



**1** **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of McALLEN**

This church began with McAllen's first Presbyterian worship service, held by the Rev. M.W. Doggett in a local lumberyard in 1908. Dr. W.A. King and George Pollack were first elders. Although adversely affected by the Mexican Revolution (1909-1919) the church was sustained by its Women's Society, formed in 1909. The first sanctuary built here in 1910, was a prominent landmark in McAllen's early history. The current sanctuary was built in 1959.

**104 S. 12th St.**

**2** **CASA DE PALMAS**

The Casa de Palmas, a three-story structure with a red tile roof built around a center patio and twin towers, was erected in 1918. It served as a refuge for many area residents during the severe 1919 hurricane. The hotel was rebuilt in the original style after a 1973 fire.

**101 N. Main St.**

**3** **SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Priests from La Lomita Chapel in nearby Mission ministered to Catholics at McAllen from 1908 until 1911, when a mission was begun here and a wood frame chapel was built. The congregation remained under the guidance of the Rev. J.M.F. Guennegues, O.M.I., of Mission until 1915, when the Rev. Francis A. Dupassieux, O.M.I. came to the McAllen Chapel. By 1917 a school and rectory were added and Sacred Heart became an independent parish. Sacred Heart parish has served as "Mother Church" to many missions in central Hidalgo County.

**306 S. 15th St.**

**4** **FIRST METHODIST CHURCH**

The earliest record of Methodist church activity in the lower Rio Grande Valley dates to 1849. Circuit-riding ministers served an area along the Rio Grande from Brownsville to Roma. In 1909 the Rev. C. W. Godwyn was assigned to serve Methodists in McAllen, and a small frame sanctuary was built that year. It was replaced by a larger structure in 1913. Continued growth in the congregation led to construction of the present facility in 1928. The building is now used as an elementary montessori school.

**221 N. Main St.**

**5** **MCALLEN POST OFFICE**

Built in 1935, this was the sixth location of the McAllen Post Office after its creation in 1907. The facility was dedicated on January 22, 1936, and served as a postal facility until 1957. Since 1958, the building has been used for a variety of purposes, including Federal and city office space. The building now houses the McAllen Heritage Center.

**301 S. Main St.**

**6** **SAM and MARJORIE MILLER HOUSE**

Samuel Lynn and Marjorie Williams Miller were early McAllen leaders. Sam had interests in a nursery, banking and real estate, and was co-owner of the Hidalgo International Bridge. In 1930, he donated 109 acres of land to establish the municipal airport, which later became McAllen Miller International Airport. Marjorie was a civic leader active in the Order of the Eastern Star. The Miller home, inspired by a trip to England, was built in 1937. Robert Vogler designed the English Tudor Revival house based on Marjorie's plans.

**707 N. 15th St.**

**7** **"BESSIE" the STEAMBOAT BELL**

The Steamboat "Bessie," carried this 400-pound bell instead of a whistle. A dispute over its ownership delayed the purchase of "Bessie" by Sacred Heart Catholic Church in McAllen, and saved it when a fire destroyed (1924) the church. In 1926 it was placed in the rebuilt church. Cracked in 1937, and recast from its original metal, the bell was later moved to St. Joseph the Worker Church.

**900 S. 23rd St.**

**8** **M. & J. NELSON BUILDING**

This noteworthy modern style commercial building remains a distinctive McAllen attraction. Morris Randall Nelson built and owned the building, designed in 1949 for the use of the J.C. Penney Co. Nelson, born in McPherson, Kansas, followed his father's profession as a carpenter before becoming a builder, property developer and entrepreneur. Morris moved to Palacios, where he met and married Ruth Stainbrook; the two arrived in McAllen in 1914, three years after the city incorporated. M.R. Nelson built commercial, public and residential buildings throughout McAllen and the Rio Grande Valley. The Nelson Building features a streamlined art deco exterior finished in horizontal bands of two-tone buff brick with a darker cast stone trim. The building still houses the JC Penney store downtown, the last remaining store in an American downtown.

**300 S. Main St.**

**9** **ARCHER PARK**

This one-block-square tract of land was deeded to the City of McAllen for use as a public park in 1917, six years after the town was incorporated. The donor, Mayor Oliver Percy Archer (1930-1969), was a prominent local businessman and civic leader. The site was officially named for him in 1933 by the McAllen Board of City Commissioners. From 1936 to 1949 the McAllen Public Library was housed in the basement area of the bandstand.

