Tarrant County Thematic Historic Context Statements

September 13, 2024

Submitted to

Tarrant County

Submitted by

HHM & Associates, Inc.

HHM
& associates

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SUBMITTED TO TARRANT COUNTY AND THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

September 2024

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Cover images top to bottom: Fort Worth Boat Club on Eagle Mountain Lake from Fort Worth Boat Club Collection, Tarrant County Archives; Estelle Lodge from Euless Historical Preservation Committee, Flickr, https://www.flickr.com/photos/eulesshistory/5060268769; Minor Heitt's cotton gin in South Arlington from the J. W. Dunlop Photograph Collection, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries, UTA Libraries Digital Gallery, 1905, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/20135600.

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INTRODUCTION TO THE HISTORIC CONTEXTS

In 2018, the Tarrant County Commissioners Court approved the Tarrant County Historic Preservation and Archives Officer to seek Certified Local Government (CLG) grant funding from the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to complete the Tarrant County Historic Preservation Plan. The THC awarded grant funding for the project in May 2019, and in 2021 Austin-based preservation consulting firm HHM & Associates, Inc. (HHM) and Cox | McLain Environmental Consulting, Inc. (now Stantec), completed the preservation plan for Tarrant County. The plan identified key goals and set forth a phased implantation plan to guide efforts to identify, designate, preserve, and celebrate the county's historic properties. In September 2023, Tarrant County contracted with HHM to develop thematic historic context statements in support of the Phase 2 of Goal 1: Update the Countywide Historic Resources Survey in the preservation plan. This project was made possible with a grant from the CLG Grant Program.

A historic context statement is a written document that provides the framework for evaluating properties for historical significance. The contexts document historical events and trends important to the physical development of a place and set forth the required background information needed to assess the historical significance of properties for historic designation in the National Register of Historic Places. Historic context statements are not comprehensive histories, but rather a tool for future survey work. The historic contexts within provide the framework for evaluating resources associated with six significant themes in Tarrant County's history: Farming and Agricultural Processing, Ranching and Meat Processing, Commercial Nodes, Cultural and Social Institutions, Suburbanization, and Recreation and Tourism. Per the preservation plan, the scope of the historic context statements largely exclude Fort Worth. Examples of the types of resources associated with each theme are discussed in each context, but this list is not exhaustive and future survey work is likely to identify additional resources. These examples should serve as a guide for helping identify resources associated with significant themes, but each resource needs to be evaluated individually for historical significance and integrity to determine its eligibility for historic designation.

> ***Learn more!*** *Information on the National Register of Historic Places program and how to prepare a nomination can be found online: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm.*

Acknowledgments

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- Tarrant County CLG Committee members

HHM also appreciates the input and contributions of Kelly Little, THC CLG Coordinator and Leslie Wolfenden, THC Historic Resources Survey Coordinator.

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Tarrant County Population Statistics

Table i. Population statistics of Tarrant County, including white, Black, Hispanic, and urban populations. Note that missing data is not readily available. Source: US Census Bureau, various years, https://www.census.gov/library/publications.html.

Year	Total	White*	%	Black	%	Hispanic***	%	Urban**	Rural
1850	664	599	91%	65	9%				
1860	6,020	5,170	85%	850	15%				
1870	5,788	5,083	87%	705	13%			2,500	3,288*
1880	24,671							6,663	18,008*
1890	41,142	36,777	90%	4,316	10%			23,076	18,066
1900	52,376							26,668	25,708*
1910	108,572	93,081	85%	15,418	15%			73,312	35,260
1920	152,800	133,924	88%	18,730	12%			106,482	46,318
1930	197,553	172,831	88%	24,660	12%			167,108	30,445
1940	225,521							177,662	47,859
1950	361,253	321,355	88%	39,674	11%			278,778	82,475
1960	538,495	478,747	88%	59,026	11%			510,019	28,476
1970	716,317	632,744	88%	80,851	11%			693,135	23,182
1980	860,880	679,883	79%	100,537	11%	67,632	7%	833,800	27,080

*Some statistics include “native white” and “Foreign-born white.”
**When not broken down, urban and rural numbers are an estimate based on the total Tarrant County population numbers and Fort Worth city total population numbers.
***Population statistics for Hispanic populations not consistently county until 1970 census and the *1970 Census of Population, Supplementary Report: Race of the Population by County: 1970* does not include Hispanic data.

Key Dates in the Establishment and Early History of Tarrant County

Year	Event
1840	Settlement east of present-day Birdville established by Jonathan Bird
1841	Creation of the Peters Colony, a land grant provided by the Republic of Texas to encourage settlement – around 3,000 settlers arrive in North Central Texas
	Military forces led by General Edward Tarrant clash with indigenous tribes at the Battle of Village Creek
1843	Treaty of Bird’s Fort signed between Native Americans and the Republic of Texas pledging cooperation and peace – established a line, roughly from present-day Fort Worth southwest to Menard County, separating Native American territory to the west from white settlement to the east
1845	U. S. annexes Texas
1849	Military post named Fort Worth established by U. S. government
	Tarrant County created out of the Peters Colony
1850	Birdville designated county seat
1860	Fort Worth designated county seat
1876	The Texas and Pacific Railroad reaches Tarrant County and Fort Worth
1895	Current Tarrant County Courthouse constructed

Tarrant County Map

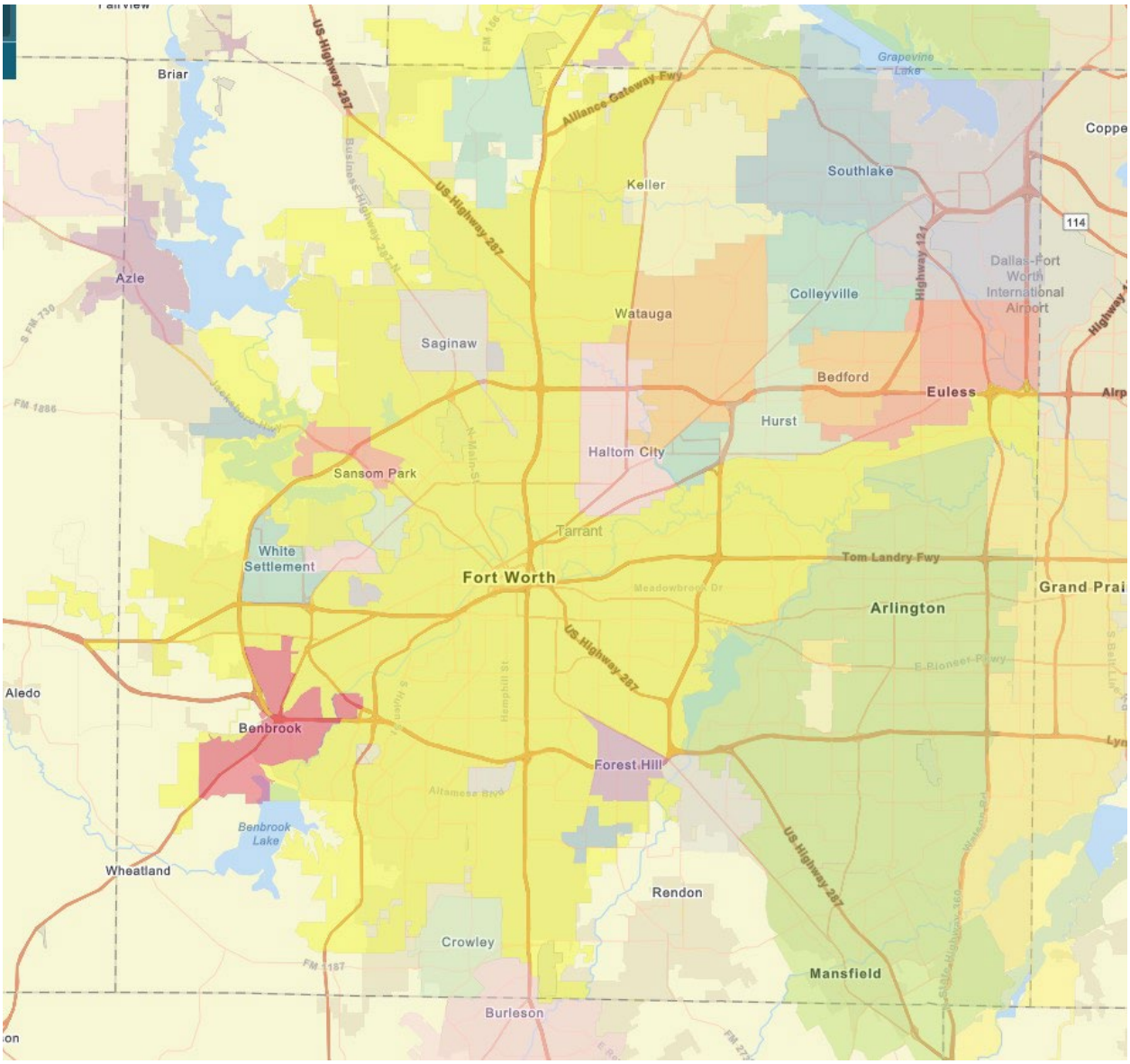


Figure i. Map of Tarrant County showing city boundaries, major roadways, and lakes. Source: City of Fort Worth, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Esri, 2024.

1| Farming and Agricultural Processing

INTRODUCTION

Beginning with the county's early settlers in the 1840s through to the 1970s, farmers built resources and transformed the county's landscape. Adapting to the geography, economy, modernization of agricultural practices, and surrounding suburban growth, Tarrant County farmers grew a diverse collection of crops. While wheat, corn, and cotton were the primary cash crops that supplied the county's robust agricultural processing industry, truck farmers in Tarrant County also produced a wide range of fruits, vegetables, and nuts that were sold, consumed, and canned in-county. Though large portions of the rural landscape created by farmers in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries gave way to suburbanization and urban growth beginning in the mid-twentieth century, remaining resources and landscapes associated with farming and agricultural processing are monuments to this significant piece of Tarrant County's history.

Resources associated with this theme may be individual resources or historic districts and include a wide variety of buildings, structures, and rural historic landscapes including barns, houses, sheds, silos, warehouses, cribs, windmills, gardens, fields, cotton gins, grain elevators, manufacturing and processing facilities, and offices. Agricultural and agricultural processing resources are typically utilitarian in design, whereas the houses associated with farms were often built in the prevalent architectural style of the period. Often only one or two resources and a small portion of historic farms remain due to development and suburbanization in the county. These extant resources, though, continue to provide insight into historic agricultural trends and may be eligible for historic designation on their own despite the loss of associated resources and land. Likewise, landscapes associated with farming that reveal patterns of land use and spatial organization may still communicate significance without extant buildings. Historic resources associated with farming and agricultural processing may be significant for: 1) their association with historical events or trends (National Register Criterion A) typically in the Areas of Significance in Agriculture, Commerce, Ethnic Heritage, and Industry, and/or 2) distinctive physical characteristics, quality of design, or engineering (National Register Criterion C) in the Areas of Significance in Architecture and Engineering. This theme's period of significance spans from the time of the early settlers, around 1850, to 1974, meeting the National Park Service's 50-year mark for eligible properties.

> ***Learn more!*** *See National Register Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes, available from the National Park Service at https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB30-Complete.pdf. See the National Park Service for more information on Cultural Landscapes: https://www.nps.gov/subjects/culturallandscapes/understand-cl.htm.*

GEOGRAPHIC SKETCH

Located in North Central Texas, Tarrant County falls within the Cross Timbers and Prairies ecoregion. Rolling hills and grasslands of the northern Grand Prairie stretch into the western half of the county, and the near-level grasslands of the Blackland Prairie stretch across the county's southeast corner. While much of Tarrant County was open prairie, intervening areas of the Cross Timbers were historically wooded with a variety of trees, including mesquite, oak, elm, and pecan. The Western Cross Timbers in the northwestern quarter of the county contains hillier sections, while the Eastern Cross Timbers is characterized by softer rolling hills. A variety of fertile soils—black waxy, alluvial, loam, and sand—support diverse crop production. Waterways carve through the county, with numerous streams and creeks, including Ash Creek, Farmers Branch, Sycamore Creek, and Silver Creek, crossing the county, feeding into two of the Trinity River's four primary tributaries, the West Fork and Clear Fork. From their confluence at the approximate center of the county, in Fort Worth, the Trinity River flows east into Dallas County. Together, the county's soils, topography, and abundant water proved significant in the county's founding and subsequent growth, providing the foundation for a prosperous farming industry and associated agricultural processing.

FARMING

Early Settlers

The area's fertile lands attracted many of the county's earliest migrants, who came in the 1840s and 1850s from the Upper South and the Midwest. Over a 30-year period, more than 5,000 white migrants, many of them farmers, settled in Tarrant County, bringing with them around 850 enslaved people.[1] By 1870 the county had 534 farms, most between twenty and forty-nine acres, though larger farms and plantations with hundreds of acres also existed. In addition to subsistence crops, farmers grew small amounts of wheat, corn, oats—most used for cattle feed—as well as some cotton. Though Fort Worth's urban growth began to subsume open land in the nineteenth century, farming outside the city expanded alongside urbanization. Between 1850 and 1870, farmers dramatically increased their output of these staple crops, though without reliable transportation and a limited population, output numbers remained low compared to subsequent periods.

In and around Fort Worth, farms and plantations "proliferated" prior to the Civil War.[2] Among the largest agricultural properties in Fort Worth were those owned by brothers Charles and Ephraim Daggett. Together, by the 1860s they owned more than 2,000 acres in present-day Fort Worth, on which enslaved laborers grew wheat, corn, and oats.[3] Little remains of the early agricultural development in Fort Worth. One extant resource is the Khleber Miller Van Zandt homestead at 2900 Crestline Drive, a circa 1850s dwelling historically associated with a roughly 600-acre farmstead.

[1] Based on census data for 1850 and 1860.
[2] HHM & Associates, Inc., "Historic Context and Survey Plan: City of Fort Worth," City of Fort Worth, September 2021, 33.
[3] HHM, "Historic Context and Survey Plan," 34.

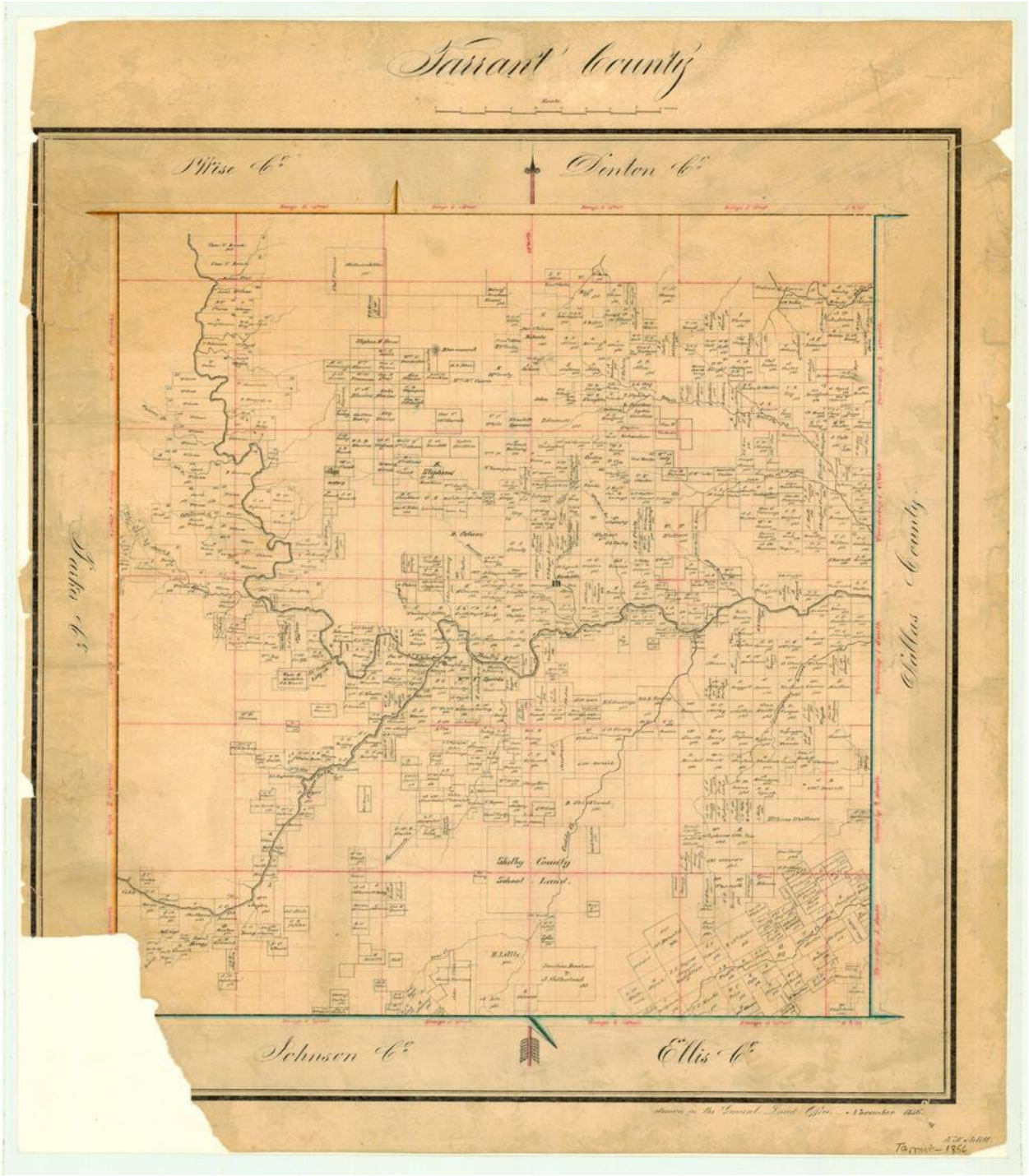


Figure 1-1. An 1856 cadastral map of Tarrant County highlighting the trend of settlement along the county's waterways. Source: F. H. Arlitt, 1856, from the Portal to Texas History, crediting Texas General Land Office, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth88999/.

Nodes of early agricultural settlement also established longstanding patterns of community development. Early farmers settled near waterways, openings in woods, and existing trails (Figure 1-1). West of Fort Worth, a number of scattered farms formed the nucleus of what would become the community of White Settlement, and early farmers along Ash, Silver, and Walnut creeks to the

northwest helped establish Azle in the nineteenth century. Farming nodes near creeks that formed the backdrop for early town development emerged along Denton Creek in the 1840s (Grapevine), Little Bear Creek in the 1850s (Colleyville), and Walnut Creek in the 1850s (Mansfield). Though the first houses—many of them pre-Civil War log cabins—and barns built on these farmsteads were largely replaced or lost over time, several extant farmsteads established prior to the Civil War include the 1859 Thomas J. and Elizabeth Nash Farm in Grapevine (listed in the NRHP) and the Marion Loyd Homestead in Grand Prairie. The 1867 two-story I-house at the Nash Farm is an example of the types of houses built on farmsteads prior to the arrival of the railroad (Figure 1-2).[4] Early roads between these settlements laid the groundwork for the county's transportation network today. For example, between Forth Worth and Azle, the Robert W. Tannahill farm was one of several larger farms that dotted the trail that Silver Creek Road currently follows (the property has an Official Texas Historical Marker, located at 9741 Verna Hill Drive, Fort Worth).[5]

Figure 1-2. The front of the circa 1867 I-house on the Nash Farm. Source: W. Dwayne Jones and Marcel Quimby, "Nash Farm," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Texas Historical Commission, Austin, 2010.

Learn more! *Read the NRHP nomination for the Thomas J. and Elizabeth Nash Farm to learn more about nineteenth-century farming: https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/NR/pdfs/10000866/10000866.pdf*

[4] The NRHP nomination for this property states that this is the last known extant example of an I-house in its original setting in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

[5] Page, Anderson, and Turnbull, Inc., "Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey Phase II: Azle, Briar, Lakeside, Lake Worth, A Portion of Fort Worth," 1983, 4.

After the Civil War and the emancipation of enslaved laborers, many freedmen and women left the state or moved to urban areas, while others entered into tenant or sharecropping arrangements.[6] Some Tarrant County freedmen and women acquired farmland, often on less desirable, and therefore more affordable, flood-prone lands. Northeast of Fort Worth, on the Trinity River bottoms, several freedmen and their families purchased land near their former enslavers and formed freedom colonies.[7] The Cheney family was among the largest landowners in the Garden of Eden freedom colony, owning over 200 acres on which they grew a variety of crops they sold at area markets.[8] Twelve freedmen who worked at the T. W. Mosier plantation, including Robert and Delsie Johnson, in present-day Euless founded the Mosier Valley freedom colony (Figure 1-3). Here the emancipated families settled on the Trinity River bottomlands given and sold to them by Mosier and another white plantation owner. Families had their own gardens and grew cotton and corn for sale.[9] Around Mansfield, Black families established farms west and southwest of town, just outside the Blackland Prairie, where the land was still fertile but less desirable for farming due to its heavy vegetation.[10] The segregation pattern of farm ownership in Mansfield, and likely across the county, established in this period remained intact throughout the historic period and into the twenty-first century.

Figure 1-3. The first house in Mosier Valley, built by Robert and Delsie Johnson. Source: Euless Historical Preservation Committee Facebook page.

> ***Learn more!*** *Read about and discover locations of Freedom Colonies in Texas from The Texas Freedom Colonies Project: https://www.thetexasfreedomcoloniesproject.com/. More information on Mosier Valley is available through the Tarrant County College Archives' Records of Mosier Valley: https://www.tccd.edu/documents/about/research/archives/collections/records-of-mosier-valley.pdf*

[6] The county's Black population dropped from 850 in 1860 to 705 in 1870.
[7] The Texas Freedom Colonies Project, accessed August 15, 2024, https://www.thetexasfreedomcoloniesproject.com/.
[8] HHM, "Historic Context and Survey Plan," 35
[9] "Mosier Valley, Fort Worth (Tarrant County)," UNT Library Omeka, accessed May 2, 2024, https://omeka.library.unt.edu/s/st-johns/page/mosiervalley.
[10] Diane E. Williams, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Mansfield, Texas," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. Texas Historical Commission, Austin, 2003, E-20.

Late Nineteenth and Early to Mid-Twentieth Centuries

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, farming continued as one of the county's chief economic sectors. The number of farms rose from 534 to 3,366, and crop values topped more than $6 million by the end of the period.[11] The majority of farm owners were white, with Black farmers accounting for roughly 3 to 4 percent of the county's farm owners during the period. Despite the decline in county land devoted to farms due to the growth of Fort Worth, farmland still comprised more than 75 percent of all county land by the end of 1930.[12] Likewise, though the county's urban population rose from around 56 to 84 percent between 1890 and 1930, the overall population growth ensured a steady supply of farm labor. Among the new arrivals who provided farm labor were Mexican nationals, who began migrating to Tarrant County in the early twentieth century, fleeing unrest from the Mexican Revolution. In 1880, only one known Mexican couple in the county, the Martices, worked as farm laborers. The Martices lived near present-day Arlington, and the rest of the county's Mexican population lived and worked in Fort Worth.[13] By 1900, around twenty-five Mexican-born or men of Mexican descent earned their livings laboring on county farms.[14] Hispanic migrant laborers who traveled seasonally for work also worked on county farms throughout the historic period.

The leading force behind the growth of farming was the availability of transportation— namely, the arrival of the railroad in the late nineteenth century followed by the construction and improvement of roads in the twentieth century. The improved transportation network, which replaced oxcarts and other crude forms of transportation, connected farmers to markets and spurred agricultural processing on a larger scale. Other factors contributing to agricultural growth included the organization of agricultural associations and agencies—including local demonstration clubs, farmers' associations, and the Tarrant County Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service—that provided support, education, and advice on a variety of agricultural issues. Local organizations and clubs often met in buildings like churches, schools, or private residences in town, while the AgriLife Extension Service maintained an office in Fort Worth.[15] New technology, like the Aerometer windmill and steam-powered equipment such as tractors, threshers, and combines, made farming easier and also allowed previously unsettled lands to be farmed. Combined, these factors changed the way farmers worked and enabled large-scale farming.

> ***Learn more!*** *Demonstration Clubs arose in the 1910s out of the Progressive Movement. The women's clubs worked with agricultural extension offices to teach rural girls and women skills such as canning and gardening. The clubs were active during the Depression and World War II, spearheading "victory gardens" and "victory canning" efforts. Visit the Tarrant County Archives AgriLife Extension Collection to learn more: https://www.tarrantcountytx.gov/en/tarrant-county-archives/image-gallery/tarrant-county--agrilife-extension.html.*

Grains including corn, wheat, oats, barley, and sorghum were the primary cash crops, while cotton was also grown at a large scale (Figure 1-4). The county's diverse fertile soils also supported truck farming, allowing the cultivation of an assorted mix of fruits, vegetables, and nuts. Among the top horticultural crops grown in the county were melons, peaches, plums, potatoes, pecans, and peanuts (Figure 1-5).

[11] US Census of Agriculture, 1935, from the United States Department of Agriculture Census of Agriculture Historical Archive, County Table, Texas, 761, https://agcensus.library.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/1935-Texas-COUNTY_TABLES-1516-Table-01.pdf.

[12] Note that these numbers do not distinguish between cattle ranching and farming.

[13] Kenneth N. Hopkins, "The Early Development of the Hispanic Community in Fort Worth and Tarrant County, Texas, 1849-1949," *East Texas Historical Journal*, v. 38, no 2, article 9, 2000, 54, https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ethj/vol38/iss2/9.

[14] Hopkins, "The Early Development of the Hispanic Community in Fort Worth and Tarrant County," 56.

[15] The location is not known; further research is recommended to identify the location.

Truck farmers grew most of the produce consumed in the county, selling at local stores and markets, including the Fort Worth Public Market. Opened in 1930 at 1400 Henderson Street (extant), the large, ornate, brick building had 145 vendor stalls and thirty permanent retail spots for grocers, bakers, and butchers (Figure 1-6). While the expanding and improved road network played a large role in truck farming, the railroad was also significant in developing and establishing truck farming as a significant component of the county's economy. In Grapevine, for example, in the 1920s the local railway, the Cotton Belt Route, responded to the growth of local truck farming by offering assistance in linking farmers with buyers and building shipping and packing sheds for the abundance of sweet potatoes and peanuts grown by area farmers.[16]

Figure 1-4. A field of corn at the W. W. Tipps farm (exact location unknown) in 1921. Source: Tarrant County Agricultural Inspection Tour Photo Album, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries. "Corn grown on farm of W. W. Tipps Farm Tarrant County Ft. Worth RT 1." UTA Libraries Digital Gallery. 1921. Accessed May 10, 2024, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/20135589007.

[16] Stan Solamillo, "Cotton Belt Railroad Industrial Historic District, Grapevine, Tarrant County, Texas," National Register of Historic Places Inventory/Nomination Form. Texas Historical Commission, Austin, 1997, E-10.

Figure 1-5. The Bidault family packing peaches grown on their Colleyville farm into the wagon to transport to market (date unknown). Emigrants from France, the Bidault family established orchards and vineyards on their property in the late 1890s and built a house in 1911. Now completely surrounded by residential development, only the house remains; it is a Recorded Texas Landmark. Source: The Portal to Texas History, crediting Tarrant County College NE, Heritage Room, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth28277/.

Figure 1-6. The Fort Worth Public Market at 1400 Henderson Street, built in 1930 and designed by B. Gaylord Noftsger of Oklahoma City. The extant building was listed in the NRHP in 1984. Source: W.D. Smith Commercial Photography, Inc. Collection, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries. "Air Accessories--Exterior - Building is old Public Market Building." UTA Libraries Digital Gallery. 1951. Accessed May 16, 2024, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/20096841.

Between the late nineteenth century and 1925, the average farm size in Tarrant County was between fifty and 174 acres, though farms with less than three acres and larger than 5,000 acres also existed.[17] A typical farm was characterized by a modest house—though larger stylized houses did exist—one or more barns for animal or general storage, sheds, and coops, and often had a well, cistern, water tower, and a windmill (Figure 1-7).[18] Storage structures for crops, such as corn, included cribs, bins, and silos. Specialized buildings, such as sweet potato curing houses, often took the form of barns and sheds (Figure 1-8). Smaller houses, as well as barrack-like dwellings, and one- or two-room houses for tenant and migrant workers were also built on some farms.[19] Though mechanization improved some aspects of farming, manual labor was needed, as cotton, corn, and wheat still required hand labor.[20] On some farms, children worked alongside parents picking cotton, while others hired laborers (Figures 1-9, 1-10). On farms closer to Fort Worth, some tenant farmers and hired labor commuted to the farms daily. On some larger farms, though, laborers, comprised of white, Black, and Mexican men and women, lived seasonally in the dwellings.

Tenant Farming

Throughout the period, tenant farms accounted for roughly half the number of farms in the county. Those who could not afford farmland, both white and Black farmers, entered into, sometimes unwillingly, the tenant and sharecropping system. Tenants often commuted to the farm, sometimes living in tenant housing in town, but some lived in second houses on the property. The practice remained fairly static throughout the period, with farm owners earning between 66 to 75 percent of the crop revenue. By the twentieth century, the success of tenant farming in the county allowed some farm owners to build a house and move into town where they managed their farms. Examples of this trend occurred in Grapevine and are discussed in the Historic and Architectural Resources of Grapevine Multiple Property Documentation Form, available here https://atlas.thc.texas.gov/NR/pdfs/64500637/64500637.pdf.

Figure 1-7. The yard at the Bidault farm in Colleyville showing a raised cistern and windmill in the background. Only the house, built in 1911, remains. Source: The Portal to Texas History, crediting Tarrant County College NE, Heritage Room, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth28272/.

[17] US Census of Agriculture, various years, from the United States Department of Agriculture Census of Agriculture Historical Archive, County Tables, Texas, https://agcensus.library.cornell.edu.
[18] Williams, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Mansfield, Texas," E-7.
[19] Williams, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Mansfield, Texas," E-56.
[20] Williams, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Mansfield, Texas," E-7.

Figure 1-8. A sweet potato curing house in 1921 on the farm of Andy Felps in Smithfield. Source: Tarrant County Agricultural Inspection Tour Photo Album, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries. "Sweet potato curing house on farm of Andy Felps Tarrant County 2500 BU capacity Smithfield RT 1." UTA Libraries Digital Gallery. 1921. Accessed May 10, 2024, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/20135589023.

Figure 1-9. The Harmon-Tidwell family picking cotton on their Mansfield farm (date unknown). Source: City of Mansfield, Historical Services, "When Cotton was King," https://www.mansfieldtexas.gov/1372/When-Cotton-was-King.

Figure 1-10. Black farmers weighing cotton sacks on a farm in Mansfield (date unknown). Source: City of Mansfield, Historical Services, "When Cotton was King," https://www.mansfieldtexas.gov/1372/When-Cotton-was-King.

