THE COMMISSION

NEWSLETTER OF THE
TARRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Volume 12 Number 3 September 30, 1991

FROM THE STATE HISTORICAL PRESERVATION OFFICE

RE: HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY OF RUNWAY 16/34 EAST AND RUNWAY 16/34 WEST, DALLAS/FORT WORTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, TARRANT AND DALLAS COUNTIES, TEXAS

The SHPO staff has conducted a review of the draft report of historic architectural resources within the Area of Potential Effect of the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport by applying state and federal criteria for historical designation.

SHPO concurred that 38 properties are ELIGIBLE for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for their significance as representative types of of architecture typical of a small urban setting. Four sites were listed as NOT ELIGIBLE and 46 sites REQUIRED MORE INFORMATION. When more clarity is provided the SHPO staff will be able to make final determinations of eligibility.

(Source: Excerpts from communication from SHPO to FAA, U. S. Dep't of Transportation, Fort Worth, Tx.)

National Trust for Historic Preservation

AND THE

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COUNCIL OF TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS

Mayor JOE RILEY OF Charleston, S. C. is being brought to Fort Worth on November 18 to speak at a luncheon in and conduct an afternoon seminar. During his fourteen years as mayor he has led an effort to preservive America's greatest classical city. Teresa Riordan in BIG CITY, a publication of Dispatches from the Urban Front, also, states that these efforts have been no small feat during an age when downtowns are being bulldozed and glass-box convention centers erected in the name of urban renewal.

Here are the particulars. Mayor Riley's visit to Fort Worth is sponsored by the Texas/New Mexico Field Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County. He will speak at a luncheon in the Grand Ballroom of the Worthington Hotel at noon on Monday, November 18. His speech is entitled "Design, Conservation and Community Needs: The Mayor's Perspective." He will also lead an afternoon seminar from 1:30 until 3:30 p.m. entitled "Charleston Strategies: Implications for Fort Worth and Tarrant County Preservation and Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, and Beautification."

Cost for the luncheon and seminar is $25. Cost for the seminar only is $10. Space is limited so reservations are requested early.

The Tarrant County Historical Commission is a Co-Sponsor of this event.

RESTORATION OF 823 SAMUELS AVENUE

JOHN AND DEBRA SHIFLET purchased the Reilly/Lehane house at 823 Samuels Avenue to make it their family home and to restore it as a contribution to history. The residence was built in 1890 and was first occupied by Mrs. Teresa Reilly and family who were from Ireland. A daughter married a Lehane; five daughters and a son were born to them. The last daughter, Dorothy died in 1987, thus the Shiflets are the second family line to live in the house.

JOHN began with redecking the back porch with exact match tongue and groove boards. He replicated the porch posts that had rotted and added a skirt with Victorian cut-out designs which he cut on a band saw. The good decking from the original porch is being used to refloor the bathroom that has the same tongue and groove board size.

The front door had been carefully stripped of several coats of paint so that the original coat could be detected and duplicated. The door originally had four different tints of stains to highlight the detail. The same technique was used in restoring the transon which has etched glass bordered by small panes of colored glass. The door has clear glass bordered by like small colored panes. John said that some of the homes on Samuels Avenue have the house numbers etched on the door glass, a nicety of another time.

The doorknob, escutcheon plate, door bell pull and hinges are of brass in a lily pattern patented in 1883 and made by Sargent & Co. These have all been highly polished and complete an inviting entrance to visitors which was "done" in earlier days to make the best at the front of a home.

The restoration will be ongoing -- next he will strip and rework the foyer. The Shiflets have a 1926 photo of the house as an aid in restoring the ornate woodwork above the windows. John does painstaking work the quality of which is seen in the beautifully restored front door.

COLUMBUS QUINCENTENARY

The 500th anniversary of the development of the Americas which began with the landing of Columbus's ships will be recognized with many programs this coming year -- October 1991 / October 1992.

MARY LOU BRIEGER, Colleyville Commission Member, is Tarrant County Historical Commission's resource person for information for this event. She is, also, available to Junior Historian Chapters in the schools to help with source materials.

