package passed in 2003 included support for the creation of a museum and historical village. With the community and City leaders on board, four acres of land were earmarked for the beginning of the Frisco Heritage Museum and Village.

Over the next five years structures were moved to the site, including the historic Lebanon Baptist Church and the Crozier house, which both sat in Lebanon close to the La Hacienda Ranch restaurant where the idea to create an organization to save the vanishing history of the area was first discussed.

Ground was broken for the construction of a museum, which opened in May 2008, ten years after HAF was first formed. Sadly, Dr. Pink passed in 2006 and did not see his vision fulfilled, but his legacy lives on. Although the museum is owned and operated by the City of Frisco, the Dr. Erwin G. Pink Gallery in the

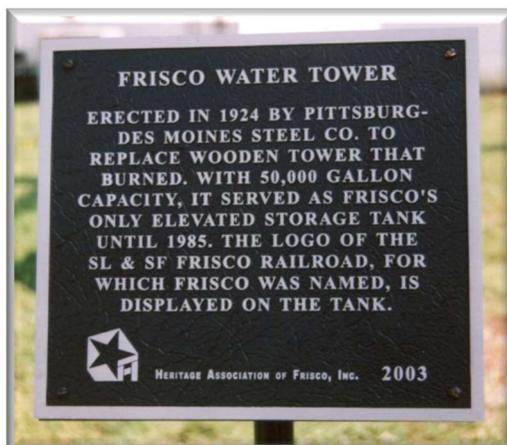


The Lebanon Baptist Church sits in the background as the Smith Muse house is moved onto the Frisco Heritage Center grounds.

museum is curated by HAF. Over the course of this decade, HAF raised and contributed over \$400,000 toward the cost of building the village.

Additionally, HAF began a marker program to identify and commemorate historic homes, businesses, and locations in Frisco. This is unique to Frisco as HAF is the only locally based organization in Collin County who has such a program.

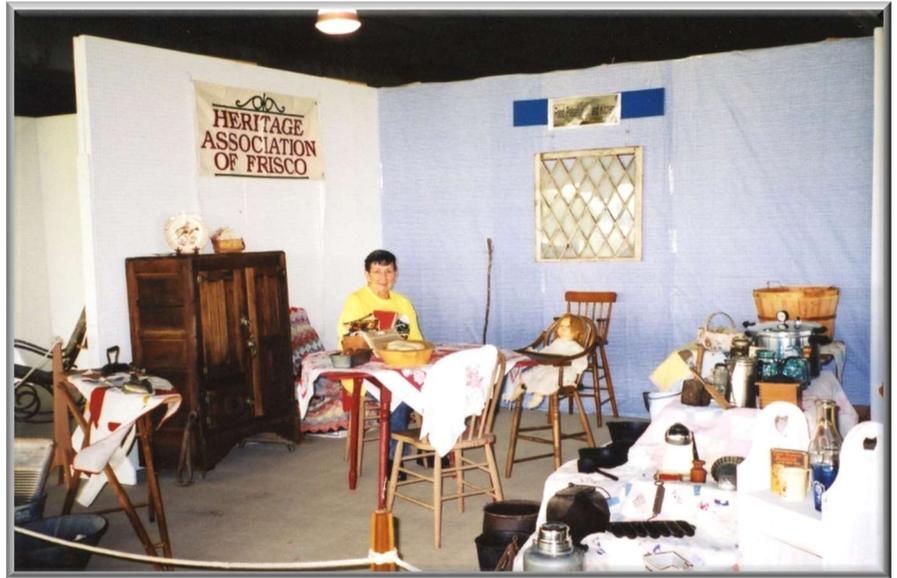
Once the museum opened, HAF volunteers served as docents, teaching visitors to the facility all about Frisco's rich history.



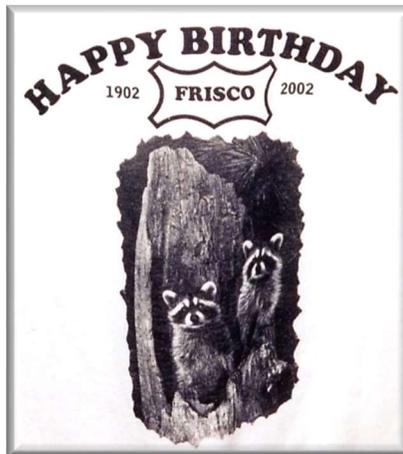
Frisco's Centennial Celebration



Above: Ruth Borchardt as a Centennial storyteller



Above right: Katy Almon mans the vintage kitchen exhibit



Center: Centennial T-shirts

Right: Otis Newman and Lyn Chambers tell stories from the days of yore

Below: Dr. Pink sells goods in HAF's country store



The Heritage Association's first big event was a large display of collected artifacts in the Hall Office Park garage. Scenes included, school, kitchen, living room, quilts, toys and more. A country store booth was set up to sell merchandise to raise funds for the organization.

