

Arlington Historical Society | May 2022 Newsletter

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Arlington Historical Society

Executive Board Members

Geraldine Mills | Executive Director

Nancy Tice | President

Claudia Perkins | Vice President

Lydia Brosowsky | Secretary

Wanda Marshall | Treasurer

Contact Us

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Our Venues

Fielder Museum

1616 W. Abram Street

Arlington, Texas 76013

www.facebook.com/FielderHouseMuseum

Knapp Heritage Park

201 W. Front Street

Arlington, Texas 76011

www.facebook.com/knapp.park

Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds

600 W. Arkansas Lane

Arlington, Texas 76010

www.ahmgc.org

A note from the editor

May is Preservation Month! It's a month dedicated to promoting historical places and heritage tourism, often led by preservation groups and historical societies. It was established in 1973 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. What started as a weeklong event became a month-long celebration in 2005.

Even though May is over, preservation efforts don't have to end – nor should they! Preservation efforts and promoting heritage tourism should continue throughout the year. In this month's newsletter, enjoy information about our Local Landmarks and some ideas for heritage tourism in Arlington.

One of the best ways to help preserve historic sites is by visiting them! Be proud of our local history and help share the stories with others.

Jason S. Sullivan, 05-28-22

Newsletter Editor

Arlington Historical Society

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Upcoming Events

- **June 11** – Arlington Garden Club dedication ceremony of the Bird Habitat Garden and Fountain, Fielder Museum, 2:00 PM; followed by refreshments and “*Backyard Birding and Photography*” – a special program hosted by former Mayor Richard Greene
- **June 17** – First episode of the “Echoes From The Hill” documentary premieres at the Arlington Juneteenth Jubilee; additional screenings on June 18.
More info: www.arlingtontx.gov/residents/events/juneteenth
- **August 8** – AHS Board Meeting, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **November 14** – AHS Board Meeting, Fielder Museum, 6:30 PM
- **TBD** – Arlington Heritage Memorial Grounds Celebration (original date postponed)



Arlington's Landmark Preservation Commission

Arlington has nearly two dozen Boards and Commissions where citizens can volunteer to serve their community. The Landmark Preservation Commission, or LPC, is the one most closely related to local history.

The LPC helps promote, protect, and preserve historical landmarks within Arlington. Arlington's LPC developed the Local Marker Program in 2009 to designate these landmarks, raise awareness of their significance, and help promote them as heritage sites.

To be considered, the structure or site must meet the following criteria:

- Be at least 50 years old
- Be visible and accessible to the public
- Be within Arlington city limits

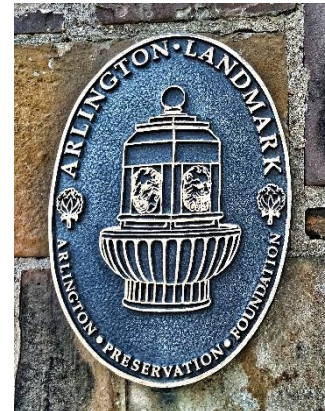
Further, it must also meet one of the following criteria:

- Possess significance in the history, archeology, architecture, or culture of Arlington
- Be associated with events that have made significant contributions to the Arlington community
- Be related to the biography of current or previous residents of Arlington with substantiated documentation

While anyone can nominate a structure or site, the LPC usually gets involved in leading or assisting the project. An application is required – including a narrative about the structure or site, photos, supporting documentation, and sources cited. The LPC has many tools and resources available to assist with the research.

The application goes through the LPC for initial approval and then to the City Council for final approval. Once approved, a plaque is presented to the property owner. There is often a public dedication and celebratory event – it's a time to celebrate when we designate a Local Landmark!

In 2021, the LPC hosted a ceremony to recognize the Local Landmarks designated throughout the year. The inaugural ceremony recognized fourteen landmarks – the most approved in a single year since the program began!