Some interesting quotes from the TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION BULLETIN:

"The earliest map record of the Texas Coast was in 1519 during an exploring voyage of Alonso Alvarez de Pineda. The Indians of Texas did not have horses before the Spaniards came. Indians recorded the Spanish soldiers arrival in rock art in West TExas. Corn was introduced by the Indians to the Spaniards as a food source. Ranches established by the Spanish missions were the first ranches in Texas and cattle drives to Louisiana and Mexico were made from these ranches over a century before the famous post-Civil War drives in Texas. Angelina County, the only Texas County named for a woman, was named from the Angelina River which was named after an Indian woman who was educated in a mission. Some of 35 to 40 Spanish Missions established in Texas have not yet been located."

FROM THE FILES: An article in the Friday, October 10, 1884 WEEKLY GAZETTE, Fort Worth, Texas is captioned, "A WORLD'S FAIR TO CELEBRATE THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA". St. Louis, Mo., Oct 8.--At the convention of the international association of fairs and expositions, held in this city a few months ago, a proposition was adopted to hold a world's fair in 1892 in commeration of the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America by Columbus."

Thanks to HOWARD McPEAK who located the WEEKLY GAZETTE in the files.

DAN WILLIS, M. D., HAS BEEN REAPPOINTED AS A MEMBER OF THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION BY GOVERNOR ANN RICHARDS. DR. WILLIS, A FORT WORTH OPHTHALMOLOGIST, GRADUATED FROM NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE, SMU, AND UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SOUTHWESTERN MEDICAL SCHOOL IN DALLAS. HE HAS OFFICES IN ST. JOSEPH'S PROFESSIONAL BUILDING AND IN MINERAL WELLS.

DR. WILLIS, THE SON OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE DOYLE WILLIS, IS MARRIED TO THE FORMER HARRIET WOLF; THEY HAVE TWO CHILDREN, CALLEN, 6, AND HARRISON, 4.

ARLINGTON LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

The City of Arlington formed the Arlington Landmark Commission in 1985. The first project of the Commission was to do a historical survey of the City of Arlinton. The firm of Hardy, Heck and Moore in Austin was selected to do the survey. Based on this historical survey the newly formed Landmark Preservation Committee approved as its project the documentation of Arlington's historical homes and businesses as listed in the historical survey.

Each structure will be documented. Photographs will be taken, an architect's drawings will be made, and a written history of the family that owned the home or business will be completed. The material will be printed in a book form and placed in the Arlington Public Library in the History of Arlington Section. This project will be funded by in-kind services from the City, volunteers, and local business.

Submitted by Dorothy Rencurrel.

ORAL HISTORY SEMINAR

DOROTHY RENCURREL, Junior Historian Chr. for TCHC is gathering the particulars for holding an information seminar on gathering Oral Histories. The program will be open to students and adults and is tentatively set for January 18 or 25.

Oral histories are increasingly important as people are talking on the telephone rather than writing letters. Thus, we are losing source material relating to our present day.

TARRANT AREA COMMUNITY OF CHURCHES

TACC HAS INITIATED AND IS ORGANIZING A NEW PROGRAM ENTITLED "PARTNERS FOR SACRED SPACES AND STORIES" FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENCOURAGING CHURCHES IN THE AREA TO DOCUMENT THEIR HISTORIES AND TO PRESERVE THE ARCHITECTURAL INTEGRITY OF THE CHURCH BUILDINGS.

REV. GAYLAND POOL, TACC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND NANCY SAENZ COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON ARE COORDINATING WITH HISTORICAL PRESERVATION ORGANIZATIONS IN THE CITY AND COUNTY IN BRINGING THIS NEW PROJECT THROUGH ITS BEGINING STAGES.

TCHC SUPPORTS EFFORT TO SAVE SCHOOL BUILDING

Over 700 people showed support by petition to the Fort Worth Independent School District to save the NORTH FORT WORTH HIGH SCHOOL/ TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL/ELDER ANNEX from demolition. A RESOLUTION drawn and voted upon by the TARRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION to support saving the building and adapting the spaces to the needs of the community was presented to the School Board August 27, 1991.

This building at 601 Park Street has been used on the first and second floor through last May. An effort is being made to work out leasing the building to a viable user. Such will depend on the immediate and wider communitys' ability to donate time, skills, "elbow grease", money and materials. Even Santa Claus needs help, you know.

There is a temporary "stay of execution" at this time which gives some leeway in work-out a solution. There are no structural problems; the building is very solidly built.