Happy Birthday, Frisco! Frisco Turns 100 Years Old in 2002



When the first town lots were sold on February 7 and 8, 1902, the first residents of the new town of Emmerson could hardly envision what their little town, soon renamed Frisco, would become in a century. One hundred years later, ground was broken for Frisco's second high school, appropriately named Centennial. The school welcomed students for the first time in the fall of 2003.



From the Heritage Association of Frisco Board of Directors

The Board of Directors met via Zoom in October to discuss the continued cancellation of meetings and events while the COVID-19 situation continues. Here are a few things you should know:

- Third Sunday Open Houses are cancelled until further notice.
- If you ordered a Virtual Shawnee Trail Cowboy Day T-shirt and did not pick it up on October 31, please contact us at secretary@friscoheritage.org to arrange a pick up day.

If you have not paid your annual dues, or you would like to support the work of HAF by becoming a member, please visit our website at www.friscoheritage.org. There are two ways to complete and submit your membership application.

1. Fill out and submit an [online application](#) at www.friscoheritage.org and pay through PayPal.
2. [Download](#), print it, fill it out and mail it along with your check to: **Heritage Association of Frisco**
PO Box 263
Frisco, TX 75034

Thanks for your support!

FRISCO The First 100 Years, Frisco's second comprehensive history book, is available for purchase at the deep discount price of \$20. You can pick one up in the welcome center of the Frisco Heritage Museum, but staff can only accept cash, or a check made payable to *Heritage Association of Frisco*.

From the President's Desk

Greetings to our socially-distanced Heritage Association of Frisco members and friends. I hope that you are all doing well. It has been quite a while since we have been able to get together. I was happy to see many of you at our Virtual October Meeting. It seems that it will be a bit longer before we can be together for a meeting or host Third Sunday activities.

The HAF Board has been meeting regularly on Zoom. We hope that you enjoyed our program on our Virtual Shawnee Cowboy Trail Day at the October meeting. STCD T-shirts were handed out on Saturday, October 31st at the Museum. Chris, our Shawnee Trail Cowboy, was with us to the delight of our visitors.

COVID-19 has made it necessary to rethink our plans for Saturday Morning Lectures and Third Sunday activities. We are hoping to be able to plan these activities and more in 2021. We also hope that you have been enjoying our virtual meetings. We plan on sharing these meetings on our website and Facebook pages. Please check these videos out and let us know what you think. Feel free to send us suggestions for meetings or activities that you would like to see take place.

The Heritage Museum is having classes for adults and children to learn the art of blacksmithing in November. Heritage Association of Frisco members will be able to receive a 10% discount on the cost of the class. Check with the Museum for more information and to register.

Check out our website and Facebook pages for any upcoming announcements. Let us know if there is anything that you would be interested in seeing or hearing about. Any suggestions for sharing our history would be greatly appreciated.

On Monday, October 26th, I had the privilege of joining with the HAF's Historic Sites Committee in visiting the first home of Dr. Issac Stewart Rogers, Frisco's first doctor and Mayor. It was amazing to see this house built in 1902 and view the plans that the new homeowners have for renovating and restoring it.

As always, I would like to encourage you all to renew your membership and help us to continue to research, preserve and share Frisco's rich heritage. If any of you have a desire to join us on the Board, would be interested in becoming our Membership Chair, or would like to work on our Newsletter, please tell us. We are always looking for members to help us explore the past and imagine the future together.

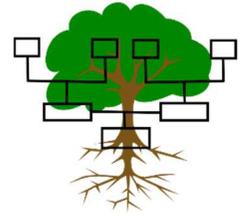
Please take care and be safe. Thanksgiving Blessings to you all.

Historically yours,
Donna Schmittler, President, Heritage Association of Frisco



Left: The Dr. I. S. Rogers home on Oak Street as pictured in the 1976 Frisco history book. Right: Donna Schmittler visits the home with a few members of the HAF Historic Sites Committee; Donna Anderson, Judy Isbell, and Linda Sutton.

Researching Your Roots



This month I would like to introduce you to the Texas State Archives, hosted by the Texas State Library in Austin: <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/arc>

Because the library has limited service hours during Covid19, there are several online items that you can look at.

Under the OnLine Collections, Ancestry.com section you will find this:

Free access to TSLAC records that have been digitized by Ancestry is made available to Texas residents. TSLAC materials available through Ancestry are Memorials and Petitions (1834-1929), Voter Registration Lists (1867-1869), Confederate Pensions (1884-1958) and more.

