

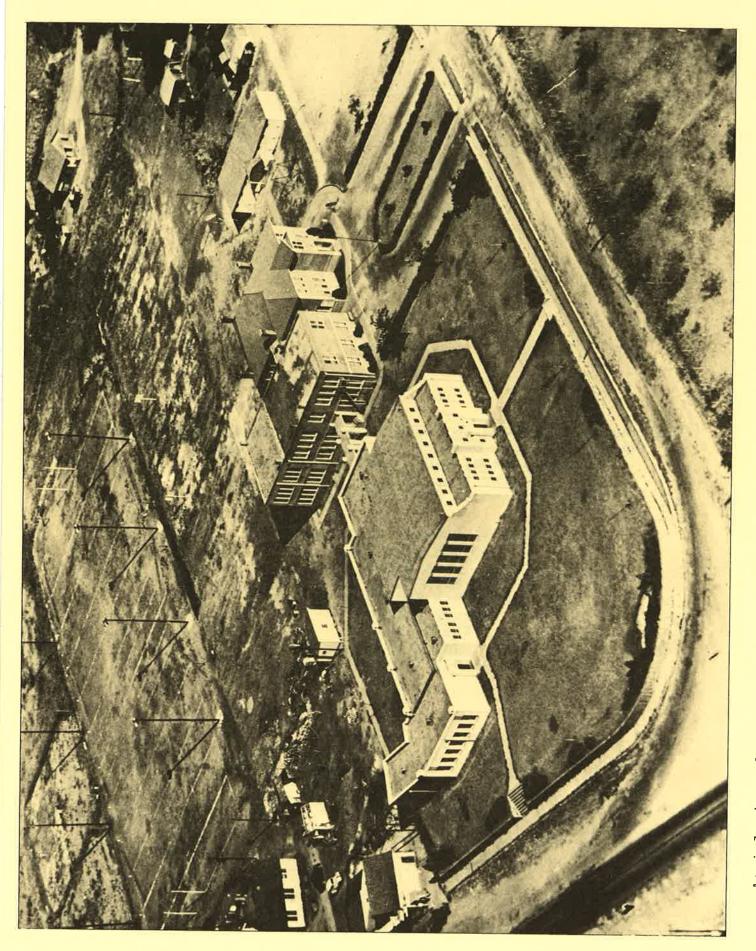
TARRANT COUNTY HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY

PRINCIPAL FINDINGS & RESOURCE CHARACTERISTICS

Cover photograph: G.W. Haltom Estate, built in 1936.

Copyright, 1986 Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County, Texas This book is dedicated to the Haltom City Sesquicentennial Committee, whose members for nearly two years have given of their time and talent to make this book and other Sesquicentennial activities successful.

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Aerial view of property at 183 and Carson Street in early forties shows Birdville and Portwood Grocery.

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The Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County, Texas (HPCTC) is a coalition of thirty-eight organizations whose central objective is preservation action in Tarrant County. Shortly after its formation in late 1979, the Council agreed to sponsor an historic resources survey of Tarrant County. Realizing that this was an undertaking of no small order, the Council determined to conduct the survey in several phases. The first phase consisted of the Central Business District of Fort Worth and the City of Grapevine, and was carried out in 1981-82. The second phase, comprising portions of northeast and northwest Tarrant County and the Mansfield area in southeast Tarrant County, was undertaken in 1982-83. Fort Worth's Southside was surveyed in the third phase during 1983-84. Fort Worth's Upper North Side, Diamond Hill, Riverside, Como, Meadowbrook, Polytechnic, Stop Six, Handley and Other Eastside Areas were surveyed in the fourth phase in 1984-85. The fifth phase, comprising the Near North Side, Westside, and Haltom City, was surveyed in 1985-86; Haltom City is addressed in this document.

The Council retained the firm of Page, Anderson & Turnbull, Inc. of San Francisco to conduct all five phases of the survey. Page, Anderson & Turnbull, Inc. is an architecture and planning firm which possesses considerable experience in conducting cultural resource assessments and surveys. The contractor's primary duties were to conduct the field survey — including mapping, filling out forms, and photographing resources — and to evaluate and prepare a report on the observations and findings. Historical research, which was carried out by the Council in the first phase, has become the responsibility of the contractor in phases two through five. Members of the Council and the general public have also provided valuable information and assistance.

Historic preservation has changed in recent years from an emphasis on individual monuments to a focus on neighborhoods, districts and communities. An historic resources survey attempts to identify the physical components of a community — its buildings, objects and places — which possess significant architectural and historical value. Often these significant resources are not only the imposing structures of the wealthy and powerful, but also are the houses, factories, halls, and churches in which typical men, women and children have lived, worked, conducted their business and gathered together. These "built" resources form the patterns which embody the community's history and historical meaning. The resources as identified and documented in this survey provide definition and substance to the heritage of Haltom City.

The Historic Sites Inventory provided herein will provide data for comprehensive planning and public awareness. The report as a whole is presented to the preservation and development communities, both in the public and private sectors, to encourage wise decisions that will sustain and enhance the historic fabric of Haltom City.

METHODOLOGY: PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA

This survey was undertaken in a five-step process (orientation, field survey, historical research, review and evaluation), followed by preparation of this document.

The survey addressed all of the area within Haltom City's city limits. The general cutoff date for considering the inclusion of structures in the survey was 1945, although exceptions were made for resources of extraordinary quality.

The field survey was carried out by two architectural historians during the week of August 26-30, 1985. Streets within the boundaries of the survey area which existed in 1945 were driven or walked. The team looked for buildings and other cultural resources which fall into two broad categories: first, those which are individually significant and which appear to meet criteria of the National Register of Historic Places or the Texas Historical Commission's guidelines for Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks, or those which contribute in some way to a complete picture of the physical development of Haltom City; and second, those resources which do not stand out individually but which collectively or in groups contribute to the distinctive character of the survey area and therefore might be worthy of conservation. For all those resources which fell into the first category, field survey cards (those used by the Texas Historical Commission in compiling its Historic Sites Inventory) were filled out, and photographs (both black-and-white and color) were taken. Resources in both the first and second categories were marked on maps with an estimated date of construction and a code indicating building type.

The contractor and volunteers carried out historical research on all buildings and other historic and cultural resources on which field survey cards had been filled out. County tax assessment records, mechanic's liens, building permits, city directories, old newspaper articles, city reports and other publications, interviews with present property owners and descendants of the original owners, and historical photographs all revealed vital information about such things as dates of construction, architects, builders and noteworthy members of the community.

Once the field survey, research, and review steps were completed, all historic resources tentatively identified as significant were evaluated for their potential eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register of Historic Places generally recognizes resources fifty years or older which possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association; that are associated with significant historical events or persons; that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values; or that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

The Texas Historical Commission's guidelines for Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks utilize a set of criteria similar to those of the National Register, with a focus on the heritage of Texas. To be judged eligible for a Historical Medallion, a resource, with certain exceptions, must have been in existence at least fifty years. A resource which possesses an Historical Medallion is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark.