Farming and the Great Depression

Despite the hardships of the Great Depression, the number and size of farms in Tarrant County remained largely unchanged from the 1920s. New Deal federal programs and agencies, such as the Farm Security Administration (FSA), provided support to farmers during this period. These programs and policies provided loans and medical care, promoted cooperatives, and helped stabilize farm prices. The programs, particularly the loans provided through the FSA, contributed to the decline of tenant farming across the country and county, with many farming families receiving enough money to purchase their own properties. For example, the loan program allowed one cotton tenant-farming family in Mansfield to borrow enough money to purchase property on which they started a dairy farm.[21] Many of these programs also emphasized diversification and conservation practices as a way to combat falling prices due to product surplus and the erosion of soil nutrients due to one-crop farming.

Tarrant County already had a robust diversified farming industry, but as farm prices declined leading up to and during the Depression, bankers, merchants, and agricultural agents stressed the importance of

[21] Williams, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Mansfield, Texas," E-37

crop diversity. In Grapevine, the Tarrant County National Bank, which provided loans to farmers, placed this advertisement in the *Grapevine Sun*:

> *The one crop idea of farming is economically unsound [and] means failure to the tenant and landowner. For the mutual good of the entire citizenship of the Community, we urge and insist every farmer diversify in some manner. Raise hogs, cows, sheep, chickens. Plant different kinds of feed, barley, corn, oats, maize and hay crops.*[22]

Cotton in particular was a target of the programs, due to surpluses and its depletion of nutrients that contributed to erosion. The Bankhead Cotton Control Act, signed by President Roosevelt in 1934, set acreage limits for cotton, paying farmers to grow less or plow up their crops (Figure 1-11). The impact of these programs saw a shift away from large-scale cotton and a growing emphasis on diversification, including the introduction of livestock and poultry onto farms. This in turn supported the county's wheat and grain farmers who grew an abundance of crops for livestock feed.[23] As a result, farmers used federal loans to add more barns and silos—both trench and above-ground—to their properties (Figure 1-12). Farmers also used the loans for building repairs. For the most part, however, the same domestic and agricultural buildings and structures as in previous decades remained in place on farms.

Figure 1-11. President Roosevelt hands a check to a Tarrant County farmer who plowed up his cotton crop under the Bankhead Act. Source: The Portal to Texas History, crediting Tarrant County College NE, Heritage Room, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth19926/.

[22] Solamillo, "Cotton Belt Railroad Industrial Historic District," 8-12.
[23] Janet L. Schmelzer, *Where the West Begins: Fort Worth and Tarrant County* (1984), 71.

Figure 1-12. A trench silo in the 1950s, location unknown. Source: Fort Worth Star-Telegram Collection, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries. "B. T. Haws and Raymond Porter." UTA Libraries Digital Gallery. 1952. Accessed May 16, 2024, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/20128982.

An emphasis on soil conservation and flood control, backed by the federal government, emerged in the aftermath of the Dust Bowl in this period. Locally, the need for flood control had been evident for decades, as flooding along the Trinity River and creeks devastated farms several times in the early twentieth century. Hundreds of Grapevine farmers suffered the loss of thousands of acres of crops when Denton Creek flooded in 1908. Soil conservation and flood control associations formed, stemming from federal studies and laws, including the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1935. While far-reaching impacts on flood control of the Trinity River resulted from federal intervention, it also impacted farming at a micro-level. For example, in an effort to identify and assess soil conditions and create conservation practices, many farmers, advised by the soil and water conservation district, built ponds and tanks on their properties in an effort to impound water, slowing its course and therefore reducing erosion.[24]

Dalworthington Gardens

During the Great Depression, Tarrant County had one of the country's thirty-five federal subsistence homestead colonies; six of the thirty-five were in Texas (in Houston, Wichita Falls, Three Rivers in Live Oak County, Marshall in Harrison County, and in Jefferson County). The subsistence homestead colony program, initiated under the National Industrial Recovery Act of 1933 and overseen by the Farm Security Administration, served to encourage urban industrial workers to supplement their incomes through agriculture. As part of the program, in 1934 the federal government developed a 593-acre site near Arlington into seventy-nine tracts—ranging from three to thirty-two acres each—for growing gardens and raising farm animals. The community consisted of modest frame houses and a community house and park (Figure 1-13). The town incorporated in 1949, and its population topped 2,000 in 2000. Today, only around ten historic-age houses associated with the homestead colony remain, interspersed with large, modern houses. More information on the federal homestead program and Dalworthington Gardens specifically is available at https://www.nal.usda.gov/collections/stories/subsistence-homesteads and https://livingnewdeal.org/sites/dalworthington-gardens-dalworthington-gardens-tx/.

[24] Williams, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Mansfield, Texas," E-34.

Figure 1-13. A photo of a typical house in Dalworthington Gardens, taken in 1936. Source: Arthur Rothstein, 1936, from the Library of Congress, https://www.loc.gov/item/2017761019/.

Post-War Modernized Farming

The post-war period was one of change in the farming industry. Fort Worth's rapid growth and suburbanization saw historically rural and agricultural lands transformed for new industrial and residential development across the county. By the end of the 1970s, farmland accounted for 43 percent of all land in the county, down from previous periods.[25] The number of farms also declined. Numbering in the 3,000s into the 1950s, the number of farms dropped to 958 in 1974 for the first time since the nineteenth century.[26] As farms became fewer, though, they grew larger thanks to mechanization, new pesticides, hybrid seeds, weed killers, and chemical fertilizers that made farming more efficient, yielding more crops with less animal- and human-power (Figure 1-14). This contributed to a decline in small family farms as well as the dispersion of farmers and farm laborers—white, Black, and Mexican—to Fort Worth and other cities. The percentage of non-white farm owners in the county dipped from 3 to 4 percent to around 2 percent in the postwar period. In addition to the general trend away from farming, Black and Mexican farmers faced additional hurdles, including discrimination in bank and loan programs, making it harder for them to invest in modernization tools and products.[27] As a result, those who remained in farming relied on animal and human power longer than white farmers, leaving them at a disadvantage in the farming industry.

[25] US Census of Agriculture, 1978, from the United States Department of Agriculture Census of Agriculture Historical Archive, County Table, Texas, https://agcensus.library.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/1978-Texas-CHAPTER_2_County_Summary_Data-182-Table-01.pdf.

[26] US Census of Agriculture, 1978, from the United States Department of Agriculture Census of Agriculture Historical Archive, County Table, Texas, https://agcensus.library.cornell.edu/wp-content/uploads/1978-Texas-CHAPTER_2_County_Summary_Data-182-Table-01.pdf.

[27] Williams, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Mansfield, Texas," E-34.

Figure 1-14. Workers spraying pesticide with a new type of pump at a pecan orchard in east Fort Worth in 1946. Source: Fort Worth Star-Telegram Collection, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries. "R. C. Bowen Pecan Orchard: workmen using spray pump ." UTA Libraries Digital Gallery. 1946. Accessed May 16, 2024, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/20032870.

Governmental agencies had more oversight and input into what farmers grew in this period, following federal intervention and creation of soil conservation districts in the previous period. Acreage allotments were set for a variety of crops including peanuts, cotton, and hay in an effort to stabilize prices and conserve soil. The primary crops grown in the county, though, remained much the same, with grain cultivation remaining the primary cash crop and with most of the wheat, oats, corn, barley, and sorghum crops supporting the growing livestock and poultry industries. Farmers continued growing cotton, though the spread of cotton root rot and drought in the 1950s had many turn to grains and other drought-resistant crops such as sorghum (Figure 1-15). Truck crops also remained important, as farmers continued supplying the county and Dallas markets with various fruit, vegetable, and nut products. Agricultural agents with the Production and Marketing Administration, created in 1945 as the successor to the Agricultural Adjustment Agency, also contracted with farmers to grow a variety of new crops, such as castor beans in the 1950s. A drought resistant crop, farmers were advised to grow the beans in place of cotton.[28]

[28] "Tarrant Put In Area for Castor Beans," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, March 16, 1952, 66.

Figure 1-15. Farm owners and farm laborer weighing picked cotton in 1945. From the farm, the cotton went to Haslet where it was ginned. Source: Fort Worth Star-Telegram Collection, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries. "Season's First Bale of Cotton." UTA Libraries Digital Gallery. 1945. Accessed May 16, 2024, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/20059251.

The built environment on farms also changed in this period. Older houses, if not already enlarged, were added onto and modernized. Following World War II, a number of farmers received building materials released by the federal government and made available from the War Food Administration for maintenance and repair of houses.[29] Some successful farmers demolished original houses and replaced them with larger modern dwellings. Barns for draft animals were repurposed or demolished, and new large, wood and metal barns for tractors and other gas-powered equipment went up on farms.

Farm Labor Movement

Compared to the Rio Grande Valley, where the majority of farm labor was Mexican American, the scant reporting on a farm labor movement in Tarrant County indicates it was not as active or organized. Despite the minimal organization of Tarrant County farmers, Cesar Chavez visited Fort Worth in 1969, speaking on behalf of farm workers and leading a protest in support of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee's grape boycott (Figure 1-16). A Tarrant County Grape Boycott Committee, led by the Tarrant County Central Labor Council, also organized in support of the movement in the late 1960s.

[29] Williams, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Mansfield, Texas," E-36.

Figure 1-16. Labor leader and civil rights activist Cesar Chavez in 1969, leading a picket against a local grocery store in Fort Worth. Source: "Cesar Chavez with other strikers," United Farm Workers Organizing Committee, Fort Worth Boycott Records, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries Digital Gallery, 1969, accessed May 16, 2024, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/10004463.

AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING

Early pioneers in Tarrant County took advantage of the need for processing and cultivating farmers' crops, including wheat, corn, and cotton, by opening cotton gins and corn and grist mills in Fort Worth and across the county. These first forms of processing were for local use, but they were consequential in the development of small communities outside Fort Worth. Often located at a cross-roads, new communities, such as Keller, Bedford, Euless, Mansfield, Webb, and Azle, developed in part due to their early gins and mills.

> ***Learn more!*** *Read the Historic Context and Survey Plan for the City of Fort Worth to learn more about the city's agricultural processing facilities: https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/files/assets/public/v/1/development-services/documents/all-preservation-and-design/historic/historic-context-survey-plan/1830_task-5_final-contexts__survey-plan-addendum_2021-09-21.pdf.*

The arrival of the railroad in the late nineteenth century allowed for the expansion of the existing cotton ginning and milling industries. In Fort Woth, grain elevators, flour mills, and cotton gins opened along the railroad tracks, and by 1890 it boasted five grain elevators. Anchor Mills was one of several large mills that opened early in the twentieth century, helping establish Fort Worth as the largest grain market in the southern United States.[30] Outside of Fort Worth, entrepreneurs built small cotton gins in new towns that developed along the tracks, including in Bisbee, Britton, and Haslet. The railroad also spurred agricultural processing growth in towns with existing industries, such as Arlington and Grapevine.

Grapevine had at least one cotton gin, the William Giddens and Sons cotton gin (some nineteenth-century resources may be extant at 601 West Wall Street) strategically located on the route to area farms, prior to the arrival of the railroad in 1888. With the railroad, however, the town emerged as a processing and transportation hub for area farmers in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. By the turn of the century, three additional gins opened near the depot to process the crop for shipment (all demolished). Likewise, in Arlington, five cotton gins operated in the early twentieth century (Figure

[30] HHM, "Historic Context and Survey Plan," 36.

1-17). As technology changed, electric gins replaced earlier steam-propelled gins at many of the complexes in the county. Gin complexes also typically had an office building, scales, a seed house, a cotton house, and a yard to store baled cotton (Figure 1-18). Local white men owned and worked at most of the county gins, though Mexican migrant laborers also worked at the gins in growing numbers throughout the twentieth century, sometimes living in small dwellings near the gin, as seen in Mansfield.[31] As cotton growing began declining in the 1930s, so too did the number of cotton gins in the county, with many closing in the 1960s and 1970s. The Webb Gin—built in 1953 as the third gin in operation at the same site in Webb since the nineteenth century—was the last operating gin in the county when it closed in 1981 (Figure 1-19).[32]

Figure 1-17. Photo of Minor Heitt's cotton gin in South Arlington in 1905, showing the various buildings found on gins in the early twentieth century. Source: J. W. Dunlop Photograph Collection, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries. "Minor Hiett's Gin South Arlington." UTA Libraries Digital Gallery. 1905. Accessed May 16, 2024, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/20135600.

[31] Williams, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Mansfield, Texas," E-56.
[32] Page, Anderson and Turnbull, Inc., "Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey Phase II: Mansfield," 1983, 7.

Figure 1-18. Baled cotton arranged in a cotton gin yard (location in Tarrant County unknown) in 1941. Source: Fort Worth Star-Telegram Collection, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries. "Tarrant County Cotton Farmers." UTA Libraries Digital Gallery. 1941. Accessed May 16, 2024, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/20051452.

Figure 1-19. The Webb Gin in 1980. Built in 1953, the gin is representative of the types of gins built in the postwar period. Source: J. W. Dunlop Photograph Collection, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries. "Webb Gin." UTA Libraries Digital Gallery. 1980. Accessed May 16, 2024, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/20135594.

Cotton ginning remained relatively small and local compared to grain milling—for flour and livestock feed—which evolved into one of the county's largest industries in the twentieth century. This was emphasized by the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce in 1949:

> *Because Fort Worth is the largest milling and storage center in the South the grain industry is one of the strongest links in Fort Worth's economic chain. The grain mills here have daily capacity of 8,000 barrels of flour and 1,500 of corn meal. Feed mills have daily capacity of 5,500 tons. Grain storage capacity is 26,597,000 bushels.*[33]

The growth of the industry, made possible by the railroad, also benefited from the growth of the livestock industry and its continual need for feed. Using the rail lines, and later trucks, county and other North Texas and Oklahoma farmers shipped their grain, as well as cotton seed, to mills for processing and shipment to commercial bakeries, flour retailers, and livestock feed retailers.

Fort Worth was the epicenter of the county's milling industry with new facilities for Universal Mills, Ralson Purina, and Kimbell Milling opening in the 1910s and 1920s (Figure 1-20). Outside of Fort Worth, Grapevine and Saginaw also had important grain mills. In Grapevine, the Farmers and Merchants Milling Company built a flour mill near the railroad in 1902. Following the trend of diversification in farming, B&D Mills purchased the complex and converted it into a feed mill in 1936, adding new storage and distribution facilities to the complex. B&D Mills enlarged the complex, which operated until 1973, to include a metal manufacturing tower, along with an office, concrete silos, storage tanks, and several auxiliary buildings. The mill was Grapevine's largest employer in the postwar period and was instrumental in supporting the emerging commercial poultry industry in and around Grapevine in the 1950s.[34] Saginaw, strategically located at the intersection of three rail lines, also was home to one of the county's most significant grain elevators. In 1936, the Burrus Mill and Elevator Company opened what was at the time the state's largest grain elevator.[35] The plant produced a variety of flours, including its famed light crust flour. Unlike the Grapevine mill and elevator and many other complexes, the Saginaw mill remains in operation (Figure 1-21). The postwar expansion of the livestock and poultry industries kept most mills economically viable into the 1970s and 1980s. Rising transportation costs, abandonment of rail lines, as well as the suburbanization of crop land led to some mill closures. Some were repurposed—McCurdy Peanut Company purchased the Rall Grain Elevator in Fort Worth for peanut storage—while others were abandoned, their monumentality rendering them hard to demolish. In addition to towering concrete grain elevators, grain mills included various buildings like sheds, feed tanks, warehouses, storage bins, office buildings, and water tanks.

> ***Learn more!*** *Read the National Register nomination for the Cotton Belt Railroad Industrial Historic District that includes the B&D Mill complex: https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/NR/pdfs/97001109/97001109.pdf.*

Other Agricultural Processing Industries

Tarrant County had a robust industrial sector, with agricultural processing as a significant component. The county's farmers contributed to the county's textile and clothing industry, the canning industry, and nut shelling and packing plants. Fort Worth was home to most of these facilities. Garment manufacturing companies, including the Williamson-Dickie Company, opened facilities in Fort Worth's south side beginning in the early twentieth century while peanut and pecan processing plants, including the Bain Peanut Company, opened facilities on rail lines in the postwar period. The county's truck farmers also supplied canning companies, like Fort Worth's Ben E. Keith, with fruits and vegetables for distribution across North Texas. Outside of Fort Worth, a castor bean plant opened in 1950 to hull beans grown on nearby farms. No longer in operation, the plant opened in response to a government program that paid farmers to grow castor beans for oil.

[33] Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, "100 Year History of Fort Worth, 1849-1949," Fort Worth: Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, 1949, from the Fort Worth Public Library Digital Archives, 24.
[34] Solamillo, "Cotton Belt Railroad Industrial Historic District," 8-14.
[35] HHM, "Historic Context and Survey Plan," 36.

Figure 1-20. The Kimbell Milling office and grain elevator in Fort Worth in 1954. Located at 2109 S. Main Street, the site is vacant and under threat of demolition. Source: W. D. Smith Commercial Photography, Inc. Collection, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries. “Kimbell Milling office and grain elevator.” UTA Libraries Digital Gallery. 1954. Accessed August 16, 2024, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/20099048.

Figure 1-21. Burrus Mill and Elevator Company in Saginaw, 1950. Source: W.D. Smith Commercial Photography, Inc. Collection, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries. "Saginaw Grain Elevator." UTA Libraries Digital Gallery. 1956. Accessed May 16, 2024, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/20100276.

2| Ranching and Meat Processing

INTRODUCTION

Starting around 1850 with the influx of American and European settlers, ranching in Tarrant County shaped the region's built environment. The county's focus on cattle ranching not only bolstered its agricultural sector but also laid the groundwork for substantial industrial development that began with the arrival of the railroad in the 1870s and continues to influence the area today. The meatpacking industry especially impacted the county's economy, taking advantage of local ranching resources, Tarrant County's location along cattle trails, and the nexus of railroad lines converging on Fort Worth. From iconic barns and homesteads that reflect the region's agricultural roots to meatpacking plants, stockyards, and processing facilities pivotal to the area's industrial growth, these sites collectively narrate the county's transformative history.

Resources associated with ranching most often will be rural historic landscapes. Rural historic landscapes associated with ranching typically will include circulation networks like roads and trails, boundary demarcations like barbed-wire fences with gates and cattle guards, vegetation patterns related to cattle grazing, and buildings and structures such as homesteads, auxiliary dwellings for laborers, smokehouses, cisterns, wells and well houses, stock tanks or ponds, windmills, barns, stables, corrals, pens, and loading chutes. The patterns of spatial organization that link these manmade resources to the natural landscape often hold important information about the cultural backgrounds of settlers and how land use evolved over time. Given the context of urban and suburban development in Tarrant County—which has historic significance in its own right—often only a small portion of an originally large ranch remains intact today. A single remaining barn or workers' dwelling can still tell an important story about Tarrant County's ranching history. Due to their utilitarian purpose, most resources display little or no architectural detail or ornament. Similarly, a portion of a rural historic landscape may remain intact after its historically associated buildings have been demolished. Even without buildings, the patterns of land use and spatial organization can still communicate important information about Tarrant County's ranching heritage.

> ***Learn more!*** *See National Register Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes, available from the National Park Service at https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB30-Complete.pdf.*

Resources associated with meatpacking most often will be industrial historic districts including railroad connections, stockyards with loading chutes and corrals, slaughterhouses, smokehouses, meatpacking plants, machine shops, cold storage facilities, and associated offices and workers' housing complexes. Site plans for meatpacking districts typically reflect the path of livestock off the train, through the meatpacking process, and back onto the train for distribution. Often only a portion of meatpacking complexes remain intact today, but individual resources also can reveal important information about parts of Tarrant County's meatpacking history. Meatpacking resources typically are utilitarian in design and constructed with very sturdy materials like steel and concrete, which are necessary to withstand herds of cattle and heavy equipment.

Both ranching resources and meatpacking resources may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A, with Areas of Significance in Agriculture and/or Industry. These themes' periods of significance span from the time of the early settlers, around 1850 to 1974, meeting the National Park Service's 50-year mark for eligible properties.

EARLY RANCHING AND MEAT PROCESSING

Together, Texas's natural resources, evolving government land-grant systems, and open-grazing policies fostered the development of cattle ranching. Spanish colonists imported cattle and began ranching in South Texas as early as the 1690s, and the Spanish government encouraged ranching with large land grants. However, during the period of Spanish rule over Texas (from 1716 to circa 1820), Spanish land grants were concentrated in South and Coastal Texas, with unclaimed open rangeland across the remainder of Texas.[36] Under the government of the Republic of Mexico (circa 1820 to 1836), similar land grant patterns continued in Texas.[37] As early as the 1830s, cattlemen drove large herds of cattle from South Texas and Louisiana through the open range in North Texas to reach auctions in the Midwest, Rocky Mountains, and Canada. In turn, wandering cattle and cattlemen established new ranches and communities along the cattle trails—as they did in Tarrant County. [38] Over the course of the nineteenth century, cattle ranching in Tarrant County grew exponentially. (See Table 2-1 below.) With the arrival of the railroad in the 1870s, Tarrant County also became a center for the meatpacking industry, which stimulated the ranching industry even further.

Table 2-1. Historic ranching statistics for Tarrant County, Texas. Source: US Census Bureau, Historical agricultural census schedules for Tarrant County, Texas, various years, from the Cornell University Libraries, https://agcensus.library.cornell.edu/.

Year	Number cattle (NOT milk cows)	Number sheep and lambs	Number goats	$ livestock	Number acres in farms	Number acres under cultivation/ improved	Number acres unimproved/ other unimproved	Number acres woodland	$ agricultural implements/ machinery
1850	918	23	-	$23,632	4,406	1,726	2,680	-	$5,865
1860	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1870	13,807	4,205	-	$350,637	82,819	22,387	60,432	86,435	$60,682
1880	38,466	5,191	-	$882,880	357,499	199,615	96,228	61,656	$108,055
1890	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1900	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1910	31,402	8,875	679	$2,030,302	407,411	202,228	118,855	80,828	$552,377
1920	-	-	-	-	395,322	253,224	70,611	71,487	-
1930	25,260	9,606	956	$1,238,198	434,539	420,918	9,447	8,074	$1,424,438
1940	26,204	28,192	4,114	$2,374,625	458,096	165,813	258,623	33,660	$1,851,174
1950	36,080	16,345	3,473	$4,890,643	395,266	109,725	223,455	62,086	-
1959	48,180	8,405	-	$6,259,711	436,104	75,517	345,740	14,847	-
1969	56,662	2,152	840	$14,273,920	367,188	128,189	215,226	23,773	$8,075,164
1978	35,262	537	208	$19,039,000	236,783	110,113	117,052	9,618	$17,326,000
1987	26,714	484	-	$16,886,000	198,180	70,996	-	-	$19,200,000

[36] Harriett Denise Joseph and Donald E. Chipman, "Spanish Texas," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed September 03, 2024, https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/spanish-texas.

[37] For additional details regarding various periods of governance in Texas History, see the "Master Timeline," from the Bullock Museum, accessed Sept. 3, 2024, https://www.thestoryoftexas.com/discover/texas-history-timeline.

[38] T. C. Richardson and Harwood P. Hinton, "Ranching," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed July 09, 2024, https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/ranching.

Trails and Cattle Drives

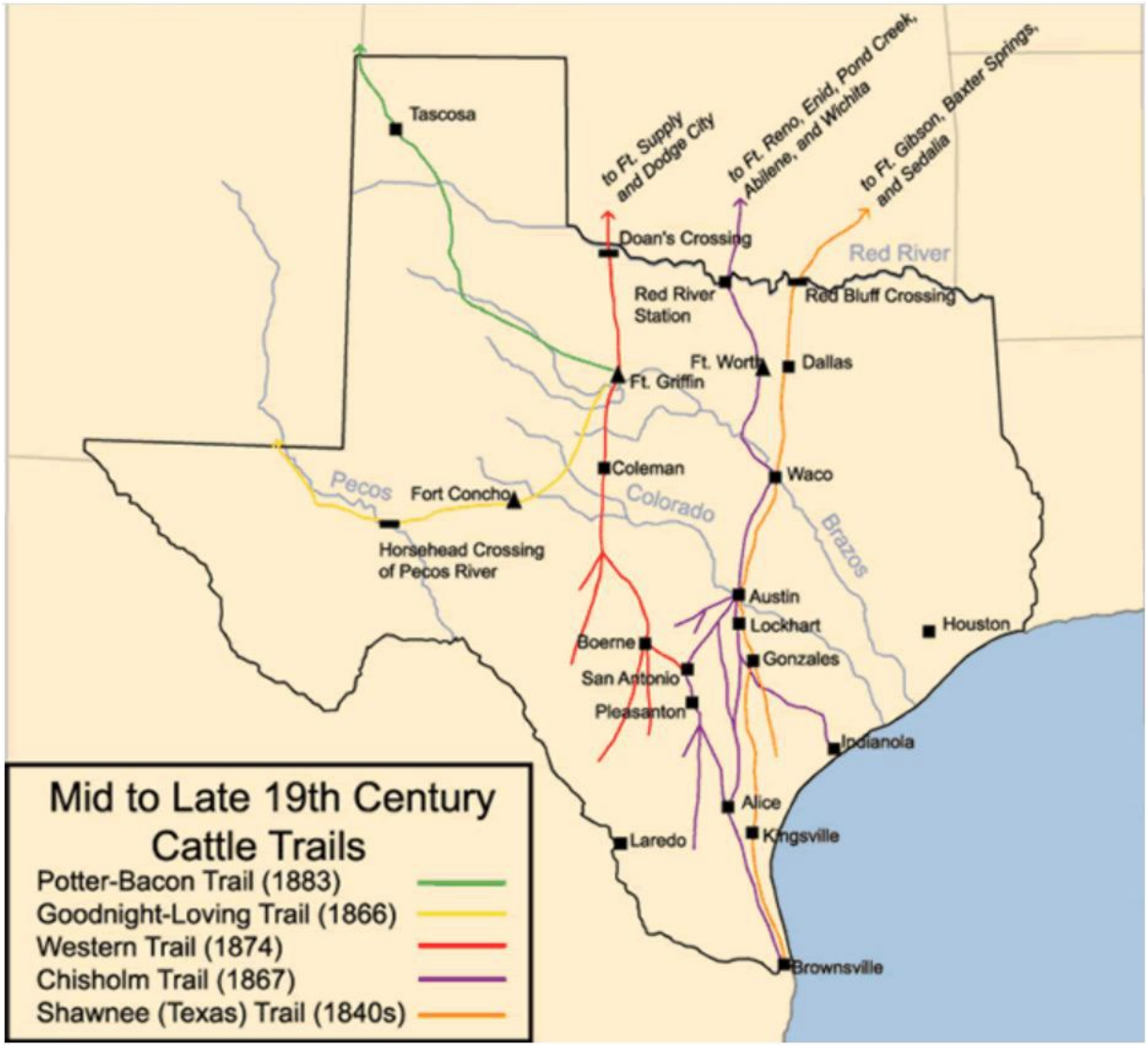


Figure 2-1. Map showing various cattle trails in Texas; Chisholm Trail is purple. Source: University of Texas of Austin, accessed Jul. 9, 2024, https://texasbeyondhistory. net/forts/images/cattletrail.html.

By the 1860s, the Civil War lessened demand for cattle in Texas but amplified demand for cattle to feed soldiers and civilians in the north, and cattle drives became even more important to Texas's ranching economy.[39] Cattle trails often followed longstanding trails established by American Indian tribes. One important cattle trail, the Chisholm Trail, connected South Texas ranchers to Kansas via San Antonio, Waco, and Fort Worth.[40] The trail's route was established by a Tarrant County native named Jesse Chisholm, who was half Scottish and half Cherokee, reportedly spoke forty American Indian dialects, and thereby was able to negotiate with tribes along the trail to help ensure safe passage for cattlemen. Many cattlemen preferred the Chisholm Trail because of its "direct route which avoided deep rivers and

[39] Hardy·Heck·Moore, Inc., *Agricultural Theme Study for Central Texas* (Prepared for the Texas Department of Transportation, August 2015), 4-9.
[40] Prior, Peter, and Murphey, "Below the Bluff," 50.

lay in grassy, watered land." [41] Within Tarrant County, the Chisholm Trail traveled roughly north-south, with the Fort Worth segment entering the city near present-day South Hemphill Street and traveling north along present-day Commerce and Jones streets to the Trinity River (Figure 2-1). Because Fort Worth was the last community of significant size on the trail for over 100 miles, the town became a stopping place for cattlemen on the drive, encouraging the growth of the local economy and, in turn, the development of ranches in the surrounding rural areas of Tarrant County.

> ***Learn more!*** *For more background on the Chisholm Trail and other historic cattle trails, see the historic context within the National Park Service's 2019 "Chisholm and Great Western National Historic Trail Feasibility Study/ Environmental Assessment," available at https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?ProjectID=30803.*

Early Ranches

The Republic of Texas continued to grant large tracts of land to settlers from 1836 through 1845, and Texas continued to offer generous grants of public land after annexation into the United States in 1845. Nonetheless, when Anglo American settlement of North Texas began around the 1840s, the region encompassing Tarrant County remained populated by the indigenous Tonkawa, Hasinai Caddo, Comanche, Kiowa, and Wichita tribes. Even when the state granted land to Anglo Americans, it often remained unsettled for years. On the North Texas prairies, the climate and vegetation—shaped by thousands of years of roaming bison—created a natural environment well suited for cattle grazing. [42] Some early settlers allowed cattle to graze on open range, with little regard for land ownership or property boundaries. Buildings and structures on these early free-range ranches typically reflected the temporary nature of the settlement. In Tarrant County, though, the uniquely diverse geography and natural resources supported both subsistence farming and ranching, often supplemented by poultry and dairy. [43] (See Table 2-2 below.) Early agricultural settlements emerged along Tarrant County's many creeks, especially in places where high points near creeks could provide both access to water and safety from flooding.

> ***Learn more!*** *For additional background about farming in Tarrant County, see Chapter 1 above.*

[41] "Jesse Chisholm" [Official Texas Historical Marker, Atlas # 5507020185], 1967, from the Texas Historic Sites Atlas, https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/Details?atlasnumber=5507020185.
[42] W. Kellon Hightower, "Tarrant County," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed July 09, 2024, https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/tarrant-county; Ross Martin, "Where Bison Roam, Prairies Thrive," Yale Environment Review, Jan. 29, 2023, https://environment-review.yale.edu/where-bison-roam-prairies-thrive..
[43] Hightower, "Tarrant County."

Table 2-2. Examples of known nineteenth-century ranches in Tarrant County.

