ABOUT YOUR VISIT

Alternate parking is available around the Courthouse if you would rather park and explore from there.

Picnicking is allowed in the Johnson City Park.

Restroom facilities are available at the Post Office Building, the Boyhood Home, the Johnson Settlement and the Courthouse

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Interpreters at the Park Visitor Center will gladly assist you.

You may also wish to see the movie and slides at the Visitor Center before beginning your tour of the town.

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior



Lyndon B. Johnson National Historic Site P.O. Box 329, Johnson City, Texas 78636

**** **Golden Opportunities** are plentiful in beautiful Blanco county, Come on!

From the Blanco County Record April 4, 1924, Johnson City, Texas

Summer Time is Near

Summer time at our door and we all need more or less Summer Clothing. We are here to serve you with a large stock of Dry Goods and can save you money on all your purchases. Note the low prices on staple goods:

- Men's Summer Suits \$10 to \$22.50 Nice lot Silk Dresses. Big lot Summer Dress Goods. Nice lot Stetson Hats just arrived.
 - Beautiful line Ladies Dress Shoes. Silk Hose in all colors.

If you are in need of anything in the Dry Goods line it will pay you to call and see us and get prices.

SCHROEDER

BROS.

Main headings and borders are copies from the Blanco County Record.

AROUND THE CORNER OF 8th AND H STREETS ON U.S. 290



PRESS CENTER

During the Presidential years (1963-1968) this 1930s building housed a local press office established for the White House press corps and all correspondents who came to LBJ Ranch and Johnson City. Telephone, teletype and photo services gave access to the nation's news wires. From his early experience at the Record-Courier Lyndon Johnson knew the importance of such facilities to the working newsman.

OLD BANK Johnson City's first bank was housed in this building, moving to the south end of the present bank building in the 1920s. That bank failed in the Great Depression of 1929. Watching farmers, including his father, struggle through

the "little depression" of the 1920s and the 1925 drought convinced Lyndon Johnson of the need for a better agricultural credit system.

Lyndon Johnson's hinterland experience convinced him early of the need for ready access to news and market information, the need for stable, long-term agricultural and rural development credit in a sound banking system, and the need for stable agricultural markets. The effects of these early convictions can be found throughout his long career.

WOOL & MOHAIR WAREHOUSE

In the 1920s, Johnson City was one of the largest markets for wool and mohair in the entire region. Production in the county was at its peak. Wool and mohair purchased here were sent direct to Boston and the eastern U.S. mills. Cattlemen lived peaceably with sheep men and goat men. Synthetic fibers brought a decline in wool and mohair markets that may now be reversed by the rising price of oil.

"Lyndon Johnson was the last of our Frontier Presidents."---Joe Alsop.

How far was he from real frontier events?

To answer the question we have only to look at a few dates and do a simple subtraction.

Lyndon Johnson was born in 1908.

1908 was

ooo was			
8 yrs.	from the last Great Trail Drive out of the Hill Country in	1890	
9 yrs.	from the founding of Johnson City in	1879	
6 yrs.	from the last Indian battle in Blanco County at Deer Creek near Johnson City in	1872	
0 yrs.	from the first Great Trail Drives to Abilene, Kansas, in	1868	
3 yrs.	from the end of the American Civil War in	1865	
0 yrs.	from the founding of Blanco County on the outer Texas frontier in	1858	
3 yrs.	from the Texas Annexation to the United States in	1845	

76 yrs. from the establishment of the 1836 Republic of Texas in_

Lyndon Johnson's Hill Country was populated by participants in and eyewitnesses to all these events.

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******* AN INVITATION

> Many factors influence a man's development, attitudes, beliefs, concerns, and future actions.

> You have begun to explore Lyndon Johnson's history at the Johnson Settlement and his Boyhood Home.

Before you leave Johnson City we invite you to explore the influences that this small rural town had on the future President of the United States.

SETTING THE STAGE

Although Johnson City has changed since Lyndon Johnson was a boy, it is still possible to walk through the town and imagine it as the scene of his childhood. Stella Gliddon, long-time editor of the local paper, recalls her impressions of the town upon her arrival in March, 1919:

"I was somewhat dismayed to find Johnson City the small town that it was. When I went to the printing offices that morning, I was used to a much larger shop and I was wondering how we would ever get a paper out on the old George Washington Press. But just like the printing shop was one of about the 1880s, so it seemed to me Johnson City was very remote. There was no electricity, no running water in most houses. Both of the stores were general merchandise, like work clothes or material, in the front. You could not buy a loaf of bread; you could not buy fresh meat."