HISTORICAL MARKERS APPROVED

The TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION MARKER REVIEW BOARD has approved the following markers:

LAWRENCE CLIFTON ELLIOTT, Research by Ruth Stone. Awaiting dedication.

ALFRED MADISON HIGHTOWER, Researched by Mike Patterson. Awaiting dedication.

RIVERSIDE METHODIST CHURCH, Researched by Ray Stokes. Dedication October 20, 1991, 11:30 A. M. at 3419 W. Belknap Fort Worth. See data elsewhere in Newsletter.

APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED TO THC

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FORT WORTH
(Art Weinman)
WALKER-STRIBLING DRUG STORE
(Cloma Britt)
ROYAL FLYING CORPS OF CANADA
(John Ott)
RESIDENCE -- 6000 English Oak, Arlington
ORMER LESLIE LOCKLEAR
(Ruth Stone)

MARKER NARRATIVES UNDER REVIEW

JOPLING CEMETERY
(Kate McDonald)
E. M. DAGGETT
(Evelyn Cushman, Ruth Stone, R. McLane and Joye Evetts)
LILY B. CLAYTON SCHOOL
FORT WORTH STOCKYARDS HOG AND SHEEP PENS
(J'Nell Pate)
JOHNSON STATION
(Bette Wilson)
NORTH HI MOUNT SCHOOL
(Julie Voigt)

Twenty-Seven Marker Application Packets have been sent to researchers for documentation of their selected subjects.

MISSING MARKER RETURNED

The 1865 INDIAN CREEK RAID marker was placed against the Texas Highway Department Office wall in Blue Mound. It is damaged thus causing the expense of returning it to the foundry in San Antonio. We are happy that it has been returned, but wish myopic vandals could absorb the spirit of historical preservation." There are three other markers missing around the county. Sometimes these are brought to buyers of metal who we hope realize what they are and notify the Commission. Phone 926-8326.

TEXAS LIGHTHOUSES

Three historical lighthouses on the Texas coast will be given U. S. D.-1812 Historical Markers in the coming months. State President, Mrs. Coryne Choate of Lake Jackson, Tx., has adopted the placement of these markers as her state project. Co-Chairperson is EVELYN CUSHMAN of the Tarrant County Historical Commission and a member of the Geo. Wells Chapter of U. S. D.-1812 of Euless.

The dedications schedule is as follows:

Sunday, October 20, 1:00 P. M.
BOLIVER POINT LIGHTHOUSE
Boliver Peninsula east of Galveston

Sunday, November 17, 1:00 P. M.
HALF MOON REEF LIGHTHOUSE
Bauer Community Center, Port Lavaca, Tx.

Sunday, February 9, 1992, 1:00 P. M.
PORT ISABEL LIGHTHOUSE
near Brownsville, Tx.

RIVERSIDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

MARKER DEDICATION OCTOBER 20

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED

Everyone is welcome to a special day at RIVERSIDE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. Jerden Davis, Pastor. The church will be dedicated during Worship Service beginning at 10:30 A. M. after which a Historical Marker installed on the lawn will be dedicated. A catered luncheon will follow. The luncheon is $5.00 and reservations need to be in by October 16 to 3419 E. Belknap, Fort Worth, Tx. 76111.

The Marker Dedication will be at 11:30.

Riverside was a small community east of the Trinity River and outside the Fort Worth City Limits when, in 1888, about ten people began a Sunday School in an abandoned saloon at East 1st Street and Sylvania. From this nucleous a Methodist congregation was later organized and has remained intact through several moves and building programs. The church serves the community through a variety of programs.

ANTIQUE GAMBLING TABLE

When buildings were being demolished to clear space for the Tarrant County Convention Center an antique crap shooting table was found in an upstairs room in one of the "flop houses", sometimes called "cot houses" because indigents could pay 50¢ per night to sleep in a large room full of cots.

The demolition contractor had no interest in the gambling table; Bob Deans was allowed to acquire it. Recognizing its good condition and historical value, he refinished it and has kept it in his home. This table, from HELL'S HALF ACRE needs a protected place for public display if the Deans would allow it to be temporarily loaned for viewing. A modern craps table could run up to $14,000, thus, a secure place would be needed.

The Deans' daughter, Janie, is doing research to pinpoint the exact location of the building from which the table came.

