# 20 ANNUAL REPORT 22

ARLINGTON
THE AMERICAN DREAM CITY

## Landmark Preservation Commission

*"Historic Preservation is the belief in and appreciation of sense of place and community. A sense of place gives an understanding of our built environment, giving a appreciation and connection to the past."*

- Kristina Rumans,
Arlington Landmark Preservation Commission

# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Landmark Preservation Commission is pleased to present our 2022 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. Our program encourages green building to reuse existing structures as opposed to new construction in our older historic neighborhoods and links this history as a "place that matters."

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. These efforts fuel our downtown economy by raising the value of our historic resources.

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

Kristina Rumans, Chair
**LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

## 2022 LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSIONERS

| | |
|---|---|
| Place 1 | Kristina Rumans (reappointed June 2022) |
| Place 2 | Julie Hunt (appointed September 2022) |
| Place 3 | Cheryl Donaldson (reappointed August 2021) |
| Place 4 | Jason Sullivan (appointed August 2021) |
| Place 5 | Hunter Brown (appointed September 2022) |
| Place 6 | Zane Gober (appointed August 2022) |
| Place 7 | Owen "OK" Carter (reappointed August 2022) |
| Place 8 | Rodrick Penson (reappointed July 2021) |
| Place 9 | Geraldine Mills (reappointed August 2021) |

### CITY STAFF LIAISONS

Strategic Initiatives Manager Sarah Stubblefield, AICP, continued to serve as staff support and Historic Preservation Officer in 2022.

Anthony Cisneros, AICP, Planner also assisted as staff support in 2022.

Cindy Harding, Administrative Assistant served as the Commission secretary until December 2022.

**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 2023.

# 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 provides historic review and property history as well as exterior photos for the Commission's review.

| Address | Const. Date | LPC Date | Priority |
|---|---|---|---|
| 703 W. Sanford Street | 1951 | 1-13-2022 | none |
| 800 Bowie Street | 1950 | 2-10-2022 | none |
| 401 E. Randol Mill Road | 1951 | 3-10-2022 | none |
| 407 E. Randol Mill Road | 1950 | 3-10-2022 | none |
| 433 N. East Street | 1940 | 5-12-2022 | Low |
| 908 Marcellus Court | 1955 | 7-14-2022 | none |
| 2415 Gilbert Circle | 1958 | 7-14-2022 | none |
| 1937 E. Abram Street | 1950 | 8-11-2022 | none |
| 308 N. East Street | 1965 | 8-11-2022 | none |
| 506 E. Rogers Street | 1953 | 10-13-2022 | none |

All of the properties listed in the table were reviewed by the Commission at a public hearing. The Date of construction is listed according to Tarrant Appraisal District (TAD) 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 10 applications received in 2022 were all released by the Commission and are listed in the table above. The number of applications decreased in 2022 - there were 16 permits reviewed in 2021, and 13 permits in 2020.