Date(s)	Name(s)	Vicinity	Address/Location	Desktop Integrity Assessment	Previously Documented Background/Source(s)
Ca. 1849	Lemuel J. Edwards Ranch	Fort Worth	Encompassing present-day 3300 S Hulen Street, Overton Park, Tanglewood, and Westland neighborhoods	Ca. 1900 barn extant	"His cattle ranch is said to have been the first west of Fort Worth…"[44] "Beginning in 1955, the 4,020 acre Edwards ranch… was developed by Edwards heirs into the exclusive subdivisions of Overton Park and Tanglewood; farther west, the rural communities of Mary's Creek and Chapin gradually became suburbanized with the platting of Westland, annexed in 1962."[45]
Ca. 1855	Charles B. Daggett Homestead	Fort Worth	2301 N. Sylvania Ave	Redeveloped as Mount Olivet cemetery in 1907	"…originally the old Daggett homestead owned by Charles B. Daggett, one of the earliest settlers in the City of Fort Worth. Charles Daggett fought in the Mexican War with his son E.M. (Bud) Daggett. The first Daggett home at this site was a log cabin which occupied the site of the cemetery's sexton's house. The Daggett family was important in developing Fort Worth's cattle industry. John P. Daggett, born in 1855 on the Daggett homestead, was buried at Mount. Olivet cemetery in 1919…F.G. and Johnnie McPeak dedicated the 130 acre farm to be Mount Olivet Cemetery."[46]
Ca. 1867	John L. Jackson Ranch	Western Tarrant County, Benbrook Vicinity	Encompassing present-day 8901 Chapin Rd. (Jackson Cemetery) to 9101 Chapin Rd., LB Cresswell Abstract, on Mary's Creek	Cemetery extant at 8901 Chapin Rd. (northeast corner of abstract), rural landscape and house extant at 9101-9104 Chapin Rd. (western portion of abstract), center of abstract redeveloped as Pecan Valley subdivision ca. 1967	"This farm complex, set far south of Chapin Road, is comprised of a large, wood frame house, a barn and a water tower...;" "Jackson Cemetery served the rural communities of Mary's Creek and Chapin; the earliest marked grave is dated 1867. John L. Jackson, a banker, lawyer, rancher and large area landowner here in Weatherford, acquired this and surrounding property form the heirs of I. H. and Lizzie Chapin in 1899…"[47]
Ca. 1874	Tannahill Homestead/ Robert Watt Tannahill Ranch	Northwest Tarrant County, Lake Vista Vicinity	9741 VERNA TR N/ 1031 Silver Creek Road, Robert W Tannahill Abstract	House, outbuildings, and cultural landscape extant	Eventually 1,050-acre ranch;[48] "In 1856, Tannahill patented this 320-acre tract on the Fort Worth-Azle Road. He used rocks from a nearby creek…to construct this two-story gabled house in 1874… The house was sold in 1894 to early pioneer William Thomas Tinsley (1858-1909)." "In 1853 Scottish-born Robert Watt Tannahill (1821-1885) and his wife Mary Catherine (Smallwood) came here from Mississippi. In 1856 Tannahill patented this 320-acre tract on the Fort Worth-Azle Road. He used rocks from a nearby creek bank to construct this house in 1874. He served as a Tarrant County Judge and used the front room of this home for a Post Office from 1878 to 1885. This was also a stagecoach station for the first stop west of Fort Worth. The house was sold in 1894 to early pioneer William Thomas Tinsley (1858-1909) and in 1945 to Mrs. Verna Burns Stubbs."[49]
Ca. 1874-1930	Silver Creek Stock Farm/ RA Cannon Homestead/ TB Ellison Homestead	Northwest Tarrant County, Lakeside Vicinity	Present-day 3900 block Silver Creek Rd. (additional map analysis required to determine precise address)	House and barn appear not extant, but large cultural landscape remains	"The earliest structure in this farm complex on the old Fort Worth-Azle road is an L-plan farm house from the 1870s with a hand-hewn log foundation, vertical board and batten siding and interlocking hip and gable roofs. Early ownership is difficult to document, but it appears that R.A [Robert Anderson] Cannon owned the property about 1895. The T.B. Ellison family bought the property in 1915, and constructed a large two story hiproofed house-now altered- across the road. Ellison operated the Ellison Furniture and Carpet Co.in Fort Worth, founded in 1888. In 1938, the old barn burned and was replaced with a large gabled board and batten barn with a continuous gabled vent projecting at the ridgeline. An adjacent concrete block silo was probably built at the same time. The farm was well known for its breeding cattle during the 1930s."[50]
Ca. 1880	Major K.M. Van Zandt Ranch/ Former Lakeside Confederate Park	Northwest Tarrant County, Lakeside Vicinity	Encompassing present-day 9830 CONFEDERATE PARK RD, Memucan Hunt Abstract and/or Clairborne Johnson Abstract	Appears that some cultural landscape features likely remain but would require intensive survey to document; site of Lakeside Confederate Park; largely redeveloped as Van Zandt Place subdivision ca. 1960 and/or Tammaron Estates Addition ca. 1985	"Prominent Fort Worthians early established retreats in the northwestern part of the county. Major J.J. Jarvis purchased 640 acres near Azle, built a house there in the 1880s to escape a diphtheria epidemic in Fort Worth and became a benefactor to that community. Major KM. Van Zandt accumulated large landholdings in present day Lakeside around 1906. He provided substantial support for reunions of Confederate veterans on his ranch… "[51]
Ca. 1882-1916	Feltz Farm/ Rock Creek Farm	Southwest Tarrant County, Crowley Vicinity	Present-day 10375 OLD GRANBURY RD	House, outbuildings, and large cultural landscape extant	"Ferdinand Phillip Feltz, an immigrant from Germany, purchased 642 acres of the Albirado survey in 1882, and gradually added to his lands until his death around 1933, at which time he owned 2250 acres in southern Tarrant County. From his residence at Rock Creek Farm, Feltz ran a mixed farm, with 450 acres in grain cultivation and 1800 acres as pasture for cattle. The farm complex comprises a gabled barn with vertical wood siding, dating to about 1902, a garage-servant quarters rebuilt in 1936 with lumber from the original farmhouse, and sheds. F. P. Feltz, Jr. inherited the farm after his father's death, and constructed a new farmhouse in 1936 in a Period Revival style; he resided at the farm until 1985."[52]
Ca. 1890	Reynolds's Ranch (later Amon Carter Ranch/ Shady Oak Farm)	Northwest Tarrant County, Lake Worth Vicinity	Encompassing present-day 6018 Graham Street/ 3900 Barnett St. (Old WBAP Transmitting Station), 3501 ROBERTS CUT OFF RD (Lake Worth Park), and the Indian Oaks Subdivision	Redeveloped; portions likely flooded for development of Lake Worth	"George Reynolds had assembled a ranch consisting of several thousand acres along the east bank of the West Fork of the Trinity River in the 19th century." [53] "Born in Alabama, George T. Reynolds came to Texas with his family when he was eight. His first job as a boy was driving a mule that furnished power to a cotton gin in Shelby County. Four days of work earned George one dollar. But George T. Reynolds would die a millionaire, one of Fort Worth's capitalist-cattlemen, a member of the Fort Worth Club and River Crest Country Club."[54]

[44] Page, Anderson, & Turnbull, "TCHRS: Phase VI-A – Fort Worth's Far South and Southwest, Far West, North and Northwest," prepared for HPCTC, 1987, p. 38, from the Tarrant County Archives.
[45] Page, Anderson, & Turnbull, "TCHRS: Phase VI-A – Fort Worth's Far South and Southwest, Far West, North and Northwest," p. 6.
[46] Page, Anderson, & Turnbull, "TCHRS: Phase IV, Fort Worth's Upper North Side – Eastside," p. 63, from the Tarrant County Archives; "Mount Olivet Cemetery" [Historical Marker, Atlas # 5439003495], 1986, THC Historic Sites Atlas, https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/Details?atlasnumber=5439003495. Note that research to date did not find a connection between this homestead and Daggett's Ranch.
[47] Page, Anderson, & Turnbull, "TCHRS: Phase VI-A – Fort Worth's Far South and Southwest, Far West, North and Northwest," pp. 66-69; THC Historic Sites Atlas # 3002017349, https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/Details?atlasnumber=3002017349.
[48] Page, Anderson, & Turnbull, "TCHRS: Phase II – Azle, Briar, Lakeside, Lake Worth, A Portion of Fort Worth," p. 14.
[49] Page, Anderson, & Turnbull, "TCHRS: Phase II – Azle, Briar, Lakeside, Lake Worth, A Portion of Fort Worth," p. 24; HPTC, "TCHRS: Phase I II IV-B – Selected Communities," p. 139 (includes photo); "Tannahill Homestead" [Marker, Atlas # 5439005193], THC Atlas, https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/Details?atlasnumber=5439005193.
[50] HPCTC, "TCHRS: Phase VII – Selected Communities," 1990, p. 138 (includes photo), from the Tarrant County Archives; "Robert Anderson Cannon Sr.," Find A Grave, accessed Jul. 10, 2024, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/70775564/robert_anderson_cannon;
[51] Page, Anderson, & Turnbull, "TCHRS: Phase II – Azle, Briar, Lakeside, Lake Worth, A Portion of Fort Worth," p. 4; HPTC, "TCHRS: Phase I II IV-B – Selected Communities," pp. 101 & 114 (includes image); THC Historic Sites Atlas # 5439011963, https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/Details?atlasnumber= 5439011963.
[52] Page, Anderson, & Turnbull, "TCHRS: Phase VI-A – Fort Worth's Far South and Southwest, Far West, North and Northwest," p. 47.
[53] HPTC, "TCHRS: Phase I II IV-B – Selected Communities," p. 101.
[54] "The Iron Triangle: Three Men of Mettle," Hometown by Handlebar, accessed Jul. 10, 2024, https://hometownbyhandlebar.com/?p=4582.

Date(s)	Name(s)	Vicinity	Address/Location	Desktop Integrity Assessment	Previously Documented Background/Source(s)
Ca. 1895	Robber's Ranch	Far North Central Tarrant County, Roanoke Vicinity	Roughly bound by the present-day northern Tarrant County line, Park Vista Blvd., and the line of Freedom Dr.; F Cuella Abstract, near the old MK&T rail line	Largely redeveloped ca. 1996-2016, some patches of open space remaining	[55]
Ca. 1895	Jeffrey's Ranch/ Tinsley-Alliston Homestead	North Central Tarrant County, Avondale Vicinity	Encompassing present-day 3150-3450 Tinsely Ln., Abstract M E P & P RR CO #21, along the old Chicago & Rock Island rail line	Two clusters of houses and outbuildings and cultural landscape remaining; western portion redeveloped ca. 2008 (Vista Ranch subdivision)	[56]
Ca. 1895	Col. JW Burges Ranch/ Blue Mound Ranch – Registered Short Horns	North Central Tarrant County, Blue Mound Vicinity	Present-day HWY 287 between Blue Mound Rd. W and Bonds Ranch Rd (both sides), J. Rightley Abstract and H Robertson Abstract, southwest corner traversed by Big Fossil Creek	Largely redeveloped, small sections of cultural landscape remaining along Big Fossil Creek, at the intersection of Blue Mound Rd. W and Blue Mound Rd. E (southwest corner), and at the intersection of Bonds Ranch Rd. and Blue Mound Rd. E (northwest corner)	[57]
Ca. 1895	JF Hopenkamp's Ranch	North Central Tarrant County, Haslet Vicinity	Roughly bound by present-day E Bonds Ranch Rd., Harmon Rd., the line of CR 4105, and Virginia Ln.; W McCowens Abstract (northwest corner)	Redeveloped ca. 1985 (southern portion of White, Hugh Estates subdivision)	[58]
Ca. 1895	Burgess House	North Central Tarrant County, Haslet Vicinity	11242 US 278, Haslet	No longer extant, now "Bridgeview" subdivision; Google Streetview shows still extant in 2019	"Colonel Burgess is remembered as one of the first Texan ranchers to upgrade his livestock with imported shorthorn cattle, and was one of the founders of the National Feeders' and Breeders' Show; he also was one of the largest wheat farmers in the area, having over 2000 acres in Tarrant County devoted to that crop… Colonel Burgess (1836-1901), a native of Kentucky and Civil War veteran, who came to the Fort Worth area about 1885. Colonel Burgess is remembered as one of the first Texan ranchers to upgrade his livestock with imported shorthorn cattle, and was one of the founders of the National Feeders' and Breeders' Show; he also was one of the largest wheat farmers in the area, having over 2000 acres in Tarrant County devoted to that crop."[59]
Ca. 1895	Daggett's Ranch	North Central Tarrant County, Saginaw Vicinity	Roughly surrounding the present-day intersection of Blue Mound Rd. and E Bailey Boswell Rd., Henry Robertson Abstract and/or W McCowens Abstract, along Big Fossil Creek	Redeveloped ca. 2000, narrow band of open space remaining along Big Fossil Creek	[60]
Ca. 1895	Van Zandt's Ranch	Northwest Tarrant County, Saginaw Vicinity	Encompassing present-day 1600 N OLD DECATUR RD and surrounding land, near the convergence of the old I&GN rail line with the old I&GN, Chicago & Rock Island, & FW & Denver rail lines	No longer extant, associated land redeveloped ca. 2000	[61]
Ca. 1895	AT Wooten Ranch/ Winfield Scott Ranch/ "Winscott Ranch"	Southwestern Tarrant County, Winscott Vicinity	Present-day 6700 HWY 1187 / 6410 Winscott-Plover Rd., AJ Isaacs Abstract, along Mustang Creek and the old FW&RG rail line	Historic house, outbuildings, and large cultural landscape intact	"Located in the extreme southwest corner of Tarrant County near the Fort Worth & Rio Grande railroad tracks, records show that this house was once part of the Winfield Scott Ranch which covered over 12,000 acres in Tarrant, Johnson, and Parker counties. The ranch remained in Scott family ownership until 1946. Presumably a residence for the ranch manager, the dwelling is an exquisite example of Victorian vernacular style" (Figure 2-5).[62] "Winfield Scott was a well known cattleman, banker, cotton oil mill and cotton gin owner and real estate investor in Tarrant County."[63]

[55] *Samuel M. Sam Street's Map of Tarrant County Texas*, 1895; "Interactive Map," TCAD, accessed Jul. 5, 2024.
[56] *Samuel M. Sam Street's Map of Tarrant County Texas*, 1895; "Interactive Map," TCAD, accessed Jul. 5, 2024. Note that research to date did not find a connection between this ranch and the William Thomas Tinsley who purchased the Robert Watt Tannahill Ranch (present-day 1031 Silver Creek Road) in 1894.
[57] *Samuel M. Sam Street's Map of Tarrant County Texas*, 1895; "Interactive Map," TCAD, accessed Jul. 5, 2024.
[58] *Samuel M. Sam Street's Map of Tarrant County Texas*, 1895; "Interactive Map," TCAD, accessed Jul. 5, 2024.
[59] Page, Anderson, & Turnbull, "TCHRS: Phase VI-B – Haslet, Saginaw, Sansom Park Village, and Adjacent North County Unincorporated Areas and Benbrook, Crowley, Dalworthington Gardens, Edgecliff Village, Everman, Forest Hill, Kennendale, and Adjacent South County Unincorporated Areas," prepared for HPCTC, 1988, p. 24, from the Tarrant County Archives; HPTC, "TCHRS: Phase I II IV-B – Selected Communities," p. 168 (includes photo).
[60] *Samuel M. Sam Street's Map of Tarrant County Texas*, 1895; "Interactive Map," TCAD, accessed Jul. 5, 2024. Note that research to date did not find a connection between this ranch and the Charles B. Daggett Homestead.
[61] *Samuel M. Sam Street's Map of Tarrant County Texas*, 1895; "Interactive Map," Tarrant County Appraisal District (TCAD), accessed Jul. 5, 2024, https://www.tad.org/resources/interactive-map. Note that research to date did not find a connection between this ranch and the Van Zand Cottage located at present-day 2933 Farm House Way (formerly 2900 Crestline Rd., THC Atlas # 5,439,005,635).
[62] *Samuel M. Sam Street's Map of Tarrant County Texas*, St. Louis, Missouri, 1895, from the Portal to Texas History crediting the University of Texas at Arlington, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth288974/; "Interactive Map," Tarrant County Appraisal District (TCAD), accessed Jul. 5, 2024, https://www.tad.org/resources/interactive-map; Page, Anderson, & Turnbull, "TCHRS: Phase VI-B – Phase VI-B, Haslet, Saginaw… & Unincorporated Areas," p. 47. Note that Winfield Scott also purchased the Thistle Hill Mansion in Fort Worth around 1910 (Judy Alter, "Thistle Hill," Handbook of Texas Online, accessed July 05, 2024, https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/thistle-hill). A portrait of Winfield Scott is available from the Portal to Texas History crediting Tarrant County College, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth27750.
[63] "Winfield Scott," Texas History Notebook, accessed Jul. 10, 2024, https://texoso66.com/2023/12/14/winfield-scott/.

The combination of farming and ranching lent a more permanent character to Tarrant County's agricultural development, with numerous small communities scattered throughout the county. This development pattern stands in contrast to the vast and sparsely populated ranching landscapes found in far West Texas. One early example was the Thomas J. and Elizabeth Nash Farm, settled around 1859 in present-day Grapevine. As noted in the National Register nomination for the farm, "The Nashes maintained their land in much the same way as other Anglo American farmers in North Texas of the 19th century, leaving part of the land in timber and the remaining being a mixture of improved land for crops and later livestock grazing."[64] Agricultural census schedules from 1860 substantiate the use of the property for both farming and ranching, listing "nine horses, five milk cows, six working oxen [used for farming], 75 head of cattle, 50 sheep and 60 hogs."[65]

The example of the Nash Farm also captures the character of the typical early rancher in Tarrant County. Most early ranchers in Tarrant County—like all settlers to the county—were white Anglo Americans who migrated from the American South and Midwest to take advantage of land grants.[66] Thomas J. Nash was a white man born in Kentucky who came to Texas with his family in 1854.[67] Some early ranchers who migrated from the American South brought enslaved laborers with them, so that that 15 percent of the county's population was Black by 1860. For example, Tarrant County tax rolls from 1860 show that Charles B. Daggett owned five enslaved laborers—three working on his ranch and two more working at his house in Fort Worth.[68] Other early settlers in Tarrant County were veterans of the Texas Revolution who received land grants in honor of their service.[69] Most veteran grantees were white men from the American South, but a number of men of Mexican descent and free Black men also fought in the Texas Revolution and were eligible to receive land grants.[70] The number of Black ranch laborers likely increased after the Civil War, when the US Army founded regiments of Black cavalry in Texas known as the "Buffalo Soldiers," many of whom stayed in Texas and transferred their horsemanship skills to ranch work after leaving the military.[71]

> ***Learn more!*** *For more information about land grants to veterans, see documents from the Texas General Land Office at https://www.glo.texas.gov/history/archives/forms/files/categories-of-land-grants.pdf.*

Effects of the Railroad on Ranching

The arrival of the railroad in Tarrant County in the 1870s had the dual effect of diversifying the economy and bolstering the ranching business. The railroad helped bring cattle to market, but it also helped bring other agricultural products to market. In the fertile areas of eastern Tarrant County, the availability of the railroad made cotton attractive as a cash crop, so some areas—especially around Grapevine and Mansfield—began to focus more exclusively on cotton farming rather than on a mix of farming and

[64] W. Dwayne Jones and Marcel Quimby, "National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Thomas J. and Elizabeth Nash Farm," prepared for the Texas Historical Commission, 2010, p. 10.
[65] Ibid.
[66] HHM, Historic Context and Survey Plan, 22.
[67] Jones and Quimby, "National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Thomas J. and Elizabeth Nash Farm," p. 10.
[68] Tarrant County Tax Rolls, 1860, from Family Search, accessed Sept. 3, 2024, https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939J-41SS-76?i=8.
[69] "History of Texas Public Lands," Texas Government Land Office, revised Jan. 2015, https://www.glo.texas.gov/history/archives/forms/files/history-of-texas-public-lands.pdf.
[70] Maps showing names of original grantees show a number of Spanish surnames. (See A. L. Lucas & Herman Lungkwitz, *Tarrant County* [map], 1873, from the Portal to Texas History crediting the Texas General Land Office, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth89174/. Future research is recommended to determine if any original land grants within Tarrant County were Black.
[71] Mark Odintz, "Buffalo Soldiers," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed July 10, 2024, https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/buffalo-soldiers.

ranching.[72] At the same time, the railroad brought industrial growth to Fort Worth, leading to urban growth and development of former agricultural land in the center of the county.

As a result, after the arrival of the railroad ranching gradually shifted outward and to the west. As illustrated by the examples of ranches listed in Table 2-2, most ranches from the 1870s onward are located in northern, northwestern, and southwestern Tarrant County.

Early Stockyards and Meatpacking Industry

The combination of the abundant Texas beef supply, increased northern demand for Texas beef, and the newly developed railroad network led to the development of stockyards and meatpacking plants in Fort Worth in the 1880s.[73] The development of the commercial ice industry, refrigeration, and engineering of cold-storage warehouses and refrigerated railroad cars—all emerging in Texas in the 1860s and 1870s—also helped make it feasible to slaughter and pack meat near Texas ranches, keeping it fresh until it reached the consumer. [74] In Tarrant County, all known examples of early stockyards and meatpacking plants are located in Fort Worth, concentrated primarily on Fort Worth's North Side. The Fort Worth Union Stock Yards began operation in 1887, and in 1887 the same company established the Fort Worth Dressed Meat and Packing Company (not extant).[75] Although no known stockyards or meatpacking plants operated in Tarrant County outside of Fort Worth, the meatpacking industry increased the value of local livestock, which in turn influenced ranching further out in Tarrant County.

> ***Learn more!*** *For additional context about the meatpacking industry in Fort Worth, see the 2021 Fort Worth Historic Context and Survey Plan, available from the City of Fort Worth at https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/development-services/preservation-urban-design/historic-preservation/historic-context-and-survey-plan. Also see the National Register nomination for the Fort Worth Stockyards from the Texas Historical Commission at https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/Details?atlasnumber=2076002067.*

Effects of the Railroad and Meatpacking Industry on Ranching

Between 1870 and 1880, the arrival of the railroad and development of the meatpacking industry radically affected ranching in Tarrant County. During that single decade, the number of cattle in Tarrant County nearly tripled, as shown in Table 2-1. During the 1860s, prices for cattle in Texas dropped as low as two dollars per head. Meanwhile, as a result of the northern beef shortage caused by the Civil War, northern markets in places like Chicago offered ten times the price per head.[76] Driving cattle north to gain that high price came with expensive labor costs, though, and the journey was laden with risk.[77] Live cattle could be shipped north on railroad cars, but that journey was also expensive and unhealthy for the cattle, leading many animals to die before they arrived at market.[78] By 1888, a sample of a historic cattle ledger shows revenue of around eight dollars per head for cattle shipped to St. Louis or Chicago,

[72] Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County [HPCTC], "Tarrant County Historic resources Survey [TCHRS]:Phase I – Grapevine," 1988, p. 4, from the Tarrant County Archives.
[73] Berrong, "History of Tarrant County," 59.
[74] Willis R. Woolrich and Charles T. Clark, "Refrigeration," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed July 09, 2024, https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/refrigeration.
[75] Landon, Yancey, and Williams, "Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District," 8-2; Prior, Peter, and Murphey, "Below the Bluff," 51.
[76] Prior, Peter, and Murphey, "Below the Bluff," 49.
[77] T. J Cauley, "The Cost of Marketing Texas Cattle in the Old Trail Days," Journal of Farm Economics 9, no. 3 (1927): 356–60, https://doi.org/10.2307/1230091.
[78] "Livestock Transportation," Nebraska State Historical Society, accessed Sept. 3, 2024, https://history.nebraska.gov/publications_section/livestock-transportation/.

versus an average of around sixteen dollars per head for cattle sold in Texas.[79] That increase in profitability, combined with the decline in risk with the elimination of long overland cattle drives, brought many new investors into the cattle market. Ranches proliferated in Tarrant County, and the majority of known historic ranches in the county date from the 1880s and 1890s, as documented in Table 2-2. As the examples in this table illustrate, the character of the typical ranchman changed also, with established prominent figures like retired military officers, politicians, bankers, and industrialists consolidating large commercial ranches and gradually pushing out small farmers and ranchers. At the same time, the geographic distribution of ranches in the county shifted northward, while the cotton boom led property in the eastern county to focus on farming and urban development consumed the center of the county.[80]

TWENTIETH-CENTURY RANCHING AND MEAT PROCESSING

During the twentieth century, ranching and meat processing remained dominant economic forces in Tarrant County, evolving in response to broader statewide and nationwide economic trends. As documented in Table 2-1, the number of cattle in the county held relatively steady from 1880 to 1910, dipped in the 1930s and 1940s, then rebounded by 1950 and grew significantly through 1969. The dip in the 1930s resulted from increased global demand for wool and mohair and the statewide shift toward sheep and goat ranching, as evidenced by the concurrent rise in the number of sheep and goats in Tarrant County.[81] During the 1940s, World War II perpetuated the decline in ranching, given the shortage of labor and the focus on distributing grain to the war effort rather than feeding livestock.

After World War II, cattle ranching rebounded quickly, bolstered by scientific and technological advances developed during World War II then applied to agriculture in the postwar era. The growing Texas Agricultural Extension Service system helped spread information about new science and technology to rural farmers and ranchers.[82] In the ranching sector, research focused on eliminating diseases affecting cattle and refining breeding techniques to maximize profit and meet consumer preferences. Marketability and consumer preference also led to an increase in grain-feeding cattle rather than grazing, allowing ranchers to raise more cattle per acre. [83] Agricultural statistics for Tarrant County illustrate this trend, showing drastic increases in cattle numbers alongside shrinking farmland acreage (Table 2-1).

Decreased land requirements for ranching also allowed urban and suburban growth from Fort Worth to consume ranch land while maintaining active ranching and meatpacking industries. More technically intense ranching spurred more ranch-related businesses to develop within Fort Worth, so that ranching and urban commerce grew synergistically rather than competing with one another. For example, businesses like tractor and truck salesrooms, feed stores, banks, and insurance brokers proliferated in

[79] [Cattle Sales Ledger], ca. 1888, from the Portal to Texas History crediting the Texas Coastal Bend Collection, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth706792.
[80] Karen Gerhardt Britton, Fred C. Elliott, and E. A. Miller, "Cotton Culture," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed July 09, 2024, https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/cotton-culture.
[81] "Livestock and Agriculture in the Fort Worth Area," p. 7; Marie D. Landon, Mike D. Yancey, and Joe Williams, "National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form: Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District," prepared for the Texas Historical Commission, Austin, 1976, p. 8-3.
[82] Irvin May, "Texas Agricultural Extension Service," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed July 10, 2024, https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/texas-agricultural-extension-service. Note that research to date was unable to locate the historic location(s) of Agricultural Extension offices in Tarrant County.
[83] Mark Johnson, "Historical Review of the U.S. Beef Cattle Industry," Cornell Cooperative Extension: Southwest New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Program, Jul. 5, 2023, https://swnydlfc.cce.cornell.edu/submission.php?id=1810&crumb=livestock%7C10,

the early twentieth century, so that Fort Worth became a "source of supplies for the ranching district to the west."[84] Tarrant County boosters took advantage of this dualism to market the region as "Where the West Begins"—a unique place where the thoroughly modern city of Fort Worth could coexist with ranches at the periphery and stockyards in the central city (Figure 2-2). As shown in Table 2-3, many ranches were redeveloped as suburban residential subdivisions or commercial complexes in the late twentieth century and into the twenty-first century, often given ranch-inspired subdivision names to borrow from the image of Tarrant County's ranching heritage while encouraging modern redevelopment.

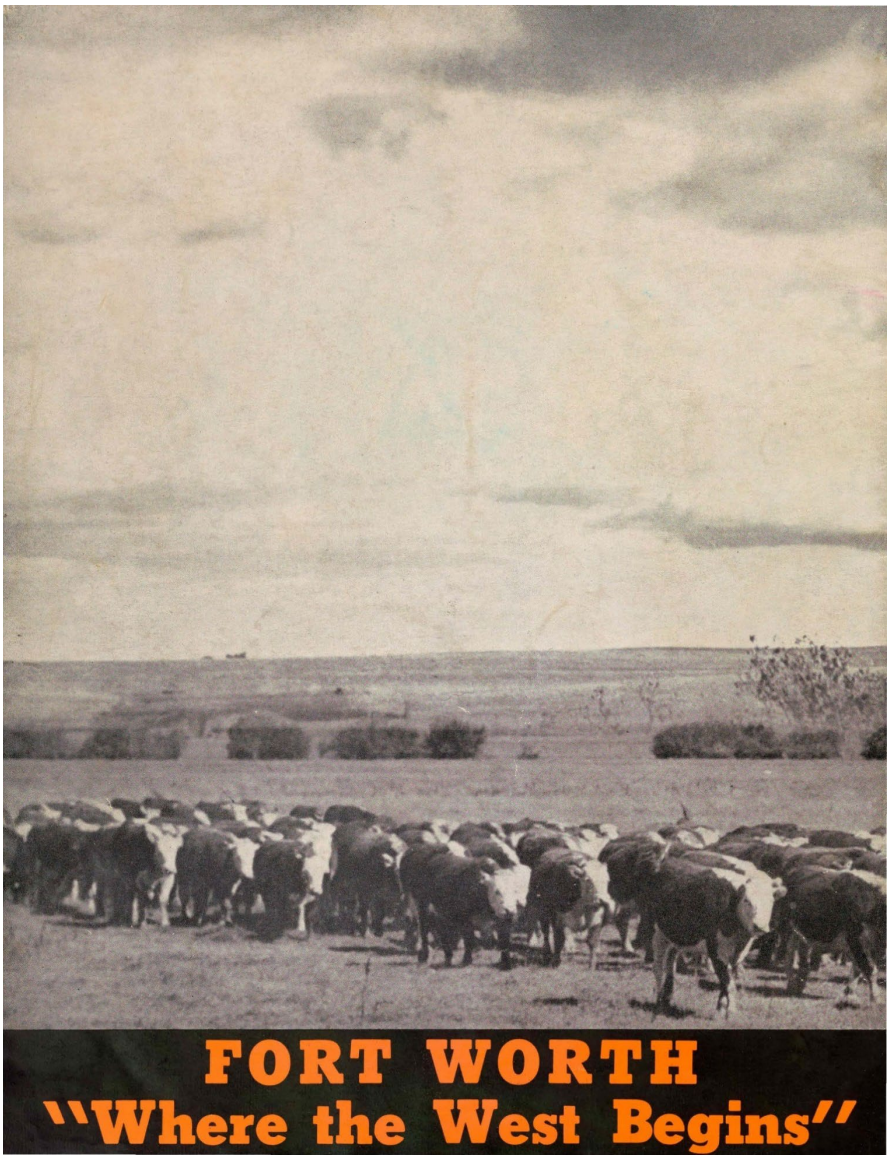


Figure 2-2. Image promoting Tarrant County's ranching heritage, 1945. Source: "Livestock and Agriculture in the Fort Worth Area," Fort Worth, Tx: Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, ca. 1945, from the Fort Worth Public Library.

[84]*Tarrant County, Fort Worth, Texas, farmers, stockmen and dairymen's directory* [Book] (Fort Worth, TX: Taliaferro Publishing Co., 1917), from the Portal to Texas History crediting the Fort Worth Public Library, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth34954; Verna Elizabeth Berrong, "History of Tarrant County From Its Beginning Until 1875," M. A. Thesis, 1938, Texas Christian University, p. 65.

Table 2-3. Examples of known twentieth-century ranches in Tarrant County.