HEADSTONE MYSTERY SOLVED

TCHC member, EVELYN CUSHMAN, solved the problem regarding the proper cemetery to return the grave marker referred to in the June Newsletter. Evelyn, found the Richards family listed in the 1900 data at the Public Library and found which cemetery in Johnson County it belongs.

EVELYN, who lives in Hurst, is a most valued Cemetery Committee Chairperson and resource compiler.

U. S. POST OFFICE ON LANCASTER

From the Historical Marker Research: Joe Delwaide of Azle, along with his father, helped raise the columns which came from Bedford, Indiana, each on two flat cars equipped with turntables to prevent breakage on curves. Each column is a single piece of stone which were set in place with derrick and boom.

The snarling pantherheads were each hand-carved from a stone weighing 600 to 700 pounds.

U. S. P. O. (Cont.)

All of the ornaments inside and outside the Post Office were designed by TCU Grad, DWIGHT HOLMES. The designs were executed in stone, marble, plaster, aluminum, cast iron and bronze. The designs include 1,173 eagles.

Holmes created from photographs designs of eight 1930's football greats which were in the west wall of Amon Carter Stadium at TCU. Since adding the upper deck only two are left one of which is of DAVEY O'BRIEN, All American and Heisman Trophy quarterback.

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

The STATE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION will conduct a public meeting on October 15, 1991 at 10:00 A.M., at the Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 South Main Street, Grapgevine, Tx.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the feasibility of possible improvements to SH 114 from SP 382 (Northwest Highway) to the Dallas County Line and to SH 121 from SH 360 to the Dallas County Line.

All interested citizens are invited to attend to express their views.

GEORGE YOUNKIN -- RETIRED????

Arlington resident and TCHC member, GEORGE YOUNKIN, serves the broad community through his many involvements. He spoke at the Society of American Archivists' 55th Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pa. in September. His topic was "The Challenge of Documenting Native American Cultures". People are still learning from his treasure trove of expertise.

In early September he was a judge at the 2-day INDIAN TIPI CONTEST attended by 50,000. $1000. in prize money was awarded.

And, GEORGE will be the new President of the SENIOR CITIZEN ALLIANCE OF TARRANT CO. which has some 19,000 members.

We are all inspired to do a little more.

LITTLE MARINE SCHOOLHOUSE, INC.

(Non-Profit Status Applied For)

Marine Schoolhouse, the first public building on the Northside, was built between 1872 and 1879 on the I. Thomas Survey south line (present N. E. 20th Street). In 1883 Approximately 3 acres of land was deeded to R. E. Beckham, county judge, and his successors in office for a public school. Sources indicate that the original schoolhouse continued at its first location on property owned by M. G. Ellis, just north of the dedicated public school property.

Tarrant County designated school districts by metes and bounds in 1884. Marine School District #1 was a triangle bounded by the present North Main Street on the west, N. E. 20th Street on the north (the I. Thomas south line) and the present N. E. 14th Street from North Main Street to an angle that met at N. E. 20th Street.

The Fort Worth and Gainsville road was established in 1885 running west of the "Ellis Schoolhouse" on the I. Thomas south line, indicating that the school was still on M. G. Ellis property and had not been moved to the dedicated school property.

Records show that the school was used for a community church that organized in 1888, and at that time a second room was added to the little building. The Baptist Church used the little school to organize separately from the Community Church in 1890 because they had more than 20 members and the schoolhouse would hold only twenty people.

Trustees of Marine School petitioned the court to sell the schoolhouse and the lot in September 1891. The court granted permission to sell, but in October the same year the court revoked that permission. This was probably done because the schoolhouse belonged to the county, but the lot belonged to M. G. Ellis and if the schoolhouse were sold there would not be a place for school to be held.

A new school was built in 1892 on the dedicated property, the address being given in the City Directory as Rusk (present N. Commerce) and 14th Street.

The Marine Methodist Church met in the Marine Schoolhouse prior to 1897 and Boulevard Christian Church used "old Marine School" in 1903 as a meeting place.

Fire destroyed the new school building in September 1904, but the old school building adjoining was saved. School was started again in October of that year and one of the buildings used was the old Marine Schoolhouse.

The City of North Fort Worth organized for school purposes immediately after the fire and planned to build an elaborate new school which would no longer be under the jurisdiction of the county. The county school had only eight grades. The North Fort Worth Public School was to go through high school.

