



Scan this QR code with your smart phone to see more information about Diedrich Rulfs.

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<http://www.sfasu.edu/heritagecenter/7039.asp>



Diedrich Rulfs is significant in Nacogdoches for his distinctive architectural designs, which can be seen throughout the city.

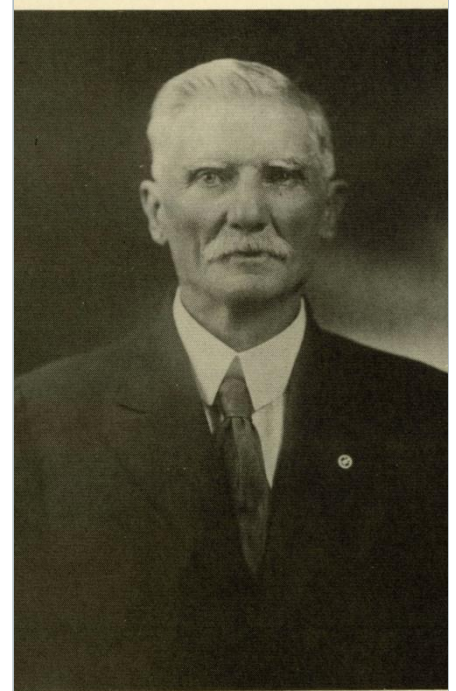


Misty Hurley, a Graduate Student in Public History at Stephen F. Austin State University, created this brochure as part of her thesis on cemetery preservation and creation of interpretive materials connecting Oak Grove Cemetery of Nacogdoches with historic sites, museums, artifacts, and archival records.



This project has been created in conjunction with the Center for Regional Heritage Research at SFASU. Historical photographs courtesy of the East Texas Research Center.

Diedrich Rulfs



Architect and Builder



Diedrich Anton Wilhelm Rulfs was born in Oldenburg, Germany on March 6, 1848. Rulfs married Johanne Emilie Helene Wilhelmine Boeschen on July 7, 1873, and the couple had six children: Gerhard William, Carl Henry, Edward Anton, John, Mary, and Emily, who died as an infant in Germany. Rulfs trained as an architect while in Germany, and it was that skill that brought him to Nacogdoches.

Family friend and fellow German, John Schmidt, invited Rulfs to come to America. In 1879, Rulfs, his wife, three children, mother-in-law, and brother-in-law immigrated to the United States and arrived in Nacogdoches in 1880. In 1884, Rulfs bought a piece of property on East Main Street and constructed a modest home and three rental properties. Rulfs's half sister, Sophia, and half brother, William, later joined the family in Nacogdoches. William was a carpenter and went into the building business with his brother.

Rulfs's friend, John Schmidt, was a prominent citizen in Nacogdoches and upon the completion of his home in 1895, helped to establish Rulfs's reputation by commissioning him to build and renovate several of his downtown businesses and personal residences.

Rulfs brought with him the architectural styles he had learned and which were popular in Europe. Rulfs was well known for working with what he was given, both in using materials creatively and in taking into consideration the location, wind currents and the placement of windows. He also adapted existing homes into larger and better functioning designs

Rulfs's architectural work greatly changed the appearance of Nacogdoches, especially the main square and Washington Square. His residential and business structures continue to lend character and beauty to the downtown area of Nacogdoches.



Visit these sites associated with Diedrich Rulfs

- Dietrich Rulfs's Studio - 113 South Lanana St. (this structure is not open for tours)
- Diedrich Rulfs's grave at Oak Grove Cemetery - North Lanana St.
- The Blount House - 310 North Mound St. (this home is not open for tours)
- Zion Hill Baptist Church - 324 North Lanana St.
- Christ Episcopal Church - Intersection of Mound and Starr

Also see The Legacy of Diedrich Rulfs brochure and exhibit at the Visitor's Center

Rulfs's statue at the Jones House - 141 North Church St.