# DANGEROUS AND SUBSTANDARD STRUCTURES

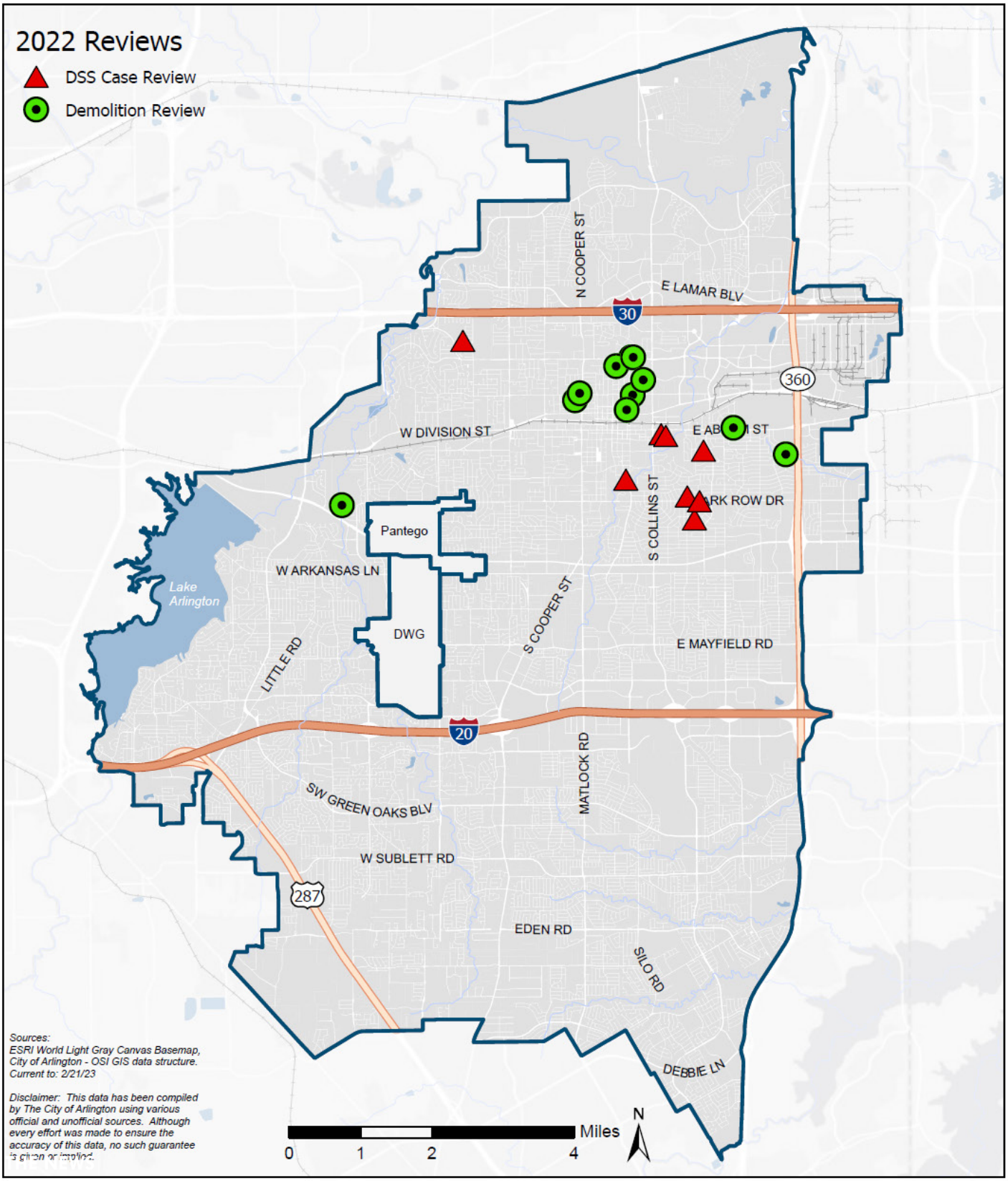
The Dangerous and Substandard Structures (DSS) team of the Code Compliance department investigates dangerous buildings, the conditions of which endanger the life, health, property, or safety of the public. On occasion the Commission must review the cases being worked by the DSS team due to the potential demolition of residential structures 50 years or older.

| Address | LPC Date |
|---|---|
| 1608 Wynn Terrace | 1-13-2022 |
| 206 Broadmoor Avenue | 3-10-2022 |
| 2067 Fleur De Lis Court | 3-10-2022 |
| 1413 Swiss Street | 4-14-2022 |
| 1713 Joyce Street | 6-9-2022 |
| 212 Arnold Avenue | 7-14-2022 |
| 1207 Highland Drive | 7-14-2022 |
| 207 Ray Street | 11-10-2022 |

The properties listed 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 8 properties listed in the table above for appropriate action by the DSS team. This number is higher than the previous year - there were 4 cases reviewed in 2021, and 9 cases in 2020.

# 2022 DEMOLITION PERMIT AND DANGEROUS STRUCTURE CASES



# CITY OF ARLINGTON DEDICATES GERALDINE MILLS HERITAGE PLACE AT FIELDER MUSEUM

In April of 2022, the City of Arlington dedicated the grounds at the Fielder Museum in honor of one of the community's long-serving volunteers and beloved historians, Geraldine Nash Mills.

The dedication ceremony, attended by current and former City Council members, county elected officials, and numerous family members and friends, was held on the lawn of the Fielder Museum.

Mills began volunteering for the Arlington Historical Society in 1996, and there she said she found her true calling. She worked her way up from volunteer to president, and for the past 22 years, Mills has been the Director of The Arlington Historical Society, and the Fielder Museum.

"Geraldine is the first person to remind us that we need to understand where we have been to understand where we are today, to know where we are going in the future. She is a stalwart in the amazing history of our city to remind us of our humble beginnings, to remind of what is it that makes Arlington different than any other city," said former Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Victoria Farrar-Myers, who served as chair of the Honorary Naming Recognition Task Force.

"Geraldine Mills, on every project she has worked on, she's been the voice of reason. The voice to say 'Stop. Let's not just honor a cemetery; let's honor the individuals whose voices need to be heard. Let us be the voice of the voiceless. Let us speak their words to the future.' That is who Geraldine Mills has been. She is the voice that reminds each and every one of us that Arlington was built on years of blood, sweat, and tears and the endeavors of those in the past. None of us who stand here today, or who will stand here in the future, are alone because we have that ancestry to stand on."