*Local Landmark plaque at
Top O' Hill Terrace*

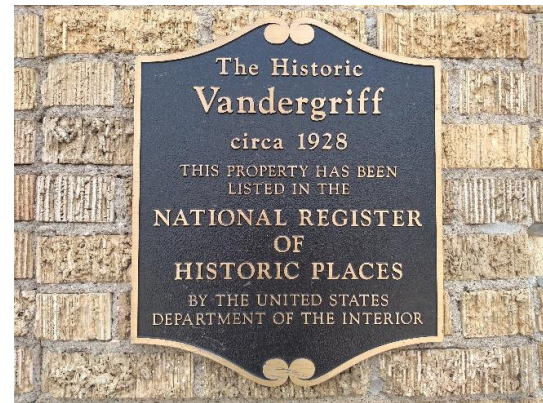
Local Landmarks differ from the National Register of Historic Places and Texas Historical Markers. Those programs and designations – while tremendous honors – are at the national and

state level. There's significant competition and more stringent criteria, and the designations can be challenging to obtain. Local Landmarks are – as the name suggests – local. They are often more closely tied to the community; essentially, they are for us and by us. While most of Arlington's Local Landmarks are designated with a small plaque, a few – such as the First United Methodist Church, Vandergriff Building, and Old Town Historic District – have larger markers with text. Some Local Landmarks also have state or national recognition.



Welcome to Old Town Neighborhood - listed in the National Register of Historic Places

Arlington has 44 sites designated as Local Landmarks – including churches, schools, private residences, small businesses, historic districts, and others. Each of these sites helps tell Arlington's history. While being a Local Landmark doesn't generally safeguard these sites from demolition, sale, or other hurdles, it's hoped that their elevated status will promote interest and awareness. Thus, perhaps owners or developers will think twice about removing them from our landscape, helping preserve them for future generations.

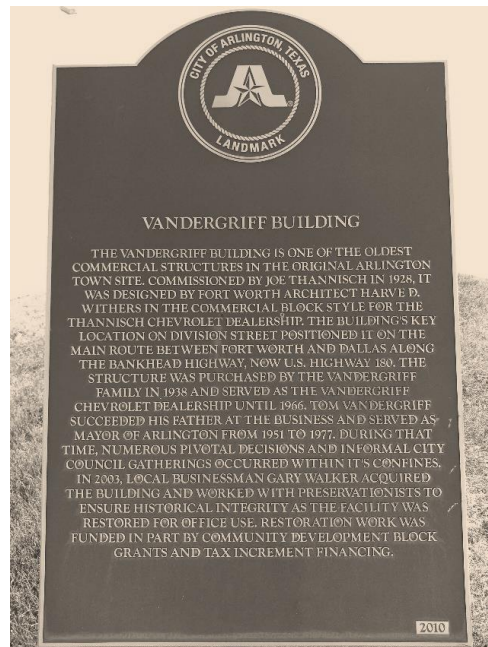


Historic Vandergriff Building - listed in the National Register of Historic Places

Arlington's Local Landmarks

- **First United Methodist Church**
313 N. Center Street
- **Vandergriff Building**
255 N. Center Street
- **Worthington Bank (former Arlington Post Office) |** 200 W. Main Street
- **Hutcheson-Smith Home**
312 Oak Street
- **Jones Building**
406 W. Main Street
- **Kookan Elementary**
423 N. Center Street
- **Old Town Historic District**
Area of Sanford, Oak, Prairie, & Elm St.
- **South Center Street Historic District**
500-600 Block of Center Street
- **Arlington Music Hall**
224 N. Center Street
- **Booker T. Washington School**
500 Houston Street
- **Ramirez Medicinal Clinic**
314 N. Center Street
- **Arlington Downs Racetrack watering trough |** 300 Six Flags Drive
- **Top O' Hill Terrace**
3001 W. Division Street
- **Fielder House**
1616 W. Abram Street
- **Arlington Steak House**
1724 W. Division Street
- **Thornton House**
719 W. Abram Street
- **Howell Family/Waples Platter Farm**
4016 W. Division Street
- **Cox-Carnahan House**
415 N. Elm Street

