

## **FP-020**

### **D.A.R. BUILDING**

---

It's no coincidence that the columned building you see before you looks like a delightful place to sit for a spell and relax. That's because it was built precisely for that purpose.

Now known as the D.A.R. Building, this structure made its debut at the 1936 Texas Centennial Exposition as the Continental Oil Company's "Hospitality House". It is one of only 30 historic structures at Fair Park remaining from the 1936 fair.

Back then, visitors to the Hospitality House were encouraged to sit and rest on the house's broad verandah. Or, they could stroll inside and visit a travel bureau that provided information about other Centennial events in other Texas cities.

In 1938, the Continental Oil Company donated the house to the Daughters of the American Revolution. Today, it is only open to the public in October, during the State Fair of Texas. Inside you'll find historical exhibits and displays of various artifacts donated by, or belonging to, D.A.R. members.

One of the more interesting artifacts is a Republic of Texas land grant signed by Sam Houston. On one wall hangs a picture frame full of buttons and badges dating from around the turn of the 20th century. Among these is an original "Quanah Route Day" badge bearing a likeness of legendary Comanche Chief, Quanah Parker. You can also view State Fair badges dating back to 1888, and political buttons picturing Teddy Roosevelt and other politicians of his era.

###