Date(s)	Name(s)	Vicinity	Address/Location	Desktop Integrity Assessment	Previously Documented Background/Source(s)
Ca. 1890	Amon Carter Ranch/ Shady Oak Farm (formerly Reynolds' Ranch)	Northwest Tarrant County, Lake Worth Vicinity	Encompassing present-day 6018 Graham St./ 3900 Barnett St. (Old WBAP Transmitting Station), 3501 ROBERTS CUT OFF RD (Lake Worth Park), and the Indian Oaks Subdivision	Redeveloped; portions likely flooded for development of Lake Worth	"Lucinda Reynolds was the widow of George Reynolds, a rancher who had accumulated large land holdings east of the West Fork of the Trinity River."[85] "… Lucinda Reynolds, began subdividing the property in the 1920s, first selling 900 acres to civic leader Amon G. Carter in 1923. Between 1926 and 1928, she subdivided about 400 acres of land adjacent to Carter's Shady Oak Farm, next to the lake. Indian Oaks, as she called it, became the nucleus of the City of Lake Worth."[86] From that land, "Amon G. Carter purchased 900 acres near Lake Worth in 1923, and established Shady Oak Farm."[87]
Ca. 1900	Corn House/ "Cornhurst"	West Central Tarrant County, Westworth Village Vicinity	Additional deed and map analysis needed – Highway 377 E side, N of Tiger Trail per TCHRS Phase VI-A p. 67, but maps in TCHRS Phase VI-A show in a different location, E of Air Force base; historic deed record describes meets and bounds of several tracts totaling 12,549.09 acres, but contemporary address unclear[88]	Precise location and survey needed to assess	"James William Corn, born in 1850, came to Texas at age seventeen and made a fortune as a cattle and land dealer. In 1922, he was recorded as owning nearly 55,000 acres in Tarrant and other counties, and the following year was called one of the "pioneer builders" of Texas. Corn was also vice-president of the Mutual Cotton Oil Co., manufacturers of cotton seed oil products and cattle feed. Corn acquired all 480 acres of the Finley survey in 1900, and was identified by 1920 as residing near Benbrook, presumably at this house. The property passed eventually to his daughter, Pearl C. Littleton, in 1929, and to Thomas E. Mercer, owner of a beer distributing company and a teaming and trucking firm, in 1945. On a commanding hilltop site, the house is a large, two and one-half story residence in the Colonial Revival style."[89] The house on the site was constructed ca. 1919.
Ca. 1901	Joe N. Willis Ranch/ Joe N. Willis House	Northeast Tarrant County, Grapevine Vicinity	401 West College St., Grapevine	House extant, within a City of Grapevine local historic district, associated cultural landscape redeveloped	"Originally part of a complex that included a carriage house, large barn and beef cattle pasture, this distinctive house was built in 1901 for Joe and Mollie Willis." [90]
Ca. 1903	Rhome House/ "Northwoods Stock Farm"	North Central Tarrant County, Blue Mound Vicinity	Encompassing present-day 7700 N Blue Mound Rd. and 7744 N Blue Mound Rd., along Big Fossil Creek	Extant cultural landscape and barn (Figure 2-6), including mature trees lining driveway; some outbuildings appear non-historic[91]	"This extraordinary ranch on an expansive, hilltop site northeast of Saginaw is comprised of buildings from several building periods. In '1903, Byron C. Rhome, Jr., and wife Minnie L. Rhome purchased the 541- acre property, and were listed by the City Directory as residing near Saginaw from 1909 to 1919, presumably in this house. Originally from Wise County, Rhome and his father were known for their innovative methods of Hereford breeding. Rhome was president and general manager' of Rhome-Farmer Commission Co., a prominent livestock commission business of Fort Worth; his partner was James D. Farmer, the first mayor of North Fort Worth. Rhome also was secretary and manager of the National Feeders' and Breeders' Show from 1909 to 1911. In 1920, Rhome retired, and sold the ranch to Joseph M. Ligon, a ranchman thereafter the property passed through several owners until 1940, when it was acquired by James M. North, Jr. North was senior editor of the Star-Telegram and vice-president of Carter Publications. North raised Herefords and show horses at the ranch, which he called Northwoods Stock Farm; the property remained in the North family until 1960." [92] "Once a tree farm, this property has hundreds of beautiful, mature trees throughout." "Once a tree farm, this property has hundreds of beautiful, mature trees throughout."[93]
Ca. 1904	Masonic Widows & Orphans Home/ Masonic Home & School	Fort Worth	3600 Wichita St.	Orphanage buildings extant and designated within NRHP listed district, no ranching-related resources extant	"…building opened October 6, 1899 with 75 children and Dr. Frank Rainey as the first supervisor. The Home had its own artesian wells for its water supply, and a power plant supplying steam heat and electricity. By 1904, the Home had 150 acres under cultivation along with a cattle and dairy ranch. The farm provided the residents with food, in addition to training the young people in farm operations."[94]
Ca. 1918	Sansom Ranch/ Sansom House	Fort Worth, North Side	Present-day 3900 Angle Ave. (formerly 4300 Angle Rd.), on Marine Creek	House no longer extant but cultural landscape remains undeveloped	"This impressive stone house was built by Marion Sansom in 1918. Marion Sansom was a prominent cattleman and banker in Fort Worth. Sansom was born into a pioneer Texas family in 1853, and he grew up near Alvarado, Texas. Moving to Fort Worth in 1892, Sansom arrived during an important period in the growth of the local livestock industry. Sansom became head of the Cassidy-Southwestern Live Stock Commission Company and M. Sansom and Company, wholesale brokers and retailers of grain and feeds. He was also a president of the Fort Worth Live Stock Commission Company, board director of the State National Bank of Fort Worth, and director of the Texas Cattle Raisers Association. According to the book Fort Worth and the Texas Northwest, Sansom was 'one of the best known men in the cattle business in the Southwest' since he probably had 'done more for the promotion of the cattle industry in Texas than any other man.' In 1931, Sansom transferred the house to the wife of Marion Sansom, Jr. Mrs. Sansom owned the house until 1971. This one and a half story house has a hipped roof clad in heavy, glazed green tiles. The roof has a large central hipped dormer. The full recessed porch has massive stone columns. The porch runs along the front and north sides of the house. The house sits on the brow of a hill overlooking the valley below."[95]
Ca. 1925	Coonrod Ranch/ Corley's Horseshoe Hill Ranch	Northwest Tarrant County, Azle Vicinity	Nine Mile Bridge Rd. (east side, east of Silver Creek Azle Rd.); additional map analysis needed for precise address	Precise location and survey needed to assess	"The house, barn and outbuildings of this ranch complex probably were built in the 1920's by the Coonrod family…"[96]

[85] Page, Anderson, & Turnbull, "TCHRS: Phase II – Azle, Briar, Lakeside, Lake Worth, A Portion of Fort Worth," p. 8.
[86] Page, Anderson, & Turnbull, "TCHRS: Phase II – Azle, Briar, Lakeside, Lake Worth, A Portion of Fort Worth," p. 5; HPTC, "TCHRS: Phase I II IV-B – Selected Communities," p. 101.
[87] HPTC, "TCHRS: Phase I II IV-B – Selected Communities," p. 101.
[88] "Deed or Trust, dated January 15th, 1921, filed Jan. 25, 1921, and recorded in Book 180, page 411, in the office of the County Clerk of Tarrant County, Texas, records of Deeds of Trusts," from the Tarrant County Archives.
[89] Page, Anderson & Turnbull, Inc., "Tarrant County Historic resources Survey [TCHRS]: Phase VI-A, Fort Worth's Far South and Southwest, Far West, North and Northwest," from the Tarrant County Archives, 1989, p. 67.
[90] HPTC, "TCHRS: Phase I – Grapevine," p. 16; HPTC, "TCHRS: Phase I II IV-B – Selected Communities," p. 25 (includes photo); "Joe Willis House" [Neighborhood Survey, Atlas # 3001005142], THC Atlas, https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/Details?atlasnumber=3001005142.
[91] "7700 N Blue Mound Rd.," from Realtor, accessed 07/05/2024, https://www.realtor.com/realestateandhomes-detail/7760-Blue-Mound-Rd_Fort-Worth_TX_76131_M92628-27740?from=srp-map-list.
[92] Page, Anderson, & Turnbull, "TCHRS: Phase VI-A – Fort Worth's Far South and Southwest, Far West, North and Northwest," p. 72.
[93] "7700 N Blue Mound Rd.," from Realtor.
[94] Page, Anderson, & Turnbull, "TCHRS: Phase IV, Fort Worth's Upper North Side – Eastside," p. 105.
[95] Page, Anderson, & Turnbull, "TCHRS: Phase IV, Fort Worth's Upper North Side – Eastside," p. 24.
[96] Page, Anderson, & Turnbull, "TCHRS: Phase II – Azle, Briar, Lakeside, Lake Worth, A Portion of Fort Worth," p. 26; HPTC, "TCHRS: Phase I II IV-B – Selected Communities," p. 137 (includes photo).

Date(s)	Name(s)	Vicinity	Address/Location	Desktop Integrity Assessment	Previously Documented Background/Source(s)
Ca. 1928	Staley Ranch/ "Goodnight Staley Ranch"	North Central Tarrant County, Haslet Vicinity	Keller-Haslet Road, (north side, 0.6 miles west of Harmon Road), near Henrietta Creek; additional map analysis needed for precise address	Precise location and survey needed to assess; but likely redeveloped (barn demolished by 1990)[97]	Noted for raising buffalo.[98] "Local residents recall that Mary Burgess Perry inherited the property in the 1930s and is thought to have had the barn and a house built. After 1934, the farm was purchased by Joe H. Staley of Wichita Falls, grandson of a prominent oilman, Joseph A. Staley."[99]
Ca. 1930	Campbell Farm/ Circle L Farms	Northeast Tarrant County, Keller Vicinity	1817 Whitley Rd.	No longer extant	"This farm/ranch complex in rural south Keller was constructed in two stages. Around 1930, D.L. "Doc" Campbell had the large wooden horse barn and two-story portion of the brick house constructed. Blackie Looper bought the property in the late 1930s, and named it "Circle L Farms. He added a long, one-story wing to the house, and constructed a stone entrance pedestal, metal arch, and stone and brick garden wall. The complex has had several owners since the 1950s."[100]
Ca. 1931	Marti Farm	South Central Tarrant County, Burleson Vicinity	Encompassing present-day 12350 OAK GROVE RD S (Rt. 4, Box 66, Oak Grove Rd.)	Extant house, outbuildings, and cultural landscape	"John Marti purchased this farm in 1928. Regarded as a progressive farmer, Marti grew cotton and grains and raised dairy and beef cattle on his farm. The farm complex, apparently mostly constructed about 1931, consists of a wood-frame, Bungalow style farmhouse, a water tower, and a corrugated iron barn with a gambrel roof and side sheds, used for storage of grain, hay, and housing horses and mules. A second barn, originally used as a dairy barn, is located further west on the property. A good example of an intact farm complex, it remains in the Marti family."[101]
Ca. 1933	Barwide Farm	Fort Worth	6120 Ten Mile Bridge Rd.	House extant, surrounding land and remaining outbuildings only partially extant	"Joseph H. Barwise, Jr., an attorney, came to Fort Worth in 1902, and later formed the legal firm of Thompson & Barwise; the firm represented a number of major railroad companies. Barwise and wife Lucy Mayfield Barwise moved from their River Crest residence to this rural ranch on the Fort Worth-Azle Road about 1933, and lived here until 1947; Franklin Delano Roosevelt is remembered to have visited the Barwises here. Barwise had a commercial herd of Herefords at the ranch. In 1948, the property became the residence of William J. and Dora Johnson; he was a partner of a livestock firm, Farrell & Johnson."[102]
Ca. 1932	Lakeside, Douglas House/ Holiday Ranch	Northwest Tarrant County, Lakeside Vicinity	8229 Jacksboro Highway		"Alcyone Douglas, manager of the Neil P. Anderson Building (Cotton Exchange) in Fort Worth, had this large stone house built in 1932 on six acres of land adjoining the newly-completed Jacksboro Highway. Constructed of buff-colored fossil rock, the ,two-story house displays excellent workmanship. The property has had several owners, and since the 1950's has been called "Holiday Ranch".[103]
Ca. 1934	Sproles Ranch/ Sproles House	Southwest Tarrant County, Benbrook Vicinity	1000 Sproles Dr.	House extant, new outbuildings, land all redeveloped	"This residential estate, consisting of a major house and a number of outbuildings surrounded by a stone wall, was constructed to replace an earlier house for Ed Sproles. Sproles was the owner of a trucking company, and served as Benbrook's first mayor in 1947. The house was the center of a large cattle ranch, much of which was flooded when Benbrook Lake was begun in 1947."[104]
Ca. 1935	Dutch Branch Ranch/ Roosevelt Ranch	Southwest Tarrant County, Crowley Vicinity	Encompasses present-day 5900 Rocky Creek Park Rd. (Rocky Creek Park)/ Old Granbury Rd. at Columbus Trail (W side)	Extant, large amount of surrounding land extant	"Covering approximately 1300 acres of land near Benbrook in southwestern Tarrant County, Dutch Branch Ranch was the country estate of Elliott Roosevelt, the son of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and his wife, Ruth Googins Roosevelt. Mrs. Roosevelt purchased most of the property in 1935 and held it until 1944. During the 1930s, Elliott Roosevelt was president of the Texas State Network, a network of twenty-three radio stations, and also of Hearst Radio. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Eleanor Roosevelt made several visits to the ranch in the later 1930s. In 1946, the ranch was purchased by Fort Worth oilman, Sid Richardson. Substantial acreage was condemned by the U.S . Government to permit the construction of Benbrook Lake from 1947 to 1950."[105]
Ca. 1935	Heizer Country House/ "Austin Patio Dude Ranch"	Northeast Tarrant County, Grapevine Vicinity	2009 Anderson-Gibson Rd.	Now Austin Ranch at Hilton DFW Lakes	"Originally the garage and servants' quarters for the Heizer Country House, this limestone and slate building was used as the garage for the Austin Patio Dude Ranch. The former ranch house has been substantially altered. The intact garage displays an excellent use of materials and handsome design, but further research is needed to reveal the identity of the architect and the history of the Heizer family. Scenes for several movies have been at this location. Hilton Hotel Inc. has purchased the land and plans to build a large hotel and convention center complex, retaining the older buildings in the design."[106]
Ca. 1950	Bill Hames Ranch No. 2	Fort Worth	Encompassing present day Heritage Trace Pkwy at Kroger Dr./ Ray White Road (Opposite Nat Gibbs Rd.)	Appears likely redeveloped; additional map analysis and survey needed	"After World War II, Quonset barns occasionally were erected, either adapted from military use or constructed new. A striking cluster of three such structures was assembled on the Bill Hames Ranch No. 2 around 1950."[107]
Ca. 1950	Bond Ranch	Fort Worth	Encompassing 10857 N. Saginaw Blvd.	House and cultural landscape extant	[108]

[97] HPTC, "TCHRS: Phase I II IV-B – Selected Communities," p. 150.
[98] "Bonnie Flanagan Collection," from the Tarrant County Archives, accessed Jul. 3, 2024, https://www.tarrantcountytx.gov/en/tarrant-county-archives/holdings/named-collections/f/flanagan-bonnie.html; [Newspaper Clipping of a Buffalo Killing at Staley Place], Jan. 14, 1929, from the Portal to Texas History crediting the Haslet Public Library, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth743877.
[99] Page, Anderson, & Turnbull, "TCHRS: Phase VI-B, Haslet, Saginaw, … & Unincorporated Areas," p. 16; [Photograph of the Ranch House at Staley Place], [1927,1928], from the Portal to Texas History crediting Haslet Public Library, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth744012; "Staley Ranch" [various photos, no date], from the Bonnie Flanagan Collection, Tarrant County Archives, https://www.tarrantcountytx.gov/en/tarrant-county-archives/image-gallery/flanagan--bonnie.html.
[100] HPTC, "TCHRS: Phase I II IV-B – Selected Communities," p. 84.
[101] Page, Anderson, & Turnbull, "TCHRS: Phase VI-A – Fort Worth's Far South and Southwest, Far West, North and Northwest," p. 46.
[102] Page, Anderson, & Turnbull, "TCHRS: Phase VI-A – Fort Worth's Far South and Southwest, Far West, North and Northwest," p. 74; HPTC, "TCHRS: Phase I II IV-B – Selected Communities," pp. 201-202 (include images).
[103] Page, Anderson, & Turnbull, "TCHRS: Phase II – Azle, Briar, Lakeside, Lake Worth, A Portion of Fort Worth," p. 19; HPTC, "TCHRS: Phase I II IV-B – Selected Communities," p. 119 (includes photo).
[104] HPCTC, "TCHRS: Phase I – Fort Worth Central Business District," 1991, p. 107; HPTC, "TCHRS: Phase I II IV-B – Selected Communities," p. 177.
[105] Page, Anderson, & Turnbull, "TCHRS: Phase VI-B – Haslet, Saginaw… & Unincorporated Areas," p. 45; "Dutch Branch Ranch" [Neighborhood Survey, Atlas # 3002003830], THC Historic Sites Atlas, https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/Details?atlasnumber=3002003830.
[106] HRCTC, "TCHRS Phase I – Grapevine," p. 12; HPTC, "TCHRS: Phase I II IV-B – Selected Communities," p. 20.
[107] HPTC, "TCHRS: Phase I II IV-B – Selected Communities," p. 52.
[108] Google Maps, accessed 07/05/2024.

Twentieth-Century Ranches

At the outset of the twentieth century, many early ranches continued operating—with some operating well into the twentieth century. As the twentieth century progressed, new ranches also emerged. A 1925 map of the county showed many familiar nineteenth-century names still engaged in ranching, including Jeffrey's Ranch, Blue Mound Ranch, Hopenkamp's Ranch, Daggett's Ranch, and the Wooten Ranch.[109] New ranches were also shown in the county's northwestern and southeastern corners. (See Table 2-2.) During this period, the character of the ranchman became even more high-profile, with political and media families figuring prominently among ranch owners. These ranch owners often diversified their properties with industry, hospitality, or tourism, leveraging the popularity of Fort Worth's western image. One especially representative example of this trend is the nineteenth-century Reynold's Ranch, which was purchased by media mogul Amon Carter in the 1920s. Dubbed "Shady Oak Ranch," it was partially redeveloped as Texas's first television station, WBAP-Fort Worth, and used for entertaining and influencing prominent political and business leaders of the day (Figure 2-3).[110] Many of the ranch owners of this era also maintained elegant city homes in Fort Worth, leaving ranch managers to live on the property.

Figure 2-3. Bird's eye photo of Amon Carter's Shady Oak Ranch, no date. Source: Meacham-Carter Papers, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries. "Aerial view of Amon G. Carter's Shady Oak Farm." UTA Libraries Digital Gallery. n.d. Accessed July 8, 2024, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/20110038.

[109] *Samuel M. Sam Street's map of Tarrant County Texas,* Fort Worth, Texas, 1925 (updated 1945), from the Portal to Texas History crediting the University of Texas at Arlington Library, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth251675/.
[110] HPCTC, "TCHRS: Phase II VI-B – Selected Tarrant County Communities," 1990, p. 101, from the Tarrant County Archives; "First TV station in Texas goes on the air," Texas State Historical Association, accessed Jul. 10, 2024, https://www.tshaonline.org/texas-day-by-day/entry/171.

Relationship between Ranching and Meatpacking

Starting in 1900, Tarrant County's abundant cattle supply and rail connections stimulated construction of numerous meatpacking plants (see Table 2-4). Each of these meatpacking plants required substantial human labor to operate—often relying upon Black laborers and foreign-born immigrant laborers—creating nodes of workers' housing and commerce in the surrounding areas. For example, by 1910, a significant Mexican American neighborhood developed near the stockyards on Fort Worth's North Side.[111] (Refer to Chapter 3 for additional background on commercial nodes.)

The ranching industry and meatpacking industry in Tarrant County also were intertwined in the twentieth century, both dependent on the demand for beef and other contextual factors affecting the supply and demand of cattle. For example, the increased demand for sheep and wool in the early twentieth century affected ranchers' decisions to raise sheep instead of cattle and similarly affected meatpackers' decisions to adapt facilities to accommodate sheep.[112] The largest factor affecting the demand for beef and thereby impacting both ranching and meatpacking was the increase in disposable incomes in America in the early to mid-twentieth century, leading to increased demand for beef.[113] The widespread availability of home electricity and electric refrigerators by the 1950s also made buying and storing packaged meat at home more practical, further increasing demand for beef.[114] Cyclical forces like weather, disease, prices, and disposable income made supply and demand fluctuate from year to year, but the general trend was an increase in the demand for cattle and beef,[115] peaking around 1970.[116]

At the same time, the meatpacking industry began to experience disruptions that ultimately pushed the industry out of urban areas like Fort Worth—with some moving to smaller towns in Tarrant County (see Table 2-4) but most moving to the Texas Panhandle or the Midwest. Organized labor demanded more safe and sanitary conditions in the 1940s and 1950s, but old urban meatpacking plants were hard to adapt. Beginning in the 1950s the transition from rail transportation to trucking led to decentralization of the meatpacking industry.[117] The trend towards zoning and public sanitation laws in urban areas in the mid- to late twentieth century furthered the decentralization of the meatpacking industry. For example, around 1960, a Swift & Company executive left Fort Worth to establish the International Beef Processors (IBP) plant in Amarillo, which would become the largest in the state by 1980.[118] As a result of

[111] Kenneth N. Hopkins, "The Early Development of the Hispanic Community in Fort Worth and Tarrant County, Texas, 1849-1949," *East Texas Historical Journal* v. 38 no. 2 (2000), p. 57.
[112] Landon, Yancey, and Williams, "Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District," p. 8-3.
[113] James Minert *et al*, "U.S. Beef Demand Drivers and Enhancement Opportunities: A Research Summary," University of Nebraska – Lincoln Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dec. 3, 2009, https://beef.unl.edu/beefreports/symp-2009-14-xxi.shtml; "Beef Cows: Inventory on January 1 by Year, US [1920-2024]," [Chart], United States Department of Agriculture: National Agricultural Statistics Service, updated Feb. 27, 2024, https://www.nass.usda.gov/Charts_and_Maps/Cattle/bcow.php.
[114] Woolrich and Clark, "Refrigeration."
[115] Henry Grady Baker, *Monthly Average Prices of Cattle at Fort Worth, 1951-1952*, thesis, June 1953; Denton, Texas, from the University of North Texas Libraries, https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc935711/.
[116] James Minert *et al*, "U.S. Beef Demand Drivers and Enhancement Opportunities: A Research Summary," University of Nebraska – Lincoln Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Dec. 3, 2009, https://beef.unl.edu/beefreports/symp-2009-14-xxi.shtml; "Beef Cows: Inventory on January 1 by Year, US [1920-2024]," [Chart], United States Department of Agriculture: National Agricultural Statistics Service, updated Feb. 27, 2024, https://www.nass.usda.gov/Charts_and_Maps/Cattle/bcow.php.
[117] Various articles, *Fort Worth Labor News* Collection, Fort Worth Public Library Digital Archives, https://www.fortworthtexasarchives.org/digital/collection/p16084coll11/search/searchterm/meat; Landon, Yancey, and Williams, "Fort Worth Stockyards Historic District," p. 8-3.
[118] Worth Wren, Jr., "Consolidation of meat operations keys IBP's growth and profitability," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* [newspaper], Jun. 10, 1980, p. 11, from newspapers.com.

these forces, Fort Worth's two biggest meatpacking plants—the Armour & Company plant and the Swift & Company plant—closed between 1962 and 1971.[119]

Table 2-4. Examples of known meatpacking plants in Tarrant County.

Date	Names	Vicinity	Address/ Location	Desktop Integrity Assessment	Background/ Sources
Ca. 1900	Swift & Co.	Fort Worth, Northside	600 E. Exchange Ave.	Partially extant, largely demolished	[120]
Ca. 1900	Armour & Co.	Fort Worth, Northside	400-700 E. Exchange Ave.	Not Extant	[121]
Ca. 1914	Rosenthal Packing Co. (also known as the City Packing Company/ Marine Rendering Co., later Hygrade Foods)	Fort Worth, Marine Park	2014 N. Grove St./ 500 NE 21st St.	Extant	[122]
Ca. 1930	Estes Packing Co. (also known as Minton's Blue Bonnett Packing Plant)	Fort Worth, Northside	506 NE 37th St.	Extant	[123]
1941	Fort Worth Frosted Foods (renamed Klein Meat Co. in 1969)	Fort Worth	Public Market Bldg. at 1400 Henderson St. (1941-1969); 2525 Cullen St.(1969-1996)	1400 Henderson St. extant; 2525 Cullen St. not extant	[124]
Ca. 1973	Superior Foods Processing Plant	Fort Worth, Southeast	Old Traders Oil Mill on E. First St. (likely 3709 E. 1st St.)	Appears extant, address verification needed	Established by Rosenthal to shift away from slaughtering and packing and instead toward processing products like "precooked convenience goods…[and] boxes of steaks for individuals and corporate sales programs"[125]

[119] HPCTC, " TCHRS: Phase V, Fort Worth Near North Side – West Side – Westover Hills," 1988, p.5, from the Tarrant County Archives.
[120] HHM, "Fort Worth Historic Context and Survey Plan," prepared for the City of Fort Worth, 2021, https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/development-services/preservation-urban-design/historic-preservation/historic-context-and-survey-plan; Fort Worth Architecture, accessed Jul. 11, 2024, https://www.fortwortharchitecture.com.
[121] Ibid.
[122] Sanborn, *Fort Worth: Texas* [map], 1951, vol. 3 sheet 304, from ProQuest via the Austin Public Library; "Texas Charters," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* [newspaper], Jul. 22, 1917, p. 8, "City Packing Company Employes [sic] Get Raise," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, May 13, 1933, p. 7.
[123] Worth Wren Jr., "Cattle slaughterhouse closing its doors and a Fort Worth era," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, Aug. 30, 1988, p. 1; Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Fort Worth: Texas* [map], 1951,vol. 3 sheet 804.
[124] "Jimmy Klein Collection," Tarrant County Archives, accessed Sept. 3, 2024, https://www.tarrantcountytx.gov/en/tarrant-county-archives/holdings/named-collections/k/jimmy-klein-collection.html.
[125] James E. Vance, "Beef Processor Expanding Operations," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, Mar. 18, 1973.

Date	Names	Vicinity	Address/ Location	Desktop Integrity Assessment	Background/ Sources
Ca. 1974	Portion-Trol Foods	Mansfield	812 S. 5th Ave.	Extant	Subsidiary to Denny's Inc.[126]
Ca. 1978	Cattlemen's Wholesale Beef and Pork	Keller	429 N. Main St.	Extant	[127]

The closure of Fort Worth's meatpacking plants did not immediately impact ranching in Tarrant County. In fact, the agricultural census from 1969 shows the highest number of cattle in Tarrant County's history (Table 2-1), despite ongoing closures of local meatpacking plants. By the late 1970s, though, cattle numbers in Tarrant County began to decline steeply, likely due to the combination of the loss of meatpacking plants, the nationwide decrease in the demand for beef given health concerns, and the voracious growth of Fort Worth's suburbs. [128]

Effects of Suburbanization

Beginning in the 1950s, the suburbs surrounding Fort Worth began to rapidly sprawl outward, leading to redevelopment of many historic ranches. After World War II, new industrial plants brought jobs outside the city, and residential and commercial development followed. As documented by Table 2-3, many known historic ranches were redeveloped or partially redeveloped as suburban residential neighborhoods or commercial complexes during the late twentieth century. For example, beginning around 1955 the Edwards Ranch was subdivided into the Overton Park, Tanglewood, and Westland neighborhoods. Similarly, the Indian Oaks subdivision near Lake Worth evolved from the Reynolds Ranch. [129] A concurrent trend was the development of new "Ranchettes," or large residential properties that included space for some livestock for recreation but not enough for a viable commercial ranching operation. One notable example is the "Ranchette Estates" subdivision in Keller, which was developed in the 1960s, likely from land historically associated with the Bill Hames Ranch No. 2, featuring large ranch homes on one-acre or two-acre lots (Figure 2-4).

[126] "Worth Wren, Jr., "Area processing rises, while slaughter declines," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, Jul. 20, 1978, p. 29; "Portion-Trol celebrates one year in Mansfield," *Mansfield News-Mirror* [newspaper], Nov. 6, 1975, p. 9, and Kacey Golden, "Frozen food plant locates in Mansfield," *Mansfield Mirror*, Aug. 18, 1977, p. 1, both from newspapers.com.
[127] "Worth Wren, Jr., "Area processing rises, while slaughter declines," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, Jul. 20, 1978, p. 29; [Various ads], *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, various dates.
[128] Richardson and Hinton, "Ranching."
[129] Page, Anderson, & Turnbul, Inc., "TCHRS: Phase II – Azle, Briar, Lakeside, Lake Worth, A Portion of Fort Worth, prepared for HPCTC, 1983, p. 8.

Figure 2-4. Photo of a 1960s ranch house at 30 North Rancho Dr. in the Ranchette Estates subdivision in Keller. Source: https://www.realtor.com/realestateandhomes-detail/30-Rancho-Dr-N_Fort-Worth_TX_76244_M74498-78866.

Figure 2-5. Photo of the Ranch Manager's house at the AT Wooten Ranch/ Winfield Scott Ranch/ "Winscott Ranch" at Present-day 6700 HWY 1187. Source: HPCTC, "TCHRS: Phasel II VI-B – Selected Tarrant County Communities," p. 203.

Figure 2-6. Photo of the barn at the Northwoods Stock Farm, present-day 7700 N Blue Mound Rd. Source: Patricia Crowley, "Northwoods Stock Farm Barn" [photograph], n.d., from the Portal to Texas History crediting Tarrant County College, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth28265/.

3| Commercial Nodes

INTRODUCTION

Beginning with pioneer trading posts and military forts, commercial nodes in Tarrant County developed and evolved to include small towns, one of the state's largest cities, clusters of auto-related businesses along highways, and suburban strip- and shopping malls. Throughout the nineteenth and twenty centuries, the primary impetus of the county's commercial nodes were its transportation networks: trails, railroads, highways, and interstates. The development of Fort Worth and the numerous and various-sized commercial nodes scattered across the county transformed the built environment. The various commercial resources, ranging from simple wood-frame stores, brick gas stations, and massive shopping malls, that define the county's commercial nodes reflect the long and significant period of commercial development in Tarrant County.

Resources associated with this theme may be individual resources or historic districts and include a wide variety of buildings including: stores, hotels, restaurants, gas stations, service stations, offices, banks, shopping centers, and shopping malls. Historic resources associated with commercial nodes may be significant for: 1) their association with historical events or trends (National Register Criterion A) typically in the Areas of Significance in Commerce, Community Planning and Development, and Ethnic Heritage, and/or 2) distinctive physical characteristics, quality of design, or work of a master (National Register Criterion C) in the Area of Significance in Architecture This theme's period of significance spans from the time of the early settlers, circa 1850, to 1974, meeting the National Park Service's 50-year mark for eligible properties.

