

Rural Texas Tourism, LLC

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HISTORIC CALVERT PREPARES FOR THE ANNUAL VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS TOUR SLATED FOR SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7 AND SUNDAY DECEMBER 8



Look no further for that special holiday experience as a present for friends, family, or even yourself and it's right around the corner on Saturday, December 7 and Sunday December 8. With 46 historic blocks celebrating the spirit within the City, Calvert continues the tradition with “putting on the ritz and glitz with history”, making it a beautiful journey for all ages.

The story-book homes and the amazing Historic Civil War Era Cemetery (all part of the tour) set the tone for the visitor—you will clearly step back in time. This experience will provide an inside look into exceptional historic homes and businesses of the era. Homes that will be viewed as part of the tour include two antebellum mansions from the late 1800's, churches, and many other shining examples of

Victorian homes--some for the first time ever to be on tour, opening their doors to the public.

Homes and entities spotlighted on this year's tour include:

Hospitality Center located in the historic bldg at 521 N Main (Larry C. Morris Law Office) – obtain tickets, tour info, wassail, coffee, cookies. (some of the homes will have food also)

Ingraham's Castle (Hammond House built 1870 on 604 Elm) originally built as a jail when Calvert was the county seat. It is Gothic Revival set on two acres and is considered the "most imposing public bldg in early Robertson County".

Gibson/Hudson home (Built 1904-06 on 400 East Texas) Is Colonial and Victorian styles, sits in middle of a city block, and originally was an 1880's cottage enlarged to form the house it is today.

Gibson/Hensarling Home (built 1902 on 1105 China) with a Plantation style w/ wrap around porches and over one acre grounds. The Gibson brothers co-owned the Gibson Gin & Oil Company (said to be world's largest early 1900s).

Duncan/Jaworski home (circa 1880 on 509 E Mitchell) A farmhouse style with floor to ceiling "French windows" opening onto the front porch.

McClendon/Hindman Home (built 1897 on 808 Pin Oak) This Victorian beauty has the original stained glass windows and handmade Queen Anne staircase.

The Bird House (another classic, built circa 1880 on 301 E Logan) Is a Queen Anne Victorian with second floor turret and finial with roof with metal cresting.

Brown/Walston-Kuzel Home built 1897 on 600 E. Texas. Has a porch entry at the corner of the house, window seat at the lower landing, built in china cabinet opening above w/in second floor wall.

Not to be missed is the famous American Woman's League built in 1909 on 404 E. Mitchell—always a winner. Woman's League Chapter House (Katy Hammon Stricker Library), Prairie style with many original furnishings and Zolnay bas relief sculpture entitled Woman's Mission. It is the only remaining American Woman's League chapter house in Texas and one of few in US.

The impressive "Cemetery of Angels", Church of the Epiphany on 501 E. Gregg, and the Sneed Memorial Methodist Church on Mitchell @ Beech are showcased and their incredible stained glass will become new traditional favorites.

Tour times will be from 1:00 - 5:00 pm Saturday December 7, Sunday December 8, 1:00 - 4:00 pm with a nominal ticket price of \$10.00 per person that allows entries to all sites on the tour. Visitors will enjoy cookies and wassail along the way and all will be immersed in the holiday camaraderie, atmosphere, and celebrations with the locals—part of the tremendous history and beauty that surrounds this community.

The ever popular "Light the Night" on Main Street will feature downtown shops open late into the evening. This experience will be offered Saturday from 10 am to late into the evening and Sunday from 12 - 4 pm. Enjoy festive dining at one of the restaurants, a stop at the pub (in the historic Casimir Drug Store building), have a special tea on Saturday beginning at 10 am to closing at the Carousel Tea Room, or jaunt around for some antiques, collectibles, jewelry, pottery, gourds, metal art,

candles, or resale. And the historic Eloia Theater will be selling a chili dinner from 11 am to 3 pm on Saturday before reopening at 7 pm with the uplifting Brazos Valley Community Band featured.

Calvert is located in the Golden Triangle between Dallas, Houston, and Austin and is 30 miles north of Bryan-College Station. Calvert was founded in 1868 and named in honor of Robert Calvert, a descendant of Lord Baltimore. He was a large plantation owner and instrumental in directing the railroad through Robertson County.

For additional information and/or questions on the Victorian Christmas Tour in Historic Calvert on Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8, visit www.CalvertTx.com or call 979-492-3302 or 979-364-2559. “Create new memories with the Calvert experience--an incredible 46 blocks of beauty and preservation dressed for the holidays.”

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Cathy Chaloupka
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