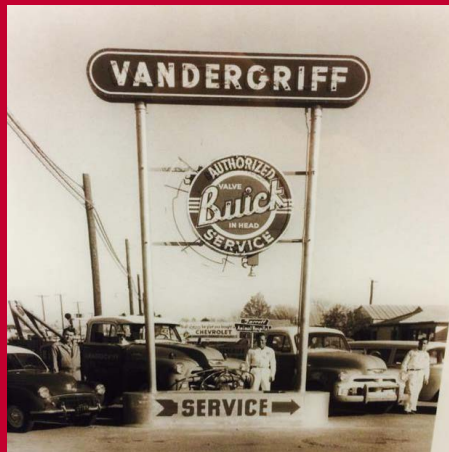


LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION



2015 ANNUAL REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL
MARCH 2016

On the front cover (clockwise from top left): Marrow Bone Spring | Sign from Candlelite Inn, 1202 E. Division Street | Toll booth from the Turnpike, now Interstate 30 (ca. 1956) | Interurban Wait Station, reconstructed on the Fielder House property, 1616 W. Abram Street | Gated Entrance to Arlington Baptist College - once Top O'Hill Terrace | Vandergriff Buick sign (date unknown) | 509 S. Center Street, Sandstone bungalow style housing in the South Center Street Historic District (const. 1916) | Arlington Downs grandstand (date unknown).

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Landmark Preservation Commission is pleased to present our 2015 annual report to the Mayor and City Council. Our nine dedicated Commissioners worked diligently to preserve our city's historic landmarks and educate our citizens about the significance of these sites.

Arlington historic resources continue to decline in number every year. Our city will continue to grow and develop. Our goals to preserve and share our history with visitors and residents of our community may sustain our past identity and sense of place, as we move to the future. Hopefully, the Commissioner's efforts will continue to keep our city's historic soul alive for future generations.

This report will highlight the Commission's efforts to mark history using our "Landmark Arlington" marker program. We are continuing to expand our efforts, at the request of City Council, to aid in the education of citizens and visitors of the historic sites in the city. This past year our citizens have shown us quality examples of the value of preservation and adaptive reuse.

It has been a privilege and honor to serve as Chairperson for LPC and thank you for giving our Commissioners the opportunity to serve Arlington by helping to oversee and preserve our historic resources and history.

LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Roger Wehr, Chair

"There may have been a time when preservation was about saving an old building here or there, but those days are gone. Preservation is in the business of saving communities and the values they embody"

- Richard Moe, National Trust for Historic Preservation

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPORTING

As a member of the Certified Local Government program, annual reports must be provided to the Texas Historical Commission and National Park Service. Reporting was completed to both organizations in January 2015.

COMMISSIONERS

During 2015, the following citizens served as members of the Landmark Preservation Commission.

Place 1	Roger Wehr, Chair (appointed 07/01/12)
Place 2	Glenn Day (appointed 07/01/14)
Place 3	Cynthia Toodle (appointed 07/01/13) Roxanne Thalman (appointed 07/01/15)
Place 4	Sue S. DeShong (appointed 08/02/11) Dorothy Rencurrel (appointed 07/01/15)
Place 5	Kristina Rumans (appointed 08/16/11) Geraldine Mills (appointed 09/01/15)
Place 6	Timothy Gette (appointed 07/01/14)
Place 7	Cheryl Donaldson (appointed 07/01/14)
Place 8	Sherry Whitley (appointed 07/01/13) Michelle Canton (appointed 07/01/15)
Place 9	Valle Caldwell (appointed 07/01/13)

LOCAL MARKER SUBCOMMITTEE

Since 2009, a subcommittee of the Commission has devoted time to developing the local marker program and seeking funding to implement it. Members of this subcommittee assist property owners to submit marker applications, prepare site histories, take photographs, and sponsor the application when presented to the Commission.

In addition to the members of the Commission, the following people served on the Local Marker Subcommittee during 2015.