"At that time I wondered why people would like a town like Johnson City, but it wasn't long before I, too, liked it, because I found the people so warm and so friendly. It seemed, after a period of about three months, as if I had lived in this little town all my life."

A TRIP BACK IN TIME

Perhaps the easiest way to view Johnson City of the early 1920s is to put yourself in it. Imagine yourself as part of a ranch family moving to the Johnson City area. You might have had this experience...

As you drive your wagon into town for the first time one evening, you are a bit discouraged. The town is smaller and rougher than you expected. It seems to be years behind the area you have come from. You had supposed, since it was the county seat. that it would be more up-to-date. However, a closer scrutiny reveals signs of growth. It looks like wool and mohair have had a good year and the cotton gin is busy.

The town boasts two general stores, a hardware store, and a drug store. Upon talking with a local resident you discover that the town also offers an outstanding school. the only hospital in the county, an established bank, a newspaper, and two barber shops. So, you begin to feel better about your choice.

On your way to the hotel and livery stable you notice Crider's Garage and you wonder if you could afford a Model "T" after a good year on the ranch.

But you decide that with only six miles of paved roads, wagons are still more practical. After a dinner of Texas chili you talk to the real estate agent. Sam Johnson, about your plans to purchase a ranch. The next day, after looking over your choices you find some land that satisfies you, and you have Attorney Goar draw up your deed and file it in the Courthouse while you prepare to move to your new home.



WALTER CRIDER'S GARAGE 1924.

As the days pass you recognize the value of good neighbors and you are glad that you moved to a friendly community. Life is not easy at the ranch--you lack most of the conveniences you had before and you especially miss electricity. Your first small garden is going to run out soon, so you accept your neighbors' offer to share their surplus. You are thankful that you joined the meat club (a club where members take turns butchering to supply the meat needs of the group) for fresh meat is impossible to buy in the stores and difficult to keep without refrigeration. Money is scarce, but most stores sell on credit or accept barter goods, especially butter and eggs.

Through the week each member of your family works hard to complete the weekly chores, the children working before and after they ride their horses to school. With chores completed, your whole family looks forward to the Saturday afternoon shopping trip and the opportunity to visit friends, for practically everyone goes to town on Saturday.

Here the Crider boys and Lyndon Johnson fixed up an old Model T to take them off to California in

Once you get to town the general family shopping comes first, then the family scatters. each to his own business or pleasure. Your younger children take the nickel you give them and run to the Drug Store to decide what to buy. Then they meet the other kids by the jail house to decide whether today's game will be marbles, kick-the-can, cobfights, or a ride on the town donkey.

Your teenage son joins the older boys on the steps to Doc Barnwell's office. A game of sandlot baseball or a trip to the swimming hole often follows, with plans also made to watch the hand-crank movie at Wither's Opera House or to get up a carload to go to a dance in a nearby town.

Your wife takes care of her shopping, then visits her Eastern Star friends and sees that the church is ready for use on Sunday.



FAWCETT'S CITY DRUG Young and old enjoyed Mr. Fawcett's home made ice cream, Zeke McNatt spent a lifetime trading and driving livestock all over this country.

After taking care of your shopping needs, you head for the Barber Shop to talk politics with the other men, and end by joining in a game of dominoes. This Saturday, one of the old timers tells stories of his trail driving days. Thinking of your ranch, you feel that those days are not too far gone.

On Sunday, you all go to church. Since only one church has a minister this Sunday, everyone goes to that church. This Sunday everyone is talking about the Brush Arbor revival meetings which start next week.

At home again, sitting quietly for a few moments before going to bed, you think about your new life. You think about the energy it takes to make a living. Then you think about the special things that happen-picnics on the Pedernales, school plays and programs, ice cream parties when the ice wagon comes to town. Fourth of July parades, speeches and Bar-B-Ques, Chautauquas, the Blanco County Fair, even an occasional circus. You think how much you enjoy your neighbors and the closeness of your family. At this moment, looking out over the hill country in the evening, you decide that, all things considered, you made a good move. And you decide to talk to Walter Crider next Saturday about buying that Model "T".

