

FP-039

OLD MILL INN

Its architecture is completely different from all the buildings around it. Yet the Old Mill Inn is one of the buildings constructed for the Texas Centennial Exposition in 1936 and is one of the 30 historic structures remaining from that fair.

When it opened during the 1936 exposition, the structure housed the Texas Flour Milling Industries exhibit. It is a replica of the Burrus Flour Mill in McKinney, Texas, a mill that dated back to the days of the Texas Republic. Some of the original mill's timbers are part of this replica and the fireplace has not been altered since 1936.

The exhibit featured three model kitchens and a tea room, as well as a modern, experimental flour mill. A cookbook, featuring the mill on the cover, was a favorite souvenir with 1936 housewives. In later years the Old Mill became the Bordens Dairy Exhibit during each State Fair of Texas. Youngsters took particular delight visiting "Elsie" the Borden cow, her husband "Elmer" (of Elmer the Glue fame), and their calf son, "Beauregard".

Gail Borden, the dairy's founder, was an early Texas settler who invented condensed milk. Not many realize Borden's name is among those engraved along the top of the Hall of State. Today, the Old Mill Inn is open year-round as a restaurant offering sandwiches, salads, cobbler and chicken-fried steak, along with other examples of good ol' down-home cooking.

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