- Dorothy Rencurrel
- Martha May Martin
- Kristina Rumans
- Suzanne Sweek

CITY STAFF LIAISONS

Sarah Stubblefield, Planner, replaced Clayton Husband as staff support and Historic Preservation Officer in May 2015.

Cindy Harding, Administrative Assistant, provided support as the secretary to the Commission.

MEDIA COVERAGE

The following were published in the 2015 edition of the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*.

- “Historic Arlington music hall and nearby land sold to Fort Worth councilman” (6/11) - story about the planned improvements around the Arlington music hall, and momentum of downtown revitalization efforts
- “Arlington July Fourth parade turns 50: What you might not know” (7/2) - marked anniversary for the largest parade in Texas
- “GM expansion reflects a long history of growth in Arlington” (7/24) - story about the expansion of the GM Plant, a major contributor to Arlington’s history and growth
- “Historic military convoy pauses in Fort Worth” (10/4) - highlights about military convoy making the journey across the U.S. on the historic Bankhead Highway
- “Steak house history should be preserved” (12/30) - editorial about maintaining the oldest running restaurant located on Division Street as it shifts to Jambo’s Barbeque Shack in 2016

The city’s MyArlingtonTX news site also published an article in the May 2015 edition, “Arlington to Dedicate Two Historic Landmarks”, which announced the dedication ceremonies for these two districts that are also listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and “Two New Historical Sites Approved by Arlington City Council” in September highlighting the Old Mayor’s House and the Vaught House, both located on Abram Street.



Back row (L to R): Glenn Day, Michelle Canton, Cheryl Donaldson, Roxanne Thalman; Front row (L to R): Dorothy Rencurrel, Roger Wehr, Geraldine Mills. Not pictured: Tim Gette, Valle Caldwell

2016 WORK PLAN

The Work Plan outlined below provides a description of the major items the Landmark Preservation Commission proposes to address in 2016. Some of the items come from the Preservation Plan adopted in 2010; other items are continued from the previous year's program. They are intended to implement the City Council priority to "Champion Great Neighborhoods", as well as sustaining core services related to culture, recreation, and education.

Local Marker Program. Continue to market and implement the local marker program. Nominate additional properties as Arlington landmarks. Organize dedication ceremonies for approved landmarks.

Priority Historic Resources. Continue to monitor critical historic resources in Arlington. Continue to conduct special outreach to owners of all properties rated as "high priority" in the Historic Resources Survey and encourage them to apply for designation as an Arlington landmark.

Outreach. Increase awareness of Arlington landmark preservation efforts with local, state, and national preservation organizations. Consider the installation of sign toppers to highlight historical areas of the City. Continue to update the Landmark Preservation Commission pages on the City website.

Incentives. Propose an incentive program for consideration by the City Council. Such a program could help lay the foundation for and sustain a program that promotes quality preservation in the community. Areas of study include tax incentives for historic properties. Promote existing state and federal tax credit program for historic properties.

LP Overlay. Evaluate the existing Landmark Preservation Overlay zoning district. Study opportunities for including additional properties, buildings, and historic sites, as well as coordinating with potential incentives. Recommend appropriate changes to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