The list of primary resources which appears in this report represents the Historic Sites Inventory compiled for this portion of the Phase V survey. Resources potentially eligible for the National Register and for designation as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks, as well as potential historic districts and thematic groups, are identified as well. Since the criteria are similar, all resources judged to be eligible for the National Register also have been listed as potentially eligible for designation as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks. It should be noted that nomination of any resource as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark does not constitute a nomination to the National Register. Final determinations of eligibility for Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks are made by the Texas Historical Commission. Nominations to the National Register are made by the Texas Historical Commission to the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

The findings of this survey should not be regarded as being exhaustive or completely accurate in all cases. In actuality, this survey represents a best effort by the HPCTC and the contractor consistent with budgetary and time limitations, the availability of data and source materials at a given point of inquiry, and the use of volunteer assistance.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Haltom City, whose municipal boundaries include the first Tarrant County seat of Birdville, is located near the geographic center of the county. Haltom City's land area extends three to six miles northeast of downtown Fort Worth. It is surrounded on the northwest, west, and south by Fort Worth city limits; on the east by Richland Hills and North Richland Hills; and on the northeast by Watauga. It is bisected by Big and Little Fossil Creeks and borders the Trinity River flood plain on the south. The city is situated in an area which once was rolling grassland.

Established from a ranching and farming community, Haltom Village was founded in 1932 and named to honor G. W. Haltom (1872-1944), a Fort Worth jeweler whose family ranch holdings comprised much of the new area. Gradual growth was due in part to Haltom's Meadow Oaks Corporation and the bisection of the village by major new highways affording easier access to Fort Worth, northeastern Tarrant County and Dallas. Also in 1932, the routing of State Highways 10 (E Belknap Street) and 121 one-quarter mile south of the old Birdville business district presented local business leaders with a momentous decision regarding the future of their businesses and property investments. Most businesses chose to relocate, in order to take advantage of greater convenience and accessibility for customers, increased traffic flow, and a chance to build anew.

Haltom City was incorporated on July 5, 1949, and gradually expanded, annexing Oak Knoll, Garden of Eden, Meadow Oaks, East Ridge and, in 1955, unincorporated portions of Birdville. Haltom City elected Home Rule Charter with a city manager, mayor and council form of government on October 10, 1955.

Today the city is traversed by five major roads: State Highway 121-Airport Freeway; State Highway 183-Northeast 28th Street-Midway Road; U. S. Highway 377-E Belknap Street-Denton Highway; Loop 452-Grapevine Highway 26; and Northeast Loop 820. The historic name of Birdville is carried on in the names of two churches, a cemetery, two roads, an independent school district, and in the memories of its residents.

First encroachment into the Birdville vicinity occurred as early as the spring of 1840, when Captain Jonathan Bird and 20 three-month service Texas Rangers from Lamar and Red River Counties were sent into the frontier by General Sam Houston. Their mission was to establish a fort, make the area safe for settlement, and guard the area from Indian attacks to the north and west. Bird's Fort was situated about twelve miles southeast of Birdville and six miles north of Arlington on the north bank of the Trinity where Calloway's Lake is located. A wooden blockhouse with trench defenses was constructed.

In 1841, General Edward H. Tarrant led a successful militia force against an Indian encampment at present-day Arlington in the Battle of Village Creek. Such action served notice to hostile tribes along the frontier that a peace treaty was advisable. General Houston, Indian Commissioners and several early settlers and trappers signed and witnessed a treaty at Bird's Fort on September 29, 1843, with the chiefs of nine tribes. Soon after



Birdville Methodist Church built in 1930 later became St. Luke's Methodist Church, 3200 Denton Highway.



The first congregation of Birdville Baptist Church met in the late 1800's. The building on Carson Street was built in the early thirties.

this, the fort was abandoned. Settlements gravitated around a few homesteads, water sources and trading posts. Many pioneer settlers were recipients of Peter's Colony land, consisting of 320- to 640-acre tracts granted by the Republic of Texas between 1841 and 1843. Peter's Colony spread over a wide area encompassing the present-day counties of Collin, Dallas, Denton, Grayson and Tarrant.

On June 6, 1849, Camp Worth was established by General Ripley A. Arnold and his troops nine miles west of Birdville on a bluff overlooking the confluence of the West Fork and the Clear Fork of the Trinity River. Named to honor Brigadier General William Jennings Worth, the new outpost offered welcome protection to fledgling settlements around Birdville and Denton until 1853, when the troops were sent to Fort Belknap. Birdville in 1849 had an estimated fifty people in town surrounded by scattered farms and ranches. Roads radiated out to Johnson Station, Dunneville (now Grapevine), Dallas and new settlements springing up on the prairie around Fort Worth.

In an effort to obtain self-government, some one hundred area residents petitioned the State Legislature for a new county and elected temporary county officials. On December 20, 1849, the Texas Legislature created the new county, and called it Tarrant in honor of General E. H. Tarrant. Tarrant County consisted of parts of Navarro County and Peter's Colony.

Birdville area resident Ed Terrell offered his log cabin for an election polling site to choose the new county seat and to elect officers who would succeed the temporary persons appointed the preceding December, 1849. The election, on August 5, 1850, was won by Birdville. Tarrant County in 1850 had a population of 599 whites and 65 slaves, and covered 877 square miles.

The First Tarrant County Courthouse was a wood-frame structure located in the vicinity of the present-day Haltom High School Coliseum. An eighty-acre tract, bounded by Walker, Carson and Broadway Streets, was donated by George Akers and William Norris in August, 1851, for the erection of county buildings. A plat of the new town drawn the same year depicts 12 city blocks, including a public square. Bonds valued at \$17,000 were issued to insure completion of the construction work by W. S. Suggs and others. Bricks were collected and a foundation excavated. The first annual jury list drawn up at Birdville's temporary courthouse in 1855 by District Clerk William Quayle showed 280 men qualified to serve.

The permanent courthouse was never completed because in November, 1856, in a highly contested special election, Fort Worth won the county seat by a margin of three to thirteen votes (the official count varies). Jubilant Fort Worth citizens took the county records, equipment and furniture back to Fort Worth for deposit in their own temporary courthouse. All early Tarrant County records were later lost in a courthouse fire on March 29, 1876.

Colonel Albert G. Walker, a Birdville resident, State Senator and founder of the <u>Birdville Union</u>, petitioned the State Legislature on his town's behalf to no avail in 1858. The issue of the county seat and the election was taken to the new Texas Supreme Court, which, having no precedent, let the election results stand. However, a new election was called in 1860.

Fort Worth, which had at that time a population of about 450, received 548 votes; a non-existent site at the center of the county received 301; and Birdville received 4 votes. Had Birdville retained its seat, chances are good that it would have attracted in the years ahead the population that made Fort Worth. The furor over the election cost several lives and the State of Texas about \$30,000.

Birdville, until 1856, had the Monday county court sessions and the associated commercial benefits. It also had two newspapers, the Birdville Western Express, with John J. Courtney as its editor; and The Birdville Union, with Colonel A. G. Walker as its editor. Walker killed Courtney in a shoot-out stemming from disagreements concerning the elections and states' rights regarding slavery.