NINETEENTH-CENTURY COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Pioneer Trading Posts

Following the arrival of the first permanent Anglo American settlers in the 1840s, commercial nodes developed in the county. Fort Worth, established as a military post by the United States government in 1845 to separate settlers from Native Americans pushed to the west, doubled as a trading post between settlers, the military, and Native Americans. Decommissioned in 1853, the fort and its buildings served as the nucleus for the new frontier town. Over the next several decades, Fort Worth's commercial district evolved and spread from the former post, and the city emerged as one of the state's largest commercial centers.

Elsewhere, small, early commercial nodes—which served the needs of the farmers and ranchers settling along the waterways—scattered across the county. Trading posts developed on established trails and facilitated the exchange of goods, including livestock, crops, and handmade items. These small trade centers, strung along roads, including stagecoach routes, and their intersections, developed loosely and without platted grids.[130] By the 1870s, these nodes typically had one or more general stores and a blacksmith shop lining the road. Some also had a building that often doubled as a church and school, a post office, a cotton gin, and a grist mill. Buildings were simple log and wood-frame structures, which were lost over time to fire, rebuilding, and abandonment.

[130] Some towns, though, as they later grew, developed with a platted grid; Page, Anderson, and Turnbull, Inc., "Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey: Selected Tarrant County Communities," 1980, 49.

One of the earliest trading posts was Birdville (now part of Haltom City). Established as a military fort, by 1848 the post was a lively settlement that served as the county seat from 1850 to 1860.[131] The community, located at a crossroads, had a post office, and by 1870 it boasted a commercial district with four stores and a blacksmith shop (Figure 3-1).[132] Another early commercial node, Bedford, started with one store, opened in 1870. By 1882, the community developing along Bedford Road between Fort Worth and Dallas was the second largest in the county, with over 1,000 residents and twenty-eight businesses.[133] Though not all commercial nodes survived past the nineteenth century, the nuclei of other communities, often located strategically between larger commercial centers, such as Grapevine, Mansfield, and Euless (originally named Estill's Station), also developed in this period as small, one- and two-store hamlets.

Figure 3-1. Main Street in Birdville in 1911. Founded in the 1840s, Birdville evolved as an early trading post into an important trading center in the early twentieth century. This photo shows a blacksmith shop and grocery store on the right and another grocery store on the left. Source: University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, crediting Tarrant County College NE, Heritage Room, accessed June 24, 2024, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth28173/.

[131] Birdville, roughly ten miles northeast of Fort Worth, was in part selected as county seat in 1850 due to its location in the geographic center of the county. As Fort Worth grew in prominence, the county held another election in 1856 to determine the county seat. Despite Fort Worth winning the election, another was held in 1860 after Birdville citizens claimed the first was marred with voter fraud and bribery. Fort Worth won again, and the county seat relocated in 1860.
[132] Brian Hart, "Birdville, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed June 19, 2024, https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/birdville-tx.
[133] Page, Anderson, and Turnbull, Inc., "Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey: Selected Tarrant County Communities," 43.

Though most of the early commercial nodes were located in the eastern half of the county, due to the perceived threat of Native Americans and the lack of larger settlements to the west, several small settlements in western Tarrant County developed in the nineteenth century. White settlement evolved from several frontier trading posts into an organized community with a post office by 1866.[134] Azle (originally Elizabeth Town and later Mooresville) was settled in the late 1840s and developed around a church, school, a general store. Though slow to grow, the settlement was the largest in the area; it boasted a post office and a cotton gin, and its Main Street "began to build up in a loose fashion between store and the gin" in the 1880s.[135]

The Impact of the Railroad

Between 1876, when the first railroad reached Fort Worth, and the end of the nineteenth century, a robust network of railroads spread across the county, connecting the region to cities across the state, country, and internationally (Figure 3-2). This development had a dramatic effect on the county's commercial nodes. In Fort Worth, dubbed the "great railway center of the Southwest," the number of businesses rapidly increased, growing from fewer than sixty in 1876 to over 500 in 1899.[136] Evolving into a major commercial hub, new two- to four-story commercial block masonry buildings replaced older wood buildings along the city's primary commercial streets—Houston, Main, and Commerce streets. Smaller commercial nodes also developed along the city's robust streetcar network, which operated from the 1890s into the 1920s. East of Fort Worth, along one of the county's two interurban rail lines, commerce also developed. Created as a stop on the Texas and Pacific Railway, Handley (now part of Fort Worth) experienced both a population and business boom when the North Texas Traction Company created a stop in the community around 1902. Among the other small commercial nodes that developed along the Interurban east of Fort Worth was Stop Six, a historically Black community (now part of Fort Worth).

> ***Learn more!*** *Read the Historic Context and Survey Plan for the City of Fort Worth to learn more about the city's streetcar system and commercial nodes associated with it: https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/files/assets/public/v/1/development-services/documents/all-preservation-and-design/historic/historic-context-survey-plan/1830_task-5_final-contexts__survey-plan-addendum_2021-09-21.pdf.*

[134] David Minor, "White Settlement, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed June 19, 2024, https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/white-settlement-tx.
[135] Page, Anderson, and Turnbull, Inc., "Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey: Selected Tarrant County Communities," 102.
[136] Ty Cashion, *The New Frontier: A Contemporary History of Fort Worth and Tarrant County* (San Antonio, TX: Historical Publishing Network, 2006), 18; Robert H. Talbert, *Cowtown-Metropolis: Case Study of a City's Growth and Structure* (Fort Worth: Texas Christian University, 1956), 12.

Figure 3-2. 1894 USGS topographic map. Note the network of railroads emanating from Fort Worth. Source: USGS Historical topoView, https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/ht-bin/tv_browse.pl?id=90488f676e7fad4c6d6f062a025b2cb0.

Figure 3-3. The historic downtown along East Lancaster Avenue in Handley. Now part of Fort Worth, Handley developed as a railroad town and benefited from the Interurban in the early twentieth century. The Central Handley Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2001: https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/NR/pdfs/01001472/01001472.pdf. Source: Daniel Haase via fortwortharchitecture.com, accessed August 16, 2024.

The railroad was equally impactful outside of Fort Worth. Across Tarrant County, the railroad created, sustained, benefitted, and dismantled communities and commercial nodes. Bypassed by the rail, existing towns dwindled, and along the rail lines, small, thriving communities developed and grew. The county's towns did not rival Fort Worth, as they typically had populations in the hundreds and fewer than ten businesses, but the businesses in each were vital to the farmers and ranchers they served. Additionally, like the patterns set in the pioneer period, the commercial development patterns created by the railroad laid a foundation for commercial and community development that changed very little until the postwar period.

Understanding the economic benefits that a railroad provided, many property owners, as well as citizens of existing small agricultural settlements, vied for a rail line. As enticement, some donated land for a right-of-way to the railroad companies, and others donated land for townsites. In northeast Tarrant County, Keller developed on the Texas and Pacific Railroad after landowners provided the rail company a right-of-way and forty acres for a townsite.[137] The new town, like many railroad towns in the county and across the state, was laid out with a gridiron plan with a main commercial street parallel to the rail line.[138] Representative of a larger county-wide trend, Residents and businesses of Double Springs —a nearby existing community bypassed by the line—relocated to the new town of Keller. Examples of similar patterns of commercial rail town development occurred in the county's northeast quadrant: Watauga and Hurst; in the northern section: Saginaw and Haslet; in the eastern half: Arlington (also a stop on the North Texas Traction Company interurban line); in the southeast quadrant: Bisbee and Britton (both now part of Mansfield); and in the south: Everman and Crowley. The rail benefitted existing communities in the eastern section of the county, bolstering businesses in small towns, like Smithfield (originally Zion). In other communities, the arrival of the rail not only supported existing businesses but also spurred commercial growth. In Grapevine, the St. Louis, Arkansas, and Texas Railway

[137] Joyce Gibson Roach, "Keller, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed June 20, 2024, https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/keller-tx.
[138] Page, Anderson, and Turnbull, Inc., "Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey: Selected Tarrant County Communities," 49.

and the Cotton Belt Line transformed the community into a prosperous regional agricultural trade and shipping center for area farmers. It spurred the construction of commercial and industrial buildings and contributed to the town's population growth. Likewise, the Fort Worth and New Orleans Railroad helped solidify Mansfield as a commercial and shipping hub for the surrounding farmers.

With fewer rail lines built west of Fort Worth, the pattern of town development was not mimicked in the western section of the county. The railroad, though, was impactful, benefiting some existing communities, like Benbrook, and diminishing others it bypassed. Dido, for example, was a small community on the stagecoach trail in the county's northwest corner. Founded in 1848, the community had a post office, stores, school, church, and cemetery.[139] Bypassed by several lines in its vicinity, Dido became a ghost town, as businesses and people moved to nearby rail towns, including Avondale, Haslet, Blue Mound, and Saginaw. Neighboring Azle, however, like several other communities elsewhere in the county including Euless and Bedford, managed to survive without a rail line.

As commercial nodes developed and grew, new buildings housed businesses, including general stores, drug stores, grocery stores, banks, and blacksmith shops (Figure 3-4). Some commercial nodes, like Tarrant (now part of Euless), which had a blacksmith shop, a drug and general store, and grocer by 1915, remained small.[140] Other commercial districts, like in Grapevine and Arlington, had a larger variety of businesses, including restaurants and hotels, lining their main commercial streets (Figure 3-5). Wood remained the primary building material for commercial buildings in the late nineteenth century, but the use of brick grew common, and by the turn of the twentieth century it was used for commercial buildings in most parts of the county. On Main Street in Grapevine, examples of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century brick commercial buildings are extant (Figure 3-6). In northwest Tarrant County, though, wood frame and wood-clad commercial buildings remained the norm into the 1940s (Figure 3-7).[141] The former Walker Drug Store in Azle, located at 117 W. Main Street, is an extant example of a two-story commercial building from around 1900.

[139] "Dido School," Marker number 14270, Texas Historical Commission Atlas, accessed June 17, 2024, https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/Details/5507014270.
[140] David Minor, "Tarrant, TX (Tarrant County)," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed June 20, 2024, https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/tarrant-tx-tarrant-county.
[141] Page, Anderson, and Turnbull, Inc., "Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey: Selected Tarrant County Communities," 104.

Figure 3-4. An undated photo of a simple-wood frame building with a high parapet that housed a general store in Bransford (now part of Colleyville). Source: Mark Fadden, *Images of America: Colleyville* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2015), 64, crediting the Tarrant County College Heritage Room.

Figure 3-5. Downtown Arlington showing its first hotel, the Pacific Hotel, looking south between Center and Pecan streets in 1893. Source: J. W. Dunlop Photograph Collection, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries Digital Gallery, accessed June 26, 2024, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/node/3015.

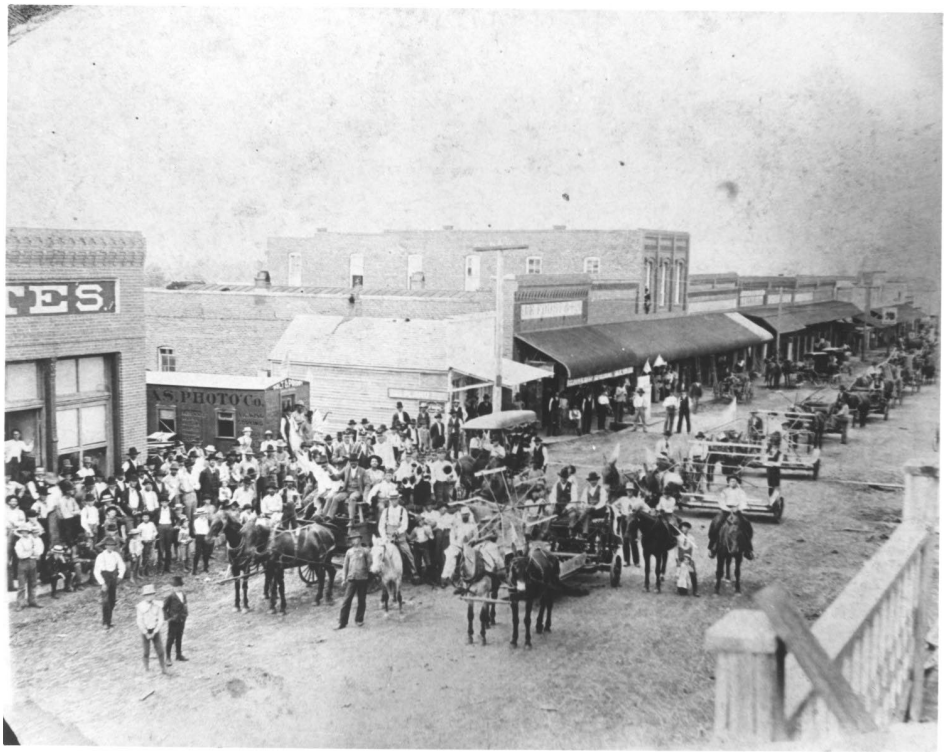


Figure 3-6. Main Street Grapevine in 1899. Note the presence of brick buildings, some of which are extant. Source: University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, crediting Tarrant County College NE, Heritage Room, accessed June 25, 2024, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth14702/.

Figure 3-7. Main Street in Azle in 1928. Note the wood-frame and wood-clad buildings and the Walker Drug Store at 117 W. Main Street (extant, second building on the left). Source: Fort Worth Star-Telegram Collection, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries Digital Gallery, accessed June 26, 2024, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/10018589.

HIGHWAY EXPANSION AND COMMERCIAL NODES IN THE EARLY TO MID-TWENTIETH CENTURY

The next major phase in commercial node development was associated with the highway building of the twentieth century. Starting slowly in the 1910s and accelerating in the 1920s, construction of improved, hard-surfaced roads created a network of hundreds of miles of highways in the county by 1940 (Figures 3-8, 3-9). A series of state and federal actions during this period, including the creation of the Texas Highway Department (now the Texas Department of Transportation) in 1916 and the passage of the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1916 greatly enabled this phase of highway expansion. Much like the railroad, the improvement and expansion of the road network in the county had a significant impact on the viability of existing commercial nodes and spurred the development of new commercial corridors and new commercial businesses.

> ***Learn more!*** *Read more about the highway construction and its funding during this period in The Development of Highways in Texas: A Historic Context of the Bankhead Highway and Other Historic Named Highways: https://www.thc.texas.gov/public/upload/preserve/survey/highway/Bankhead-history.pdf.*

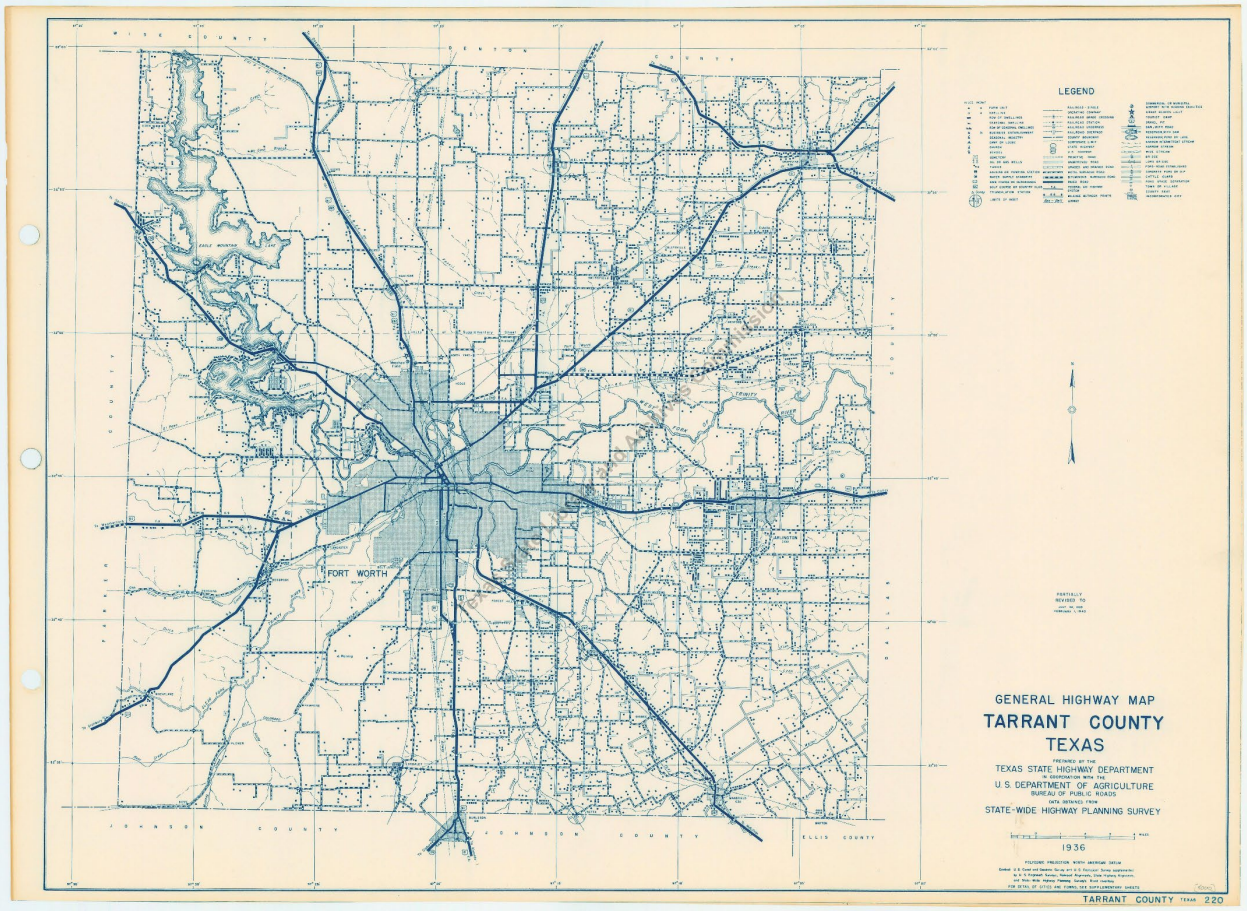


Figure 3-8. General Highway Map of Tarrant County, 1940, showing the improvement and expansion of the highway network. Source: Texas State Highway Department, Texas State Library and Archives, Map AC no. 05000, https://www.tsl.texas.gov/apps/arc/maps/maplookup/05000.

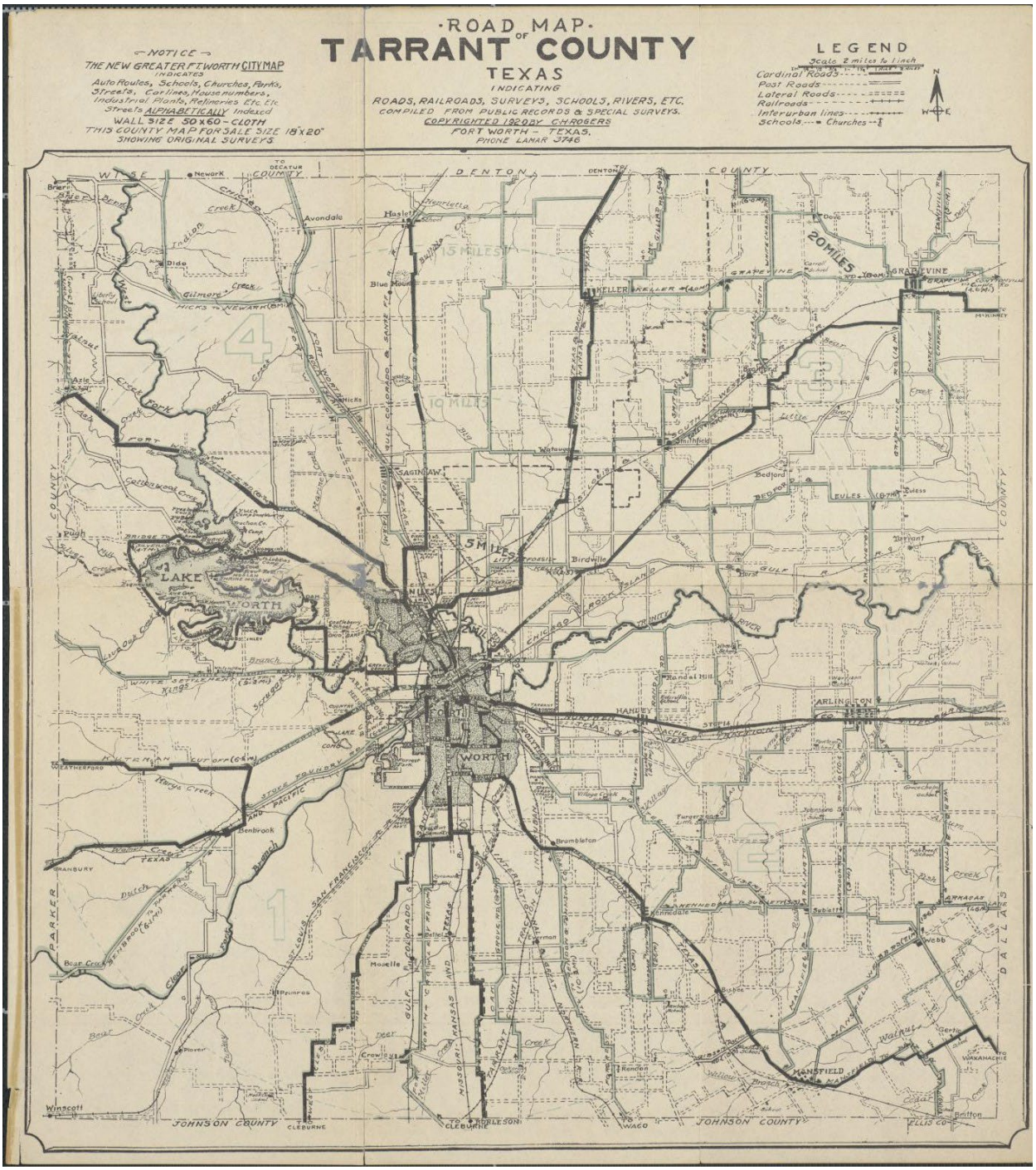


Figure 3-9. Road map of Tarrant County, circa 1920. Like the railroad network, the county's major highways emanate out from Fort Worth. Source: University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, crediting UNT Libraries Special Collections, accessed June 17, 2024, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth20808/.

Like the railroads, the highways intersected in Fort Worth and fanned out across the county, often following railroad alignments; both the Bankhead Highway and the Meridian Highway, two of the earliest transcontinental highways, followed rail alignments. Because of this location, highways impacted existing communities more than they created new communities. However, Haltom Village (renamed Haltom City) northeast of Fort Worth was one community created in part due to the highway.[142] In 1932, the routing of State Highways 10 and 121 south of the historic Birdville commercial district resulted in businesses relocating to the intersecting highways. The relocation of businesses economically hurt Birdville but created a new commercial node on E. Belknap Street in Haltom City that grew throughout the historic period (Figures 3-10, 3-11).

Figure 3-10. Street scene of Broadway Street in Birdville in 1928. Source: University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, crediting Tarrant County College NE, Heritage Room, accessed May 15, 2024, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth28010/.

[142] Page, Anderson, and Turnbull, Inc., "Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey: Haltom City," 1986, 4.

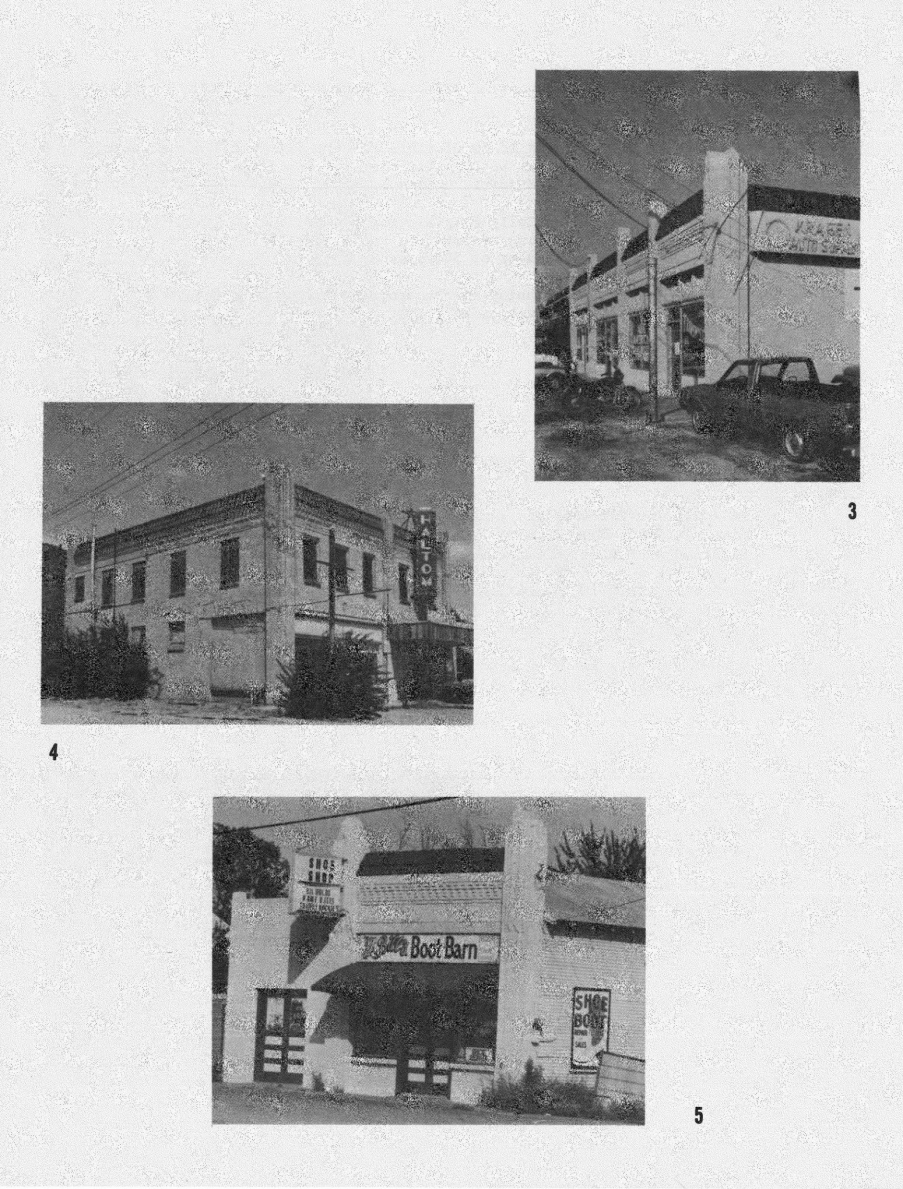


Figure 3-11. Buildings constructed at 5600-5605, 5601-5609, and 5614 E. Belknap Street in Haltom City in the 1930s following the construction of the highways. The commercial block at 5600-5605 E. Belknap Street and the theater at 5601-5609 E. Belknap Street are extant. The building at 5614 E. Belknap Street was demolished. Source: Page, Anderson, and Turnbull, Inc., "Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey: Haltom City," 1986, 15.

This pattern of commercial relocation reflects the advantages that the highways provided businesses by offering increased traffic and providing the growing automobile-owning populace accessible and convenient locations. Bypassed by major highways that connected Fort Worth with cities such as Dallas and Waxahachie, communities including Keller, Bedford, and Hurst continued to serve as trade centers to surrounding farmers and ranchers, though they diminished in importance to communities with major highways (Figure 3-12). Like Avondale, a railroad town platted in the 1880s, some bypassed towns lost residents, stores, and post offices and never recovered. Strategically located on highways and between major cities, Grapevine, Arlington, and Mansfield in the eastern half of the county reaped the commercial benefits of the highways. In the western part of the county, road construction spurred the growth of rural communities such as Azle that were left isolated by the railroad. In these communities, new commercial buildings filled in existing downtowns. In most of the county, brick one- and two-part commercial buildings remained popular, and concrete block began appearing in the 1940s. In small commercial nodes and in the western section, wood construction persisted but slowly gave way to brick

in the 1940s. Also, in the 1930s and 1940s, stone veneer commercial buildings appeared across the county.[143] New commercial nodes and auto-related businesses also developed along the highways outside existing business districts. New businesses, including gas and service stations, dealerships, restaurants, and roadside motels and tourist courts opened outside downtowns and created new commercial corridors (Figure 3-13).

> ***Learn more!*** *Read about the highways and the impact on the county's recreation and tourism in Chapter 6. Recreation and Tourism.*

Figure 3-12. Downtown Keller in 1928. Note the mix of brick and wood commercial buildings. Source: Fort Worth Star-Telegram Collection, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries Digital Gallery, accessed June 25, 2024, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/10004410.

[143] Based on review of the 1980s Tarrant County surveys.

Figure 3-13. A Humble gas station with a small grocery store at 113 W. Euless Boulevard in Euless (not extant), circa 1944. At the time, the owners had living quarters at the back of the store. Source: "Humble Gasoline Station," Euless Historical Preservation Committee, Flickr, https://www.flickr.com/photos/eulesshistory/4271063718/.

Segregation and Commercial Nodes

Segregation and racial discrimination in the public and private realms persisted throughout much of the historic period. Beginning after emancipation in 1863, segregation was legally supported through the Jim Crow era, but marginalization and racism prevalent throughout the United States perpetuated segregation even after the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. This environment necessitated the creation of Black commercial nodes. Because the majority of the county's Black population lived in Fort Worth, the greatest number of Black-owned businesses were in the city. In the city, Black commercial nodes developed alongside Black neighborhoods east of downtown, on East 5th, East Terrell, and East Rosedale streets.

Outside of Fort Worth, Mansfield, Grapevine, and Arlington had known Black communities comprised of farmers, mill workers, domestic workers, factory laborers, and later dam construction laborers. In Mansfield, after emancipation, the Black residents lived on the west and southwest side of town. By the 1950s, the town's 350 Black residents (roughly 23 percent of the total population) continued living on the west side of town, where roads remained unpaved until the 1990s. Research for this report did not reveal the development of a Black commercial node in Mansfield. If the Black population in Mansfield wanted to shop in town during the historic period, they had to use side streets and alleys to travel downtown, were not served in restaurants, used back doors into stores, could not try on clothes or shoes, and were sold inferior cuts of meat. At the local theater, Black patrons were segregated to the upper balcony. Due to this treatment, many Black families in Mansfield shopped from catalogs or traveled to the Black commercial nodes in Fort Worth, a pattern that Black families across the county, including in Grapevine, likely followed.

The story was different in Arlington, where Black entrepreneurs opened businesses in the neighborhood known as the Hill. Settled in the 1890s and platted in 1907, the five blocks north of downtown were home to around twenty-eight Black families in 1920. By the 1930s, on Division Street and interspersed among the houses and churches in the Hill were restaurants, stores, and night clubs. One

businesswoman in particular, Lou Henry Taylor, was heavily influential in the Hill's commercial vibrancy, opening a small grocery store in 1946, a larger store in 1957, and a club, Lou's Blue Lounge at 510 N. Indiana Street (not extant) (Figure 3-14). Faced with discrimination in the rest of the city, Black families in Arlington, as well as from Mosier Valley and the surrounding area, traveled to the Hill for shopping and entertainment. With integration and suburbanization in the 1960s and 1970s, the Hill declined as residents moved out of the neighborhood.

