



Parker Cotton Gin

Dedication Ceremony

November 15, 2016

Call to Order	Mayor Z. Marshall
Pledge	Parker Citizens
Welcome	Donna Jenkins, Collin County Historical Commission
Greetings	Dr. Michael Black, Chairman Collin County Historical Commission Paula Ross, Chair of County Marker Committee
Presenting Marker	Donna Jenkins
Unveiling	Mayor Z. Marshall
Reading of Marker	Fran Lewis, Parker Citizen
Closing Remarks	Donna Jenkins

Marker Presented by Collin County Historical Commission





PARKER COTTON GIN



SETTLEMENT IN COLLIN COUNTY GREW SUBSTANTIALLY FROM 1840-1860, AND ALTHOUGH CITIZENS WERE MOSTLY FARMERS, THE MAJORITY OF FARMS WERE SMALL AND COTTON HARVEST WAS OF LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE. THERE WAS LITTLE INCENTIVE FOR FARMERS TO PLANT COTTON SINCE THERE WAS A LACK OF TRANSPORTATION TO TAKE THE CROP TO MARKET. THIS CHANGED WITH THE COMING OF THE RAILROAD IN THE LATE 1880'S.

COTTON GINS WERE THE MAJOR INDUSTRY TIED TO THE FARMING COMMUNITY IN THE COUNTY, AND IT WAS NO DIFFERENT IN PARKER, TEXAS. WILLIAM C. PARKER, NAMESAKE OF THE COMMUNITY, WAS FARMER AND SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN WHO OWNED A GRISTMILL AND COTTON GIN. THE COTTON GIN WAS FIRST OPERATED BY MULE POWER AND LATER BY STEAM ENGINE FUELED BY WOOD AND COAL.

WAGONS TRANSPORTED COTTON TO THE GIN WHERE THE WAGON WAS WEIGHED AND COTTON EXTRACTED FROM THE WAGON THROUGH A TUBE AND THEN BROUGHT TO A BURR MACHINE. NEXT, IT WAS SENT TO SEPARATORS THAT REMOVED THE SEEDS FROM THE FIBER. THE SEEDS WERE EITHER USED FOR PRESSING OIL OR FOR PLANTING. COTTON FIBERS WERE SENT TO BE PRESSED INTO 500 POUND BALES. EMPTY WAGONS WERE AGAIN WEIGHED TO CALCULATE THE EXACT AMOUNT OF GINNED COTTON. THE GIN OWNER CHARGED THE FARMER FOR EVERY 100 POUND WEIGHT OF COTTON FOR HIS SERVICE. COTTON BALES WERE MOVED TO THE TRAIN DEPOT AND TRANSPORTED TO MARKETS.

AFTER WORLD WAR II FARMERS BEGAN TO MOVE TO CITIES TO WORK AND COTTON PRODUCTION DECLINED. THE GIN IN PARKER FELL SILENT. TODAY ALL THAT REMAINS OF THE PARKER GIN IS PART OF THE ORIGINAL FOUNDATION.

PROPERTY OF COLLIN COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

2016