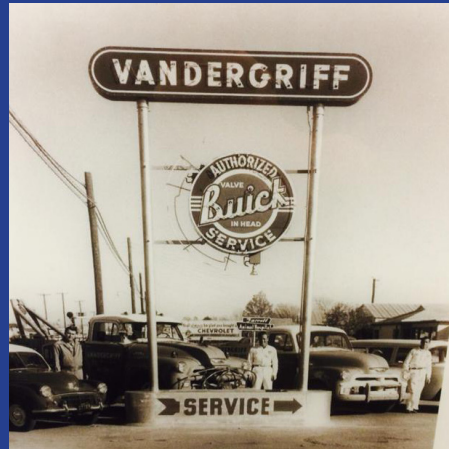


LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION

2019 ANNUAL REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL

MARCH 2020





*"At it's best, Preservation
engages the past in a conversation
with the present over a mutual
concern for the future."*

- William J. Murtagh, National Trust for
Historic Preservation

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) | Sandstone chimney on the Jopling/Melear cabin located in Knapp Heritage Park, 201 W. Front Street | Arlington Downs grandstand (date unknown).

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Landmark Preservation Commission is pleased to present our 2019 annual report to the Mayor and City Council. Our dedicated Commissioners are working diligently to preserve our city's historic landmarks and educate our citizens about their significance.

This report will highlight the Commissioners efforts to mark history by using our "Landmark Arlington" marker program and focusing on historic architectural periods as well as historic sites and neighborhoods. We are educating the citizens to show the value of historic preservation moving forward with our growing community defining not only what we create but also what we refuse to destroy for future generations to appreciate and share with a sense of community pride.

It is a privilege and honor to be serving as Chairperson of the Landmark Commission and for giving the opportunity to our Commissioners to serve Arlington to educate, oversee, and preserve Arlington's historic resources and history.

LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Kristina Rumans, Chair

2019 LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSIONERS

| | |
|---------|---|
| Place 1 | Kristina Rumans (appointed November 2018) |
| Place 2 | Lisa Allen (reappointed August 2018) |
| Place 3 | Geoff Scheid (appointed September 2017) |
| Place 4 | Dorothy Rencurrel (reappointed July 2017) |
| Place 5 | Geraldine Mills (reappointed July 2017) |
| Place 6 | Barbara Reber (reappointed August 2018) |
| Place 7 | Owen "OK" Carter (appointed July 2018) |
| Place 8 | Michelle Canton, Chair (reappointed July 2017) Rodrick Pension (appointed July 2019) |
| Place 9 | Valerie Galloway (reappointed July 2017) |

CITY STAFF LIAISONS

Senior Planner Sarah Stubblefield, AICP continued to serve as staff support and Historic Preservation Officer in 2019.

Anthony Cisneros, Planner also assisted as staff support in 2019.

Cindy Harding, Administrative Assistant serves as the Commission secretary.

CERTIFICATES OF DEMOLITION

The Arlington Unified Development Code requires Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC) review of demolition and relocation permit applications for all structures at least 50 years of age, whose age is unknown, or those with historical designations. Office of Strategic Initiatives staff provide historic review and property history as well as exterior photos for the Commission's review.

| Address | Const. Date | LPC Date | Priority |
|-------------------------|-------------|------------|----------|
| 204 E. Second Street | 1930 | 2-21-2019 | HIGH |
| 3900 Perkins Road | 1968 | 2-21-2019 | none |
| 1312 W. Second Street | 1941 | 3-21-2019 | MEDIUM |
| 2205 Pecandale Drive | 1950 | 5-09-2019 | none |
| 2209 Pecandale Drive | 1950 | 5-09-2019 | none |
| 3000 S. Shady Lane | 1969 | 5-09-2019 | none |
| 715 W. Abram Street | 1940 | 9-12-2019 | none |
| 908 Valley View Drive | 1954 | 10-10-2019 | none |
| 4247 Pleasantview Drive | 1945 | 10-10-2019 | none |
| 419N. Mesquite Street | 1962 | 10-10-2019 | none |
| 1611 Browning Drive | 1958 | 11-14-2019 | MEDIUM |
| 4326 Green Acres Circle | 1965 | 12-12-2019 | none |

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.

The 12 applications received in 2019 were all released by the Commission and are listed in the table above. The number of applications decreased slightly in 2019 - there were 14 permits reviewed in 2018, and 8 permits in 2017.

DANGEROUS/SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURES

The Dangerous and Substandard Structures (DSS) team of the Code Compliance division 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 structures 50 years or older.

The properties listed here were reviewed and released to the City of Arlington for appropriate action. DSS team officers provided case information related to review of dangerous structures.

The Commission turned over 9 properties listed in the table to the left for appropriate action by the DSS team. This number was lower than previous years - there were 13 cases reviewed in 2018, and 9 cases in 2017, and 17 cases in 2016.

| Address | LPC Date |
|-----------------------|------------|
| 202 Burton Drive | 1-11-2019 |
| 103 Bird Drive | 6-13-2019 |
| 525 S. Bowen Road | 6-13-2019 |
| 1402 Harmon Terrace | 6-13-2019 |
| 1406 N. Center Street | 6-13-2019 |
| 5720 W. Arkansas Lane | 6-13-2019 |
| 412 Truman Street | 9-12-2019 |
| 119 Oriole Drive | 11-14-2019 |
| 1310 Altman Drive | 11-14-2019 |

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 February 2020.

