HERITAGE...

We welcome your visit to the Whitehead Memorial Museum when you are in the Del Rio area. We think you will find the museum to be a delightful and educational experience. Unlike many other museums, our exhibits are spread throughout several buildings, each of historical significance in itself. Our museum is dedicated to serving the community and preserving our local heritage.

The Whitehead Memorial Museum came to life more than 50 years ago. In 1962, a noted local ranching family, the Whiteheads, purchased the old Perry Mercantile Building and donated it to the City of Del Rio and Val Verde County for a Museum. Since that time, the museum has grown to include over 30 exhibit sites and occupies more than two acres of space.

 Portions of the San Felipe irrigation canal flow through the back of the museum’s property. This is part of the original acequia, built in 1871 to ensure sufficient water for crops.

Whitehead Memorial Museum
A Small Frontier Village in the Middle of Del Rio, Texas
1308 South Main Street
Del Rio, Texas 78840
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A Registered Historical Landmark, the Perry Store, built in 1871, was the largest mercantile store between San Antonio and El Paso. The Perry Store is now the Museum’s general entrance and gift shop.

This is a replica of the Jersey Lilly, Judge Roy Bean’s famous saloon and court. For several years, Judge Bean was the only “Law West of the Pecos.” The remains of Judge Roy Bean and his son, Sam, are buried on the Museum grounds.

An awe-inspiring display of cultural folk art, the Cadena Nativity is the life work of Mrs. B. Cadena. You have to see it to believe it.

The first of our newest exhibits is the City Hall. This exhibit showcases the history of our city government and includes a “Wall of Mayors”, a time line of historical events and a 1900’s era wood water pipe that was used in the San Felipe area.

The second of our newest exhibits is the School House. This exhibit showcases the early educational system of Val Verde County. It also shows the two school districts of Del Rio and their court ordered consolidation in 1971 to end segregation.

The third of our newest exhibits is the Hall of Fame. This exhibit showcases notable people from Del Rio such as Bull Rider George Paul, Country Singer Radney Foster, Musician Blondie Calderon, and Julio Garcia, the founder of Julio’s Chips.