



# The 2018 Most Endangered Places List

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Established in 1969 and honored with the Governor's Award in Historic Preservation in 2009, HFW is dedicated to preserving Fort Worth's unique historic identity through education, stewardship and leadership. The organization's headquarters, a museum and preservation library are located within the 1899 McFarland House, 1110 Penn Street. The heritage tourism center and food truck park are at the 1904 mansion known as *Thistle Hill*, 1509 Pennsylvania Avenue. Designated Fort Worth's first and second landmarks, respectfully, both historic house museums are associated with cattle barons.

As a comprehensive preservation charity, HFW's board and staff work behind the scenes and in the public arena to create opportunities for those places they do not own that shape Fort Worth's unique historic identity. Examples of successes from this community-wide program follow:

- **African-American Knights of Pythias Hall (1925):** Just placing this rare resource on the endangered list prompted the demolition-minded owner to sell to someone else who adapted it for a new use.
- **Chase Court (1906):** It's placement on the endangered list prompted the neighbors of Fort Worth's first gated community to establish a local historic district.
- **Heritage Park Plaza (1976-80):** HFW funded a successful nomination for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places that created the insight for a new, sensitive restoration plan.
- **Meisner-Brown Funeral Home (1937):** With one month left before its demolition, HFW developed an e-blast about the building and an owner of a restoration firm saw it and bought the building.
- **Ridglea Theater (1950):** HFW stopped a plan to demolish all but the tower and the lobby until a new owner emerged who restored the theater back to its original splendor.
- **Stockyards (1900-24):** HFW funded an historic resources survey that resulted in a local historic district.
- **Talbott-Wall House (1903):** HFW worked with a developer to move this grand house to a new lot down the street allowing preservation and progress to come together on Samuels Avenue.

## Eagle Steam Bread Bakery Building



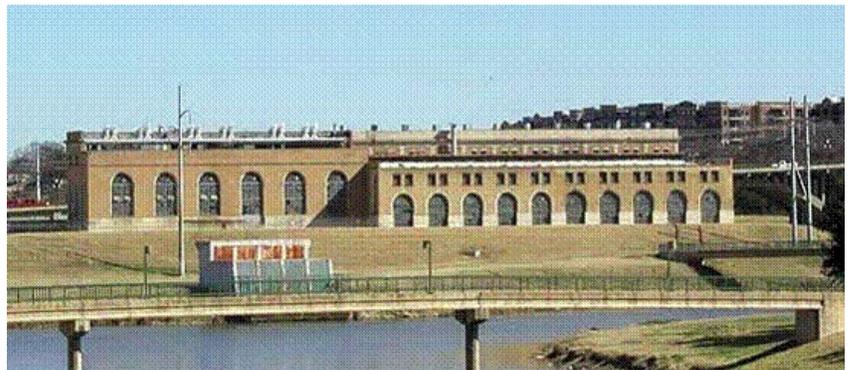
**Address:** 665 South Main Street  
**Date built:** 1895  
**Owner:** Churchill Properties, LLC  
**Historic Designations:** H&C  
**Number of Listings:** 1

The Eagle Steam Bread Bakery building was designed by prominent Fort Worth architect Ludwig B. Weinman who was born in Germany in 1867. He immigrated to America when he was 17 years old. Once in Fort Worth Weinman designed important homes, churches, commercial and municipal buildings.

After 1920, the bakery changed its name to the Doherty Baking Co. William Doherty was the founder of the company. The building is red brick with string courses and corbelled parapet. The brick piers project above the parapet at irregular intervals.

H&C = Historic & Cultural Landmark of the City of Fort Worth

## Fort Worth Power & Light Plant (The TXU Power Plant)

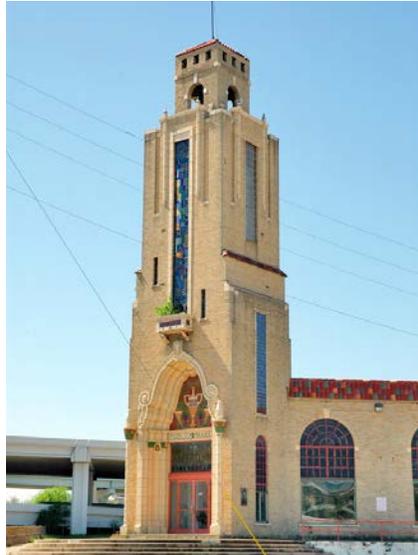


**Address:** 101 North Main Street  
**Date built:** 1912  
**Owner:** Tarrant County College  
**Historic Designations:** None  
**Number of Listings:** 8

Designed and constructed by the Cleveland Construction Company of Cleveland, Ohio, this commanding ochre brick structure sits on the west side of the North Main Street Bridge (Paddock Viaduct) at the north bank of the confluence of the east and west branches of the Trinity River. In an agreement between TXU and TCC, the smokestacks were demolished in 2005 and the building has been visibly languishing ever since.