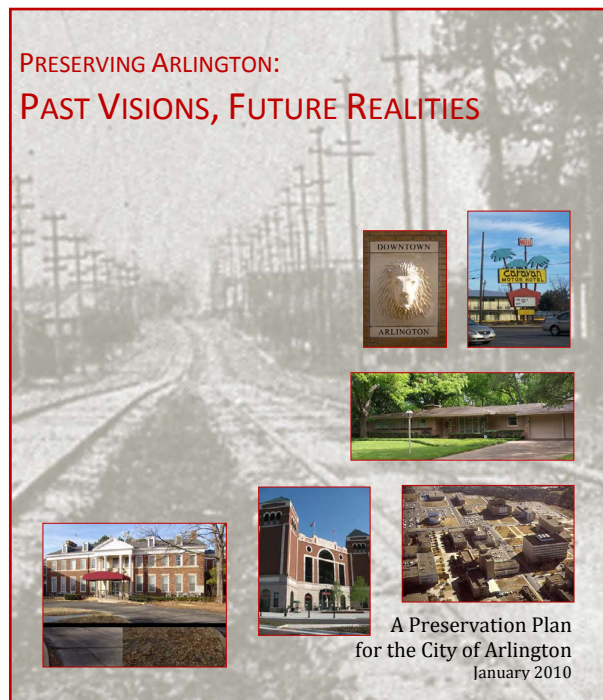
Tourism. Study the possibility of a walking tour of local landmarks and a smartphone application dedicated to Arlington's history. Create an interactive map of all local marker sites to add to the City website.

Training. Continue to seek opportunities for training related to preservation. Provide refresher course on ethics and open meetings.

Commission. As positions become available, actively recruit LPC members with general preservation experience and knowledge. Improve communications with the City in order to assist the LPC in effectively fulfilling its role.

Staff support. Keep Commissioners informed about community preservation events and initiatives. Continue staff functions, including:

- Assist with case reports for demolition permits that are referred to the Commission by the Community Development and Planning Department.
- Review applicable zoning cases for their potential effect on historic properties and forward their findings to the Commission.
- Prepare annual Certified Local Government and other grant applications on behalf of the Commission.
- Coordinate training opportunities for the Commission and staff, including training at Texas Historical Commission-approved events.
- Network and coordinate with the private sector, the community, and other City departments on preservation issues and efforts.
- Coordinate with the Arlington Convention & Visitors Bureau and other organizations in promoting preservation and heritage tourism in Arlington.



ARLINGTON LANDMARKS - LOCAL MARKER PROGRAM

The local marker program recognizes buildings, sites, and areas that have historical, architectural, or cultural significance to Arlington. The program was established in 2009, and continues to grow. There are currently 15 designated local landmarks, and 2 historic districts - Old Town and South Center Street. Two new markers were approved in 2014 - the Old Mayor's House and the Vaught House, both located on Abram Street. Landmarks are identified with metal medallions or descriptive plaques on the property. Funding for the program has come from Arlington Tomorrow Foundation grants, for fabrication and installation of the markers.



OLD MAYOR'S HOUSE (814 E. ABRAM STREET) This Tudor Revival home was built circa 1928 by cattle broker Dave Martin. It was once owned by B.C. and Francine Barnes. Barnes, for whom the house was named, served as Arlington mayor from 1947 to 1951.



VAUGHT HOUSE (718 W. ABRAM STREET) Constructed in 1906 for Alex and Selma Vaught by local contractors Frank Thomas and J.O. Crawley, this Neoclassical Eclectic style home was the third two-story home built in Arlington. The location was chosen for the proximity to the Interurban Line.

MARKER DEDICATION CEREMONIES

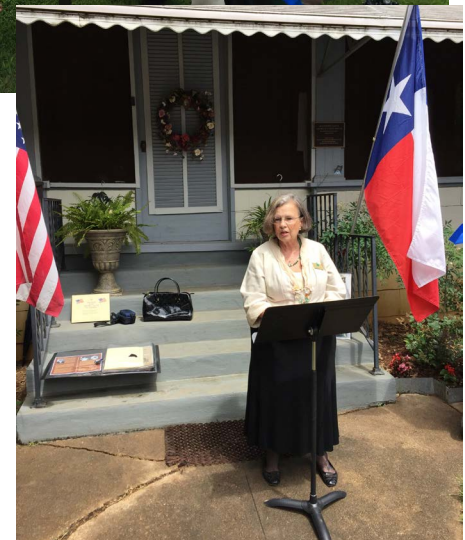
Arlington's two local historic districts were honored with a joint dedication ceremony held in May 2015. Approximately 30 attendees started at the Old Town Historic District Marker where neighbors unveiled the informational plaque near Kookan Elementary, and then migrated to the South Center Street Historic District for unveiling of the plaque and refreshments.

