

Dallas Heritage Village Timeline

Today Dallas Heritage Village is an immersive history museum of architectural and cultural history, spanning the years 1840 to 1910, and is considered home to the largest and finest collection of 19th century pioneer and Victorian homes and commercial buildings in Texas. It is one of only five nationally accredited museums in the Dallas area. Below are key happenings in its history.

1966

A group of concerned citizens led by Mrs. Sawnie Aldredge organized the Dallas County Heritage Society (DCHS) to save the largest remaining antebellum mansion in Dallas – known as Millermore (built 1855-1862). The saving of Millermore was the very beginning of what would become the Dallas Heritage Village of today with nearly 30 preserved historic structures in a tree-shaded 20-acre setting. Millermore was brought to City Park, Dallas' first city park established in 1876.

1969

DCHS, working with the Dallas Park Department, moved Millermore to City Park, reconstructed it and opened it to the public as a house museum. Admission was 25 cents. Additionally this year, the Miller Cabin (built 1847) arrives at the Park.

1972

The first Candlelight Celebration was held – a beloved community and nationally recognized holiday event that celebrates the Christmas holidays. Guests can experience the holiday traditions and décor from the 1800s and early 1900s.

1973

Additional structures arrive – Section House (built 1883), the Train Depot (built 1886), Worth Hotel (built 1904), and Miller Playhouse (built 1907).

1974

Gano House (built 1841) arrives at the Park, and the popular Bandstand is built.

1976

With the huge celebration of America's Bicentennial year, the name City Park changes to Old City Park, which served as the official Dallas Bicentennial location. The historic structures of Brent Place (built 1876), the Renner School (built 1888), the Doctor's Office (built 1890), the General Store (built 1907) and Granary (built 1876) all arrive to make the Park their home.

1977

The beautiful Pilot Grove Church (built in the 1890s) and McCall's Store (built 1904) arrive at Old City Park. McCall's Store served as the museum store for many years and is today interpreted as the Alamo Saloon on Main Street.

1980

As Old City Park becomes more and more of a “historic replica of small American towns,” the Park’s Main Street is paved with bricks. Citizen’s Bank, containing the Dentist Office (built in 1905) arrives and is located on Main Street.

1982

Arson damages the historic Worth Hotel and Gano House. The fire completely destroys a house undergoing renovation at the Park. The Print Shop (built 1906) and Shotgun House (built 1906) come to the Park.

1983

The Log Cabin kitchen (built 1850) arrives.

1986

Blacksmith Shed added to farmstead.

1991

The Ticket Office (built 1910) arrives.

1993

The Sullivan House (built 1885) is dedicated at Old City Park.

1996

The Chautauqua Pavilion is built.

1998

As living history became popular, the museum introduced first-person interpreters who speak in the roles of people from the early days in Dallas. The Farmstead was the first building to feature an interpreter.

2000

The beloved donkeys, Nip & Tuck, come to live at the Park and are still a favorite attraction. Carriage rides begin and take guests around the park.

2005

Museum changes name from Old City Park to Dallas Heritage Village.

2008

With the popularity of the Village growing for families and school field trips, a major capital expansion takes place that includes fencing, uniting all parcels of land, burying utilities and additional parking spaces.

2011

The General Store on Main Street reopens as an interactive space.

2013

The Print Shop (built 1906) becomes Browder Springs Hall, a multi-purpose educational programming and exhibit space.

Balfour Beatty Construction rebuilds Dallas Heritage Village's historic Bandstand as a tribute to its retiring, civic-minded CEO Robert Van Cleave.

2015

Vogel Alcove, a nonprofit providing childcare for homeless children, presents Dallas Heritage Village with its Community Partner Award.

2016

Dallas Heritage Village celebrates its 50-year anniversary! Dallas Heritage Village attracts over 50,000 guests annually.

A souvenir book titled *Fifty Years of Preserving the Past* is published to commemorate the 50th Anniversary.