



The 2016 Most Endangered Places List

Annually in May, Historic Fort Worth, Inc. releases a most endangered places list as part of National Preservation Month. This program recognizes the changes that impact those places that comprise the unique, historic identity of Fort Worth, Texas. Buildings, structures and entire neighborhoods can be impacted by neglect, insensitive adjacent construction, encroaching development, vandalism, and lack of financial resources.

This year's list includes 3 entries. The Board of HFW sincerely thanks those who have nominated the places for this important list.

Examples of **Saved Buildings and Structures** placed on earlier Endangered Lists:

- Knights of Pythias Hall, 900 E 2nd Street 1928
- Max Mehl Building, 1228 S Henderson Street 1816
- Tandy Wire & Cable, 3500 McCart Avenue 1924
- Swift & Company Office Building, 600 E Exchange Avenue 1902
- Forest Park Gates, 2300 Block Park Place Avenue, 1917-1918
- Heritage Park Plaza, Bluff Street at Houston Street, 1976
- Inspiration Point Shelter, 2300-2500 Roberts Cut-Off Road, 1930s
- Ridglea Theater, Camp Bowie Boulevard, 6025 Camp Bowie Blvd. 1950
- Tarrant County Medical Society Building, 3855 Tulsa Way, 1945
- Getzendanner House, 760 Samuels Avenue, 1890s
- Fuller House, 4161 Charron Lane, 1953
- Chase Court Hemphill Street at Chase Court, 1906
- Meissner Brown Funeral Home, 2717 Avenue B, 1937
- 60 acres out of the 139-acre stockyards 1900

Thistle Hill was placed on HFW's Endangered List in 2006, the year HFW received the property as a gift from another charity. Since then, HFW has raised funds and implemented a little over \$1 million for restoration projects at the mansion. Another \$3 million is needed to fully-restore Fort Worth's first landmark, the c.1904 cattle baron mansion named Thistle Hill and its rare transitional carriage house.

Historic Fort Worth, Inc.

Established in 1969 and honored with the 2009 Governor's Award in Historic Preservation, Historic Fort Worth, Inc. is dedicated to preserving Fort Worth's unique historic identity through education, stewardship and leadership. Its headquarters, a museum, and a preservation library are located at the 1899 Ball-Eddleman-McFarland House at 1110 Penn Street. Its heritage tourism center and food truck park are located at the 1904 Wharton-Scott House (Thistle Hill), at 1509 Pennsylvania Avenue. Both properties are associated with cattle barons and are available for private events.

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Fort Worth Masonic Temple

Address: 1100 Houston Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102

Date constructed: 1932

Owner: Fort Worth Masonic Lodge #148

Nominator: Public Affairs Committee

Historic Designations: RTHL

Listing Number: First

The Fort Worth Masonic Temple was completed in 1932. The building was designed by the architectural firm of Wiley G. Clarkson & Co. who also designed the Stripling Building, US Court House, Sinclair Building, and STS Tower in Fort Worth. The building exhibits Neo-classical styling with Art Moderne influences and features upper-story Ionic columns and monel alloy bas-relief doors. It features two grand stair-cases at the main entrance which leads to a terrace. The main doors depict the three Ancient Grand Masters of Masonic legend, King Solomon, Hiram, King of Tyre, and Hiram Abif. The building still retains its Civil Defense Fallout Shelter sign which was placed there during the height of World War II. The building became a recorded Texas historical landmark in 1984.

Masonic lodges have existed within the city of Fort Worth since April 1854 when Fort Worth Masonic Lodge #148 was founded. These bodies desired a central meeting location within the city of Fort Worth, so several men led by William Stevenson Cooke selected a four-block square parcel of land which was purchased in 1923. The building was dedicated to WS Cooke's memory upon his passing in 1951. Since its construction, there have been very few changes to the building.

The Fort Worth Masonic Temple is in need of significant modernization upgrades but there is a lack of funding to complete the needed projects.

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Three Sisters Bridges

Address: Samuels Avenue & the West Fork of the Trinity River, Fort Worth, Texas 76111

Date constructed: c. 1900

Owner: Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway

Nominator: Public Affairs Committee

Historic Designations: None

Listing Number: First

. These 3 bridges were built around 1900. Four lines had tracks here:

1. The Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad
2. The Fort Worth and Denver City Railway
3. The Missouri Kansas and Texas (this line later belonged to the St. Louis Southwestern, the Cotton Belt Route)
4. The Chicago, Rock Island, and Texas Railway.

The MKT and the Fort Worth and Denver City Tracks joined to cross on the center bridge. The land on which these two lines lay was owned at one time by the Fort Worth Stock Yards Co. Probably constructed at the turn-of-the-century just before or as the Armour and Swift plants were built up, these steel truss bridges facilitated rail service to the packing plants. The bridges now lie on lines that belong to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF), AND Union Pacific railroads. They are tangible links with the extensive railroad activity in Fort Worth during the early twentieth century, and are good examples of an earlier engineering technology. BNSF plans to remove and replace one of the existing bridges in order to construct a more structurally modern bridge that will be able to handle the daily freight loads that currently cross the bridge.

The Historic Programs Division of the Texas Historical Commission has completed a review of the proposed project and determined that each of the three truss Railroad bridges are eligible under Criterion A and C. In addition, the floodway was previously determined eligible, including the levee system. The replacement of the BNSF bridge would have an adverse effect on not only the bridge itself, but its sister bridges owned by Union Pacific Railroad. This site is being nominated to raise awareness of the proposed bridge replacement.

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Wayside Church Of God In Christ

Address: 2100 Beckham Place, Fort Worth, Texas 76104

Date constructed: 1944

Owner: Wayside Church of God in Christ, Inc.

Nominator: Public Affairs Committee

Historic Designations: HSE

Listing Number: Fourth

The Wayside Church is the last remaining building representing the early African American community known as Trezevant Hill. The church was the site of the pioneering and historic African American radio and television ministry of Bishop R.E. Ranger in the 1930s through the 1950s. Bishop Ranger was a nationally known gospel preacher for 75 years and one of the longest serving pastors in Fort Worth. Wayside Church is the site of the first national and international Black Gospel Radio Ministry in America—at one time reaching an audience of six million, and the first live national African American television broadcast from a church sanctuary. It is also the oldest church of its denomination in Fort Worth.

The building is in danger of being consumed by Fort Worth's Medical District as it continues to expand. The church is in disrepair. Its ceiling is crumbling and there is significant water damage in different areas of the structure. The Ranger family lacks the funding and an adaptive reuse plan to save the building.