

Buffalo Gap Historic Village

133 N. William St. • Buffalo Gap, Texas
325.572.3365

In the early days of the Texas frontier, great herds of buffalo favored the “gap” in the Callahan Divide. The area was also a favored camping place for Native Americans. The site of the original settlement in Taylor County, Buffalo Gap Historic Village is located a few miles south of Abilene.

A historical resource since 1956, the Village preserves and presents the heritage of the Texas frontier. The Village boasts :

- A rich collection of Indian artifacts and frontier firearms
- 21-buildings from the founding of the area
- Interactive audio tours and guide books
- Gallery with historic maps and art by area artists
- Guest House Accommodations
- Rental Facilities: Chapel and reception/meeting rooms
- Vintage base ball [call for schedule]
- Extensive collection of publications from State House Press and the McWhiney Foundation Press
- Home to Texas Frontier Heritage & Cultural Center

To reach the Village take FM 89 (Buffalo Gap Rd.) to Buffalo Gap, turn right on Elm and go two blocks to 133 N. William.

Open Daily!

Summer Hours: Memorial Day to Labor Day
Mon. - Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Sun., Noon to 6 p.m.

Winter Hours: Closes at 5 p.m.

Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day



Base ball (spelled with two words in 1883) is the premier feature of the Village's Living History Interpretation Program. By recreating the sights, sounds and smells of an 1880s-era game, interpreters and volunteers illustrate how base ball has changed between 1883 and the present.



Admission: \$5—Adults
\$4—Ages 65+
\$2—Students [grades 1-12]
Free—Ages 5 & under
(Interactive audio tours and guide books additional)

Dyess Air Force Base



World War II saw the blossoming of “tent cities” throughout the nation. Camp Barkeley, a few miles south of Abilene, became an Army infantry training camp for thousands of recruits. Army Air Corp cadets learned to fly trainers and P-47 Thunderbolt fighters while stationed at Tye Army Air Field, a Camp Barkeley adjunct. When both installations were closed at the end of World War II, the deed to Tye Army Air Field was sold to Abilene for \$1. The Texas National Guard used 1,500 acres of the former Air Field as a training facility.

Following the outbreak of the Korean crisis, Abilenians called for a military installation. Citizens raised \$893,000 to purchase an additional 3,500 acres to provide a home for the military base. Several prominent men were instrumental in convincing authorities of the suitability of Abilene. Oliver Howard, W. P. Wright, Sr. and others worked with Senator Lyndon B. Johnson and Congressman Omar Bureson, to persuade military and civilian officials to station a base in Abilene. In July 1952, the Department of Defense announced that Congress had approved the \$32 million needed to construct a base in Abilene.

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on September 24, 1953. Dyess' red brick ranch-style architecture boasts a Texas influence throughout the base. One unique feature of the base is that all buildings are permanent structures.

Known as Abilene Air Force Base, the Strategic Air Command base was dedicated by city fathers at the end of Abilene's Diamond Jubilee on April 15, 1956.

On December 6, 1956, the base was renamed after Lt. Col. William E. Dyess who was born in Albany, Texas, August 9, 1916. The only son of Judge Richard T. and Hallie Graham Dyess, young Edwin took his first airplane ride in a barnstorming World War I aircraft that came through Albany in 1920. Lt. Col. Dyess served valiantly during World War II, was captured and survived the Bataan Death March. The colonel made it back to the U.S. and began training for overseas combat again. During training Colonel Dyess' pursuit aircraft caught fire while flying over a heavily populated area. With ample opportunity to abandon the aircraft, Colonel Dyess choose to sacrifice his own life rather than risk the lives of others. He remained with the P-38 and died after guiding it onto a vacant lot.

Today, Dyess is home to the 7th Bomb Wing with two B-1 Squadrons and the 317th Airlift Group with two C-130 Squadrons. For an overview of base history, visit the Dyess Visitor Center Memorial Park located just outside the base at Arnold Blvd. and Military Dr. Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. - 325.793.2199 - Free