- **Ralph Pulley House**
203 E. North Street
- **Pulley-Jones House**
201 E. North Street
- **Carl Pulley House**
207 E. North Street
- **Vaught House**
718 W. Abram Street
- **Old Mayor's House**
814 E. Abram Street
- **McKinley-Woodward House**
400 E. First Street
- **Webb Masonic Lodge**
7000 Zuefeldt Road
- **Historic Home**
1225 California Lane
- **Historic Cemeteries on Arkansas Lane** | 509 W. Arkansas Lane
- **Berry/Thompson Home**
314 N. Pecan Street
- **Dickerson Family Home**
400 N. Pecan Street
- **Charles Brower House**
204 E. Second Street
- **Bridges House**
211 E. North Street
- **Sibley House**
419 N. Elm Street
- **King-Davault House**
412 N. Elm Street
- **Douglas-Potts House**
206 W. North Street
- **Tyer Duplex**
2012 & 2012 W. North Street
- **Olin Gibbins House**
208 N. Oak Street
- **Finch House**
210 N. Oak Street
- **Center Street Military Trail**
2100 & 2102 S. Center Street
- **James House**
406 N. Elm Street
- **O'Dell-Cotter Cottage**
408 N. Elm Street
- **Snider-Leftwich House**
409 N. Elm Street
- **Garrett-Moore House**
1712 S. Center Street
- **Meadowbrook Park**
1300 E. Abram Street
- **Senter Park**
700 Mary Street



Local Landmark plaques for First United Methodist Church and Vandergriff Building

For more information about the sites – including photos and an interactive map – visit the LPC's website below. While there, you can also meet the commissions, review meeting minutes, and more.

Landmark Preservation Commission website:

www.arlingtontx.gov/city_hall/departments/office_of_strategic_initiatives/landmark_preservation_commission

Accepting Nominations

Do you own a property or know of one that could be eligible for a Local Landmark? Contact the LPC and let them know! They're happy to answer any questions, help with the application, or provide further resources.

Heritage Tourism in Arlington

Tourism is one of the most prominent industries in Arlington. Our Entertainment District attracts hundreds of thousands – if not millions – of visitors to Arlington each year. Folks come for professional sports, amusement parks, concerts, meetings, conventions, and other things to have a good time.

A growing tourism sector – known as heritage tourism – is becoming more popular.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation defines heritage tourism as *“traveling to experience the places and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past.”*

It's not an entirely new concept – people have traveled to see ruins, castles, monuments, and other relics long before “heritage tourism” was even a thought. Yet, as preservation efforts continue and folks seemingly want new options for their vacation and leisure time, heritage tourism is a growing option. It's also a way to get off the beaten path and experience something different from the usual tourist sites.

If you're looking for some heritage tourism ideas for you or your summer guests, consider the following sites in Arlington. Many are recognized as Local Landmarks.

Heritage Sites / Museums

- Fielder Museum
- Knapp Heritage Park
- Top O' Hill Terrace
- World War II Memorial
- Founders Plaza

Historic Districts

- Old Town Historic District
- South Center Street Historic District

Restaurants

- Candelite Inn
- Jambo's BBQ
- J.R. Bentley's
- J. Gilligan's
- Catfish Sam's
- Campo Verde

Inns / B & Bs

- The Thornton Inn
- The Sanford House Inn & Spa

Entertainment

- Arlington Music Hall

Or, consider a trip through Arlington down the Bankhead Highway, known today as Division Street. Division Street still has much of the spirit from the Bankhead Highway days, while Abram Street is another option with local flair. Downtown Arlington has many unique experiences as well and it continues to be revitalized.

Local Landmarks and Texas Historical Markers could be a fun scavenger hunt. Likewise, the City of Arlington has plotted two driving tours through the city – The Pioneer Trail and Historic Buildings.

More info about the driving tours here, although it may be not be *completely* current.
www.arlingtontx.gov/residents/about_arlington/history_of_arlington

Lastly, don't forget about our cemeteries. While often overlooked, cemeteries provide a unique look at the local history of an area.

Heritage tourism can be a great way to experience a city – for residents or visitors.

In Memory of Gayle Hanson (1952-2022)

It is with sadness and respect that we announce the death of former Arlington Historical Society member Gayle Hanson. Gayle was an effective board member, bringing valuable work and insight to our programs, with her talent for historical research covering slavery to WWII, and family history. Gayle's work with our junior historians also brought tremendous value to our organization.

Gayle was CEO of Texas Historical and Ancestry Researchers, an organization dedicated to encouraging, promoting, and educating in the study of Black history and family genealogy.

She will be missed, and always respected.



[Gayle Hanson obituary](#)