Similarly, segregation and discrimination resulted in the development of Hispanic commercial nodes. With the majority of the county's Hispanic population living in Fort Worth throughout the historic period, Hispanic businesses developed and operated by and large in the city.[144] Though commercial clusters had yet to develop, census records show that by 1900 the Hispanic population in Fort Worth included "chili vendors" and "tamale peddlers."[145] Throughout the twentieth century, as the city's Hispanic population grew and barrios developed in North Fort Worth, more Hispanic commercial enterprises opened in the southeastern edge of Fort Worth, near the Texas Rolling Mills south of the city, and on the northwestern edge of downtown Fort Worth. By the late 1930s a small number of Hispanic owned businesses, including groceries, restaurants, barbers, tailors, night clubs, and tamale peddlers, operated in Fort Worth.[146] Though segregation, discrimination, and financial hardships made business ownership considerably more difficult for the Hispanic population than the white population, several businesses that opened in this period became Fort Worth institutions. Both The Original Mexican Eats Café, opened by the Pineda family in 1926 at 4713 Camp Bowie Boulevard (extant) and Joe T. Garcia's, opened as Joe's Place in 1935 at 2201 N. Commerce Street (extant) remain in operation today. In the postwar period, the number of Hispanic-owned businesses increased as racial minorities gained more representation in municipal and business affairs and with the help from organizations such as the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

[144] By 1990, the Hispanic population accounted for 20 percent of Fort Worth's population while the Hispanic population accounted for only 7 percent of the rest of Tarrant County's population.; "Texas: Population of Counties by Decennial Census: 1900 to 1990," United States Bureau of the Census, https://www.census.gov/population/cencounts/tx190090.txt.
[145] Kenneth N. Hopkins, "The Early Development of the Hispanic Community in Fort Worth and Tarrant County, Texas, 1849-1949," *East Texas Historical Journal*, v. 38, no 2, article 9, 2000, 55, https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ethj/vol38/iss2/9.
[146] Hopkins, "The Early Development of the Hispanic Community in Fort Worth and Tarrant County, Texas," 63.

Figure 3-14. Lou Henry Taylor outside her club, Lou's Blue Lounge, in the Hill in Arlington (not extant). Source: "Forgotten Images of Arlington's African-American Past," Fielder House Museum, https://cdn.stacksplatform.com/yebuk4wg3nrbo/migration/public/Documents/Forgotten-Images-of-Arlington%E2%80%99s-African-American-Past-%E2%80%94-APL's-2017-Black-History-Month-Festival.pdf.

POSTWAR SUBURBANIZATION AND COMMERCIAL NODES

The postwar period brought a wave of suburbanization that reshaped the commercial landscape of the county. As interstate and continued highway construction facilitated the expansion of residential suburbs into historically agricultural lands, commercial nodes developed beside them to meet the needs of the new suburban communities. Early in the postwar era, new commercial nodes developed along major commercial arterials near new subdivisions. These nodes catered to the surrounding neighborhoods and typically included restaurants, banks, drug stores, and grocery stores all located within one shopping center. Typically anchored by a grocery and department store, neighborhood shopping centers had linear plans and provided ample parking. Haltom Plaza at 3147 Denton Highway in Haltom City was one of the first major shopping centers outside Fort Worth when it opened in 1959 (extant). Designed by architect Nobel Reeves, the shopping center had three large buildings, two gas stations, and had space dedicated for medical and professional suites (Figure 3-15).[147] Hurstgate Shopping Center opened several years later in the rapidly growing community of Hurst (extant). Developed alongside new subdivisions, the shopping center included a bowling alley.[148]

[147] "First Earth Turned For Haltom Plaza," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, December 20, 1958, 16.
[148] "Hurst Bowl's," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, June 5, 1960, 25.

Figure 3-15. Haltom Plaza at 3147 Denton Highway in Haltom City shortly after its completion in 1959. Source: University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, crediting Birdville Historical Society, accessed June 16, 2024, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth1136012/.

By the 1960s and 1970s, as more suburbs opened in outlying areas of the county, large new commercial nodes opened, catering to a growing regional population. Enabled by changes in technology and building construction, large malls that dwarfed earlier shopping centers opened on Interstate Highway (IH) 20, IH 30, IH 820, and IH 35W in the 1960s and 1970s. Six Flags Mall (1970) and Forum 303 Mall (1970) in Arlington (both demolished), Northeast Mall in Hurst (1971), Ridgmar Mall (1976), and Hulen Mall (1977) in the suburbs west and southwest of Fort Worth near White Settlement (1976) became major commercial centers (all extant), attracting shoppers from across the region (Figure 3-16). Near these malls, gas stations, motels, and restaurants opened, taking advantage of the growing number of shoppers. Catering to automobile owners, these buildings provided parking, had drive-throughs, and were built of brick and concrete.

> ***Learn more!*** *Read about suburbanization Tarrant County in Chapter 5. Suburbanization.*

Figure 3-16. Leonard's Department Store, an anchor at the Forum 303 Mall in Arlington in 1974. Built in 1970 at Spur 303 and SH 360, the mall, which included an ice-skating rink and an amphitheater, was demolished in 2007. Source: University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, crediting UNT Libraries Special Collections, accessed June 25, 2024, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc1940389/.

Great Southwest Industrial District (GSWID)

Industrial and business parks also opened in the postwar suburbanization boom, a trend that continued into the 1980s and 1990s. One of the earliest and most significant examples opened in 1957 in Arlington and Grand Prairie. The Great Southwest Industrial District, the brainchild of real estate developer Angus Wynne, was the largest planned industrial development in the world when it opened. Following his success in residential development, Wynne and investors formed the Great Southwest Corporation (GSC) and purchased thousands of undeveloped and agricultural acres along the newly completed Dallas-Fort Worth Turnpike (present-day IH 30) for the industrial and business park. Wynne and GSC assembled a team of architects, engineers, and experts in the field of industry to create a master plan for the park. Among those contributing to the project were prominent Texas architect O'Neil Ford with Associated Architects and Land Planners of Dallas and architect and engineer Félix Candela of Mexico City. One of the unique design features created by the team included innovative thin shell concrete structures called hyperbolic paraboloids (known extant examples at 2918 Avenue F) (Figure 3-17). Built on US 80, the structures served as distinguishing landmarks to the master-planned park. When Great Southwest Industrial District opened in 1957, it included three self-sustaining "communities" at the intersection of present-day IH 30 and State Highway 360. In addition to warehouses and offices, each community contained a hotel and restaurants. Deed restrictions and regulations, along with standards for signage and building design, ensured a cohesive, clean, and modern aesthetic for the park. The opening of Six Flags Over Texas amusement park by Wynne and GSWID in 1961 boosted business in the park, and by the late 1960s rapid growth saw restrictions and design regulations loosen. Propelled by the opening of Dallas Fort Worth International Airport in 1974, expansion continued in the 1970s as more companies joined Bell Helicopter and the more than 500 businesses already operating in the park. Despite fluctuations in property values and vacancies outside the historic period, GSWID remains vital not only to the economy of Arlington and Grand Prairie but to the county and region as a whole. The integrity of GSWID is unknown; future survey is recommended to determine what is extant.

Figure 3-17. The hyperbolic paraboloid structures designed by a team of architects and engineers led by Félix Candela and O'Neil Ford at the Great Southwest Industrial District in Arlington. The industrial and business park had some of the first known hyperbolic paraboloids in the world. Source: Willis Albarado (photographer), *Texas Highways,* 1961, from Flashback Dallas blog, April 15, 2014, https://flashbackdallas.com/2014/04/15/the-hyperbolic-paraboloids-of-the-prairie/.

As suburbanization led to the proliferation of new commercial nodes along highways and interstates, the vitality of many historic downtowns and commercial districts suffered. Even in Fort Worth, shoppers abandoned downtown for the suburban malls. To reinvigorate downtown, the City implemented various urban renewal projects, including the construction of the convention center and the Modern Water Garden, both requiring the demolition of shops, warehouses, hotels, and theaters, including some historically Black-owned businesses. Arlington, on the other hand, embraced suburbanization, implementing a city plan promoting a decentralized downtown in the 1950s and 1960s. As a result, the city's downtown was nearly vacant by the early 1970s.[149] Across the county, however, renewed interest in downtowns and historic preservation in the late twentieth and twenty-first centuries contributed to downtown revitalization.

[149] Gayla Weems Shannon, revised by Evelyn Barker, "Arlington, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed June 26, 2024, https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/arlington-tx.

4| Cultural and Social Institutions

INTRODUCTION

The various social and cultural institutions of Tarrant County were consequential in community development and stability. Encompassing educational, religious, fraternal, sororal, ethnic and racial institutions, the social and cultural sphere was pivotal in shaping the towns and cities of Tarrant County. These institutions advocated for their respective communities and often provided the social services lacking from the government, particularly in rural areas and in communities of racial and ethnic minorities. As a result, these institutions often reflect the socio-economic, political, and cultural challenges of the populations they served.

Resources associated with this theme may be individual resources or historic districts and include a wide variety of buildings including: schools, churches, meeting halls, museums, and Indigenous sites. Historic resources associated with cultural and social institutions may be significant for: 1) their association with historical events or trends (National Register Criterion A) typically in the Areas of Significance in Community Planning and Development, Education, Ethnic Heritage, Religion, and Social History, and/or 2) distinctive physical characteristics, quality of design, or work of a master (National Register Criterion C) in the Area of Significance in Architecture. Resources associated with Native Americans are likely archeological sites and therefore would be significant under National Register Criterion D. Some resources may also be eligible under Criteria B for their association with significant people. This theme's period of significance includes the prehistory era and spans from the time of the early settlers, circa 1850, to 1974, meeting the National Park Service's 50-year mark for eligible properties.

INDIGENOUS HERITAGE

Native American tribes inhabited north central Texas for centuries before Anglo Americans settled the area in the mid-nineteenth century. Tonkawa, Hasinai Caddo, Comanche, Kiowa, Cherokee, and Wichita lived in and traversed the region at different times. Prior to the European explorers in the sixteenth century, the Tonkawas and Hasinai Caddos are believed to have inhabited the region, and by the late 1700s, Comanche, Kiowa, and Wichita tribes likely were also in the region.[150] Nomadic tribes used a network of trails and camped at springs and along the many waterways. Sedentary tribes, including Caddo, Cherokee, and Tonkawa, also used these paths and established settlements along trails and waterways, including Village Creek. When Anglo American settlers and the United States military began settling in the area in the mid-nineteenth century, their encroachment on Native lands caused clashes between the groups. The violence culminated in the destruction of indigenous villages, such as in the Battle of Village Creek in 1841. Though clashes between settlers and Native tribes continued into the 1870s, clearance of tribes by white settlers and the United States military from the region steadily increased after this battle.

Today, little commemorates the indigenous heritage of the tribes who lived in the region. Around fifteen historical markers directly or loosely connected to this history are placed in Tarrant County. Erected mostly in the 1970s and 1980s, they are written from the Anglo-American viewpoint, often focusing on violence endured by white settlers. A marker recognizes Village Creek (at the Arlington Golf Course) as

[150] "The Importance of Acknowledging our History: the National Archives and Federal Records Center in Fort Worth, Texas," National Archives, blog, August 13, 2021, https://aotus.blogs.archives.gov/2021/08/13/the-importance-of-acknowledging-our-history-the-national-archives-and-federal-records-center-in-fort-worth-texas/.

the site of prehistoric villages, noting the archeological discovery of artifacts dating back almost 9,000 years. The site of the battle was lost due to the creation of Lake Arlington.

EARLY CULTURAL AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Houses of Worship and Schools

Across the county, houses of worship and schools were some of the first institutions organized in the early settlement period in Tarrant County. Meeting first in private residences, outside, or in commercial buildings, churches and schools often formed the nucleus of small agricultural communities. Instrumental in community development, churches and schools were the centerpieces of small town social and cultural life in towns such as Azle, Peden, Crowley, and present-day Southlake. Across Tarrant County, Presbyterians, Methodists, and Baptists organized the most congregations. The churches reflected the area's cultural diversity, as with the Irish and German Catholic churches in Fort Worth and Mansfield.[151] The county's Jewish community, clustered in Fort Worth, organized Congregation Ahavath Sholom in 1892 and built a place of worship in 1895 (congregation is extant but the building is not).[152] Meanwhile, groups of families living in proximity to one another established early tuition-funded private schools that typically met only several months out of the year.

In this period, church and school buildings were some of the first non-residential and non-commercial buildings constructed. Land was often provided by one or several citizens and construction was privately funded. Oftentimes, in rural areas, multiple congregations and schools shared one building. For instance, the Presbyterian Church in Watauga, a modest wood-frame building completed in 1893, was used by multiple congregations into the 1940s (Figure 4-1). Another example was the Gibson Community north of Mansfield, where the one-room church doubled as a school.[153] In other communities, like Bedford, the school building doubled as a church. Built in 1865 to replace an earlier log cabin, the new school in Bedford was the "centerpiece for the town's social and religious activities," home to both the local school, as well as the Spring Garden Church of Christ (not extant).[154]

[151] Diane E. Williams, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Mansfield, Texas," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. Texas Historical Commission, Austin, 2003, E-73.
[152] Fort Worth would gain more synagogues throughout the historic period, but based on preliminary research, the county's other synagogues—in Arlington, Colleyville, Bedford, Southlake, and Saginaw—organized after 1974.
[153] Williams, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Mansfield, Texas," E-73.
[154] David Moore, "Bedford School," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Texas Historical Commission, Austin, 1997, A-10.

Figure 4-1. Founded as Willow Springs Cumberland Presbyterian Church in the 1850s, and later renamed Watauga Presbyterian Church, the congregation in present-day Haltom City built this church in 1893 for $1,893. The building is extant and located at 6205 Rusk Street in Haltom City. Source: University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, crediting Tarrant County College NE, Heritage Room, accessed May 20, 2024, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth27848/.

In the late nineteenth century, changes to Texas's constitution created a publicly funded school system that led to the construction of new school buildings across the county. In 1884, the Tarrant County Commissioners Court divided the county into eighty-four common school districts with taxing and operation authority governed by an elected board of trustees.[155] As a result, newly created school districts began holding bond issue elections for funding school construction. In Euless, the school district passed a bond issue and built a new school in 1894, moving children out of the second story of the Patrons of Husbandry building in town shared with the local Methodist and Presbyterian congregations (neither the school nor the building are extant).[156] Due to more limited funding, late-nineteenth century rural school buildings like the one in Euless were typically small, one-story, wood-frame buildings, oftentimes poorly constructed and barely maintained.[157] Despite the creation of a public school system, some citizens continued supporting private schools due to the underfunding of the public system. In Arlington, citizens formed Arlington College, a first through tenth grade school in 1895. From its first two-story wood-frame building (not extant), the school grew and evolved over the historic period, operating as Carlisle Military Academy (1902-1913), Arlington Training School (1913-1916), Arlington

[155] Weldon G. Cannon, "Nineteenth Century Education in Euless," City of Euless, 2015, 5.
[156] Cannon, "Nineteenth Century Education in Euless," 5.
[157] Moore, "Bedford School," 8-13.

Military Academy (1916-1917), Grubb's Vocational College (1917-1923), North Texas Agricultural College (1923-1949), Arlington State College (1949-1967), and finally as the University of Texas at Arlington (1967-present).

Fort Worth's Churches and Schools - Saint Patrick Cathedral and Sixth Ward School

Whereas the first churches and schools in rural Tarrant County were modest, one-room, wood frame buildings, those built in the late nineteenth century in Fort Worth were some of the city's and county's first permanent masonry buildings. As congregations grew and gained financial clout in the growing city, they constructed monumental buildings in more intentional architectural styles. The city's lone Catholic congregation, Saint Patrick Cathedral, first worshiped in a hardware store and then a small chapel until a new limestone Gothic Revival church opened in 1892 at 1206 Throckmorton Street. Designed by Fort Worth architect James J. Kane, the church (listed in the NRHP) is the oldest extant and continuously used church in the city. In the nineteenth century, the church also opened the city's first parochial school, Saint Ignatius Academy. Likewise, the Sixth Ward School at 319 Lipscomb Street is a two-story brick building designed by Fort Worth architects Messer, Sanguinet, and Messer. Built in 1892 following voter approval of a bond, the building housed an elementary school until 1977.

Black Churches and Schools

Segregated by law during the Jim Crow era, the county's Black communities organized their own churches and schools. By 1899, Fort Worth had six Black churches. Two public schools served the city's roughly 300 Black students; both operated out of churches rented by the school district.[158] Outside the city, Black congregations organized in Mansfield (Bethlehem Baptist Church in 1870) and in the Freedom Colony of Mosier Valley (St. John Missionary Baptist Church formed as Oak Grove Baptist Church in 1874). Mansfield's church, built over a period of time in the late 1890s and early 1900s, was the center of the Black community, serving as a community meeting place and school building, as well as a religious space (not extant).[159] In Mosier Valley, the community constructed a building in the late nineteenth century where the congregation worshipped and children attended school (not extant). In the 1890s, the Birdville school district opened a Black public school that served the community until 1906.[160] The school, a one-room building on the corner of Anderson Road and Carson Street, was constructed on land donated by one of the founding members of the colony, Major Cheney, for whom the district's current elementary school is named.

> ***Learn more!*** *Refer to Chapter 1. Farming and Agricultural Processing for more background about Freedmen colonies in Tarrant County.*

[158] HHM & Associates, Inc., "Historic Context and Survey Plan: City of Fort Worth," City of Fort Worth, September 2021, 31.
[159] Williams, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Mansfield, Texas," E-24.
[160] Haven Gibbons, "Segregation stopped her from attending schools in a Texas district she now helps lead," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, July 12, 2021, https://www.star-telegram.com/news/local/education/article252657008.html.

EVOLVING SOCIAL AND CULTURAL FABRIC: LATE NINETEENTH TO MID-TWENTIETH CENTURIES

Social Groups and Organizations

The period spanning the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries is considered the golden age of fraternalism and social clubs. These organizations often served social or cultural purposes and provided entertainment outlets as well as a sense of stability and community to members. Among the organizations' various goals were politics, mutual aid and insurance, education, and arts.

Fort Worth claimed the highest number and diversity of clubs, with an estimated one in six men in the city belonging to a group in the 1890s.[161] Some groups met in their own buildings, while others met in hotels, schools, the county courthouse, or in another lodge building. The Masons, who organized in the city in the 1850s, first met on the second floor of a hotel downtown before building their monumental temple, designed by architect Wiley G. Clarkson, at 1100 Henderson Street in 1931. The Knights of Pythias, a secret benevolent society, also constructed a grand lodge. Built in 1901 to replace the first lodge destroyed by a fire, the building at 315 Main Street was designed by Marshall R. Sanguinet of Sanguinet and Staats. While the sororal counterpart to the fraternal groups met in lodge buildings, many of the women's clubs met in private residences and religious institutions. These groups were particularly influential in the cultural and social development of the city, focusing on aiding women, education, and arts. Women's clubs helped open the city's first public library (not extant), sponsored the Fort Worth Symphony and Orchestra Association and the Fort Worth Art Association (now the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth), and opened the city's first orphanage. Cultural organizations also added to the built environment in Fort Worth during this period, constructing buildings including dance and meeting halls. Sokol Hall (1933, 6500 Boat Club Road) and National Hall (1938, 3316 Roberts Cut Off Road) are two dance halls constructed in the twentieth century in Fort Worth by Czech fraternal organizations.[162]

> ***Learn more!*** *Read the Historic Context and Survey Plan for the City of Fort Worth to learn more about Women's Clubs and the role they played in the city's social and cultural sphere: https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/files/assets/public/v/1/development-services/documents/all-preservation-and-design/historic/historic-context-survey-plan/1830_task-5_final-contexts__survey-plan-addendum_2021-09-21.pdf.*

Refused membership into these lodges and clubs, Black men and women organized their own, including an order of the Knights of Pythias. In 1925, the group built a lodge at 900 E. 2nd Street (extant) that served as the group's headquarters until 1947 (Figure 4-2). A number of clubs were dedicated to the betterment and support of the Black community, advocating for or providing services when the city failed to do so. The Phyllis Wheatley Club, organized around 1900, focused on improving Black neighborhoods, and Ethel Ransom Cultural Club focused on advancing arts (associated buildings unknown). The Colored Progressive Club (CPC) functioned as a chamber of commerce and political advocacy group. Like the Knights of Pythias, the CPC had their own building (not extant), but many of the Black groups met at churches, one of the few places large enough to host meetings and events.

[161] "The Golden Age of Lodges: Owls, Eagles, Elks, Beaves, Bovinians, and Moose," *Hometown by Handlebar*, blog, January 11, 2019, https://hometownbyhandlebar.com/?p=4639.
[162] Texas Dance Hall Preservation, accessed August 16, 2024, https://texasdancehall.org/

Figure 4-2: The Key West Lodge of the Knights of Pythias, a Black fraternal lodge. Built in 1925 at 900 E. 2nd Street, the building served the society until 1947 when it was leased to several businesses. Though it was vacant for some time, the building was recently rehabilitated and converted into apartments. Source: Historic Fort Worth.

Outside the city, popular national societies, including the Masons, International Organization of Odd Fellows (IOOF), Knights of Pythias, Modern Maccabees, and Woodmen of the World (WOTW) organized. The Modern Maccabees and WOTW were benevolent societies with sororal and junior counterparts that provided insurance to members and supported the families of sick, deceased, or unemployed members.[163] Reflecting the makeup of the county, the Farmers Union and the Patrons of Husbandry (the Grange) organized in towns including Euless and Colleyville as a way to give voice, unity, and community to local agriculturalists. Groups met in a variety of spaces. In and around present-day Colleyville, together, the IOOF, WOTW, Modern Maccabbees, and the Farmers Union built Bransford Lodge in 1911 as a meeting and community gathering space (Figure 4-3).[164] In Mansfield, lodges used the second floors in a series of buildings on Water Street: the Masons used the second floor of 101 N. Water Street from 1900 to 1984; the IOOF occupied the second floor of a commercial building on the west side of Water Street north of the Masonic Lodge until 1935; and the Knights of Pythias met in the McKnight Building at 100 North Water Street.[165] The Masons also occupied the second floor of an 1880s commercial building at 164 S. Main Street in Keller (extant), while in Azle the Woodmen of the World paid for the second story construction of a new commercial building at 117 W. Main Street in 1900 for their use (extant) (Figure 4-4).[166] The Masons constructed similar buildings in Estelle and Grand Prairie in the late nineteenth century (Figure 4-5). In both buildings, the Masons used the second floor for meetings and rented out the lower floor. Built between 1876 and 1894, and repaired in the 1930s, the Grand Prairie

[163] Mark Fadden, *Images of America: Colleyville* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2015), 101, Google Play.
[164] Fadden, *Images of America: Colleyville*, 101
[165] Williams, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Mansfield, Texas," E-80.
[166]Page, Anderson, and Turnbull, Inc., "Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey: Selected Tarrant County Communities," 1980, 113.

building served the Masons until 1981 when a new lodge was constructed. Following the construction of the new lodge in 1981, the nineteenth-century building was moved to 6610 Baker Boulevard in Richland Hills (extant).[167]

Figure 4-3. A women's group outside the Bransford Lodge, date unknown. The building appears to be a wood-frame and wood-clad building. When Colleyville was incorporated in the postwar period, the lodge was moved near the intersection of present-day State Highway 26 and Glade Road. The exact location of the relocated buildings is not known; future field survey is required to determine whether or not it is extant. Source: University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, crediting Tarrant County College NE, Heritage Room, accessed May 20, 2024, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth27914/.

Figure 4-4. The Keller Masonic Lodge met in this building at 164. S. Main Street in Keller. Originally three stories, the lodge met on the third floor before moving to the second floor when the third floor was removed due to storm damage in the 1930s. The Keller Masonic Lodge currently meets in a building constructed in the 1960s. Source: Keller Masonic Lodge #1084, http://www.kellermasoniclodge1084.org/history-of-keller-masonic-lodge1084.html.

[167] Page, Anderson, and Turnbull, Inc., "Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey: Selected Tarrant County Communities,"88.

Figure 4-5. The Masons constructed this building around 1884, using the upper level as a meeting space and renting the ground floor. For several years before the construction of a school, a teacher taught local children on the ground floor. This building burned in 1958, and a new lodge was constructed in Euless. The second lodge was demolished for the construction of Airport Freeway. Source: "Estelle Lodge," Euless Historical Preservation Committee, Flickr, https://www.flickr.com/photos/eulesshistory/5060268769/.

Schools

A school construction boom occurred during the first half of the twentieth century, necessitated first by need and then in response to New Deal programs that provided jobs and funding for projects during the Great Depression. Around the turn of the century, as more school districts organized and grew more populous and prosperous, citizens approved bond issues for the construction of new school buildings. Some school districts constructed their first schools, while others replaced older, deteriorating, smaller buildings. Among the newly organized school districts was the Arlington Independent School District (ISD). In 1903, the district built Arlington's first permanent public school, South Side School, in 1904 for elementary and high school education (not extant) (Figure 4-6).[168] Voters also approved new schools in Keller (circa 1900), Crowley (1905), Euless (1914), and Southlake (1919). Often the largest buildings in small, rural communities, school buildings remained a focal point for community organization and activity in this period. Reflective of this trend are two of the few known extant early twentieth-century school buildings outside Fort Worth: the 1918 Liberty School in Peden (present-day Azle) and the 1916 Bedford School in Bedford (Figure 4-7).[169] Likely due to fire laws, the majority of schools constructed in this period, including Liberty School and Bedford School, were built of brick. Architects, including W. G. Clarkson, designed school buildings in Fort Worth in this period. One of the few architect-designed schools located outside Fort Worth is the old Mansfield High School at 605 E. Broad Street. Designed by Clarkson, the school opened in 1924 for Mansfield's white students.

[168] Gayla Weems Shannon Revised by Evelyn Barker, "Arlington, TX," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed June 03, 2024, https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/arlington-tx.

[169] The Liberty School in present-day Azle is extant. Built in 1918, the two-story brick school was sold and converted into a residence in 1949. Located at 11490 Liberty School Road, the former school is now a bed and breakfast.

Figure 4-6. Postcard of the 1904 Arlington elementary and high school from 1907. Source: Jenkins Garrett Texas Postcard Collection, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries. "High School, Arlington, Tex." UTA Libraries Digital Gallery. 1907. Accessed June 3, 2024, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/20088460.

Figure 4-7. The 1916 Bedford School at 2400 School Lane in Bedford. Source: David Moore, "Bedford School," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Texas Historical Commission, Austin, 1997.

Learn more! *Read the NRHP nomination for the Bedford School in Bedford: https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/NR/pdfs/97000851/97000851.pdf.*

School districts also built new Black schools, as segregation kept white and Black students separate. In Fort Worth, I. M. Terrell High School, a three-story brick building, opened in 1921. Though the modern building was considered one of the best in the Southwest, it, like other Black schools, was inadequately funded and equipped with inferior equipment.[170] The school served high school students from seventeen different communities in the county.[171] In Mansfield, the town's roughly sixty Black students attended a "shabby barracks-style" school on the west side of town.[172] Because the school enrolled students only through eighth grade, students traveled to I. M. Terrell High School to continue their education if allowed. In Mosier Valley, part of the Euless School District, a one-story, two-room building with an outhouse was built in 1924. Unlike the white schools, Mosier Valley School was wood-framed (Figure 4-8). While residents approved multiple bond issues in the district for construction, additions, and improvements, including indoor plumbing and electricity, Mosier Valley School lacked maintenance and received used books and supplies from the white school.[173] To combat the inequity in the public school system, Julius Rosenwald, president of the Sears, Roebuck & Company, established the Rosenwald Fund in 1917. The fund provided seed money for the construction of more than 5,300 rural Black schools in the South. The former Sagamore Hill School at 5100 Willie Street in Fort Worth is thought to be a Rosenwald School.[174]

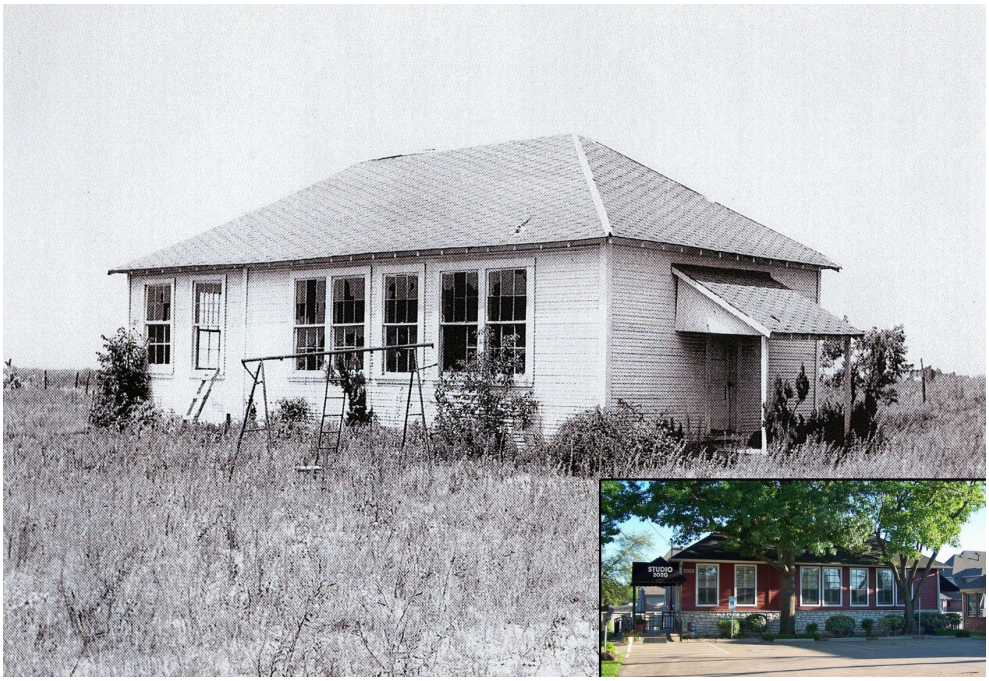


Figure 4-8.The 1924 Mosier Valley School served the community until 1954 when a new school replaced the severely dilapidated building. Sometime after, the school building was moved to Bedford Road east of Central Drive in Bedford where it now houses a salon.

Learn more! *Read about the Rosenwald School Building Program in Texas: https://atlas.thc.texas.gov/NR/pdfs/64500652/64500652.pdf.*

[170] Susan Allen Kline, "Historic Schools Survey," Completed for the City of Fort Worth, 2003, 6.
[171] Courtney Gilmore, "The Color of Texas Classrooms & The First Black High School in Fort Worth," 5 NBCDFW, February 28 2017, https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/the-color-of-texas-classrooms-and-the-1st-black-high-school-in-fort-worth/55534/.
[172] "Jim Crow Era Mansfield Overview," UNT Library Omeka, accessed May 2, 2024, https://omeka.library.unt.edu/s/the-crisis-at-mansfield/page/Jim-Crow-Mansfield-overview.
[173] Nick DeLuca, "…a tense moment…," November 16, 2023, https://npdeluca.com/2023/11/16/mosier-valley-elementary-school-protest-robert-stanton-national-park-service-director-childrood-texas/.
[174] Kline, "Historic Schools Survey," 7.