OLD TOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT: This historic district has been on the National Register of Historic Places since February 2000. It encompasses approximately seven blocks of late 19th and early 20th century residential properties, generally bound by Sanford, North, Elm, and Oak streets. Kookan Elementary has been the educational center of the neighborhood for over 100 years, and represents one of the few examples of Works Progress Administration architecture in Arlington.

SOUTH CENTER STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT: This historic district has been on the National Register of Historic Places since May 2003. It is comprised of a row of Craftsman inspired bungalows in the 500 and 600 blocks of Center Street. The street was developed by Mr. W.H. Rose who built the first home on the street in 1916. Rose chose the location due to its proximity to Center Street, downtown businesses and Grubbs Vocational College (now UT Arlington), and the Interurban Line.



Above: Commissioners, neighbors, and Councilwoman Wolff pose with the Old Town Historic District Marker



Below: Martha Rose May Martin orates the history of the South Center Street Historic District.

ARLINGTON DOWNS WATERING FOUNTAIN

A local historic marker was installed at the Arlington Downs Watering Fountain in September 2015. This artifact from the days of horse racing in Arlington is the only remaining in tact evidence of the once-massive race track built by W.T. Waggoner in 1929.

Located on what is now Six Flags Drive, Arlington Downs Racetrack was the beginning of Arlington as an entertainment capital. Arlington property owners would rent out their rooms and entire residences to accommodate the crowds, which came both by car and the Interurban transportation system. The track brought visitors from far and wide through 1937 when pari-mutuel wagering was repealed by the state. Grandstand use continued for rodeo and auto-racing events into the 1950s. Today, the site of Arlington Downs is the home of the Great Southwest Industrial District and Six Flags Over Texas Amusement Park.

The legacy of Arlington Downs will be honored by a ceremony to dedicate the local marker near the watering fountain in Spring 2016.



ANNOUNCEMENTS AND EVENTS DURING 2015

- Clayton Husband, Historic Preservation Officer left the City of Arlington in May 2015 and was replaced by Sarah Stubblefield.
- Fielder House underwent extensive rehabilitation on the exterior and second floor of the home, including new air conditioning, completed in 2015.
- Items from the Eastern Star Home time capsule were inventoried for archival in the new Central Library when construction is complete.
- The local historic marker was installed at the Arlington Downs Watering Fountain located at 300 Six Flags Drive.
- The LPC attended a Arlington Cemetery Bus Tour in September 2015, guided by Ms. Dorothy Rencurrel.
- The Bankhead Highway military convoy came through Arlington in October 2015.
- Letters were sent to all historic High Priority property owners in the city encouraging them to apply their properties for a Local Landmark designation.



Dorothy Rencurrel guides a tour of Arlington's cemeteries from the Entertainment District Trolley in September 2015