JOHNSON CITY OF TODAY

MANY OF THE CHANGES IN JOHNSON CITY HAVE COME ABOUT EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY THROUGH THE INFLUENCE OF LYNDON B. JOHNSON. MOST OF THEM REFLECT CONCERNS HE ACQUIRED AS HE GREW UP IN JOHNSON CITY,

A PEDERNALES ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

During his first term in Congress, Johnson was instrumental in bringing Rural Electrification to his hometown and most of the rural parts of his district late in 1939, Johnson's comment was, "I shall not be satisfied until every rural home in my district has access to electricity at the lowest possible cost." He also remembered doing his lessons and chores by the light of kerosene lamps.

B OAKCREST ACRES

Through the creation of HUD and the passage of the Housing Act of 1968, public housing units such as Oakcrest became possible. The President stated that "there is no reason why public housing must be drab and dreary. People are entitled to live with dignity and in pleasant surroundings." A drive through Oakcrest illustrates his point. Built of low-cost native stone by a creative architect, the houses require little maintenance and are really attractive.

C LYNDON B. JOHNSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Completed in January 1969, this combination hospital-nursing home was built through Federal funds and individual contributions. It was named to honor the hometown boy who became President of the United States and whose legislation made it possible for rural towns to acquire Federal funds for complete, modern medical facilities.

D JOHNSON CITY PARK

In 1965 the park was presented to the community by Life Magazine and dedicated to the President and his First Lady in recognition of her efforts to beautify America. As State Director of the NYA, Johnson provided youthful labor to build many of Texas' roadside parks.

E JOHNSON CITY SCHOOLS

Always interested in youth and education, Congressman Johnson was instrumental in securing funds and WPA/NYA labor to build the Homemaking Cottage and Agricultural Shop for his Alma Mater. He also addressed the graduating classes in 1960, as Vice-President and in 1964 as President.



JOHNSON CITY SCHOOL Lyndon Johnson graduated from this building. Today a modern elementary school stands on the site. First Christian Church is on the block behind the school and next to the new high school.

Johnson City High School (E) and the First Christian Church (No.16) 5th S A WALKING TOUR OF LYNDON B. JOHNSON'S HOMETOWN

INSERT

THIS BROCHURE OUTLINES A WALKING TOUR THROUGH JOHNSON CITY, POINTING OUT THE WAY IT APPEARED DURING LYNDON'S BOYHOOD. SINCE THEN, SOME BUILDINGS HAVE BEEN REBUILT, AND SOME NOW HAVE OTHER USES, SO DON'T LET MODERN SIGNS CONFUSE YOU. ENJOY JOHNSON CITY, BOTH FOR WHAT IT WAS, AND WHAT IT IS TODAY.

Wool and Mohair Warehouse

Serving as a store from the town's pioneer days, by 1921 it had been converted to a wool and mohair warehouse. Its owner also dealt in hardware, furniture, and undertaking.

6th St.

F

16

0 **L** Croft's Mill

The mill begun by town founder J.P. Johnson was, at various times, used for milling, graining, and ginning. During its periods of inactivity, the boys, Lyndon among them, sneaked in to play. One of those boys, now grown, remembered that "it sure was spooky in there."

4 King Casparis' Saloon

Behind this old saloon, Lyndon and his cousin, Ava, sold bottles to the owner at a penny per bottle. After prohibition closed the saloon, the building served for a while as a dance hall, then an ice cream parlor, until it was destroyed by fire in the early 20's.

C

VISITOR CENTER

8th St.

M

10th St

LBJ BOYHOOD HOME

TD U.S. 281

H

5 Barber Shops

For a while, young Lyndon worked as a shoeshine boy outside the barber shops to earn money. Also, because he was interested in politics, he would sometimes pass up boys' games for the chance to listen to the men talk politics while getting their hair cut.

3 City Drug Store

The drug store was always a favorite spot, especially with young folks looking for a way to spend their pennies. Its ice cream soda fountain was popular too, when there was ice to freeze the ice cream. Formerly a two-story building, the steps leading to the doctor's office and Masonic Lodge were a favorite gathering spot. The original building was destroyed by fire in the late 1940s.