During this period, some Mexican children attended white schools, though many attended segregated Mexican schools due to spatial segregation and the language barrier. Schools, like churches, tried to Americanize Mexican students and prohibited the use of Spanish.[175] Known Mexican Schools in the county were located in Fort Worth near Mexican enclaves including La Corte on the city's north side and El TP Barrio on the south side. A 1931 survey of schools in the city identified a school on Henderson Street. Operated in a building provided by the Presbyterian Church, the school formed at the request of Mexican families living in the Florence Street neighborhood.[176] Annexes to and vacant classrooms in white schools, such as South Fort Worth Elementary, were also used for Mexican students, keeping them separate from white students. The annex at South Fort Worth Elementary for Mexican students, named Katy Lake Elementary (both located at 3900 St. Louis Avenue), was a two-room wood building.[177]

The New Deal and Public Schools

During the Depression, New Deal programs played a large role in supporting the country's public school system. As tax revenues diminished, the federal government stepped in, helping fund school construction, prevent school closures, and feed free lunches to children in need. Programs, including the Works Progress Administration, Public Works Administration, and the National Youth Administration, ensured students remained in school, teachers were paid, and schools were maintained. In Fort Worth alone, more than four million dollars from the federal government helped construct thirteen new schools and additions to thirteen others, as well as renovate numerous others by 1938.[178] Across the county, funds from the Federal Emergency Relief Association helped fund the construction of a new concrete and stone school in Azle in 1933.[179] Working on fifty-four schools in the county, the WPA employed 1,800 full-time and 4,000 part-time workers during the Depression.[180] Among the numerous educational buildings constructed with WPA funds include Saginaw Elementary School (1937, extant at 100 Bluebonnet Street in Saginaw), Hurst School (1940, extant at 100 W. Hurst Boulevard in Hurst), Kooken School in Arlington (1937, extant at 423 N. Center Street in Arlington), the rock gym at Mansfield High School (1937, extant at 605 E. Broad Street in Mansfield), as well as landscaping at other schools including the new Benbrook school at Old Benbrook Road and Winscott Road (1936) (Figure 4-9).[181] In addition to the locals employed on these projects, several architects worked with the WPA on designs for these buildings. Architects known to have designed New Deal-funded school buildings include Preston Geren (Saginaw Elementary School, Arlington Heights Senior High School), C. M. Love and Company (rock gym in Mansfield), W. G. Clarkson (Alice Carlson School Addition, James E. Guinn School campus building, and McLean Junior High School in Fort Worth), Wyatt C. Hedrick (Amon Carter-Riverside High School in Fort Worth), Clyde H. Woodruff (I. M. Terrell High School addition), Earl T. Glasgow (Morningside Elementary School), Joseph R. Pelich (Oaklawn Elementary School and Polytechnic High School in Fort Worth), and Hubert H. Crane (South Hi Mount Elementary School in Fort Worth). The landscape architecture firm Hare and Hare of Kansas City, Missouri, designed landscape improvements at several schools in Fort Worth.

[175] Moisés Acuña Gurrola, "Schools & Churches," HOLA: Historians of Latino Americans Tarrant County, accessed May 29, 2024, https://holatarrantcounty.org/schools-churches/.
[176] Richard J. Gonzalez, "Black kids weren't the only ones segregated in school. Fort Worth people share memories," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, June 3, 2023, https://www.star-telegram.com/news/local/fort-worth/article276006771.html.
[177] Gonzales, "Black kids weren't the only ones segregated in school."
[178] Janet L. Schmelzer, *Where the West Begins: Fort Worth and Tarrant County* (1984), 75-76.
[179] Schmelzer, *Where the West Begins*, 76.
[180] Schmelzer, *Where the West Begins*, 76.
[181] Data gathered from *The Living New Deal*, accessed May 21, 2024, https://livingnewdeal.org/.

Learn more! *Visit the Living New Deal to see all the projects funded by New Deal programs: https://livingnewdeal.org/.*

Figure 4-9. Constructed with $23,291 in federal funds from the WPA, the Hurst School opened in 1940 for grades 1 through 8. Located at 100 W. Hurst Boulevard, the former school is now a church. Source: Susan Kline, 2013, from Living New Deal, https://livingnewdeal.org/sites/hurst-school-former-hurst-tx/.

Churches

As the county's population grew, so too did the number of congregations and religious buildings. Methodist, Protestant, Presbyterian, and Baptist congregations proliferated and remained the prominent denominations during this period. As these congregations with earlier and more modest roots gained members and financial stability, many constructed new buildings to meet their expanding congregations. Many congregations built modest churches, like the 1923 wood-framed Haslet Baptist Church (extant at 218 Main Street). Some congregations, though, constructed more distinctive churches, like the sandstone veneered church constructed by P. A. King, a stone mason from Aledo, for the Benbrook Church of Christ in 1933 (Figure 4-10).[182] The Catholic Church in Mansfield, despite some intolerance stemming from the local chapter of the Ku Klux Klan, also grew in members, necessitating the construction of a larger building in 1928.[183],

In the Black community of Mosier Valley, St. John Missionary Baptist Church built a new sanctuary in 1911 (Figure 4-11). The church not only provided religious sanctuary but also played a role as a social institution, providing a large meeting and gathering space when no others were available to the Black community. This scene played out in Black churches across Tarrant County. In Fort Worth, the Frank J. Singleton-designed Saint James Second Street Baptist Church hosted numerous events and speakers, including the director of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) and the National Association of Federated Women's Clubs. The congregation, dating to the 1890s, hosted these events in their new church, built between 1913 and 1922 at 210 Harding Street. Unlike most of the churches outside Fort Worth, Saint James Second Street Baptist Church was architect designed.

Learn more! *Read the NRHP nomination for the Saint James Second Street Baptist Church in Fort Worth: https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/NR/pdfs/99000883/99000883.pdf.*

[182] Page, Anderson, and Turnbull, Inc., "Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey: Selected Tarrant County Communities," 177.
[183] Williams, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Mansfield, Texas," E-73.

Figure 4-10. Located at 8201 Old Benbrook Road, the church was constructed in 1933 and now serves the American Legion. Source: Allison Taylor, 2023, Google.

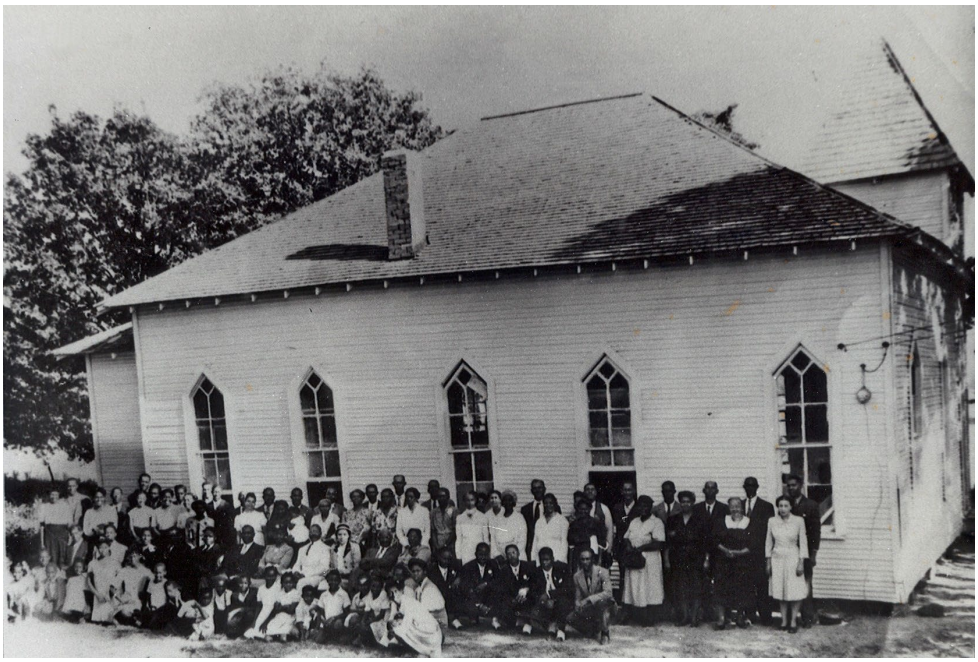


Figure 4-11: St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Mosier Valley in the 1940s. The sanctuary was constructed in 1911. The congregation remains in the same location, at 3324 House Anderson Road in Euless, but worships in a postwar building. Source: "St. John Missionary Baptist Church," Euless Historical Preservation Committee, Flickr, https://www.flickr.com/photos/eulesshistory/4094063284/.

The first known congregation for Mexican families in the county, many of whom lived in barrios northwest of downtown Fort Worth on the Trinity River, organized in 1927. The Mexican Presbyterian Church held services in a former speakeasy at West Bluff and Lexington streets.[184] By the 1940s, nearly a dozen churches—Catholic, Presbyterian, and Methodist—served the city's Spanish-speaking

[184] HHM & Associates, Inc., "Historic Context and Survey Plan: City of Fort Worth," 174.

communities, a testament to the rapidly growing Mexican American population. Churches played a pivotal role in the social and cultural lives of the Mexican community. Despite the churches' Americanization efforts and attempts to instill Mexican parishioners with Anglo American values, language, and traditions, churches evolved into community centers where parishioners networked and embraced and celebrated their cultural traditions.[185]

Learn more! *Visit the Historians of Latino Americans Tarrant County to learn more about the role of schools and churches in the Hispanic community: https://holatarrantcounty.org/schools-churches/.*

Religion and Higher Education

Though public schools were separate from the church, religion influenced higher education. In addition to the number of parochial schools associated with churches, many of the county's colleges were religiously affiliated, including Texas Christian University (TCU), Southwestern Baptist Seminary, Texas Wesleyan University, and Our Lady of Victory Academy. The largest, TCU, had a significant impact on Fort Worth's economy and the development and character of the surrounding neighborhood, occupying hundreds of acres. For a short period of time, Fort Worth also was home to the Fort Worth Industrial and Mechanical College. Located on ten acres donated south of Lake Como along Farmsworth Avenue, the college was founded by the Black Baptist Missionary and Educational Convention in 1881. Relocating from Robertson County to Fort Worth in 1909, the school offered industrial and mechanical courses for Black men and domestic science courses for Black women. The school enrolled up to ninety-six students before relocating to Houston around 1918.

POSTWAR CULTURAL AND SOCIAL FABRIC

Suburbanization and the Impact on Schools and Houses of Worship

As the county's population grew and new residential subdivisions opened, religious and educational institutions became integral parts of these suburbs. In addition to residences, postwar subdivisions often featured parks, shopping centers, schools, and churches. Reflective of the demographics of the suburbs, the denominations of new postwar suburban churches in Tarrant County remained largely unchanged from the previous periods. Congregations established themselves in new subdivisions including in Carver Heights, a new subdivision developed for African Americans in Fort Worth in 1952. Suburbanization also saw congregations follow their congregants to the suburbs. In the 1970s, Congregation Ahavath Sholom moved from the Fairmount neighborhood southeast of downtown Fort Worth to twelve acres (extant at 4050 S. Hulen Street) purchased from the Cassco Land Company in Overton Park, a postwar suburb.[186] In addition to new churches, the population growth of existing communities and new commuter towns also created a need for larger churches among many of the established congregations. A number of these congregations also built parochial schools and community buildings on the same property. In Arlington, the growing Catholic population necessitated the development of a religious campus for the St. Maria Goretti Catholic Church. Founded in 1941, the congregation developed their property at 1200 S. Davis Street with a new church, rectory, school, and convent in 1954 (extant).[187]

A departure from church design of previous periods, suburban and postwar churches were Modern in style and typically constructed of brick, stone, and concrete, harmonizing with the Ranch style houses of the era. Reflective of this trend, the First United Methodist Church of Hurst, at 521 W. Pipeline Road, built several churches in the postwar era to accommodate its growth. Founded in 1870, the congregation grew in the postwar period along with Hurst after Bell Helicopter opened. In the postwar era, the congregation first built a new church in 1952, then relocated to its current site in 1964 where it

[185] Gurrola, "Schools & Churches."
[186] "History," Congregation Ahavath Sholom, accessed June 11, 2024, https://ahavathsholom.org/about/history/.
[187] Frances Capers, "Arlington Catholics Watch Dedication Of 4-Building Church-School Plant," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, Nov. 29, 1954, 4.

constructed sanctuaries in 1964 and 1978 (Figure 4-12).[188] Likewise, in Mansfield, the two Catholic churches needed larger sanctuaries to accommodate the town's diversifying population—an influx of Czech and German families in the late 1950s and a steadily growing Hispanic population.[189]

Learn more! *Refer to Chapter 5. Suburbanization for more information on postwar suburbs in Tarrant County.*

Religion and the LGBTQ Community

The LGBTQ community, who lived outside of the public sphere due to discrimination and state laws that criminalized homosexuality for most of history, began emerging in the postwar period due in part to community advocacy and LGBTQ-friendly religious organizations. The county's first gay advocacy organization, Awareness, Unity, and Research Association (AURA) organized in 1973. In conjunction with the Fort Worth/Dallas Metroplex Gay Council, the group hosted the first Texas Gay Conference in 1974. Held at St. Stephen Church College Community Services building at 4301 Miller Avenue in Fort Worth, police plagued the event by recording the license plate numbers of attendees; four years later, a judge ordered the destruction of the names and license plate numbers. The Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches (UFMCC), a nationwide religious organization for LGBTQ members of faith, organized in Fort Worth in the 1970s. Members chartered Agape Metropolitan Community Church in 1973. The church conducted services and meetings in several places in Fort Worth, including the First Unitarian Universalist Church, the former Handley Masonic Lodge, and a commercial building on E. Lancaster Avenue, before moving to its current location in southeast Fort Worth (4615 E. California Parkway) in the early 1980s.

Figure 4-12 The 1964 First United Methodist Church of Hurst sanctuary. Located at 521 W. Pipeline Road, the Modern church is representative in style and materials of many postwar sanctuaries. Source: Tafel, Roger. First Methodist Church of Hurst, University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, crediting Tarrant County College NE, Heritage Room, accessed Jun 3, 2024, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth28312.

The impact of suburbanization and population growth put strains on the public school system and many of the existing schools. Additions were added onto earlier buildings, but by the late 1960s and 1970s, many of the old school buildings were abandoned for larger, more modern buildings. The period also saw the merging of districts. In the late 1950s, the Euless, Hurst, and Bedford districts merged, necessitating the closure of the Bedford School in favor of a larger new building in 1969. These mergers also forced the closure of some rural schools, like the Britton School that consolidated with the Mansfield and Midlothian school districts in the 1960s. Schools constructed in the postwar were

[188] "Our History," First United Methodist Church of Hurst, accessed May 6, 2024, https://www.fumchurst.org/start-here/about-us/our-history/.
[189] Williams, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Mansfield, Texas," E-75.

typically rectangular, had flat roofs, often lacked ornamentation, and constructed of concrete and brick (Figure 4-13). Architects, including Hedrick, Geron, and other prominent Fort Worth architects, designed many of the postwar schools in Fort Worth.[190]

> ***Learn more!*** *Refer to Chapter 5. Suburbanization for more background about suburbanization in the postwar period.*

Figure 4-13. Haltom Junior High School, built in 1955 by the Birdville School District at 5000 Dana Drive (not extant). The form and style of the school are representative of postwar schools. Wilson Patterson and Associates, architects from Fort Worth, designed the school. Source: University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, crediting Birdville Historical Society, accessed June 14, 2024, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth1135915/m1/2.

Civil Rights and Integration in the Public School System

In addition to the county's population growth and suburbanization that put strains on the public school system, leading to the construction of additions and new school buildings into the 1970s, the county's schools became a battleground for the civil rights movement in the postwar. Even before the *Brown vs. Board of Education* ruling in 1954, conflicts arose over the inequity between Black and white schools. In 1950, despite the state of disrepair of Mosier Valley School, citizens of the Euless School District easily defeated a bond to update the building, opting instead to bus students to Black schools in Fort Worth.[191] Though violence was avoided, Black parents demonstrating outside the Mosier Valley School demanding their children be enrolled at the white Euless school were met with an armed counter-protest. Engaging the Fort Worth branch of the NAACP, the parents filed a suit against the school district for not providing equally for Black students. A judge sided with the parents and ordered the construction of a new Black school in 1953.[192] The school operated until 1968, fourteen years after the *Brown vs. Board of Education* ruling, when the Euless district integrated.

[190] Kline, "Historic Schools Survey," 10.
[191] It was not until 1970 when a federal ruling, *Cisneros v. Corpus Christi ISD*, determined the illegality of segregating Mexican American students. By this time, though, many of the students had integrated along with Black students. The Katy Lake Elementary School closed in 1954 with its students moving to a white school.
[192] Nick DeLuca, "…a tense moment…."

Slow integration occurred across the county, with school districts left in charge of their own integration plans. Deviating from this trend, the Eagle Mountain School District approved integration in 1955, becoming the first district in the county to do so.[193] Done without fanfare, the district had only one Black student. In Fort Worth, the district began integrating in the 1960s following a court ruling deeming the city's dual school system unconstitutional. Prior to the decision, the city's answer to *Brown v. Board of Education* was building more Black high schools.[194] Other districts integrating in the 1960s, following the 1964 Civil Rights Act, included Arlington and Grapevine, where an interracial conference agreed to host picnics and gatherings to introduce white and Black students prior to school.[195] The fight for integration in the county culminated in Mansfield. Following a lawsuit brought by Black parents in Mansfield and the local chapter of the NAACP, a federal court ordered the desegregation of Mansfield High School in 1956, becoming the first school district in the state ordered to do so. Despite the ruling, white citizens, led by the mayor and police chief gathered outside the high school, intimidating and preventing the enrollment of the town's Black students (Figure 4-14). Texas Governor Allan Shivers, a segregationist, dispatched the Texas Rangers in support of the white citizens. During the crisis, the white citizens and Texas Rangers threatened the Black students and hanged Black effigies at the school's entrance. Shivers, ignoring the federal court order, allowed the continued segregation at Mansfield High School and ordered the Black students to attend I.M. Terrell High School in Fort Worth. One year later, the Arkansas Governor failed in a similar attempt at maintaining segregation at Central High School in Little Rock. Mansfield ISD eventually integrated in 1965 when faced with losing federal funding. The former Mansfield High School building, located at 605 E. Broad Street, today is part of the Mansfield ISD Administration complex.

Figure 4-14. Five students in Mansfield were prevented from enrolling at the high school due to intimidation tactics supported by the Governor and enforced by the Texas Rangers. Source: Fort Worth Star-Telegram Collection, Special Collections, The University of Texas at Arlington, from "The Crisis at Mansfield," accessed May 20, 2024, https://mansfieldcrisis.omeka.net/exhibits/show/mansfield-during-1956/item/74.

[193] "Trustees End Segregation At Eagle Mountain School," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, July 14, 1955.
[194] Gilmore, "The Color of Texas Classrooms & The First Black High School in Fort Worth."
[195] Schmelzer, *Where the West Begins*, 88.

Social Groups and Organizations

While some fraternal groups, including the Freemasons and Veterans of Foreign Wars, gained members and built meeting halls in the postwar era, the popularity of many of the social organizations of the previous periods declined due to changing social norms, new forms of entertainment and technology, and a general decline in interest. The government welfare and New Deal programs, as well as the rise of commercial insurance also lessened the need for mutual aid societies. In fact, the Maccabees and Woodmen of the World both transformed into insurance companies in the postwar period. Women's clubs continued working for the betterment of their communities, with groups in Azle purchasing a downtown building (124 W. Main Street) for the public library before the city built a new library in 1964.[196] Meanwhile, women's clubs in Colleyville helped both beautify the city with signs and gardens and helped the fire department in fundraising and search and rescue efforts.[197]

> ***Learn more!*** *Read the Historic Context and Survey Plan for the City of Fort Worth to learn more about individual, activists, and groups that organized and advocated for the Black and Hispanic communities: https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/files/assets/public/v/1/development-services/documents/all-preservation-and-design/historic/historic-context-survey-plan/1830_task-5_final-contexts__survey-plan-addendum_2021-09-21.pdf.*

The historic preservation movement gained momentum in this period as historical societies and grassroots activists organized to save the county's historic resources. The Tarrant County Historical Society, founded in 1948, established Log Cabin Village in 1958, and in 1966 it led the effort to inventory the county's architectural and historical landmarks. The results, published in "A Guide to Historical Sites in Fort Worth and Tarrant County," identified buildings deemed worthy of preservation. Focusing on collecting, organizing, and preserving the county's African American heritage, civil rights activist Lenora Rolla founded the Tarrant County Black Historical and Genealogical Society in 1974. The society met in Rolla's home in Fort Worth before moving into its current location at 1020 E. Humbolt Street in the early 1980s. In Fort Worth, Historic Fort Worth, Inc. formed in 1969 with the goal of promoting and preserving the city's landmarks. One of their priorities was the rehabilitation of Sundance Square in Fort Worth in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Grassroots efforts also resulted in the designation and preservation of the Elizabeth Boulevard Historic District and the Fort Worth Stockyards. In Azle, concerned women began the preservation movement in 1976, opening the Azle Historical Museum downtown in the former library at 124 W. Main Street. Women were also responsible for the preservation movement in Grapevine. Organized out of the Grapevine Garden Club, the Historical Society formed in 1974 to save the Cotton Belt train depot.[198] In Arlington, citizens preserved and restored the Fielder House, one of the city's earliest brick residences, and opened the Fielder Museum in 1980 to collect, preserve, and display the city's history (Figure 4-15).

> ***Learn more!*** *Read the Historic Context and Survey Plan for the City of Fort Worth to learn more about the city's cultural and social history, including the development of the Arts and Culture District: https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/files/assets/public/v/1/development-services/documents/all-preservation-and-design/historic/historic-context-survey-plan/1830_task-5_final-contexts__survey-plan-addendum_2021-09-21.pdf.*

[196] Page, Anderson, and Turnbull, Inc., "Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey: Selected Tarrant County Communities," 113.
[197] Fadden, *Images of America: Colleyville*, 103.
[198] "About: The Grapevine Historical Society," *Grapevine Historical Society*, accessed May 29, 2024, https://grapevinehistory.org/about//

Figure 4-15. The two-story, brick Fielder House at 1616 W. Abram Street in Arlington. Built in 1914, the house was preserved and restored in the late 1970s and converted into the Fielder Museum in 1980. Source: From the Handbook of Texas Online, "Fielder Museum," courtesy the City of Arlington, accessed June 3, 2024, https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/fielder-museum.

5| Suburbanization

INTRODUCTION

The multitude of suburban developments across Tarrant County represents a significant part of the area's historic cultural landscape. The period of significance for this historical theme extends from 1876, when the first streetcar began operations in Fort Worth, and continues until 1974, which marks the recommended 50-year age threshold for NRHP eligibility. The term "suburb" was used to describe areas outside of Fort Worth as early as 1876 when a local reporter noted that a surge of newcomers and the lack of housing forced families to live in tents "out on the prairies in the suburbs."[199] The most common property types associated with suburbanization include concentrated groupings (districts) of residences and associated outbuildings. However, non-residential resources are also closely associated and include commercial, religious, and education-related properties; community areas, parks, and other public amenities/improvements; transportation networks and corridors, warehouse/light industrial facilities, and automobile-related resources such as drive-in restaurants, shopping centers, and malls. Historic resources associated with suburbanization may be significant for: 1) their association with historical events or trends (National Register Criterion A) typically in the Area of Significance in Community Planning and Development and/or 2) distinctive physical characteristics or quality of design (National Register Criterion C) in the Area of Significance in Architecture.[200]

STREETCAR AND INTERURBAN SUBURBANIZATION (1876-1937)

Suburbanization has been a part of the American experience since the mid-nineteenth century with the advent of railroads. The earliest suburbs, typically catering to an affluent clientele, were located on these railroad corridors and were separate from, and independent of, congested urban centers.[201] This trend was largely confined to older cities in eastern states, most notably Riverside, Illinois, designed by Calvert Faux and Frederick Law Olmsted, and did not reach Tarrant County despite the many railroads that served the area during the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

Horse- or mule-drawn streetcars were another form of mass transit of the era, but they were primarily intracity-based systems. Their operation led to the creation of suburbs of varying size and scale on the outskirts of cities, greatly influencing land-development patterns. As these transportation systems expanded over time and began using electricity as a power source, streetcar owners and real estate developers often worked together—sometimes as a single entity—in a mutually beneficial capacity to increase ridership and sell unimproved lots.[202] Developers implemented marketing strategies to lure customers. They often made sure that potential buyers knew that their properties were located on streetcar routes, and they sometimes set aside public spaces, touted proximity to existing or newly created lakes, or offered other amenities that allowed residents to escape the crowded and unhealthy conditions of inner cities. With subsequent concentric urban growth over time, these early streetcar

[199] "Houses are scarce…"*Daily Fort Worth Standard*, October 25, 1876, p. 4, Newspaper.com.
[200] For more guidance on this topic, including detailed historic contexts and property type analyses, please see National Register Bulletin 46: *Historic Residential Suburbs: Guidelines for Evaluation and Documentation and Highway Research Program Report 723: A Model for Identifying and Evaluating the Historic Significance of Post-World War II Housing*.
[201] David L. Ames and Linda Flint McClelland, *National Register Bulletin 46: Historic Residential Suburbs: Guidelines for Evaluation and Documentation,* National Park Service, p.16.
[202] Ames and McClelland, *Historic Residential Suburbs*, p. 20.

suburbs often came to be perceived as inner-city neighborhoods, masking their original quasi-independent status.

> ***Learn more!*** *Read more about lakes and other amenities in Chapter 6. Recreation and Tourism.*

Fort Worth is the only city in Tarrant County known to have had a street railway system, although at least three lines later extended to incorporated suburbs (Polytechnic Heights, Rosen Heights, and North Fort Worth) that later became part of Fort Worth. The first street railway in Fort Worth began operations on December 28, 1876, and ran along Main Street between the county courthouse and the new Texas and Pacific Railway Depot.[203]

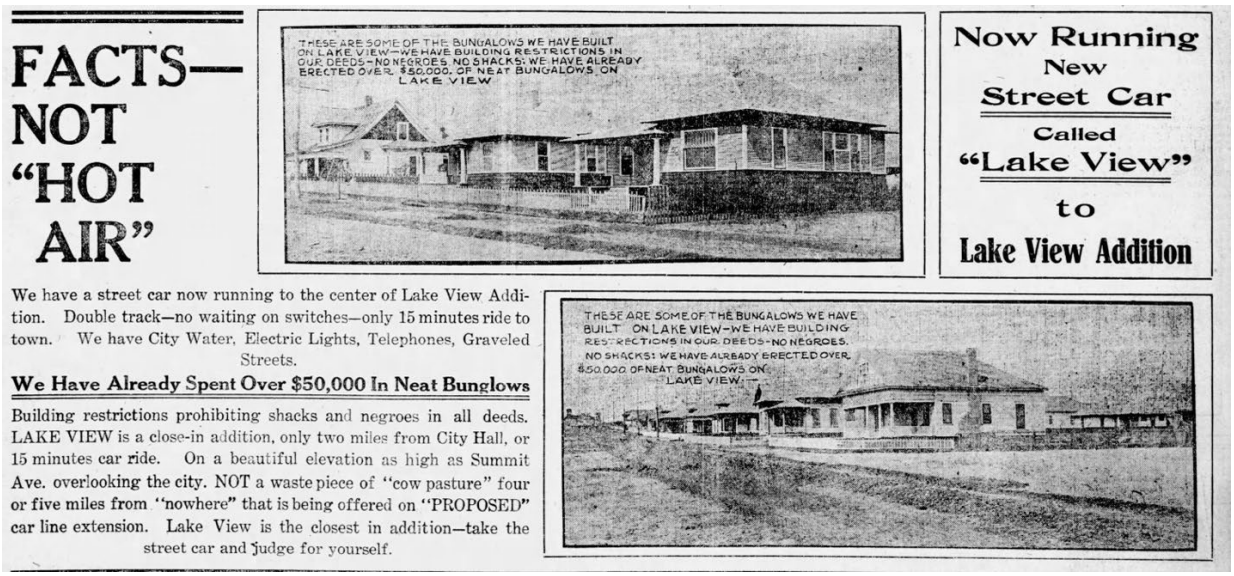
As Fort Worth grew, so too did the street railway network and the number of suburbs it served. The new suburbs generally adhered to a grid-like layout and contained consistently sized lots intended for residential use. To promote sales, developers named their properties with more pastoral and bucolic titles. (Figure 5-1). The lots were often unimproved, which placed the responsibility of developing the property onto the buyer.

> ***Learn more!*** *Read more about streetcar suburbs in Fort Worth in the Suburbanization and Residential Development chapter of the Fort Worth Historic Context Study and Survey Plan, pages 54-69: https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/development-services/preservation-urban-design/historic-preservation/historic-context-and-survey-plan .*

The early years of suburbanization reflected the competition-driven, laissez-faire attitude that prevailed at that time. Separate companies initially owned and operated the streetcar lines that served different parts of the city and were named for the suburb they served. However, the financial resources needed to maintain such a fragmented system proved to be difficult and eventually led to consolidation. The Fort Worth Street Railway Company emerged as the operator of the city's streetcar network in 1900. A year later, it reorganized as Northern Texas Traction Company and augmented its service with a new interurban line that extended to Dallas in 1902.[204] The network grew rapidly and at its peak reached as far away as Cleburne, Denton, Denison, Corsicana, and Waco.[205]

New suburbs developed along the interurban routes as well as the existing streetcars lines, but trends in residential design, and the way in which these ideas were disseminated, changed the architectural character of these suburbs. Catalogues, magazines, and even mail order house kits offered consumers greater choices, ultimately contributing to more eclectic neighborhoods (Figure 5-2).

