



2010
Most Endangered Places

May is National Historic Preservation Month

Bluffs Above The Trinity River



In memory of General William Jenkins Worth, Fort Worth was established on June 6, 1849 by Major Ripley A. Arnold on the bluff overlooking the confluence of the West and Clear Forks of the Trinity River. The bluff is rooted in Fort Worth's history as the birthplace of the city, as part of the Chisholm/Eastern Trail that identifies Fort Worth as *Cowtown*, and was fundamental in establishing the location of the Tarrant County Courthouse (1895).

The Tarrant County College District's (TCCD) new campus required permits from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) for its planned pedestrian bridge across the Trinity River and buildings. The Corps found that the TCCD project would have an "adverse effect" on the historic levee, the bluff, the Tarrant County Courthouse and the Paddock Viaduct (North Main Street Bridge). Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, groups that work in the field of historic preservation were invited into mitigation meetings to find ways to avoid, reduce and/or mitigate these adverse effects.

The process led the Corps to determine in early 2007 that the bluffs qualify for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a Traditional Cultural Property (TCP). TCP's are rooted in the community's history and are important to maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community. In short, the citizens of Fort Worth, bound by a common cultural heritage, constitute a living community with shared social and economic practices that started at the bluffs above the Trinity River. On February 1, 2008 the Texas Historical Commission concurred with the Corps that the bluffs are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a Traditional Cultural Property.

For more information see the following link.

<http://www.swf.usace.army.mil/pubdata/notices/trinityriverlevee/index.asp>

Farrington Field



1502 North University Drive

Built in 1938-39 Farrington Field was designed by Preston M. Geren in the Classical Moderne style. The Works Progress Administration (WPA) and the Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD) jointly funded the \$244,000 project. The facility was named in memory of E.S. Farrington, a long time superintendent of the FWISD. Millions of students and their parents cherish memories of games and athletic competitions at Farrington Field.

With the new development on 7th Street and the large parking lot adjacent and to the east of Farrington Field, this treasure in our city is under tremendous development pressure. Historic Fort Worth, Inc. encourages the FWISD to designate Farrington Field as a Historic & Cultural Landmark of the City of Fort Worth. This designation is the best protection against demolition, should the FWISD ever sell Farrington Field.

Should the FWISD ever relocate its athletic facilities, Farrington Field, with its proximity to the Will Rogers Coliseum, the John Justin Arena and the proposed new arena, would be an interesting structure to adapt into an arena in association with a school for the equestrian arts. If Farrington Field were listed in the National Register of Historic Places, any new use that respects the historic architecture would be eligible for the Federal Historic Tax Credit Program.

See: Oregon High School Equestrian Team

www.ohset.com

Fort Worth Power & Light Co/TXU Power Plant



100-300 Blocks of North Main Street

For the fifth time, the Fort Worth Power & Light Co. /TXU Power Plant building is included on Historic Fort Worth's Most Endangered Places list. Built during 1911-13 on the north bank of the Trinity River, the former TXU Power Plant is now owned by Tarrant County College District. This behemoth of a building originally had four commanding smokestacks. The last two were demolished in 2008 prior to its transfer of ownership to TCCD.

It is in the best interest of this to iconic property to professionally "mothball" the building until a project is underway. Mothballing prevents additional damage to this important resource and would mean that the leaks in the roof would be repaired and the windows and doors would be boarded up to decrease the chance of vandalism. You can see an example of "mothballing" a building at 900 East 2nd Street.

The Fort Worth Power & Light Co. / TXU Power Plant building is a major contributor to the unique identity of Fort Worth, Texas. We encourage TCCD to apply for its designation as a Historic & Cultural Landmark of the City of Fort Worth, and to submit the nomination that has already been written for the building to the National Park Service because these two designations come with economic incentives that can assist with the restoration of this important building.

Other cities have adapted power plants into new uses, and the following websites are instructive for Tarrant County College District.

http://www.lcra.org/featurestory/2007/comal_dedication.html

<http://education.homansquare.org/content/index.php?cat=2>

<http://www.bpgroup.net/wharf-rivertown.htm>

Hazel Harvey Peace House



1103 East Terrell Avenue

In 2008 Hazel Harvey Peace, one of Fort Worth's most beloved citizens, died at the age of 101. Her childhood home at 1103 East Terrell Avenue was built in 1922 and is a contributing structure to the Terrell Heights Local & National Historic Register Districts. It is currently owned by the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth who would like to demolish the house for a parking lot expansion. At the April 12, 2010 meeting of the Cultural & Historic Landmarks Commission of the City of Fort Worth, the Diocese's agent submitted bids to rehab the building that exceeded \$186,000. Because the bids were unusually high, Historic Fort Worth, Inc. appealed the decision of the Landmarks Commission to grant the Diocese the rite to demolish the house. That appeal is pending.

