

**FP-024****FAIR PARK BUSINESS OFFICE**

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Today, the building you are viewing has a rather quiet profile. It serves as the home of the city's business offices for Fair Park. But the building has quite a colorful history, right down to the blue flame of sorts that used to grace the top of its tower.

Built in 1936 for the Texas Centennial Exposition, this building is one of the 30 historic structures at Fair Park remaining from that fair. At that time, it was known as the Hall of Religion and was much larger than the building you see today. Although it included a small exhibit of gas-company products, it mainly showcased the state's many religious denominations that wanted to maintain exhibit space, and a meeting place, at Fair Park.

For several years after the Texas Centennial Exposition, it served during the State Fair as the home of the Lone Star Gas exhibit. It was during this period in the building's history that a blue flame formed by neon lights flickered at the top of the building's tower. The building served for a few years after that as the Fair Park Visitors Center.

In the 1980s, this building housed the exhibits of the African-American Museum while work was underway on its permanent home around the corner. And from 1987 to 1989, the building housed the Dallas Historical Society while the Hall of State, its permanent home, underwent renovation.

The building is a classic example of the Art Deco Texanic style that made Fair Park famous worldwide when the Texas Centennial Exposition opened in 1936.

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