

History

[RED OAK, TEXAS](#), is located in northern [Ellis County](#) on Interstate Highway 35, twenty miles south of Dallas. In 1844, Colonel James E. Patton and his family settled on Red Oak Creek. Red Oak was named for Red Oak Creek and for the plentiful supply of Red Oak trees along its banks. On July 25, 1847, James E. Patton also founded the Shiloh congregation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church which was the first church in the area.

The first store in Red Oak was constructed circa 1852, the store also served as the post office. In 1890, the [Missouri-Kansas-Texas Rail Road \(M-K-T, or Katy\)](#) was completed; it was located approximately one mile to the northwest of Red Oak. In 1909, and once again 1919, fires caused extensive damage first to the southern and later to the northern part of town. In 1949, Red Oak was legally incorporated as a city under the [Texas Local Government Code](#).

Today, Red Oak is the home for an impressive portfolio of industries, businesses, and higher education institutions including: [Qarbon Aerospace](#) (advanced technology and manufacturing, defense, aviation and aerospace); [Bombardier US Aerospace](#) (Global 7500 ultra-long-range business jet); [Compass Datacenters DFW III, LLC](#) (co-location datacenters); [National Freight Industries](#) (transportation, logistics, distribution, and warehousing); and [Knapheide Truck Equipment Center – Southwest](#) (truck bodies); and, multiple banking and finance institutions, and a wide range of retailers and restaurants. Red Oak is also the home for [Texas State Technical College North Texas \(TSTC\)](#), a state-funded, fully accredited, higher education, technical-vocational college.

In 1967, Red Oak was used for three days as the site of filming for the motion picture [Bonnie and Clyde](#). In the late 1900's, cotton was still produced, although farming was not central to the local economy.