North Fort Worth High School was organized in the old Marine Schoolhouse in 1905 before the new North Fort Worth Public School was finished. North Fort Worth had acquired the small building and the triangle of land when they took over the school from the county.

Mr. Mulholland bought the building and moved it to its present site after the North Fort Worth Public School was finished. It was used as a residence until 1988 when it was declared sub-standard and boarded up. It is still at 1309 N. Commerce.

The present owner of the building is Lee Broadus Development Corp.

Alice S. Lewis

Alice S. Lewis

Secretary

FIRSTS

Captain Ed Terrell was the first white man who ever made a footprint on the soil where Fort Worth now stands. So states Dr. C. M. Peak in the first Fort Worth City Directory of 1877. Terrell with a companion named J. P. Lusk spent the winter in a tent preparatory to erecting the first trading post there out of hewn logs in 1844. They went to get help for the first house raising from Whiterock in Dallas County.

This cabin was used later as the first store by Henry Daggett. Terrell and Lusk had located at Liveoak Grove at the head of Samuels Avenue, near where the Pavilion was later located. This Terrell log house was historic in other respects. The first court in Tarrant County was held in it by District Judge John H. Reagan who had a very large district where court was held out of doors. Circa 1851. The first election of county officers was held in this same log house which was a voting place as was Birdville.

(This data is attributed to Judge C. C. Cummings about 1903. Judge Cummings is listed in the 1877 Fort Worth City Directory as residing at the Courthouse.) F. W. Library

The TRADERS OAK TREE is one of the oaks still standing in the Liveoak Grove area and B. L. Samuel's homestead is referred to as being at Liveoak Point. Exact location of the log cabin or Samuel's home, which had been Nathanial Terry's before him, are not documented so far as our research has shown.

ACME BRICK -- 100TH ANNIVERSARY

In the fifth decade of Acme Brick FDR was elected president, the Lindbergh baby was kidnapped, WWII began and brick sales went down during the depression. At a time when two-thirds of the nations brick plants closed, Acme Brick was able to acquire the bankrupt Bridgeport Plant and survive the hard times.

Also, during the 1931-1941 period Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly the Atlantic, the first food stamps began in Rochester, N. Y. and the first Winter Olympics were held at Lake Placid, N. Y.

NEWS FROM THC

NEW LAW

Backed by a new state law, cities with landmark ordinances can better protect Recorded Texas Historical Landmark (RTHL) and National Register (NR) and their own locally designated historic sites. In addition, the new law affects communities and county areas outside zoned cities and all their RTHL and NR sites. Owners of these designated properties must notify the Texas Historical Commission staff in Austin if demolition or severe alterations are planned for their buildings.

The impetus for this bill originated with the illegal wrecking of the 1893 Finck Cigar Company building last February in San Antonio. The building owners had not filed for a permit and could be fined only a small fraction of the building's worth for their secretive weekend destruction.

As of September 1, 1991, the new law takes effect to protect RTHL and NR properties. This law was introduced by Sen. Frank Tejeda of San Antonio with Senate Bill 923 and was passed by the 72nd Legislature and signed by the governor in the spring. It amends Chapter 315 of the Local Government Code by adding Sections 315.006 and 442.016. These are important numbers for city councils to know because they affect every Texas city that has zoning and a demolition-permit procedure.

ARCHEOLOGY

Those interested in joining the Tarrant County Archeological Society need to contact the President, BRYAN JAMESON (817) 468-1323. It is very important to learn how to investigate and document archeological finds as the uninformed hobbiest or looter can permanently obscure important information.

Another example of heartbreaking lack of concern was the building of Central Expressway in Dallas over a graveyard. This could have been done for fear that knowledge of the graveyard would stop the project. This is a misconception which often results in the needless destruction of some of our state's major archeological deposits.

* * * PLEASE, GIVE TCHC YOUR NEW ADDRESS IF YOU MOVE. CALL 926-8326. * * *

STUART GENTLING
4801 HARLEY AVE.
FORT WORTH, TX. 76107

TARRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
4404 Wedgmont Circle S.
Fort Worth, Texas 76133

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MEMORIES -------- The bridge in the foreground is gone. The road in the middle is Jacksboro Highway.

AEROPLANE VIEW OF BEACH AND CASINO, LAKE WORTH, FORT WORTH, TEXAS—14