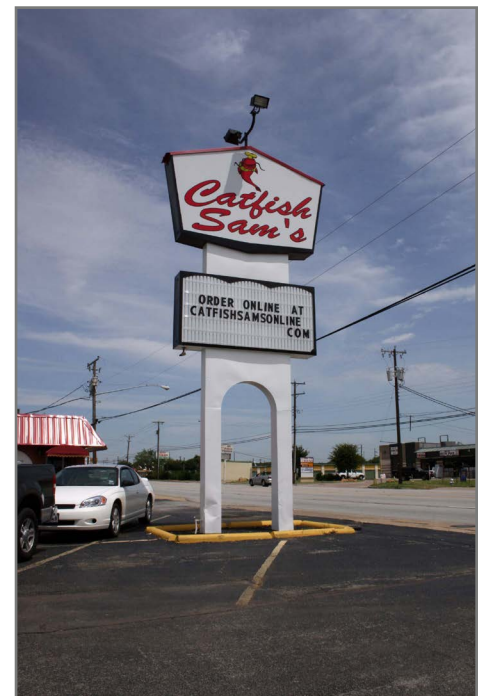
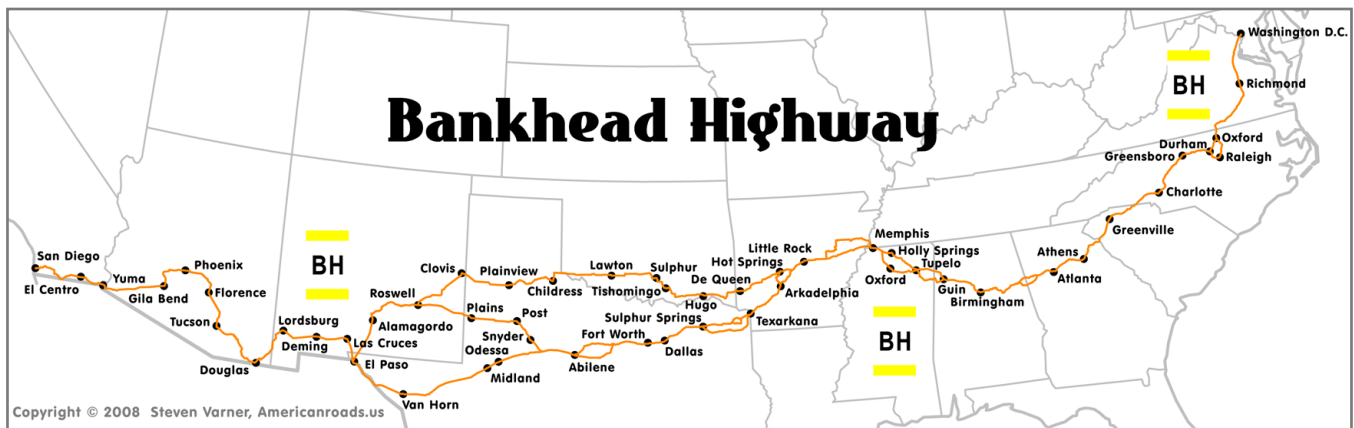
BANKHEAD HIGHWAY - A CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Stretching from one coast to the other, the old Bankhead Highway carved a direct path through the South and across Texas, connecting Arlington for the first time to the rest of the country. Bankhead, which was among the nation's first transcontinental highways, began in Washington, D.C., wound through the Southern United States and ended in San Diego.

Across the state, Bankhead became known as Texas Highway 1, and it closely followed what would become US-80. Bankhead also went by the nickname Broadway of America and the Dallas-Fort Worth Pike. The highway crossed more than 850 miles of Texas, passing through Arlington, Texarkana, Dallas, Fort Worth, Abilene, Midland and El Paso, among many others.

In 2014, the Commissioners participated in a Texas Historical Commission (THC) project to identify, document, and evaluate historic resources along the entire route through the state. The final survey and other information is compiled on the THC webpage for the Bankhead Highway.

2015 resulted in a renewed effort to honor the history of the Bankhead Highway, as preparation began for celebrating the 100th year of the Bankhead began. Interested citizens formed the Bankhead Highway Commission, which is working in conjunction with the THC and the Convention and Visitor's Bureau to plan several events throughout 2016. The LPC also supports the efforts of the Bankhead Highway Commission by encouraging historical signage, including sign toppers and roadway signs along the historic highway.



CERTIFICATES OF DEMOLITION

The Arlington Unified Development Code requires LPC review of demolition permit applications for all structures at least 50 years of age, whose age is unknown, or those with historical designations. Commissioners rotate assignments in visiting and researching each property and preparing a report for the Commission. Community Development and Planning staff assist with the site visits and photography.