ARLINGTON HERITAGE MEMORIAL GROUNDS

The Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds (AHMG), located in the 600 block of W. Arkansas Lane, is owned and maintained by the Arlington Historical Society (AHS). Although the AHMG is one sacred space, it is actually comprised of three independently established cemeteries: Middleton Tate Johnson Family Cemetery, the Mill Branch Cemetery, and the Colored Cemetery.

The small 1.8 acres site serves as a monument to the history of Arlington and Tarrant County with burials spanning more than a hundred years from the 1850s to the 1950s.

Although the Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds is no longer an active burial site, leaders from the Arlington Historical Society, the City of Arlington, and Tarrant County are working together to restore this location to its important place in the history of Arlington.

In February 2019, the Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds Corporation, along with representatives from the City of Arlington and Tarrant County, officially began the process of bringing the cemetery, founded in 1854, back to life. The plan proposes the entire site to be surrounded by an ornamental fence with walkways winding through the cemetery, benches conveniently located throughout and existing grave markers will be restored to new ones.

"This historic burial ground has been plagued by neglect, vandalism and security problems off and on from the beginning," said Geraldine Mills, Arlington Historical Society Executive Director. "We want to ensure the founders of our city finally get the respect they deserve."

The historic cemeteries at Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds began as:

Middleton Tate Johnson Family Cemetery - (mid 1850s - 1950s)

The Father of Tarrant County, M. T. Johnson, passed away in 1866 and was buried in the State Cemetery in Austin. In 1870,



ARLINGTON HERITAGE MEMORIAL GROUNDS (CONT'D)

his remains were relocated to the Mill Branch cemetery. In 1936, his grave site was marked with a Centennial Marker by the Texas Historic Commission.

In the 1950s, the Johnson family requested that a portion of the cemetery be renamed to Middle Tate Johnson Family Cemetery.

Arlington Colored Cemetery - (1900 - 1950s)

Located on the western portion of the cemetery, this was the only place in Arlington where African American residents could purchase burial plots. Alma Johnson is the earliest identified burial in 1916.

Mill Branch Cemetery - (1850s-1950s)

Located in the eastern portion of the cemetery site, this is the resting place for the Eli Ford Family and other pioneers, including the Middleton Tate Johnson family.

These historic cemeteries will be restored to the condition that represents their historical significance to the City of Arlington, Tarrant County and the descendants of those buried there.



IN THE NEWS

The following historical news features were published in 2018:

- "Arlington Selected as Site for Future National Medal of Honor Museum" (MyArlingtonTX News 10/02)
- "Special Exhibit on Martin Luther King, Jr. on Display During Black History Month" (Arlington Library News 1/14)
- "Remembering Those Who Serve: The History of Arlington's Veterans Park" (MyArlingtonTX News 07/19)
- "Neglect, vandalism scarred burial grounds. Now Arlington is striving to preserve history" (Fort Worth Star Telegram 3/19)
-

The LPC also continued a partnership with the Office of Communication to launch a monthly historical series called "A Look Back", authored by Commissioner Owen "OK" Carter. 2019 articles included:

- "Arlington's First Post Office" (5/10)
- "Some Mayors Have Longer Tenures" (5/31)
- "The Television Era Begins in Arlington" (5/17)

2020 LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION WORK PLAN

The Landmark Preservation Commission (LPC) Work Plan serves as a guide to the LPC for the work they accomplish each year. In general, the Landmark Preservation Commission has wide-ranging goals and objectives based on the goals of the City Council and the adopted 2010 Historic Preservation Plan for the City of Arlington. While many of these Goals and Objectives can take many years to achieve the Action Table for each goal highlights the specific work of the Landmark Preservation Commission throughout 2020.

1. Local Marker Program

- Market and Implement the Program
- Assist in preparing local marker application nominations for additional High Priority properties as Arlington landmarks

2. Outreach

- Increase awareness of Arlington landmark preservation efforts with local, state, and national preservation organizations
- Update LPC Pages on the City website
- Continue to promote Arlington history on City social media pages

3. Incentives

- Propose an Incentive Program for consideration by the Council

4. Landmark Preservation (LP) Overlay

- Evaluate existing overlay and study opportunities for including additional properties, buildings, and sites for increased preservation
- Explore how LP Overlay properties can coordinate with potential incentives
- Recommend changes/updates to LP Overlay to Planning and Zoning Commission

5. Tourism

- Study possibility of walking tour of local landmarks, including a smartphone application
- Create and market an interactive map of all local marker sites to add to the City website and other appropriate online networks

6. Training & Networking

- Seek opportunities for training related to preservation
- Ensure all Commissioners have current ethics and open meetings training
- Attend Other Historic Group Meetings, and Network with Other Historic Interest Groups

- Explore hosting a Texas Historic Commission training event

7. Commission Membership

- Actively recruit LPC members when necessary
- Improve communications with the City to assist the LPC in effectively fulfilling its role

8. Staff Support

- Keep Commissioners informed about community preservation events and initiatives, especially the 100th Anniversary of Meadowbrook Park celebration.
- Continue staff functions, including:
 1. Assist with case reports for demolition permits that are referred to the Commission by Planning and Development Services department
 2. Review applicable zoning cases for their potential effect on historic properties and inform the Commission
 3. Prepare annual Certified Local Government (CLG) and other grant applications on behalf of the Commission
 4. Coordinate training opportunities for the Commission and staff including Texas Historical Commission-approved events
 5. Network and coordinate with the private sector, the community, and other City departments on preservation issues and efforts
 6. Coordinate with the Arlington CVB in promoting preservation and heritage tourism in Arlington

