The Success, which was the first newspaper in Rockwall, was founded by Sid Crosbyton in 1883, with the assistance of Lynn Charleston. (The first Success building was located on Rusk Street.) The paper continued to print under local ownership (including Dick Gaines and, later, the P.J. Bounds family) until 1988 when it was sold to an outside interest. In the late nineties, the Belo Corporation bought The Success and soon ceased its publication as an independent entity.

At the end of the block, cross the street to the northeast corner of Kaufman and San Jacinto.

13 | 201 East Kaufman
The lots on the north side of Kaufman from San Jacinto to Fannin have been home to several businesses including a grist mill, a livery stable, a movie theatre and, most recently, a bank. In 1900, a furniture and hardware store occupied the northeast corner lot with a livery stable operating just to the east. By 1911, the furniture store had been replaced with a carpentry shop and the rest of the block was taken up by a gristmill and a sawmill lumber company. By 1923, a movie theatre was on the corner, and one continued to operate at this location for more than thirty-five years. The Ritz, as it was called for most of that tenure, played first-run movies and was the site of many first dates and family outings. In the time of segregation, the lower floor was reserved for white patrons only; black movie-goers were relegated to the balcony. In the twenties, the lots next door to the theatre were home to the Rockwall Lumber Company. By 1952, the lumberyard had changed hands and was then the Lyon-Gray Lumber Company. After several years and several other owners, the lumberyard was destroyed by fire. Eventually, the First State Bank purchased the lots and erected the present building.

Cross San Jacinto and continue west on Kaufman Street.

In the early years, this side of the square was incredibly important in Rockwall’s development as it contained the first City Hall and many public buildings. In addition to the government and fraternal buildings in this block, it also contained private retail and services. In the early twenties, this block contained a carpenter's shop, a mattress factory, a machine shop, and a garage for auto repair. By the fifties, there was a tractor repair shop and a feed store. In the seventies, a grocery store (107 East Kaufman) was the main resident of this block.

14 | 105 East Kaufman
The first brick building constructed on this lot was a two-story structure whose second floor housed Rockwall’s first telephone exchange when it was opened in 1902. The only fire alarm in town—a bell mounted on a wooden tower—stood beside the building. It was a convenient location because when someone called in a fire, the operator merely had to yell out the window for someone below to sound the alarm. The original structure was torn down in the sixties.

15 | 103 East Kaufman
(east side of parking lot)
On April 17, 1874, the city of Rockwall incorporated and the first City Hall was located at this site. The first volunteer fire department kept their equipment at City Hall, so this is also the location of Rockwall’s first fire station. Even after the City Hall re-located, the fire station continued to operate at this location for several years.