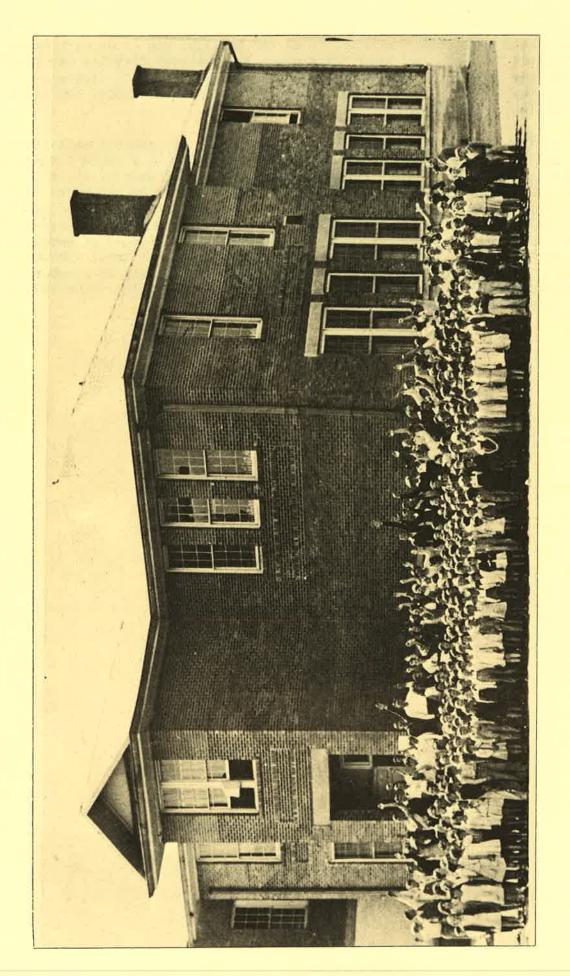
Miss Alice Barkley at the age of fifteen served as Birdville Postmistress in 1866. The Birdville Post Office was discontinued on June 14, 1906, and rural service begun from Fort Worth.

Birdville may have had one of the first public tuition schools in the county with classes taught by Professor William A. Hudson in 1858. Professor Hudson taught Birdville pupils in an old wooden building and later in a three-room schoolhouse. By 1864, enough students attended to require two teachers, and by 1869-1870, three teachers were required. The first public school in Birdville dates to about 1882, and a neighborhood school was established soon after by parents who employed a teacher. The first mention of a school for black students is in the 1895-1896 school year records; Oscar Lloyd and Ed Boaz were trustees. The Birdville School District was established in 1896. Today the district encompasses forty square miles, serving the cities of Haltom City, Richland Hills, North Richland Hills, Watauga and Hurst.

After the loss of the county seat, Birdville developed very slowly around a farming and ranching economy. The period of Reconstruction after the Civil War was especially hard. Many young men from the area had been lost in the fighting. Cattle roamed unclaimed, untended or unbranded and money was scarce. Hope of the Texas and Pacific Railway reaching Fort Worth from the east by early 1874 swelled Fort Worth's population to 3,000, but expectation fell short of reality when the financial firm of Jay Cooke and Company failed. Without money, the tracks stopped twenty-four miles east at Eagle Ford. The trains finally arrived in 1876.

The Birdville business district comprised four stores and a blacksmith shop in 1870. Growth was in scant evidence even in 1911 when six merchants, including two blacksmiths, occupied space on Broadway and Carson Streets.

Wagons traveling east still had to ford Little Fossil Creek until 1915 when a \$3700 bridge was completed. In 1916, grading, smoothing and graveling work was begun on Old Birdville Road running due west to Niles City.



1932 picture of Birdville Red-Brick School built in 1920.

Birdville's population was reported at 107 in 1930, and at 40 with seven businesses in 1936, just four years after the business district moved south to the new location. In 1950, the population rose to 3,000 within an incorporated area of four square miles, and in 1960 to 23,000, the result of continuing growth and annexations.

Haltom City area business leaders and the Chamber of Commerce established the Haltom-Richland Area Chamber of Commerce in 1963 to promote industry, economic development, and planned future growth. Two decades after its incorporation, Haltom City in 1964 had a population of 26,280 in an area covering twenty-four square miles. Most businesses, consisting primarily of retail and service establishments, are situated along major thorough-fares catering to vehicular traffic. Industry has consisted of warehouses and open storage, gravel mining, small manufacturing and small machine shops. Haltom City today can be characterized essentially as a suburban residential area whose primary phases of growth were in the 1920s-1930s and the decades after World War II.

OBSERVATIONS

The early development of Haltom City, originally called Birdville, centered around the crossroads of Broadway Road and Carson Street. In spite of its early important status as county seat, no structure from this period was identified during the survey. After 1856, when the county seat was moved to Fort Worth, the slow pace of rural life returned to Birdville.

Log was the traditional building material for the houses of the first settlers until the third quarter of the nineteenth century. An 1840s log dog trot house from Birdville was acquired by Amon Carter, Sr. in 1929 and moved to Log Cabin Village in 1958. Much remodeled before its restoration, its example indicates that other log houses and barns may yet exist hidden within later structures. One extremely late example of a single-room log cabin with additions was identified, the Windom Log House (HC-25); it may represent an exceptional survival of folk building practices.

From the 1870s on, the conventional building technology for domestic structures was wood frame. Only a few examples of the most common Texas farmhouse type, namely, a rectangular, one-story building with a shed-roofed porch on its long side, were identified during the survey. All of these have been extensively modified. Another fairly typical rural house type for the late nineteenth century, the L-plan, was represented by a late example on E Loraine Street (HC-16). Other examples of nineteenth-century architectural styles include a T-plan with board and batten siding (HC-12), and a Gothic Revival two-story house (HC-14), although city records indicate early to mid-twentieth-century dates for these houses. Other fairly common vernacular house forms seen elsewhere in Tarrant County, such as the shotgun house or a hip-roofed, one-story house with projecting gabled front bay, were not identified in the survey area. Several examples of another early twentiethcentury type were identified, the hip-roofed one-story square house with a front porch under the main roof notably near the old crossroads of Broadway and Carson, but were modified too much to consider as primary resources. One fine example of Victorian vernacular style from the late nineteenth century is Watauga Presbyterian Church, which may have survived because of its location in an area still rural.

Birdville's development pattern was unlike that of other suburban areas. While many towns to the south and east of Birdville developed as residential suburbs during the decades prior to World War I, their existence depended on their proximity to streetcar lines providing access to employment in the burgeoning city of Fort Worth. The nearest streetcar line terminated in the Oakhurst/Riverside area, approximately three and a half miles west of the center of Birdville. Thus these communities saw a surge of growth in the 1890s and early years of the century, while Birdville's growth was stalled. Not until the later 1920s did new housing stock begin to appear on the streets of Birdville, related no doubt to the popularity of the automobile which afforded easy access to Fort Worth and surrounding areas.

