

FP-025

FAIR PARK COLISEUM

Fair Park has had a “coliseum” of some sort on its grounds since the park began admitting visitors in 1886. This building however opened its doors for the first time in 1958. Believe it or not, at that time it was heated but had no air conditioning whatsoever.

Over the years, the 28,000-square-foot coliseum has evolved into a multi-purpose arena, hosting events that go beyond agricultural. It has been the home for two professional hockey teams - the Dallas Blackhawks in the 1960s and 1970s, and the Dallas Freeze in the 1990s. It has also offered “home court advantage” to two basketball teams - the Dallas Chaparrals in the 1960s and the Dallas Generals in 2009.

But it has mostly been rodeo patrons over the years who have filled its 9,000-plus seats. The Coliseum was the host site for the National Finals Rodeo from 1959-1961 and the State Fair Rodeo in the 1970s.

Today this bright blue structure periodically hosts everything from car shows to cattle shows to concerts ... and more.

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