**100 N. Main St.**

**\*** **SAINT PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Organized in Pharr in 1916 by the Rev. Paul Birkman and five charter members, St. Paul Lutheran Church moved to McAllen in 1917. Early worship services, conducted in German, were held in the First Methodist Church. The Lutherans purchased the former McAllen Christian Church building in 1919 and met there until the 1940's. A brick building was constructed to house both the church and the parochial school established in 1943. A 20-acre site was purchased here in 1952, and a new sanctuary and school were erected. The building is located at

**300 W. Pecan Ave.**

**10** **MASONIC LODGE No. 1110, A.F.&A.M.**

This lodge, organized by Master Mason R. M. Bounds and about 30 other Masons, was chartered on December 8, 1915. Meetings were held in the Joseph and Osborne buildings, two early downtown commercial structures, prior to the lodge erecting a temple at this site in 1927. Noted early teachers Isadore Moritz and Hugh R. Lockhart instructed a membership consisting of people from various Masonic jurisdictions. The lodge is notable for having two members who became Grand Masters. Lodge No. 1110 continues to be active in local civic affairs.

**118 N. 11th St.**

**11** **SOUTHERN PACIFIC DEPOT**

The San Antonio & Aransas Pass (subsidiary of the Southern Pacific) Railway laid track south to the Rio Grande Valley and McAllen in 1927. This passenger depot, designed by railroad architect Leonard B. McCoy, opened in August that year. The structural tile building is stuccoed and detailed in Spanish colonial revival style. Passenger service ceased in 1952. The building is used presently as a law office.

**100 S. Bicentennial Blvd.**

**\*** **THE STROHMEYER HOUSE**

The Strohmeyer house and farm was established in 1933 at five and a quarter mile North Ware Road. It was the first home and is the last of the wood-frame homes built north of the five-mile line on Ware Road. It has been occupied by the Strohmeyers from that date to the present. The history of the house and of the Strohmeyer family go hand in hand. This history gives a unique look into the work and life of a pioneering family struggling to build a house and farm in South Texas. The house is located at

**8221 N. Ware Rd.**

**12** **THE LAMAR JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

In the summer of 1938 the McAllen school board met for the purpose of considering a Public Works Administration Project which included a new school at the northwest corner of 10th Street and Jasmine Avenue. The school was designed by M.L. Waller and T.D. Waller both architects from Fort Worth. H.H. Moeller was the contractor chosen for the project who completed the construction in the summer of 1939 at a cost at the time of approximately \$100,000. The school was used as the Lamar Junior High School for over 50 years from 1944 until the year 2000. Many generations of McAllen students attended school there and was the only junior high school in the city until 1957.

**1009 N. 10th St.**

**\*** **QUINTA MAZATLAN**

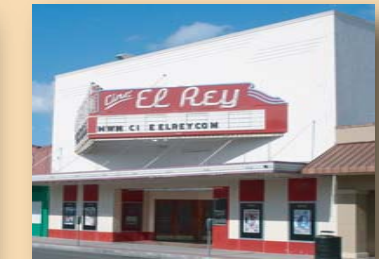
One of the larger adobe homes in the state, Quinta Mazatlan was designed and built by Jason Chilton Matthews (1887-1964) during the late 1930s. Adobe blocks used in construction were made at this site. A composer, writer, and adventurer, Matthews was known for his eccentric ways. During the last few years of their lives, Jason and his wife Marcia (1891-1963) edited and published the "American Mercury" magazine from here. Begun in 1924, the magazine was a leading conservative publication which expressed strong pro-American views. The building now houses one of the Rio Grande Valley World Birding Centers. The building is located at

**600 Sunset Avenue**

**13** **EL REY THEATER**

Cine El Rey opened May 1, 1947, with an appearance by Mexican comic actor German Valdes. The theater was the heartbeat of cultural life for people who yearned for Spanish culture, and often sponsored local talent shows. The building exhibits an Art Deco architectural style with a mix of southwestern flavor. The building is in use today for special events and concerts.

**311 S. 17th St.**



1910 1917 1918 1919 1925 1927 1928 1933 1935 1937 1938 late 1930'S 1947 1949

\* NOT ON MAP