All of the properties listed in the table were reviewed by the Commission at a public hearing. Date of construction is listed according to Tarrant Appraisal District records. The 2007 Historic Resources Survey is used by City staff and the Commissioners to determine if the property is an historically-contributing structure to Arlington.

All 10 application received in 2015 are listed in the above table, and were approved by the Commission. The number of applications was down slightly in 2015 - there were 14 permits reviewed in 2014, and 19 permits in 2013.

Address	Const. Date	Appl. Date	Contributing
608 Orange Street	1930	1/6/2015	LOW
2615 Little Road	1947	2/11/2015	--
708 Houston Street	1952	4/9/2015	LOW
1301 W. Abram Street	1958	7/6/2015	--
1303 W. Abram Street	1903	7/7/2015	MEDIUM
819 N. Oak Street	1926	8/24/2015	MEDIUM
2525 E. Abram Street	1954	8/25/2015	HIGH
1936 E. Abram Street	1957	10/8/2015	--
5021 Green Acres Street	1953	11/10/2015	--
2420 E. Sublett Road	1964	11/12/2015	--

DANGEROUS/SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURES

Address	LPC Date
704 N. East Street	5/14/2015
1860 Mansfield Webb Road	6/11/2015
1401 Cardinal Street	6/11/2015
415 N. Collins Street	6/11/2015
718 Circle Drive	7/9/2015
503 Town North Drive	7/9/2015
1907 Skylark Drive	8/13/2015
820 Truman Street	9/17/2015
2100 Skylark Drive	9/17/2015
819 N. Oak Street	9/17/2015
1345 Mansfield Webb Road	9/17/2015
1300 Cardinal Street	11/12/2015

The Dangerous and Substandard Structures (DSS) team investigates dangerous buildings, the conditions of which endanger the life, health, property, or safety of the public. On occasion the Commission must review the cases being worked by the DSS team due to the potential demolition of the structure.

The properties listed here were reviewed and released to the City of Arlington for appropriate action. Commissioners assisted with applications by visiting sites and preparing notes for discussion at meetings. DSS team officers provided case information related to review of dangerous structures.

The Commission turned over all 12 properties listed in the table to the left for appropriate action by the DSS team. This number was up a little from previous years - there were 10 cases reviewed in 2014, and 10 cases in 2013.