Domestic building of the later 1920s to mid-1930s in Birdville is characterized principally by the bungalow. A derivative of the large Craftsman style house, the bungalow was promoted as a small, simple, inexpensive house, ideally suited to the needs of the working man. Invariably built of wood frame construction with a projecting gable entry or a crosswise porch facing the street, these low, compact houses were constructed by local builders frequently working from pattern books. Bungalow cottages from the later twenties and the thirties line the streets of Birdville, scattered around the old town center of Broadway, Carson, and Highland Streets, the area south of E Belknap Street between Big and Little Fossil Creeks, and E Loraine Street. Many of these simple bungalows have been extensively altered or have new siding. The Fincher House (HC-15), an unusually large, two-story example of this style, has survived intact on its thickly wooded corner lot.

The Depression years saw major new developments in Birdville, both in terms of its housing stock and its commercial buildings. In 1932, the relocation of State Highways 10 and 121 to the Grapevine Pike (now E Belknap Street), south of the original town center, forced Birdville's merchants to consider the move as well. George W. Haltom, a Fort Worth jewelry business magnate and a large landowner in the area, led the move to the new district. Purchasing several lots at the intersection of the new highways, he constructed three commercial buildings (HC-3,4,5) for lease between 1932 and 1936. Haltom's prescient move led other merchants to build anew as well. Scattered along E Belknap Street, most of these one-story, commercial structures have been severely modified in succeeding years, with later intrusions not of the same scale.

Although earlier commercial and domestic buildings were most often of wood frame construction, more variety in materials was apparent by the 1930s: brick, concrete block, concrete cast to appear as stone, and glazed terra cotta roofing tiles all became more common. Commercial structures of this period were designed in modernistic styles, such as the Art Deco design of Haltom's commercial blocks, or occasionally in styles which vaguely recalled the forms of Medieval and Tudor buildings and which were more common in domestic designs.

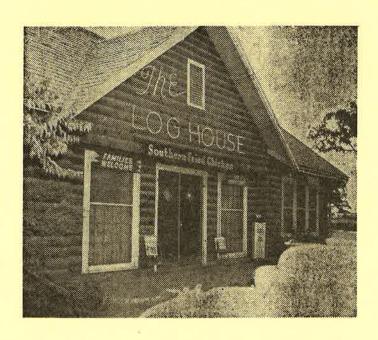
A material well adapted to the period revival styles was the local or Palo Pinto County sandstone, used in solid wall construction, or more often, as a veneer laid over a wood frame. Extremely popular in the Fort Worth area during the thirties and forties, the earthy colors and texture of this stone, usually set in random, uncoursed pattern, are highlighted frequently by the addition of petrified wood, sparkly granite or quartzite, and fossils. Examples of this material in a period revival style range from the tiny, fairy tale-like Witt-Laird House (HC-18) to the larger houses on Parrish Road and E Belknap Street. These stone residences exhibit the characteristic picturesque massing of steeply-pitched cross gables, front chimneys, and arched porches, often with a matching low stone wall at the front property line to complete the period feeling. One unusual and fine example of the material used for a commercial structure is the Shady Tour Rest motel court (HC-1), built in 1934 to capitalize on the automobile traffic on the new state highways. The stone is used here to recreate successfully the sense of rustic European cottages.

New subdivisions to the south of E Belknap Street, especially in the vicinities of Parrish and Midway Roads, consisted of late bungalow style houses and period revival forms. While these areas plus the older residential areas continued to be settled more densely, some houses were built far out of town; the stone period revival McLean House (HC-17) is situated in what was open countryside. Another country house, though much different in scale, was constructed during the early 1930s for George W. Haltom, a fitting reflection of his status in the community. Not a house designed by a local builder, Haltom's house was designed in a Colonial Revival style by Joseph R. Pelich, an important Fort Worth architect (HC-9). More typical of the scale and style of the mansions constructed near the River Crest Country Club on the Westside during this period, Haltom's house makes an extraordinary contribution to the architectural heritage of Haltom City.

The postwar boom in suburban housing was felt in Haltom City as large subdivisions were constructed to the north of Broadway Road. These suburban houses are vaguely Colonial Revival in style. The complete dependence on automobiles for transportation engendered the suburban developments, the strip development along Denton Highway, and denser commercial infill along E Belknap Street. Continuation of these patterns threatens to obliterate the rural heritage of Haltom City.



Log House Restaurant once located at the intersection of Denton Highway and East Belknap.



RECOMMENDATIONS

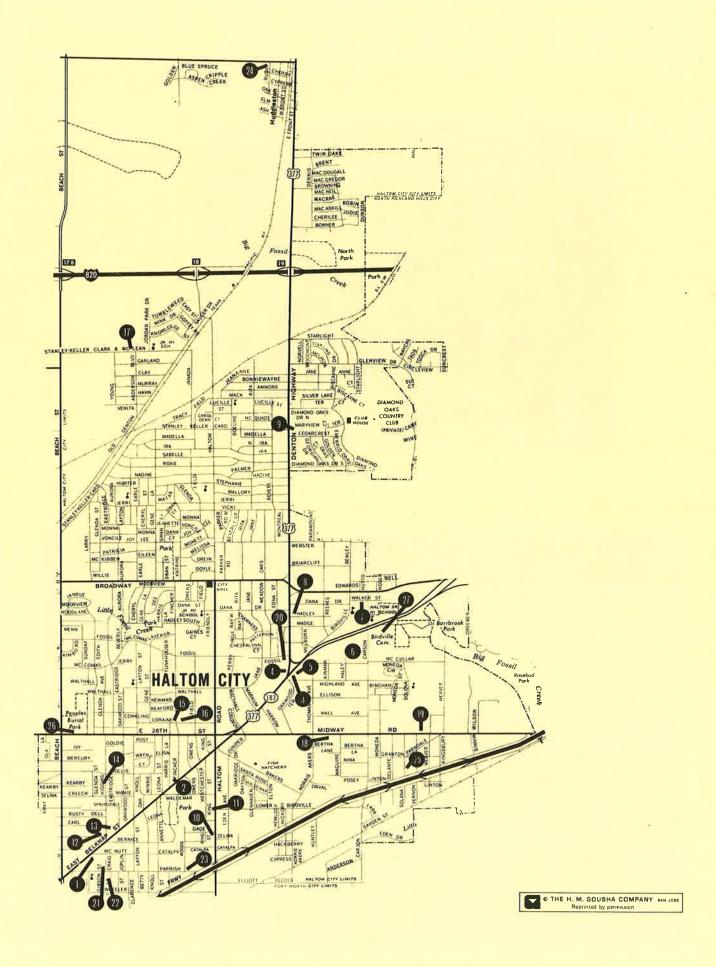
Distribution of this survey report is intended to inform interested individuals, organizations and public bodies of significant historic and architectural resources existing in the survey area. The implementation of this report's recommendations imply varying degrees of cost, professional assistance and program support. Such recommendations are offered to the Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County in order to initiate a historic preservation program with the participation of affected property owners and the City of Haltom City.