Ms. Peace, an educator, community activist, humanitarian and philanthropist, graduated from the Fort Worth Colored High School (now I.M. Terrell High School) at the age of 13. She obtained her B.A. degree in education at Howard University and began teaching at I.M. Terrell High School in 1924 at the age of 16. She also received a M.A. from Columbia University and did postgraduate studies at the University of Wisconsin, Vassar College, Hampton University and Atlanta University. Ms. Peace's FWISD teaching career spanned 50 years. When she retired, Ms. Peace served as the director of student affairs at Bishop College in Dallas for the next decade. She also taught at Paul Quinn College in Waco, Huston-Tillotson College in Austin, and Prairie View A&M in Prairie View.

Ms. Peace received many prestigious awards including United Way's Herculean Award, FWISD's Distinguish Alumni Award, TCC's President's Cup Award and an honorary doctorate of humanities from Texas Wesleyan University. For the people of Terrell Heights Mrs. Peace's childhood home is a daily reminder of her dedication to education which continues to influence those in her neighborhood.

Remaining Single Screen Theaters, especially the Ridglea and the New Isis

This is the fifth time HFW has included single screen theaters on its Most Endangered Places list. The TCU Theater, c. 1948, was demolished at night on August 23, 2006. The remaining single screen theaters, located in neighborhood commercial strips around town, deserve creative owners who will find new uses for these architectural and cultural gems.



New Isis Theater: 2403 North Main Street

The 1935 New Isis Theater is already listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It is this designation that opens up the opportunity for federal historic tax credits to assist the owner with a sensitive rehab of the building. We encourage the owner to designate the building a Historic & Cultural Landmark of the City of Fort Worth. This designation comes with a property valuation freeze on the City's portion of the property tax bill when a rehab of the building is approved by the City's Landmarks Commission prior to construction.



Ridglea Theater: 6025 Camp Bowie Boulevard

Opened on December 1, 1950, the Ridglea Theater is the most character-defining building in the Ridglea neighborhood and its Mediterranean style makes it the most significant suburban theater remaining in Fort Worth. It is undesignated locally and nationally, which makes it vulnerable to demolition. Applications to designate the Ridglea Theater a Local & Historic Landmark of the City of Fort Worth and to list it in the National Register of Historic Places will provide financial incentives for the owner to rehab the building.

760 Samuels Avenue

Built c. 1900 and referred to as the Getzendanner House, this residence is an example of housing stock on Samuels Avenue in the early 20th century. It and many other residences on Samuels Avenue deserve protection from demolition. Due to intense development pressure the City's Designation Committee and others have recommended a historic district for this neighborhood. The City Manager, the City Council and any property owner may submit an application for designation to the City Preservation Officer. The interim Preservation Officer is Jamie Zwolak at 817.392.8037 or James_Zwolak@fortworthgov.org . Also, visit the historic preservation page on the City of Fort Worth's website at the following link:

<http://www.fortworthgov.org/planninganddevelopment/design.aspx?id=57622> .



Texas & Pacific Warehouse



300 Block of West Lancaster Avenue

This is the fifth time the Texas & Pacific Warehouse building has been placed on HFW's Most Endangered Places list. The 1930-31 T&P Warehouse building reflects Fort Worth's enviable railroad heritage and plays a dominant role in the revitalization of Lancaster Avenue.

Historic Fort Worth, Inc. is aware of a project planned for the T&P Warehouse building, but given the downturn in the economy and the building's size, this building joins other large-scaled rehabilitation projects at risk. Fortunately, the T&P Warehouse building is already listed in the National Register of Historic Places, is designated a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark and is designated a Highly-Significant Endangered Landmark of the City of Fort Worth. These designations qualify the project for the maximum level of governmental incentives available to rehabilitate a historic building.

If this project fails, could a firm like Williams Jackson Ewing transform Fort Worth's Texas & Pacific Warehouse Building? The following link is to some of their projects, including Grand Central Terminal in New York:

<http://www.wjeinc.com/Portfolio/index.shtm>



Established in 1969 and selected in 2001 as a *Local Partner of the National Trust for Historic Preservation*, Historic Fort Worth, Inc. is a non-profit, membership organization that is dedicated to preserving Fort Worth's unique historic identity through stewardship, education and leadership. Administrative offices and the Preservation Resource Center library are located at the Ball-Eddleman-McFarland House, 1110 Penn Street. HFW owns, operates and restores the 1899 McFarland House and the 1904 Thistle Hill and makes both of these Local, State, and National Landmarks available to the public for educational tours, meetings and special events. Additionally, Historic Fort Worth owns, maintains and leases the locally landmarked, mid-century modern 1953 Yates-Ottmann Building located at 1020 Summit Avenue.

Programs at Historic Fort Worth include tours of historic sites for adults (Tour Today) and children (History Detectives), Restoration & Property Management Program, Historic Property Research Program, Gifts-of-Property Program, Economic Incentives Training for Developers of Historic Properties, Preservation Awards & Lecture Program, Heritage Tourism Program, Emergency Leadership and Education Program and Façade Easement Program. Events include The Hidden Gardens Tour of Fort Worth, *Preservation is the Art of the City*®, the Historic Fort Worth, Inc. Charity Antiques Show, SOLD! on Historic Neighborhoods©, Quality Hill Holidays, and Designer Showhouse.

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For more information on Endangered Places visit www.historicfortworth.org