



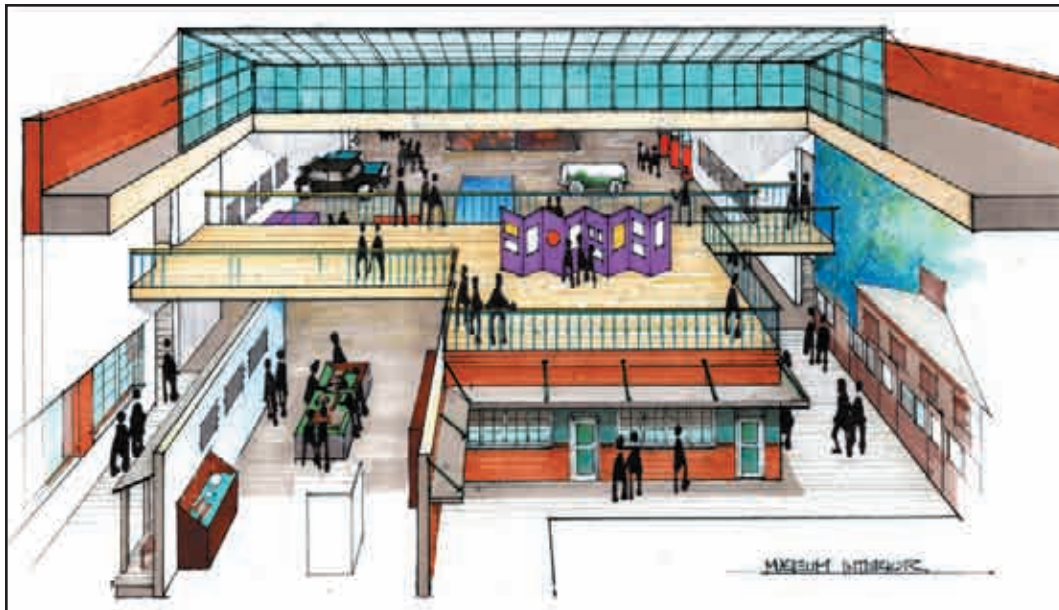
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Rendering of Frisco Heritage Museum provided by Frisco Heritage Association

A Home For History

By Dana Gavin Frank

FRISCO IS GROWING BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS THESE DAYS, but a collection of like-minded people is committed to preserving the city's past. On the last Tuesday of each month, the members of the Heritage Association of Frisco convene on McKinney Street, where the City Council meets, to plan their role in the preservation process.

"About six years ago, the city requested that some organization be formed with the primary purpose to preserve and research the history of Frisco, because it's been disappearing very rapidly due to all of the development. So the Heritage Association of Frisco was formed. It is a non-profit organization and we presently have about 225 to 250 members," says Dr. Erwin Pink, chairperson of the Heritage Association.

"And working with the city, we're developing a Heritage Park, which in the long run won't be called Heritage Park, but will have a better name. It's actually an entity of the City of Frisco. It will be owned by the City of Frisco, and

the Heritage Association is working in partnership with the city in developing this park."

Dr. Pink explained that the park is going to be located on city property, with the museum at the intersection of Main Street and 5th Street. Other developments spread out from 5th Street and into the surrounding areas. "It encompasses between six and eight acres. In a bond issue for city facilities roughly two years ago, \$3,500,000 was allotted for the building of a museum. The first part of the museum is being finalized to go out for bid in early spring, with construction estimated to begin in late spring with occupancy in early 2006," added Pink.

"The centerpiece of the whole thing is the Frisco Heritage Museum," continued Dr. Pink. "The first phase will be something in excess of 14,000 square feet, with the second phase coming later, with an additional 6,500 - 7,000 square feet. The first phase is funded through the bond issue. And that's what we're going to start in the spring. It will have artifacts that reflect the time and life of Frisco from 1902 forward."

The Bolin collection, currently housed in McKinney, has already been acquired for the new museum, and architect Arthur Phelps (of Architects Phelps/Wood) had many of the artifacts in mind when he began conceptualizing the

museum. Pointing to a colorful rendering of the interior he said, "One side will be replicas of the fronts of buildings, such as the front porch of a grocery store, with old price lists still on the door, for example. The other side will have murals all the way up the walls, using pictures

from the Frisco history books." He went on to describe other acquisitions, such as Model As and Ts, old oil tank trucks, and old gas pumps.

"Most of the manpower for the museum, such as docents, will be supplied by volunteers from the Heritage Association," said Dr. Pink.

Other restoration projects are already underway. "The Lebanon Church that was built before 1900 was moved this summer by the city from its site on Preston Road to Heritage Park. Already funded, it will begin restoration within the next couple of months," said Dr. Pink, as he pointed to different places on his copy of the plans.

"We call this the Crozier-Covington-Sickles house, which is a two story Victorian house, dating back to the late 1800s, and it too will be under restoration for the next two months.

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