- 1. Of the 27 resources proposed for listing in the Historic Sites Inventory, one appears to be eligible for listing on the National Register. Another three may be eligible for the National Register following restoration and/or further research and documentation. The individual property of National Register quality is identified in the Historic Sites Inventory, and it should be afforded the highest degree of protection. The Council should establish priorities for nomination based on individual merit, degree of endangerment, need for recognition, and degree of public support. The Council should encourage further documentation and restoration of those resources which presently do not appear to be eligible for the National Register because of incomplete research or inappropriate alterations.
- 2. The one resource in the survey area which appears to meet criteria of the National Register also should be reviewed for possible designation as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark. Decisions regarding such designation are made by the Texas Historical Commission.
- 3. The proposed Haltom Commercial Conservation District is an early commercial strip located on the 5600 block of E Belknap Street. This historic intersection, with a triangular island formed by the fork in E Belknap Street where it meets Denton Highway, was developed immediately following the 1932 relocation of State Highways 10 (E Belknap Street) and 121 to this site. Between 1932 and 1936, George W. Haltom constructed numerous buildings in this area as a commercial strip catering to automobile traffic traveling the new highways. Three remaining structures from this period are identified in the Historic Sites Inventory (HC-3, HC-4 and HC-5). Three secondary commercial structures also contribute to the character of this district's streetscape in terms of their one-story scale, fenestration, tan brick material, and setback from the street, although all of these secondary contributors are of later date.

The proposed Haltom Commercial Conservation District, although not eligible for the National Register, appears worthy of local recognition and support. Local actions could include pre-application review of proposed alterations and adjacent new construction, and tax incentives to encourage maintenance and restoration.

4. The remaining resources of the Historic Sites Inventory, which are not located in a historic or conservation district and which do not appear to be eligible for the National Register, nevertheless should receive careful consideration for obtaining some degree of local protection.

- Inappropriate remodelings of these historic sites should be discouraged, perhaps through review of permit applications for proposed exterior modifications. Threatened demolition could be treated similarly.
- 5. Survey work and archival research should be continued in order to supplement or otherwise refine existing survey findings and results. Buildings, objects and places presently not included in the Historic Sites Inventory should be reviewed by the Council for inclusion at a future date. Restoration of a building now considered excessively altered could result in a dramatic reassessment of its architectural quality. Research might reveal the historical significance of some resources not now apparent. In this regard, resources already included in the Historic Sites Inventory which initially did not appear to be eligible for the National Register may appear to be so at a later date.





Birdville School in 1913



Haltom City State Bank opened its doors for business May 23, 1952 at the intersection of Belknap and NE 28th Street.

HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY

The following list of buildings, objects and places contains the primary resources identified in the survey of Haltom City of Phase V of the Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey. The column headings which appear at the head of the list are explained as follows:

#

The resource number, which corresponds to the number on the resource location map.

ADDRESS OR LOCATION

The street address of a resource or, when not available, a brief description of its location; addresses appear in alphabetical and numerical order.

NAME OR TYPE

The historical and/or common name of a resource; when not available, or non-existent, the building type (i.e., house, commercial building, gas station). (Residences are named for the original owner-resident or subsequent owner-resident(s) of some duration or historical significance; an hyphenated house name is a combination of the original and subsequent owners. Non-residential resources typically are named for the original occupant or use, or for significant subsequent occupant(s) or use(s); when a resource has become associated with the latter, both the historical and common names are given, separated by a slash.)

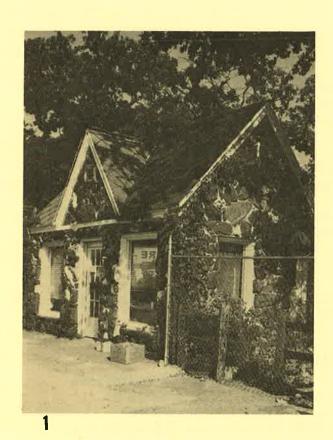
DATE

Single or hyphenated dates refer to initial construction; additional dates refer to subsequent modifications which significantly changed a structure's appearance. (When exact dates of construction or modifications were not obtained from cornerstones, building permits, blueprints, etc., then circa (c.) dates were obtained by noting the first appearance of a property in city directories and back-dating one year. This method provides reasonably accurate dates of construction and has been applied consistently.)

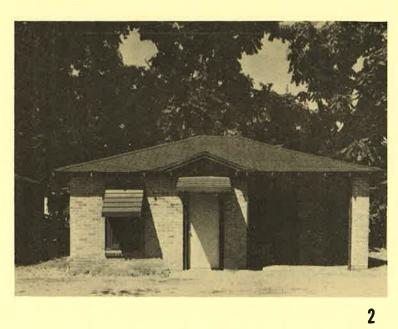
MAP #

The number of the block and lot map, which was annotated in the field to indicate the location of resources.

Short narratives following each entry include summary statements of a resource's appearance, history and significance. (Resources on the list have not been altered significantly unless noted otherwise.) Symbol(s) appearing beneath an address entry refer to a resource's landmark status, evaluated level of significance, or contributory role in an established or







recommended historic or conservation district. These symbols are explained below.

NR	Appears to be eligible for the National Register and also may be eligible for designation as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark.
NR*	Potentially eligible for the National Register following restoration and/or documentation, or the attainment of 50 years of age.
HCCD	Contributor to the proposed Haltom Commercial

Haltom City (HC)

_	Buildings	Name or Type	Date	Map #
1.	4036-4040 E Belknap Street	Shady Tour Rest	1934	9

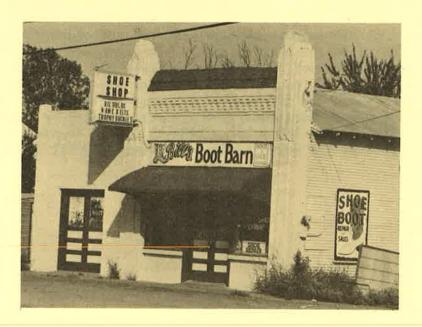
An early tourist camp along the new state highway (now E Belknap Street), Shady Tour Rest was constructed in 1934 for owner Aubyrne B. Harrison at a cost of \$2392.00. Originally erected as two structures containing a total of six cottages and five garages, it seems to have been added onto in succeeding years to make a generally semicircular court of seven buildings. All of the structures are of polychrome sandstone veneer with additional touches of fossils, petrified wood, and neon trim. Run by a succession of owners since 1943, the property is now largely abandoned, yet on its heavily shaded lot retains a sense of rustic period charm.

2. 4705 E Belknap Howell's Motel 1946-1947; 11 street c. 1950

Built to capitalize on the postwar surge in travel, Howell's Motel appears little changed since then. Originally named Clark's Motel, it was built as two roughly parallel rows of cottages with garages extending back from the state highway. The fourteen individual cottages are hipped-roof boxes of hollow tile and tan brick veneer, with the garage taking nearly half the floor space of each unit. The office, set between the two rows of cottages, matches them in materials but has an additional entry porch. Managed by Thomas W. Guthrie, Clark's Motel was sold to Bennett C. and Fannie Howell in 1951, who operated the establishment as Howell's Motel until 1979.