Under the Archives Collections on Flickr you can find photos of the Texas Declaration of Independence, in addition to many others.

You can also click on OnLine Exhibits and Texas Digital Archives to name a few.

Happy Hunting!

Vickie Burns

Chairman, Genealogy Committee

Special Thanks



The Preston Ridge Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution celebrated the organization's annual Day of Service on Saturday, October 10, 2020. The community project chosen was planting a butterfly garden of native plants around the historic windmill at the Frisco Heritage Center.

Thank you to DAR members: Sara Hawk, Linda McAlister, Lora Hornberger, Lois Duran, Joyce Mendel, Ruth Anne Donnell and Ruth's husband Calvin Donnell for beautifying the Heritage Center with more flowers.





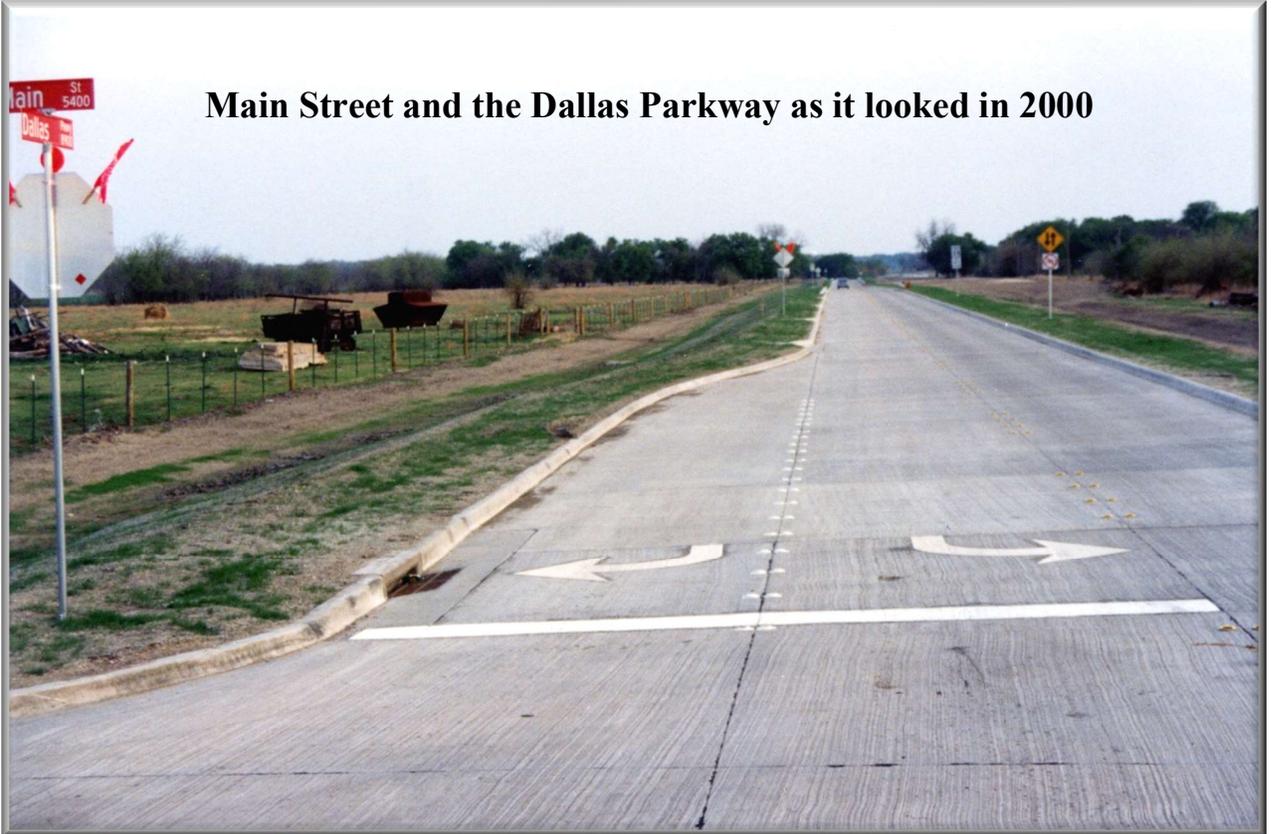
BONUS: From the HAF Archives

Mayor Mike Simpson, the Frisco City Council, City staff members and members of the Heritage Association of Frisco cut the ribbon at the grand opening of the Frisco Heritage Museum. 2008



EXPLORING THE PAST
★
IMAGINING THE FUTURE

Main Street and the Dallas Parkway as it looked in 2000



Main Street and the Dallas Parkway as it looked in 2015