1303 W. Abram Street



2420 E. Sublett Road





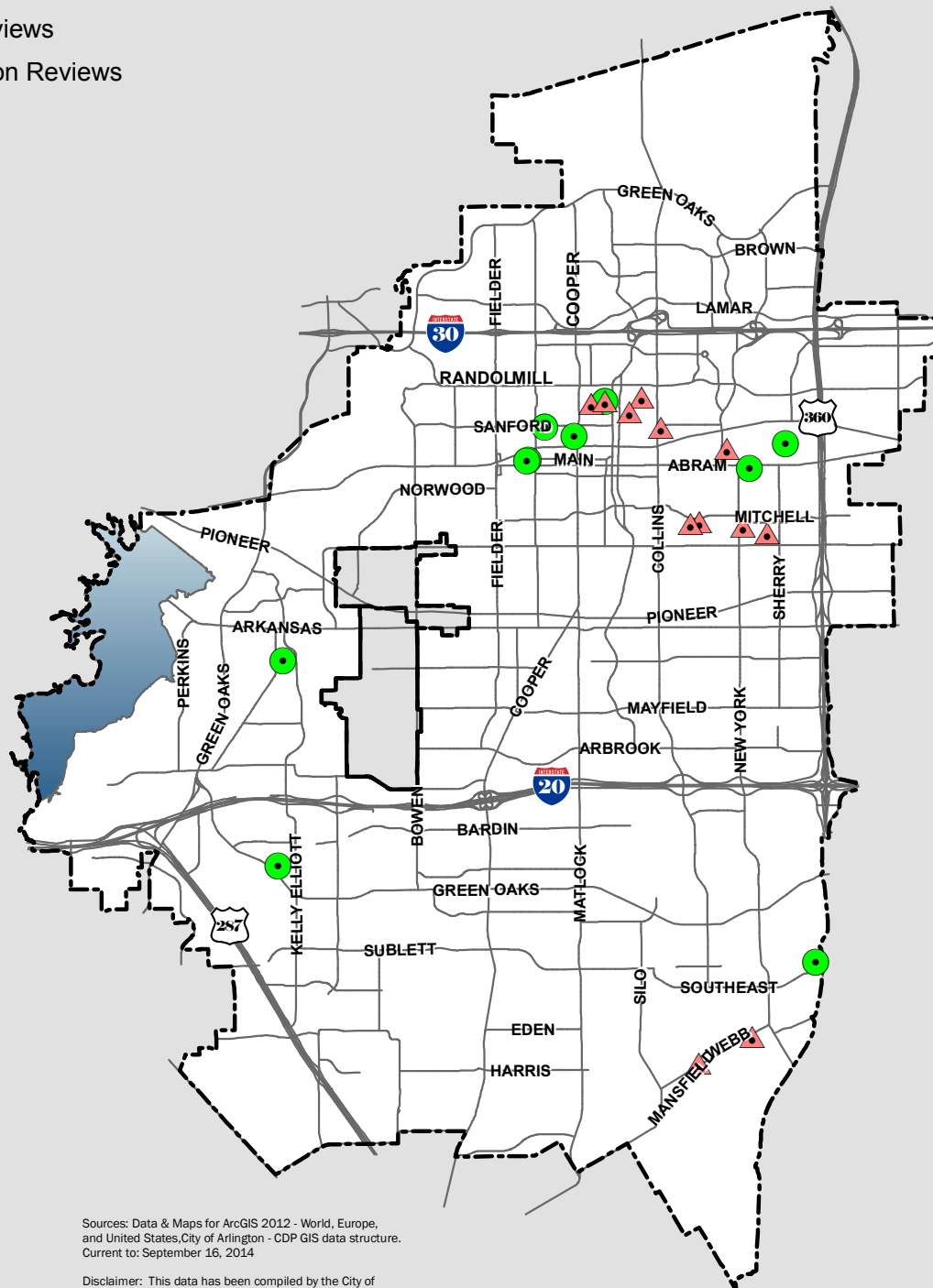
608 Orange Street

DEMOLITION PERMIT AND DANGEROUS STRUCTURE CASES



2015 REVIEWS

-  DSS Reviews
-  Demolition Reviews



Sources: Data & Maps for ArcGIS 2012 - World, Europe, and United States, City of Arlington - CDP GIS data structure. Current to: September 16, 2014

Disclaimer: This data has been compiled by the City of Arlington using various official and unofficial sources. Although every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this data, no such guarantee is given or implied

GRANT FUNDING

HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND

The City of Arlington's Historic Preservation Fund was established in 2001 with insurance settlement funds from the historic Cooper House, which was destroyed by fire in 1998. The purpose of the fund is to increase public awareness of the cultural and historic resources found in Arlington, and to strengthen the city's desirability as a heritage tourism destination. Grants to qualifying nonprofit organizations are distributed from the fund's interest when substantial amounts are accrued.

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT GRANTS

The Texas Historical Commission offers Certified Local Government (CLG) grants to provide funding to participating city and county governments to develop and sustain an effective local preservation program critical to preserving local historic resources. These grants can be used for local historic preservation projects, including surveys of historic properties and districts, preparation of nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, and other community-based preservation projects. Grants may be used for numerous projects such as preparing preservation plans, writing preservation ordinances, developing educational materials, and training seminars.

The Commission will continue to seek grant funding from the CLG program to advance preservation efforts in Arlington. The City of Arlington is one of only 68 Certified Local Governments in Texas and has been a member since February 24, 1992.



City of Arlington
Community Development & Planning Department
101 West Abram Street
Arlington, Texas 76010