The Fielder House, which celebrated its 100th birthday in 2014, has been home to the Fielder Museum, the Arlington Historical Society, and the Arlington Preservation Foundation since the 1980s. The exhibits showcase the rich history of the city through newspapers and books, photographs, maps, and many interesting physical items from past events and businesses.

"If you haven't had a chance to walk through and look at everything in here and, more importantly, get that private Geraldine tour, you are really missing out. There is nothing like walking through this building with Geraldine telling you about the stories behind everything in here," Mayor Jim Ross said. "Our future is dependent upon how well we can preserve the great history of Arlington. With Geraldine's work and what she has done for this city, our future is bright. We all owe her a great deal of gratitude."

A lifelong Arlington resident, Mills has been active in the community in a variety of roles for over 60 years. She began school at Southside Elementary School and was a member of the Arlington High School Class of 1959. She then studied geology at Arlington State College (now The University of Texas at Arlington). She married her husband, James Mills, in 1959. Together, they raised four children in Arlington.

"This is such an honor, but it is not something I was working towards. I've enjoyed my time out here so much and I'm going to continue to do so as long as it is fun. I feel like I'm making a difference," said Mills, who was cheered on by her husband James, their children, their grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

# 'ECHOES FROM THE HILL' PREMIERES DURING HISTORIC JUNETEENTH JUBILEE WEEKEND

The second annual Arlington Juneteenth Jubilee hosted a variety of events designed to feed the mind, body and spirit. One of the highlights from the Arlington Juneteenth Jubilee was the premiere of the first episode of the "Echoes from The Hill" docuseries.

The Hill, an approximately five block area of the city just north of downtown, was the only historical addition platted specifically for Arlington's African American residents. The first episode features photos, maps, documents, and excerpts from interviews with Black residents and their descendants who lived in this community.

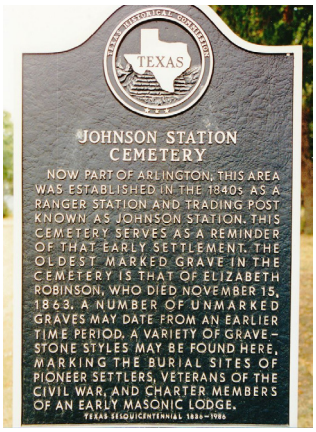
"History is about how people existed in a time and an era. It's about celebrating that existence, the highs and the lows, the surviving and the thriving, and how they worshipped, how they worked and how they related to each other," Adams said. "It's the total span of their lives and told from their perspective and in their voice. This documentary gives credence to the voices of others who lived a life experience in a certain time and in a certain place."

Interviews include the Rev. Carl Pointer, Bob Ray Sanders, Randy Parker, Bertha Jones, Geraldine Mills and Beverly Jackson on topics ranging from segregation to influential church and business leaders to the vibrant nightlife in The Hill. The project was funded by the Arlington Tomorrow Foundation.

## IN THE NEWS

The following historical news features were published in 2022:

- National Preservation Month Feature: Sandstone Houses in Arlington (5/2)
- National Preservation Month Feature: Celebration Arlington Historic Trees (5/9)
- Culture Buzz: Women's History Exhibit at the Fielder House Museum (5/11)
- National Preservation Month Feature: Arlington Cemeteries (5/16)
- National Preservation Month Feature: The Hill (5/23)
- Juneteenth Celebrations Kick off in North Texas (6/17)
- Fort Worth Star Telegram: Six Flags over Texas: Historic Photos over the last 51 years (11/3)



# ARLINGTON CEMETERY WAYFINDING PROJECT

Since 2020, The Landmark Preservation Commission has been working on a wayfinding project to highlight historical figures from Arlington's past. In April 2022, street signs were designed and installed at the internal intersections of the Cemetery's "roadways." They are named after prominent Arlington figures such as former Mayors William Rose & George Finger, former Marshal Carrier Rogers, and avid Arlington historian J.W. Dunlop.

The 2nd phase of the project installed 4 QR code signs that link visitors to interactive story maps with content written by current commissioner, O.K. Carter. The QR codes are accessible by using the camera on a mobile device.

Below are links to three currently published storymaps:

- Old Arlington Cemetery and the McNatts, Carrie Rogers, and George Finger
- The Story of Mary Street, the Masonic Cemetery, Morgan Woodward, and Colonel William A. Bown
- Mayor WIlliam H. Rose

# ARLINGTON CEMETERY QR CODE LOCATIONS

# 2023 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 2023.

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.
   - 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

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