



Santa Fe Passenger Station, Temple, Tex.

Santa Fe Depot

315 W Ave B

The striking Prairie-Beaux Arts Santa Fe Depot is the centerpiece of Temple's downtown renewal program. The depot houses an Amtrak station, gift shop, and Railroad and Heritage Museum. The lobby serves as an elegant meeting and banquet facility.

The depot symbolizes the city's deep railroading roots. The Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe Railroad (GC&SF) founded Temple on June 29, 1881.

A Harvey House restaurant was built to the east of the depot in 1898. The crisply starched uniformed "Harvey Girls" served travelers and townspeople alike.

Award-winning Chicago architect, Jarvis Hunt, designed the existing depot, completed in 1911. For the next 78 years, the depot was the queen of the Santa Fe line, but as rail passenger service declined, so did the depot. In 1989, the building was abandoned. In 1995, the City of Temple bought 8.76 acres of land surrounding the depot and the Santa Fe Railroad donated the building. The next year, Texas Department of Transportation awarded the city a \$2.4 million grant for restoration, and the city invested another \$1.6 million. Renovations were completed in 2000.