3. 5600-5606 E Belknap Haltom Commercial Block 1932,1936 18,19 Street HCCD

A major portion of George W. Haltom's development plans for the new Birdville business district in 1932, this commercial block was constructed at two different times. Purchasing the prime corner lot in two sections in 1930 and 1932, Haltom constructed the first block in 1932. The year 1936 saw his purchase and construction of the second parcel, number 5606. Undoubtedly built by the same contractor as the Haltom Theater across E Belknap Street (HC-4), this structure exhibits the same Art Deco style paneled brickwork, cast stone trim, and tiled parapet in four small bays and one large bay. Though the building has been altered by the addition of paint on the brick surfaces and transom windows, an aluminum awning, and aluminum frame shop windows, it makes a contribution of scale and style to the intersection. The builder responsible for carrying out Haltom's plans is as yet unknown; further research, perhaps in Haltom family papers, may uncover this fact.

4. 5601-5609 E Belknap Haltom Theater & 1932 19
Street Commercial Block
HCCD

The Haltom Theater, one of several projects in Haltom's building programme for the new business district, was constructed in 1932. Built of tan brick with cast stone trim and a green glazed tile parapet, the theater auditorium is made of hollow tile, set crosswise to the lobby. The Art Deco style of the paneled brick and cast stone piers is enhanced by geometric neon ornament and by a neon marquee. The structure originally housed commercial and office spaces on either side of the lobby, and two residential apartments on the second floor, one of which was for the theater manager. In 1950, the first-floor spaces were occupied by the office of Dr. Elbert D. Taylor, Haltom's Drugstore, and a post office substation. The theater was closed in the 1960s.

5. 5614 E Belknap Haltom Storefront 1932,1952 19
Street
HCCD

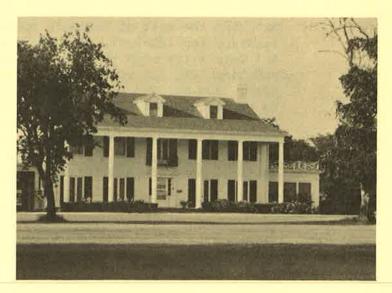
Matching the rest of Haltom's commercial buildings in the intersection (HC-3,4), this storefront was constructed in the same Art Deco style with paneled brickwork and cast stone trim. Haltom purchased the lot in 1931 and built this structure the following year. But for the brick front, this building was much less expensive to construct: the sides and roof are corrugated metal sheating, not brick. During the 1940s, Cox's Feed Store occupied the premises. The brick has been painted and a metal awning added, as well as a 1952 addition to the side, but the building appears to retain its original shop windows and transoms.











This house sports the multicolored sandstone veneer so popular during the 1930s. Built in 1936 for James H. Hendricks, a carpenter, and his wife Eliza Mae, it is now owned by their descendants. The one-story, rectangular plan house is hidden from the street by dense foliage. The arch on the projecting massive portico is repeated in the arched vent window in the gable. A front chimney, asymmetrically placed, gives a period feeling to the house.

7. 3141 Carson Street

Birdville Baptist 1948-1949. Church

25

1970

Originally the United Baptist Church at Fossil Creek, the Birdville Baptist congregation was first organized in 1853. Relocation to the present Carson Street location occurred in the early years of the twentieth century, and the name change to Birdville Baptist Church in 1917. The 1948-1949 Gothic Revival church, built on the site of an earlier church structure, is constructed of tan brick and cast stone trim. The new church in Georgian Revival style of red brick with a classical temple facade, was completed in 1970. Constant building programs seem to have been a feature of this active congregation since 1950. Birdville Baptist Church was awarded a Texas Historical Marker in 1971.

3200 Denton 8. Highway

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

1950,1964. c. 1970

25

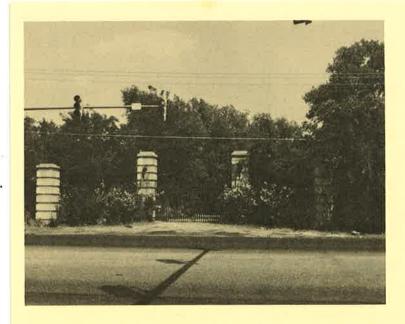
Originally the Birdville Methodist Church, the congregation expanded since its 1928 founding and relocated from the old sanctuary on E Belknap Street to the present site on Denton Highway in 1950. In that year the name was formally changed to St. Luke's. The 1950 church and education building, designed by C. O. Chromaster, is in the Colonial Revival style. The materials, cedar shingle and Austin stone, and the dormer and casement windows, give a domestic scale and imagery to this church, a T-plan surmounted by a central steeple. The continuing growth of the congregation has necessitated the enlargement of the complex with a second sanctuary in 1964 and additional education rooms in the 1970s.

9.

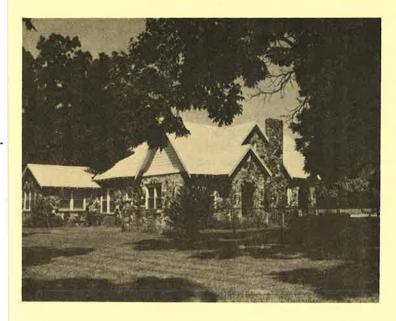
4100 Denton Highway G. W. Haltom House 1930-1934

34,37

Purchasing 512 acres of the Sawyer survey in 1932, George W. Haltom, the successful Fort Worth jeweler and diamond merchant, eventually consolidated a 3000 acre cattle ranch off Denton Highway in what was then open countryside. Paralleling his entrepreneurial plans for Birdville's new business district, he began to build a house in 1930 on a grander scale than anything yet seen in the town. Markedly different from the modernistic Art Deco style of his commercial buildings on E Belknap Street, Haltom chose Joseph R. Pelich, an important Fort Worth architect known for his period revival structures, to design a house in the Georgian Classical mode.



Q







Along Denton Highway, rusticated cast stone columns and wrought iron entrance gates, constructed in 1930, are on axis with Stanley-Keller-Clark Road, and form an impressive entrance to the estate's spacious grounds. The symmetrical composition of the frame two-story house features a five-bay facade punctuated by a front entry with a broken pediment. Shuttered french doors surround the front door, and shuttered second-story windows are set on either side of a central balcony with French doors. A massive two-story full porch with Tuscan columns screens the facade, flanked by a columned porte-cochere on the west and a sunroom on the east. Chimneys on both gable end walls and three dormer windows on the roof completed this balanced composition. Two other houses on the property were built for Haltom's sons, including a smaller Georgian Revival house also by Pelich, but are no longer extant.

10. 1907 Haltom Road Cole House 1940 8

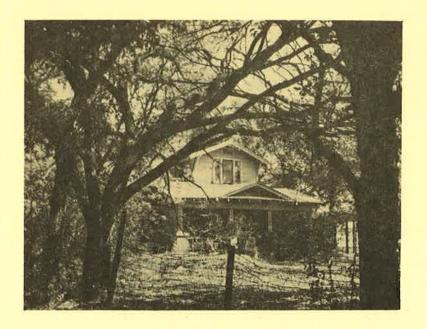
Orbin Cole, a machinist with the American Manufacturing Company, bought this property in 1939 and built this one and a half-story house a year later. The house is still held by the family. The stone veneer cladding, a popular material in the 1930s and 1940s, here has highlights of limestone, and is complemented by a low stone wall along the road. The cross-gabled projecting portico features a segmental arch and gives the house a period quality.

