

Fort Phantom Hill

F.M. 600 at Lake Fort Phantom • 325.677.1309

Located in present-day Jones County, Fort Phantom Hill is on the Texas Forts Trail and is one of the most pristine historic sites in Texas. It was one of a second line of forts laid out in the early 1850s to protect the westward moving frontier of Texas settlement.

Originally known as the "Post on the Clear Fork of the Brazos," the fort was occupied by the U.S. Army from 1851 until 1854. Shortly after the army abandoned Fort Phantom Hill, fire destroyed most of the log walls and thatched roofs of the post's buildings. However, much remains for visitors to explore, inspect and study, including three original stone buildings, an intact stone powder magazine, a stone guardhouse and an almost-intact commissary or warehouse, more than a dozen stone chimneys, and stone foundations from the original fort.

The 22-acre site is owned by the non-profit Fort Phantom Foundation and is registered with the Texas Historical Survey Committee. The site is open daily during daylight hours and is free of charge. To explore the ruins, from Interstate 20, go north on FM-600 for 11 miles.



Texas Forts Trail

The frontier forts of Texas were lonely outposts in wild country. As settlers streamed west with dreams of new opportunities, the federal government established lines of forts to protect Texans on the advancing frontier. Beginning in 1848, the U.S. Army built 44 major outposts and set up at least 100 temporary camps in Texas. Many West and Central Texas communities were founded adjacent to these frontier outposts.

The 650-mile driving trail region includes 29-counties in West Central Texas and highlights eight historic frontier forts. The remains of these forts offer a tangible link to an early period of Texas History.

Western Artisans



Leddy Boots

Leddy Boots

1602 N. Treadaway • 325.677.7811

The tradition of hand-crafting western boots was begun in 1949 by James Leddy. Today, Mr. Leddy's family carries on his craft. From custom fitting to finished boot, the Leddy art shines through. Many famous rodeo and country performers purchase their boots here.

Bell Custom-Made Boots & Repair

2118 North Treadaway • 325.677.0632

Alan Bell is another legendary Texas boot maker. He has a charmingly rustic workshop just a few blocks north of Leddy's, and walk-ins are welcome. Bell is always good for a story or two, but call first to make sure he hasn't gone fishing.



Art Reed

Art Reed Custom Saddles

361 E.S. 11th • 325.677.4572

Art Reed has been custom-making saddles, chaps and belts for over 40 years. This small but unique shop is open Monday – Friday, 9 a.m to 5 p.m. and most Saturdays, 9 a.m. to Noon.

Lankford's Texas Mesquite Products

1042 Cottonwood • 325.670.9888

Terry Lankford fashions ranch-style furniture and accessories that capture the natural beauty of Texas Mesquite. His creations are in demand through custom orders from around the country, but he often has pieces for sale right outside his workshop. He's happy to show guests his craft can usually be found at the shop.



Damon Albus

5D Custom Hats and Leather

742-A Butternut • 325.673.9000

Damon Albus, owner of 5D Custom Hats and Leather, specializes in high-quality, custom-made cowboy hats and leather accessories. Damon strives to keep western tradition alive and welcomes visitors to view hats being made.