This iconic building should be professionally “mothballed” until a project is underway, or sold to an entity that will take care of it. Unfortunately, holes remain in the roof that allow water to collect inside and many windows are broken. If TCC has no immediate plans to adapt the building for a new use, they should protect their asset by professionally mothballing it, which means to repair the roof and board up the windows. This would also decrease the chance of vandalism.

# Fort Worth Public Market Building



**Address:** 1400 Henderson Street

**Date built:** 1930

**Owner:** Rachel & Robert Cepero

**Historic Designations:** NR, RTHL, DD, and a preservation easement\*

**Number of Listings:** 4

Oklahoma City developer John J. Harden had the Public Market Building built in 1930 to provide market space for local farmers, vendors and retail businesses. Designed by B. Gaylord Noftsger of Oklahoma City, it is an eclectic design that playfully incorporates traditional and modern elements. The building is a masonry block, nearly square plan, with towers at the three corners of its two principal facades. High arched windows are set in the walls. The parapet is trimmed in polychrome tile. The stepped entrance tower is remarkable, featuring polychrome terra cotta trim and tall vertical window panels with stained glass set in abstract patterns.

The interior space was originally one open story with a skylight and mezzanines along the east and south walls, but has been altered. In 2010 the wooden stalls that wrapped around the south and west sides of the building were consumed by a fire and their charred remains stand today.

The Public Market was plagued with economic difficulties during the Depression and closed in 1941. It has since housed a number of businesses, but has been vacant and in need of attention for several years.

\*NR= National Register of Historic Places; RTHL = Recorded Texas Historic District; DD=Demolition Delay; and easement means a preservation deed held by another entity

# Historic Resources on Samuels Avenue: Houses, Pioneers Rest Cemetery & Traders Oak

**Address:** From 1200 - 620 Samuels Avenue

**Dates:** c. 1850

**Owner:** City of Fort Worth & private citizens

**Nominator:** HFW

**Historic Designations:** 3 residential landmarks\*

**Listing:** First and Second



## Vanishing residences

Samuels Avenue (c 1850) is under intense development pressure without the protection of a historic district. Currently, only three houses\* are individual landmarks. Disconnected from each other, they are unable to tell the rich story of those who labored in the stockyards, developed downtown businesses, were the first physicians, attorneys, and bankers, and built the houses in Fort Worth's first residential development.

In 2006 a councilmember asked HFW to identify boundaries for a Samuels Avenue local historic district. At that time 127 residences qualified. A survey this year revealed that only 91 residences remain, representing a loss of 28%. It's not too late to set a district boundary to ensure a balance of old and new on Samuels Avenue.

## Fragile Pioneers Rest Cemetery

Additionally, Samuels Avenue is the location of one of Fort Worth's oldest cemeteries, Pioneers Rest (1849). Established by Major Ripley Arnold whose children were among the first known burials, Pioneers Rest Cemetery is the final stop of city leaders with surnames of leaders like Daggett, Zane-Cetti and Peak, as well as Major Arnold and Edward H. Tarrant. Unfortunately, the apartment dwellers on Samuels Avenue are using Pioneers Rest as a dog park, even though signs say, "No dogs allowed." Urine is deteriorating the gravestones and most "poop is not scooped." Pioneers Rest has no historic designation.

## Trader's Oak

A third vulnerable resource on Samuels Avenue is the magnificent live oak tree named "Trader's Oak" under which one of the first trading posts in north Texas was established in 1849 by Archibald Franklin Leonard and Henry Clay Daggett. In 1850 this tree was the site of the first election in Tarrant County, and in 1859, on Independence Day, Sam Houston spoke under its boughs. Located within a city park, Trader's Oak is ever so appropriate to landmark. A few years ago a landmark nomination was submitted to the City of Fort Worth by its designation committee. Given the increase in population on Samuels Avenue, it is now time to make Trader's Oak a local landmark.

\*Historic & Cultural Landmarks of the City of Fort Worth: the 1875 Bennett-Fenelon House at 731 Samuels Avenue, the 1884 Garvey Viehl Kelley House at 769 Samuels Avenue, and the Talbott-Wall House at 1102 Samuels Avenue)