11. 2001 Haltom Road Bullock House c. 1918; 11 c. 1935

Tax records indicate the presence of a house here as early as 1918; the Bullock residence may be a very early example of a stone veneered house, or more likely, a later veneer added to an existing house. John C. Bullock, a foreman with the Gulf Oil Corporation, lived here with his wife Jessie from the 1930s until 1954. From the mid-1940s on, he occupied a hatchery in the structures behind the house. The polychrome veneer of the house is decorated with limestone and petrified wood, and matches a low stone wall along the front of the property. As is fairly standard for this popular house style, the cross gable and offset miniature arched portico with asymmetrical chimney on the front make a pleasing, vaguely period revival composition.

12. 1705 Higgins Lane Hays-Rodgers House c. 1930 9
NR*

Walter F. Hays, a carpenter, and his wife Bessie, are listed as residing at this property from 1932 until 1947, when they moved to 2021 Higgins Lane (HC-14). Later owners included Bert and Evelyn Rodgers, who resided here from 1947 to 1959. A T-plan with the front hip-roofed porch wrapping around the projecting front gable, it is a form more often associated with nineteenth-century vernacular houses. The board and batten siding, central entry and central chimney all suggest an early date for the house. The house may have been moved to the site around 1950. Following completion of further research to assess the integrity of the structure, it may be eligible for the National Register.







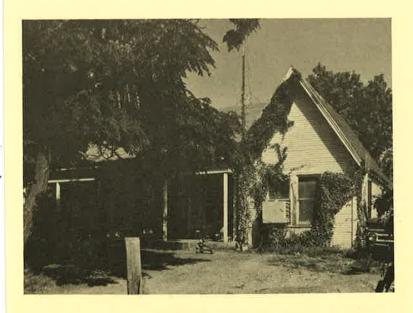
The history of this house is problematic. Clifton B. and Clara B. Scott purchased the property in two sections in 1920 and 1929. In 1931, they sold this portion of the parcel for \$3000.00. Passing through several hands, the house was bought in 1946 by Velma G. and Minnie L. Locke, the first recorded occupants of the house in 1949. Locke, a jeweler, sold the residence to C. A. May, a carpenter, in 1956. It has changed hands several times since then. The clapboarded house has an unusual composition: a two-story rear section, a one-story front wing with a porch supported by clusters of Tuscan columns on brick piers, and a three-sided bay on the eastern side of the front. The flat-roofed horizontal shape of the house with its decorative, exposed rafter tails under deep eaves and the diamond-paned bay windows point to Prairie Style houses, popular around 1910. An elaborate example of this style for Haltom City, the house has suffered from unsympathetic window replacement and asbestos siding on the upper story.

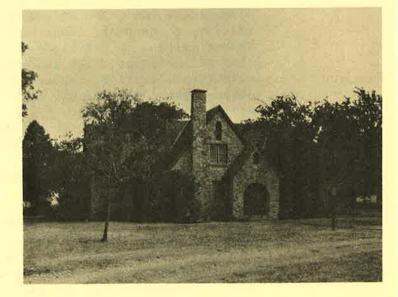
14. 2021 Higgins Lane Hays House c. 1945 10 NR*

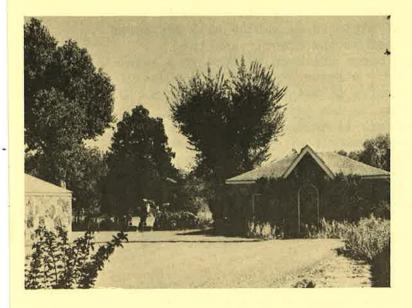
This unusual house, set perpendicular to the street, may have been built by Walter F. Hays, who appears to have purchased the property in 1916, and was living at this address with his wife Bessie in 1949. The two-story house is still owned by the family, who claim that Hays, a carpenter and gas station operator, built it around 1945. The steeply pitched, Gothic Revival style cross gables with scalloped verge boards, the one-story porch across the front, and the symmetrically placed double hung windows are more typical of a late nineteenth-century vernacular house. A later addition to the west, incorporating a carport, is two stories in height and features a taller cross gable, but is identical to the pair in siding and decorative elements. Further research is needed to indicate whether this house is an exceptionally late example of a Victorian style, or actually an early farmhouse of Birdville. If further documentation indicates this to be a house of nineteenth-century date, further evaluation will be necessary to determine whether the house is eligible for the National Register.

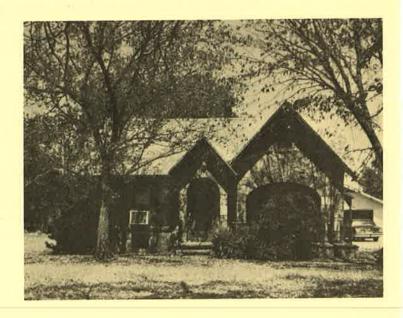
15. 4805 E. Loraine Fincher House c. 1925 20 Street

Hidden behind dense foliage on its spacious corner lot, the Fincher House is a two-story bungalow, a style common to Haltom City but rarely as elaborate as this example. A low, cross-gabled porch spreads across the front of the house, supported by boxed columns on brick bases. Brick cladding on the first floor and wooden clapboarding on the second provide surface interest. Perhaps built for John and Lucy Jane Smith, who sold in the property in 1923 to Robert A. and Mary A Fincher for \$3000.00, "including all improvements thereon," it is a style popular during the mid-1920s. The house is in original condition, and remains in the hands of the Fincher family.









16. 4903 E. Loraine Zell-Pennington House c. 1919
Street

Tax records indicate a date of 1919 for this house, though it could be older. The steeply pitched gable roof, the L-plan with shed roofed porch, and the narrow wood siding are reminiscent of late nineteenth-century vernacular houses. The house has double-hung windows and two entry doors off the porch. Jointly owned as a parcel of approximately 3.5 acres by widower John C. Zell and widow Annie May Pennington during the 1930s, the house was occupied by Zell in 1949. In 1950, the house was listed as the residence of Annie May Pennington, then a clerk in George W. Carter's grocery. It has since passed through the hands of several owners.

20

17. 4201 McLean Road McLean House c. 1938 41

This fine local sandstone house with its matching stone garage, both of solid wall construction, are set back from McLean Road on a spacious lot now encroached by light industry. Probably built in 1938 for S. W. McLean who purchased the 197 acre parcel in 1935, the house is now owned by descendants. An asymmetrically massed plan with a projecting cross gable, an offset gabled portico, and a front chimney, the pleasing composition is reminiscent of European medieval cottages.

18. 5716 Midway Road Witt-Laird House 1939-1940 13

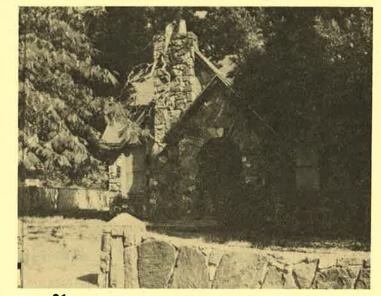
E. B. Witt purchased this Midway Road property in 1939 and hired contractor John W. Kennedy to build a house. Chester L. and Marguerite Laird purchased the parcel in 1942. The house is still owned by Laird, first a millwright and later a mechanic with Purina Mills. The diminutive house is veneered with polychrome sandstone; a matching, separate garage is almost the same size as the house. The flat hipped roof over the one-story house opens up to a central cross gable over a recessed arched entry. A sunburst pattern of stone in the cross gable completes the quaint dollhouse feeling of this period revival house.

