



RICE-EIDSON BUILDING CIRCA 1908



Arthur R. Eidson – ca. 1900

Built in 1908, the Rice-Eidson Building was originally designed to house the law offices of Arthur R. Eidson and his father, J.A. Eidson, two very successful attorneys. J.A. Eidson served as Associate Justice of the Third Court of Civil Appeals in Austin. Arthur R. Eidson was elected State Democratic Party Chairman in the 1920's during the controversial governorships of both Pa and Ma Ferguson. Unfortunately, J.A. Eidson died just before the building was built.

Prior to construction of the Rice-Eidson Building, the Eidson and Rice families had a long history of ownership of the southside of the Hamilton County Courthouse square. In 1857, James Monroe Rice opened the first store in Hamilton just east of this building. Upon his death in 1872, his wife, Mrs. C.E. Rice, inherited a portion of the property. Their daughter, also named C.E. Rice, married J.A. Eidson and was Arthur R. Eidson's mother. After this building was constructed in 1908, Mrs. C.E. Rice deeded the property to her son.

The building is typical for construction of its time, using dressed native limestone for the exterior walls. The upstairs was constructed for law offices and the downstairs for retail space. The upstairs remained unused after the Eidsons ceased practicing law, but during the ensuing years, a variety of retail ventures have occupied the downstairs. In 2002, Ray and Frances Ramsey bought the property, and carefully restored the entire building for use as an art museum. They reopened the upstairs and discovered many books and papers which were left since the Eidsons occupied it in the early 1900's.



Rice-Eidson Building (lower right) – ca. 1908

INTERPRETIVE SIGN CRITERIA

This sign (left) was the first placed in downtown Hamilton, and reflects the design criteria for interpretive signage endorsed by the Hamilton County Historical Commission (HCHC).

Design Guidelines:

In order to keep the appearance of signs consistent across the County, the HCHC has identified the following guidelines:

- Signs approved by HCHC may include historical photos and related text. Advertisements are excluded, though an explanation of the building's current use is permitted.
- Signs will be placed in such a manner to be consistent with local sign ordinances, and contained entirely on private property.

- Except as otherwise approved by HCHC, signs will be affixed to a building wall, column or other upright architectural feature.
- Sign layout may be portrait or landscape.
- Sign text and background colors will be white text on black background (shown here) or white background with black text.
- Sign size will not exceed 18"x24" unless otherwise approved by the HCHC.

Expected sign cost is less than \$200.

APPLICATION:

Name of Applicant: _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Address (and name if applicable) of Building Applied
for _____

Current Use of
Building: _____

Estimated Age of Building and Historical
Significance: _____

Please complete and submit to HCHC, PO Box 141, Hamilton, TX 76531 or email to
hamco@historicalcommission.org.