O George Bryan's Confectionary

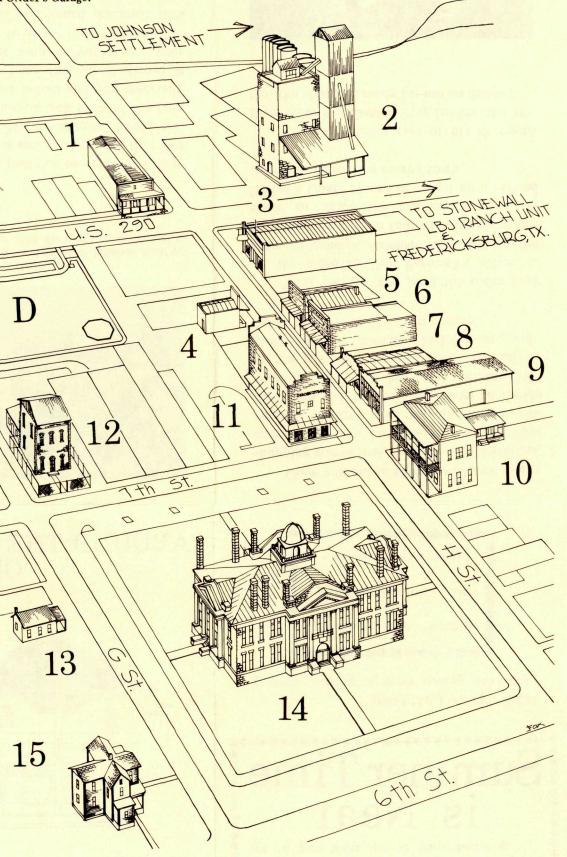
Fire was a real threat in this little town, since it had no fire department-only a sort of bucket brigade. George Bryan lost his original store and confectionary to a fire which burned most of the block. While rebuilding, he moved his store to the other side of the Courthouse, but unfortunately his temporary store burned too. No wonder his new store was built of stone!

Domino Games

8 Casparis' Cafe



JOHNSON CITY SCHOOL ON PARADE IN 1920s Practically the whole school is visible as they parade down 'H' Street toward the Courthouse, passing Fawcett's Drug, Bryan's Confectionary and Crider's Garage.



This lot next to Casparis' Cafe became a favorite place for the old domino players to gather. One story tells us that Lyndon watched these men and taught himself to play dominoes. Throughout his life, dominoes remained his favorite game and most effective way to relieve the pressure of his responsibilities.

At this cafe, Lyndon developed his taste for chili. For a short time he worked at the cafe, taking his pay in leftovers. Later, at the White House, chili was always kept simmering in case the President should want it.

9 Crider Ford Garage

In the old Crider Ford Garage, Lyndon and his friends readied the old Model "T" that was to take them to California and their great adventure.

10 Old Pearl Hotel

Built by the town founder, James Polk Johnson, in anticipation of the travelers who would come when Johnson City became the county seat, this building until recently served as the town hall.

11 Wither's Opera House

Built by J.P. Johnson as a store, this building served as county courthouse from 1890 to 1916. Since then it has been a store for several owners, a hotel and restaurant, and a bank. However, it is probably best remembered by young people of Lyndon's age as the local movie house and community center. Until recently Lyndon Johnson held an interest in this bank.



WITHER'S GENERAL STORE Still in business at another location, the Withers owned this General Store in the 1920s serving the area's farms and ranches.

12 County Jail

The old jail was seldom full, remembered an old-timer, but sometimes boys would stay there overnight until their folks bailed them out the next morning. In the shade beside the jail, the younger children met to decide what games would be played that day. Sometimes, too, older men would gather to tell their tales of the old trail-driving days.

3 Record-Courier Office

In the newspaper office (which was nearer the corner), Lyndon Johnson worked as a "printer's devil" for his mother, who edited the paper for a short time. Later, he would occasionally help editor Gliddon, as well.

14 Blanco County Courthouse

Blanco County is one of the few counties with four courthouses still in use. Two old courthouses stand in Blanco, which served as county seat until the county voted to have it moved to Johnson City. The courthouse has changed little since it was built in 1916.

15 Dr. Barnwell's home and Sanitarium

The upstairs of Dr. Barnwell's home was Johnson City's first hospital, and the only one in the county at the time. His lawn was quite popular as the best croquet field in town, and his home a favorite place for young peoples' parties.

16 First Christian Church

A young and enthusiastic minister baptised most of the young people in town, including Lyndon Johnson. Although Johnson's mother was an active Baptist, Lyndon remained a member of the Christian Church for the rest of his life. (See insert)