19. 6401 Midway Road Meriwether House 1939 17

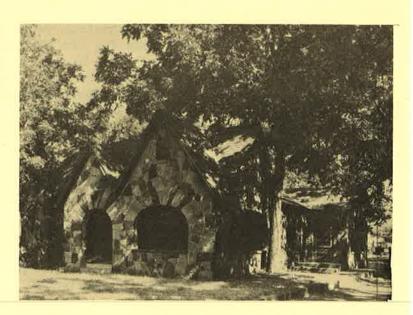
Local earth-toned sandstone veneer, a popular material in the 1930s and 1940s, was used for the cladding of the Meriwether House, constructed in 1939 for Leslie J. Meriwether, a stabilizer operator for Sinclair Refining Company. The segmental arched, cross-gabled porch and the offset, diminutive arched portico enliven the facade and suggest the forms of the medieval period.











This wood frame structure is a T-plan with hipped roof and gablets. An unusual front door with turned surrounds may be an addition. The original narrow wood siding remains, but a brick foundation wall on the facade and a brick chimney are later additions. Perhaps a military building later moved to this spot, it appears on Sanborn insurance maps dated c. 1935 and 1957. To the rear of the commercial strip developed by G. W. Haltom in the 1930s, the Scout Den sits in a shaded area of younger oak trees.

21. 4201 Parrish Road Durst House

c. 1936

This stone house was built around 1936 for Henry Durst, a carrier with the Post Office. The color and texture of the rough, heavy sandstone is highlighted by the inclusion of petrified wood and quartzite. A low stone fence and a stone garage complement the main structure. The two offset projecting cross gables form an arched entry; the asymmetrical front chimney enlivens the basically rectangular plan.

22. 4220 Parrish Road Sutter House

1938

9A

The Sutter House was constructed in 1938 for Howard Sutter, a civil engineer with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Later in the 1940s, he was a bridge engineer with the U. S. Federal Works Agency. Surrounded by a stone wall on its densely shaded corner lot, the sandstone veneer house features a small gable surmounting an arched portico and an arcaded porch on the south side. The stone veneer incorporates touches of red granite and petrified wood for a lively surface texture and color.

23. 5003 Parrish Road Lowrie House

1938

This one-story, solid stone house uses elements of a cross-gabled arched porch and a gabled and arched portico with steeply pitched roofs to create period charm. Built for Virgil Lowrie, a farmer and minister, in 1938, the house has passed through several hands since, and has had additions to the rear of matching stone veneer.

24. 6205 Rusk Street NR*

Watauga Presbyterian Church

1893

58

The first Presbyterian congregation in Tarrant County, the Willow Springs Cumberland Presbyterian Church was organized in the 1850s near Little Fossil Creek. Reorganized in 1867, the name was changed to Watauga Presbyterian Church in 1885 when the congregation moved to the present location, now within the city limits of Haltom City. Church records indicate that the present building was erected in 1893 at a cost of \$1150.00. The wood frame Gothic Revival church exhibits a gable-roofed portico with jigsawn ornament and decorative scalloped verge boards on its gable front. The tall windows on the front and sides have peaked, gabled cornices; at the rear is a hip-roofed, three-sided apse. The building is compromised at present by grey









asbestos siding, cast iron railings at the entry steps, and aluminum frame storm windows. The church was awarded a Texas Historical Marker in 1972. With restoration, the church may be eligible for the National Register.

25. 2220 Solana Street Windom Log House c. 1936 21

B. L. and Viola Windom purchased this property on Solana Street in 1936, and it is likely that this log house was built at that time, although family reminiscences date it to 1926. A single pen log house, it has a later shed-roofed addition sheathed in horizontal boarding at the rear. The round logs are saddle notched and chinked. Horizontal planks cover the end gables, while the original shake roof is now covered with composition roofing. Never connected to city gas, electric, or water mains, it was occupied until the late 1970s. An unusual example of the survival of vernacular house types and construction methods, the log structure remains in the Windom family.

Objects and Places

26. NE 28th Street at Trinity Chapel Cemetery c. 1877 21
NE corner of New Trinity Cemetery c. 1904
N Beach Street People's Burial Park 1931

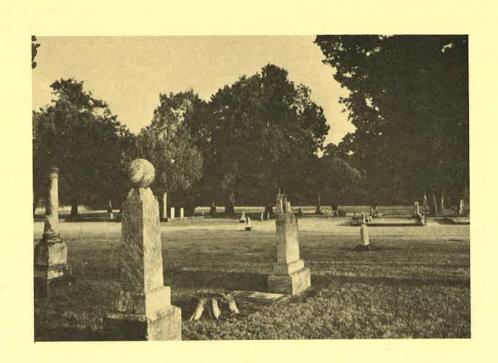
Three early black cemeteries comprise the area bounded by N Beach Street and NE 28th Street.

Trinity Chapel Cemetery was in use as early as 1877, although it was not formally purchased until 1889. The corner location contains the graves of several former slaves, including that of the Reverend Greene Fretwell, whose widow raised \$30.00 in 1876-77 to purchase the two acres. Trinity Chapel Methodist Church was built on the site in the late nineteenth century, but is no longer extant.

New Trinity Cemetery, the central lot of 4.57 acres, began to be used during the 1920s. Never formally purchased at the time nor claimed by descendants of the original owners, the property continues to be a maintenance and legal nuisance for Haltom City. Many graves are those of paupers, placed there until recently by local funeral homes. But this cemetery also contains the grave of a prominent Haltom City resident, Dr. Riley Andrew Ransom, a black doctor.

People's Burial Park was purchased by Fort Worth Cemetery Association in 1931, and is still in use.

The cemeteries received a Texas Historical Marker in 1985.



27. Cemetery Road at Birdville Cemetery c. 1852 26 6100 E Belknap Street

The original settlers' burial ground, Birdville Cemetery is situated on an 1850 Peter's Colony land grant to George Akers. Although use of the original one-acre lot may have begun before that date, the oldest marked grave is that of Wiley Wilda Potts (1822-1852). The burial ground is first mentioned in a land sale contract of 1860. Now expanded to seven acres, the grounds in 1965 contained 552 marked graves, including those of several pioneer families represented by four generations. Familiar local surnames include Boaz, Seaborn, Reves, Hovenkamp, and Judge Benjamin Franklin Barkley. The well-maintained cemetery, shaded by mature oaks, is still in use, and was awarded a Texas Historical Marker in 1976.



East Belknap Street in 1942, one block west of existing Haltom Bank.



Artesian wells once supplied Haltom City's total water supply.



The first city hall near Denton Highway and East Belknap also served as the city's fire station in 1950.



Evidences of earlier truck farming on Ellison Street in 1950.

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