

# Denton County Office of History and Culture

Peggy Riddle, Director  
Denton County Office of History and Culture





# Background

- The Denton County Office of History and Culture (OHC) oversees the Courthouse-on-the-Square Museum and the Denton County Historical Park.
- **Mission:** The Denton County Office of History and Culture aims to educate and engage our visitors by collecting, preserving, and interpreting the culture and history of Denton County.
- OHC does this by providing:
  - Promotion of local historic preservation
  - A repository for artifacts and documents that have historical significance for preservation and posterity
  - Engaging exhibitions
  - Community programming
  - Museum tours and visitor experiences
  - Assistance to other historical organizations
- Previous HOT Funds preservation projects include – Taylor Log Cabin, The Woods House, and the Stony Store

# OHC Events & Programs

- Free guided tours of our museum sites year-round
- Texas Talks speaker series at the Courthouse
- Victorian Teas at the Bayless-Selby House
- Holiday decorations at the Historical Park

## Partnerships:

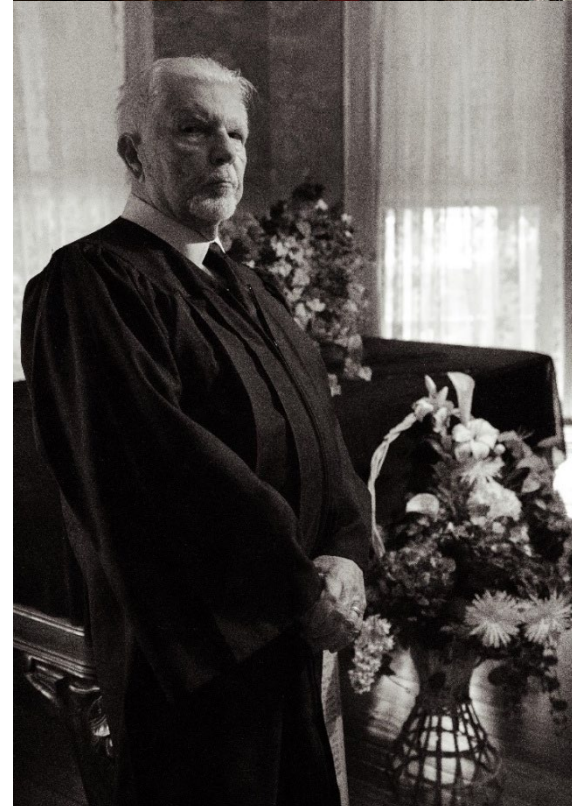
Denton Revealed: Preservation Month - Partnership with the City of Denton and Denton Public Library in Downtown Denton and Beyond

Denton County Farm Heritage Day - Partnership with the Denton Community Market, Denton County Antique Tractor Club, Denton County Farm Bureau, and Denton County AgriLife Extension Office

PARK AFTER DARK – Denton 31 Days of Halloween, specialized tour at the Bayless-Selby House Museum

Group Tours and Victorian Teas – partner with Discover Denton to provide programs and tours for conference groups

Filming Locations – Quakertown USA documentary



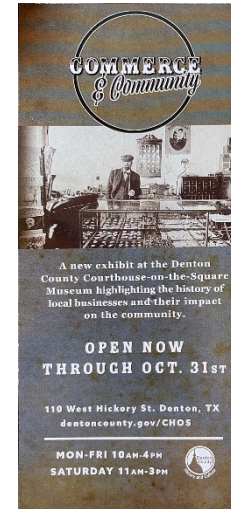
# Tourism – “Learn Like a Local”

Both sites are listed in the Top 5 Things to Do in Denton on Google and TripAdvisor with over 125,000 views from January – June 2026

Nearly 1 million (950,798) Facebook views in 2025. OHC WordPress blog generated 147,855 views in 2025.

Average yearly visitors:

- 8,500 at the CHOS, 4,000 at the Historical Park
- Target audience is families, residents, and out-of-town visitors
- 2025 – 8,512 visitors, 205 hotel stay \*Courthouse was closed until Dec. 2025 due to repairs
- Jan-June 2026 – 6,797, 265 hotel stay
- Marketing:
  - Social Media – Facebook (10K followers) and Instagram (1,454 followers)
  - Printed rack cards and brochures - Certified Folder distribution
  - Focus on Travel – Maps, Guides, and Travel Magazines
  - Partnership with Discover Denton, conference packages – group tours, Victorian teas, facility rentals, filming locations
- Welcome to Downtown Denton - opportunity for CHOS to serve as visitor center with closure of Discover Denton Welcome Center
- Historical Park expansion is creating a longer visitor experience
- Evening events, like Park After Dark and the Texas Talks Speaker Series, encourage attendees from outside of Denton to plan a hotel stay





# Future Plans



- 2027 Plans
  - ‘Social Fabric’ exhibit in collaboration with the Texas Fashion Collection at the University of North Texas
    - Related programming (ex. gallery talks, children’s activities, workshops)
- Coffey Cabin restoration
- Geesling Smokehouse restoration
- Stony General Store grand opening



# Questions?