[203] "A Muletide Gift for Cowtown: Intracity Mass Transit," *Hometown by Handlebar*, Available at: https://hometownbyhandlebar.com/?p=4417
[204] "Interurban Open," *Fort Worth Morning Register*, June 19, 1902, p. 8.
[205] Alexander Young, "Historic Streetcars: The Trolley and Interurban Lines of DFW," Available at: https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/c0bbde87dbf5440ba393591af4aa0711



FACTS—
NOT
"HOT
AIR"

THESE ARE SOME OF THE BUNGALOWS WE HAVE BUILT ON LAKE VIEW—WE HAVE BUILDING RESTRICTIONS IN OUR DEEDS—NO NEGROES, NO SHACKS; WE HAVE ALREADY ERECTED OVER $50,000. OF NEAT BUNGALOWS ON LAKE VIEW

Now Running
New
Street Car
Called
"Lake View"
to
Lake View Addition

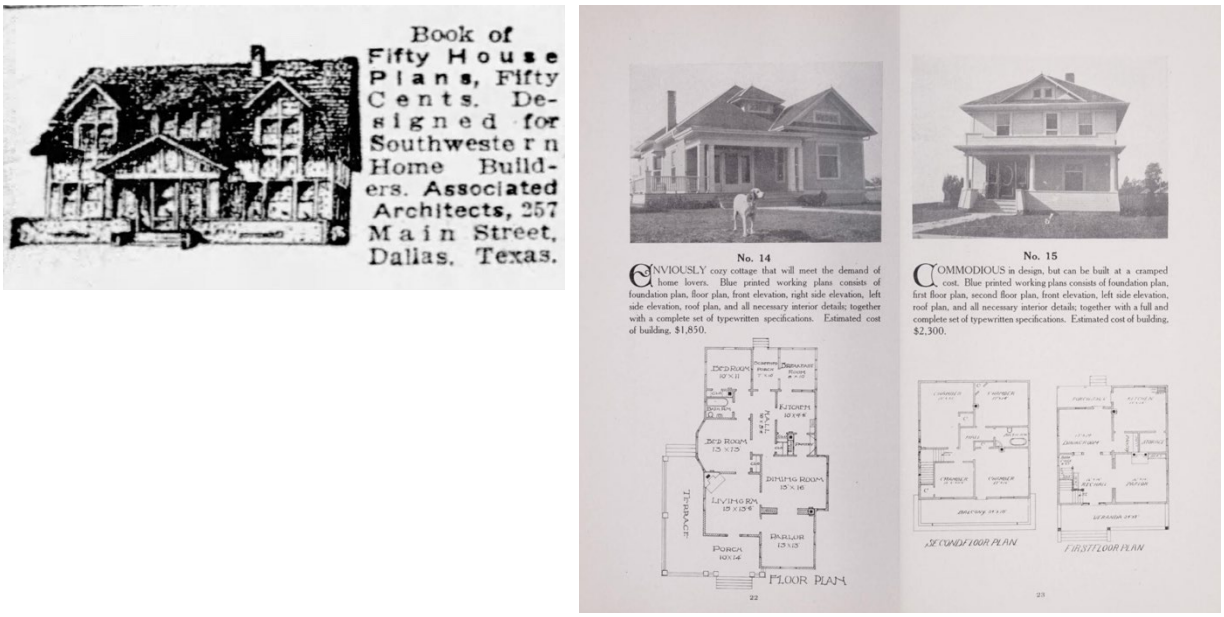
We have a street car now running to the center of Lake View Addition. Double track—no waiting on switches—only 15 minutes ride to town. We have City Water, Electric Lights, Telephones, Graveled Streets.

We Have Already Spent Over $50,000 In Neat Bunglows

Building restrictions prohibiting shacks and negroes in all deeds. LAKE VIEW is a close-in addition, only two miles from City Hall, or 15 minutes car ride. On a beautiful elevation as high as Summit Ave. overlooking the city. NOT a waste piece of "cow pasture" four or five miles from "nowhere" that is being offered on "PROPOSED" car line extension. Lake View is the closest in addition—take the street car and judge for yourself.

THESE ARE SOME OF THE BUNGALOWS WE HAVE BUILT ON LAKE VIEW—WE HAVE BUILDING RESTRICTIONS IN OUR DEEDS—NO NEGROES. NO SHACKS; WE HAVE ALREADY ERECTED OVER $50,000 OF NEAT BUNGALOWS ON LAKE VIEW.

Figure 5-1. Developers began placing advertisements in local newspapers to promote sales in streetcar suburbs during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These ads shed light on trends of the era and the character of these suburbs. This detail of a large ad for the "Lake View" Addition shows how its developer sought to evoke the picturesque setting buyers would experience by purchasing a lot in the neighborhood. However, the property did not actually overlook any lake as noted by the use of quotation marks. The ad also includes explicit language ("No Negroes") sometimes used in real estate promotional literature, reflecting widely accepted racial discriminatory practices of the era. Source: Fort Worth Star-Telegram, October 10, 1909, page 26. From Newspapers.com.



Book of Fifty House Plans, Fifty Cents. Designed for Southwestern Home Builders. Associated Architects, 257 Main Street, Dallas, Texas.

No. 14

ENVIOUSLY cozy cottage that will meet the demand of home lovers. Blue printed working plans consists of foundation plan, floor plan, front elevation, right side elevation, left side elevation, roof plan, and all necessary interior details; together with a complete set of typewritten specifications. Estimated cost of building, $1,850.

No. 15

COMMODIOUS in design, but can be built at a cramped cost. Blue printed working plans consists of foundation plan, first floor plan, second floor plan, front elevation, left side elevation, roof plan, and all necessary interior details; together with a full and complete set of typewritten specifications. Estimated cost of building, $2,300.

FLOOR PLAN

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Figure 5-2. In 1910, Dallas-based Associated Architects placed advertisements in Fort Worth newspapers (left) to promote the sale of its newly published catalog highlighting fashionable house plans of the era. A sample page from the catalog (right) shows the kinds of house plans the company offered to a growing middle class and typifies the kinds of houses built at that time. These examples also illustrate the rise of domestic forms that enjoyed widespread popularity across Tarrant County and much of the country during the early twentieth century. Although architectural preferences changed over time and allowed for a degree of regional diversity, standardized house forms characterized suburban construction for decades afterwards and remain dominant within the nation's housing market. Source: Fort Worth Star-Telegram, February 6, 1910, page 6. From Newspapers.com; "Fifty House Plans for Home Builders in the Southwest," Building Technology Heritage Library Association for Preservation Technology, Internet Archive. https://archive.org/details/fiftyhouseplansd00asso/mode/2up.

The proliferation of suburbs on the outskirts of Fort Worth led to calls for the city to expand its boundaries by the early twentieth century. Many residents of these suburbs opposed such action and cited concerns on such topics as taxes, public debt, schools, public services, autonomy, and government responsiveness, issues that still resonate today. Such sentiments led to the incorporation of several new municipalities including North Fort Worth in 1902, Polytechnic Heights in 1910, and Niles City in 1911.[206] Similar trends in other urban areas in Texas led the state government to enact the Home Rule Act and other state laws that were friendly to cities, like Fort Worth, with populations in excess of 100,000. [207] Under these reforms, an overwhelming majority of Fort Worth voters approved the annexation of ten streetcar suburbs into Fort Worth in July 1922.[208] Many of these areas retain their historic character and remain as good examples of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century streetcar suburbs.

Although the streetcar and interurban systems remained a unifying element and continued to contribute to Fort Worth's growth into the 1920s, their influence on land-use development patterns was already in decline. The growing popularity of automobiles and the advent of "motorbuses" threatened both the viability of this fixed-rail public transportation network and the development of new streetcar and interurban-dependent suburbs (Figure 5-3). The Great Depression and financial difficulties it spawned further hampered this already strained network. Interurban service ended in 1934, and Fort Worth's last streetcar ceased operations in 1938.[209] Bus service, with its ability to adjust to meet changing ridership demands and land development patterns, replaced the interurban and streetcars as the public transportation system in Tarrant County by the late 1930s. Nonetheless, vestiges of interurban and streetcar operations remain a part of the cultural landscape and endure through land-use patterns, real estate developments, residential architecture, and other related improvements.

[206] "Big Majority for Incorporation: North Fort Worth Votes Yesterday on this Question," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, November 12, 1902, p. 4; "Poly Incorporates; Commission Named," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, November 6, 1910, p. 4; "Niles Incorporates; Vote is Unanimous," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, February 22, 1911, p. 2, Newspapers.com.
[207] TML Legal Department, "Alphabet Soup: Types of Texas Cities," Texas Municipal League, Accessed April 25, 2024, https://www.tml.org/DocumentCenter/View/244/Types-of-Texas-Cities-PDF.
[208] "Annexation Leads by 7 to 1," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram,* July 23, 1922, p. 1, Newspapers.com.
[209] "Change Cars! Long Run Ends, New Begins," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, December 25, 1934, p. 9; "When Street Cars Roamed Fort Worth," *Fort Worth,* Accessed April 14, 2024, https://fwtx.com/news/features/streetcars-roamed-fort-worth/.

Figure 5-3. Interurban service between Fort Worth and Dallas incentivized the creation of new suburban developments along this important transportation corridor. The Tandy Addition, a development that was outside the Fort Worth city limits at the time, was one of many such endeavors along the interurban lines that extended to Dallas and Cleburne. While the advertisement above emphasizes the proximity of the addition to the Dallas-Fort Worth Interurban, it also notes the upcoming construction of "Dallas Boulevard," a thoroughfare that later was integrated into the Bankhead Highway and is now known as Lancaster Avenue. This advertisement underscores the importance of interurban service in the history of suburbanization in Tarrant County. It also reveals the early presence of auto-based transportation and its emergence as a factor in the suburban historic context of Tarrant County. Source: Fort Worth Star-Telegram, April 27, 1913, page 38. From Newspaper.com.

AUTOMOBILE SUBURBANIZATION (1908-1974)

The advent of automobile suburbs overlaps with those associated with streetcars and interurbans and evolved after Henry Ford introduced the Model T, the first mass-produced and affordable automobile, in 1908. This new chapter in the history of suburbanization also benefited from a seismic shift in the role of the federal government within the transportation and housing sectors. The enactment of the Federal Aid Highway Act of 1916 was the first of a series of federal actions in the decades that followed that responded to growing demands for better roads by pumping federal monies into state highway department coffers. Improved roadways allowed greater mobility for an expanding middle class and further incentivized real estate development, especially in areas not easily accessible from fixed-rail (streetcar and interurban) lines.[210] Noteworthy highway-based federal initiatives included the

[210] Ames and McClelland, *Historic Residential Suburbs*, 23; Hardy·Heck·Moore, Inc. and Blanton & Associates, Inc. *The Development of Highways in Texas: A Historic Context of the Bankhead Highway and Other Historic Named Highways*, Texas Historical Commission, 2014, available at: https://www.thc.texas.gov/public/upload/preserve/survey/highway/Bankhead-history.pdf.

introduction of the interregional highway system in 1944 and the more significant interstate highway system in 1956.[211]

Dovetailing with these transportation-related trends, the emergence of new federal housing programs in the early 1930s to address the lack of affordable housing and to kickstart the flailing construction industry were important contributors to the rise of automobile suburbs. As noted in his book *The Color of Law*, sociologist Richard Rothstein writes that these and other subsequent federal initiatives also institutionalized overt race-based discriminatory policies and programs. Initiatives, such as the Federal Housing Authority and the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, not only bolstered but actually hardened segregation practices across the nation. Such policies have had an enduring effect on the demographic and racial character of automobile suburbs that remain largely unresolved.[212]

The development of new suburbs largely paused during World War II; however, the flood of returning veterans triggered an unprecedented surge of new suburban developments throughout the country, including Tarrant County. Federal legislation not only helped to standardize new residential construction through the Federal Housing Authority, but it also provided generous terms to finance home mortgages through the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (G.I. Bill).[213] Much of this new growth occurred along the rapidly expanding and vastly improved highway system and the major arterial roadways of the era that facilitated traffic in metropolitan centers and surrounding areas. Such trends led to a major demographic shift that affected both urban and suburban areas and contributed to greater segregation throughout the country including Tarrant County. Most postwar suburbs catered to the growing white middle class, affording few opportunities for minority populations. Other practices from both the private and public further aggravated racial discrimination and segregation. Examples include the continued implementation of race-based deed and covenant restrictions as well as ongoing discriminatory lending practices and application of federal policies such as the G.I. Bill, largely excluding African American veterans and sanctioning discrimination across the country (Figure 5-4).[214]

> ***Learn more!*** *Read more about Fort Worth's postwar suburbs in the Suburbanization and Residential Development chapter of the Fort Worth Historic Context Study and Survey Plan, pages 189-240: https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/development-services/preservation-urban-design/historic-preservation/historic-context-and-survey-plan .*

[211] For more information about the history and development of the highways in Fort Worth, see *Dallas-Fort Worth Highways: Texas-sized Ambition* by Oscar Slotbloom, available at http://dfwfreeways.com.
[212] Richard Rothstein *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*. (New York: Liveright Publishing Corporation, 2017), pp. 63-67. The Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC) produced maps to help direct home loans and mortgages to "desirable" areas, which led to the use of the term "redlining." The HOLC map of Fort Worth is available at: https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/.
[213] Ames and McClelland, *Historic Residential Suburbs*, p. 31
[214] Rothstein, *The Color of Law*, p. 85.

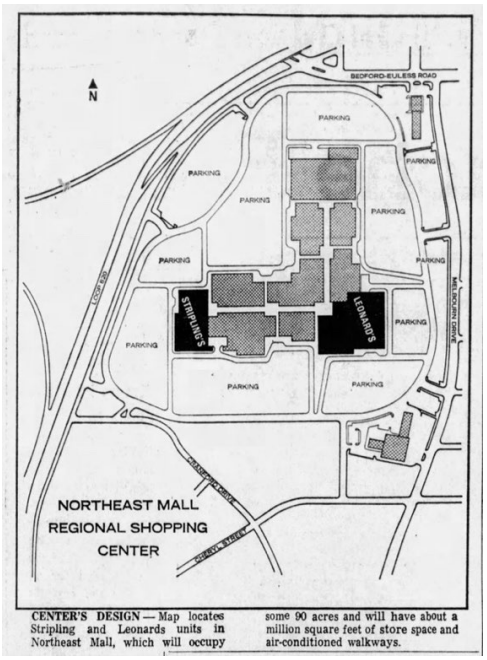
Figure 5-4. These ads typify the marketing strategy that many developers employed in postwar Tarrant County. The Browning Heights Addition in Haltom City includes a photo of an affordable home and touts available closing and mortgage options through the G.I. Bill and FHA loan program. The out-of-scale map at the bottom left shows the subdivision's relative location to an elementary school, shopping center, downtown Fort Worth, and Bell Aircraft plant in Hurst. The Arlington Manor advertisement employs many of the same features but notes that buyers can choose from the twenty-five house plans available from the developer. Source: *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, May 30, 1954, page 50, and *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, January 9, 1955, page 64. From Newspapers.com.

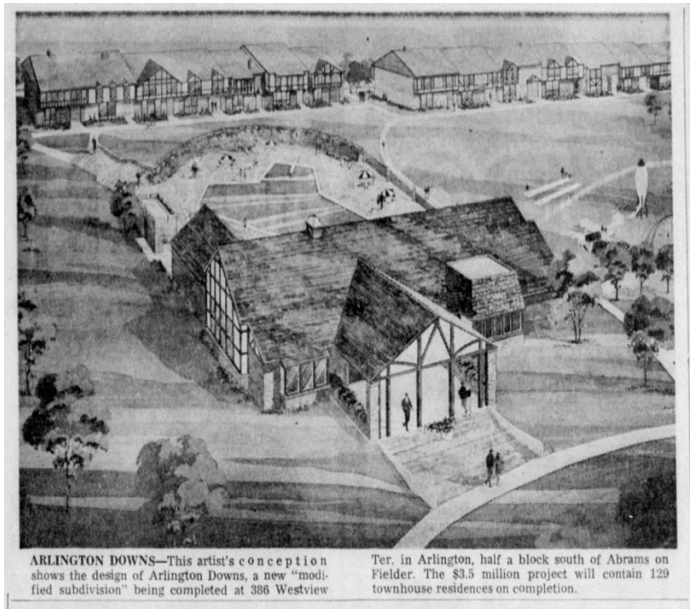
The growth of postwar suburbs contributed to greater decentralization of socio-economic activities as suburban communities became more independent and self-sufficient from nearby urban centers. The layout and design of the postwar suburbs also evolved. Unlike streetcar suburbs, postwar suburbs relied on speculative tract housing that helped to reduce costs. These new developments typically were larger, offered more amenities, and were more auto-friendly than streetcar suburbs. New subdivisions often incorporated such innovative features as curvilinear layouts and cul-de-sacs and were designed to minimize through traffic by directing drivers to arterial streets that then fed into larger roadways. The construction of shopping centers and malls, with increasingly expansive parking lots to accommodate auto-dependent consumers, as well as the construction of office complexes and warehouse/distribution facilities, contributed to more dispersed patterns of development. The population shift also encouraged the construction of new churches, schools, and parks in suburban settings, as residents spent a greater part of their daily lives in these new subdivisions. These trends continue today.

Postwar suburbanization in Tarrant County is a major theme in the history and development of Tarrant County, and it represents a significant component of the area's cultural landscape and historic built environment. Furthermore, this context is part of a broader pattern that extends to neighboring Dallas County and collectively represents one of the country's largest and most noteworthy examples of postwar suburbanization. Much of this growth centered around the development of the Dallas-Fort Worth area as a major hub of defense- and aviation-related activities, the seeds of which were planted before and during World War II. Carswell Air Force Base (Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth), the Convair (Lockheed-Martin) plant in western Fort Worth, and the Bell Aircraft (Bell Textron) facilities in Hurst and the ancillary business they spawned became major employers in Tarrant County. Other noteworthy postwar industrial operations, such as the General Motors assembly plant in Arlington, increasingly located their facilities in outlying suburban areas where land was cheaper, taxes

were lower, and access to the improved highway network was easy (Figure 5-5). The successful operation of these and other businesses in less developed areas led to greater suburban development in much of the county. Although growth occurred in all parts of Tarrant County, the east and northeast portions experienced particularly significant development during the 1950s and 1960s. While promoting their investments, developers of these residential areas were quick to point out the proximity of their properties to the improved highway network as well as the construction of schools, commercial nodes, warehouse and distribution centers, and a growing number of light industrial parks in suburban settings (Figure 5-6).

Figure 5-5. General Motors opened a new assembly plant in Arlington in 1954, which spurred suburban development in eastern Tarrant County. The aerial photograph on the left, taken in 1957, shows the prevailing rural character around the plant soon after it began operations. The plant's opening subsequently ushered in unprecedented development as new highways, subdivisions, shopping centers, and other commercial developments completely transformed surrounding properties. This pattern was repeated throughout the region and is representative of postwar suburbanization trends in Tarrant County. Source: Left: Squire Haskins Photography, Inc. Collection, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries, "An aerial of Highway 360 and Division Street, Arlington, Texas," UTA Libraries Digital Gallery, 1957, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/10002978; Right: Google Maps, 2024.





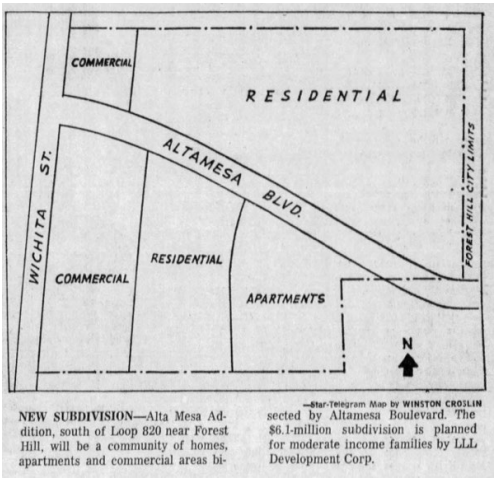


Figure 5-6. Postwar suburbanization introduced greater diversity to the built environment and cultural landscape of Tarrant County's suburban environment. Although new subdivisions, filled with new single-family dwellings, remained the predominant property type, other kinds of buildings and complexes were also common. Top left: Groupings of retail stores with expansive parking lots, such as the Richland Hills Shopping Center, became a ubiquitous feature along major roads that served new suburban communities in the postwar era. Top right: As more people moved to suburbs, developers offered grander shopping centers to meet growing consumer demands. The Northeast Shopping Mall in Hurst exemplifies this trend. It offered consumers an enclosed climate-controlled shopping experience. Bottom left: Multi-family townhouses and apartments, such this example in Arlington, were other common building types of postwar suburbs and often functioned as a buffer or transition area between commercial and single-family residential areas. Bottom right: Over time, many real estate developers planned multi-use areas that combined single- and multi-family residential, commercial, and light-industrial activities, such as the Altamesa Addition in Forest Hill. Sources (clockwise from upper left): *Fort Worth Star-Telegram,* June 28, 1951, page 37; March 20, 1968, page 2; November 24, 1968, page 79; May 9, 1971, page 79. From Newspapers.com.

Many of the new subdivisions included deed and covenant restrictions that specified the physical attributes of homes (e.g., style, materials, outbuildings, signage, etc.) and land usage. These restrictions sometimes contained explicit racial discriminatory language. The 1947 plat dedication for the Forest Acres Addition in River Oaks, for example, included a provision stating that,

> *[n]one of the lots on the within plat shall be conveyed, leased, or given to, and no building erected thereon shall be used owned or occupied, by any person not of the white race. This prohibition, however, is not intended to include occupancy or use by persons not of the white race while employed as servants on the premises.*[215]

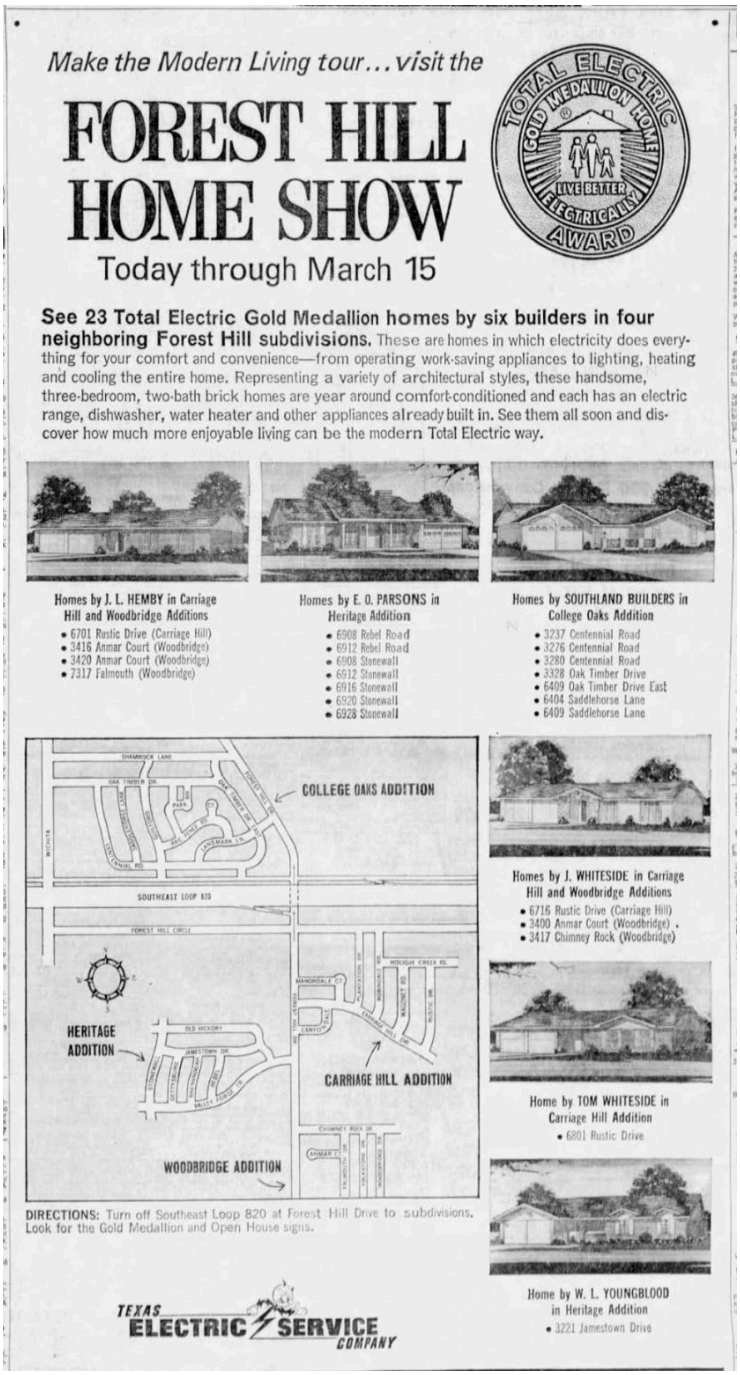
Similar wording appeared in many other deeds involving suburban properties of the era. After decades-long acceptance of such discriminatory practices throughout Tarrant County and other parts of the country, Congress prohibited such practices with the passing of the Fair Housing Act in 1968.

Suburbanization in the postwar period also re-ignited the annexation/incorporation issue that had erupted during the first quarter of the twentieth century. Although the City of Fort Worth expanded its boundaries (and tax base) by absorbing many outlying suburban developments, other areas resisted such efforts and instead voted to incorporate into separate municipalities. Among those areas that formally incorporated under state law in a 15-year span after the end of World War II included the following cities (year of incorporation): Azle (1957), Bedford (1952), Benbrook (1947), Colleyville (1956), Crowley (1951), Dalworthington Gardens (1946), Edgecliff Village (1951), Euless (1950), Forest Hill (1946), Hurst (1951), Keller (1955), Kennedale (1947), Lake City (1954), Lake Worth (1949), Lakeside (1958), North Richland Hills (1953), Pantego (1949), Saginaw (1949), Sansom Park (1949), Southlake (1956), and Watauga (1958), each of which oversaw the development of new subdivisions within their respective jurisdictions. The creation of so many new suburban municipalities reflected the dramatic population increase and demographic shifts of the era, but it also triggered calls for better and more convenient schools. A popular solution was the consolidation of state-designated "common school districts" that had traditionally served rural areas of Tarrant County and other parts of Texas. Consolidation became increasingly popular when federal court-imposed school desegregation and forced busing led many urban white families to relocate to new suburban communities with locally controlled and funded school systems, a trend that has come to be known as "white flight."

Learn more! *Read more about schools in Chapter 4. Cultural and Social Institutions.*

Postwar suburbs diverged from those developed prior to World War II in several ways, including the increased popularity of speculative housing. Following the Levittown model of Long Island, New York, developers in Tarrant County built houses and relied on a limited number of standard plans and house designs that created more homogenous communities than earlier ones. In addition, the scale and scope of the postwar suburbs became increasingly grand and sometimes even set aside land for community pools, parks and playgrounds as well as schools, churches, and shopping centers (Figure 5-7). Multi-family units and apartments created a buffer between residential and non-residential areas, such as retail and distribution centers.

[215] Tarrant County Clerk's Office, Real Property Records, Instrument No. D147026235, June 25, 1947, Deed Volume 1915, pp. 519-528. Available at: https://tarrant.tx.publicsearch.us/doc/82937132.



Make the Modern Living tour... visit the

FOREST HILL HOME SHOW

Today through March 15

TOTAL ELECTRIC GOLD MEDALLION HOME LIVE BETTER ELECTRICALLY AWARD

See 23 Total Electric Gold Medallion homes by six builders in four neighboring Forest Hill subdivisions. These are homes in which electricity does everything for your comfort and convenience—from operating work-saving appliances to lighting, heating and cooling the entire home. Representing a variety of architectural styles, these handsome, three-bedroom, two-bath brick homes are year around comfort-conditioned and each has an electric range, dishwasher, water heater and other appliances already built in. See them all soon and discover how much more enjoyable living can be the modern Total Electric way.

Homes by J. L. HEMBY in Carriage Hill and Woodbridge Additions
- 6701 Rustic Drive (Carriage Hill)
- 3416 Anmar Court (Woodbridge)
- 3420 Anmar Court (Woodbridge)
- 7317 Falmouth (Woodbridge)

Homes by E. O. PARSONS in Heritage Addition
- 6908 Rebel Road
- 6912 Rebel Road
- 6908 Stonewall
- 6912 Stonewall
- 6916 Stonewall
- 6920 Stonewall
- 6928 Stonewall

Homes by SOUTHLAND BUILDERS in College Oaks Addition
- 3237 Centennial Road
- 3276 Centennial Road
- 3280 Centennial Road
- 3328 Oak Timber Drive
- 6409 Oak Timber Drive East
- 6404 Saddlehorse Lane
- 6409 Saddlehorse Lane

COLLEGE OAKS ADDITION
SOUTHEAST LOOP 820
FOREST HILL CIRCLE
HERITAGE ADDITION
CARRIAGE HILL ADDITION
WOODBRIDGE ADDITION

Homes by J. WHITESIDE in Carriage Hill and Woodbridge Additions
- 6716 Rustic Drive (Carriage Hill)
- 3400 Anmar Court (Woodbridge)
- 3417 Chimney Rock (Woodbridge)

Home by TOM WHITESIDE in Carriage Hill Addition
- 6801 Rustic Drive

Home by W. L. YOUNGBLOOD in Heritage Addition
- 3221 Jamestown Drive

DIRECTIONS: Turn off Southeast Loop 820 at Forest Hill Drive to subdivisions. Look for the Gold Medallion and Open House signs.

TEXAS ELECTRIC SERVICE COMPANY

Figure 5-7. This advertisement identifies houses on the 1970 Forest Hills Home Tour. The map shows the location of each subdivision relative to Interstate Highway 820 and reveals the automobile-friendly layout of each neighborhood and how traffic is funneled to a hierarchal system of roads that feeds into the freeway. Source: Fort Wort Star-Telegram March 8, 1970, page 53. From Newspaper.com.

Learn more! *Read more about schools in Chapter 3. Commercial Nodes.*

The period of significance ends during a nationwide recession that was triggered by conditions known as "stagflation," an unusual phenomenon when a slowdown in economic growth (stagnation) occurs with rapidly rising costs (inflation) and high unemployment. Multiple factors contributed to this phenomenon of the 1970s, but most economists agree that the prime cause stemmed from an unprecedented increase in oil prices triggered by war in the Middle East. Rising inflation had a particularly chilling effect on suburban development and the construction of new housing that extended throughout much of the

country. However, its impact was not as severe throughout the "Sun Belt," which included Tarrant County. The 1973 opening of the new Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, which straddles the border between Tarrant and Dallas counties, served as a catalyst that helped to sustain growth in the region. The rise of what has come to be known as the Mid-Cities saw the rapid growth and expansion of suburban highway-dependent communities between Fort Worth and Dallas areas including, but not limited to, Arlington, Bedford, Colleyville, Euless, Grapevine, Hurst, and North Richland Hills. Additional suburban growth has extended to virtually all areas of Tarrant County.

Table 5-1. Incorporated cities with building dates and subdivision dates. Source: Tarrant County Historic Preservation Plan and Newspapers.com

		Building Dates						Subdivision Dates*				
Cities	Year of Incorporation	<=1945	1946-1959	1960-1975	1976=>	No Date	Total	<=1945	1946-1959	1960-1975	1976=>	Total
Arlington	not confirmed	468	9,290	17,452	72,699	5,480	105,389	4	80	170	727	981
Azle	1957	85	294	665	2,585	798	4,427	0	1	16	27	44
Bedford	1952	3	592	3,187	10,318	420	14,520	0	4	21	103	128
Benbrook	1947	30	729	2,311	5,410	695	9,175	0	0	21	44	65
Blue Mound	not confirmed	0	322	327	177	21	847	0	0	1	1	2
Burleson	not confirmed	1	2	197	2,825	91	3,116	0	0	2	20	22
Colleyville	1956	7	32	977	8,673	1,053	10,742	0	0	6	143	149
Crowley	1951	29	101	1,114	4,002	1,057	6,303	0	2	10	24	36
Dalworthington Gardens	1946	21	31	164	720	107	1,043	0	0	6	22	28
Edgecliff Village	1951	4	73	684	608	67	1,436	0	0	3	3	6
Euless	1950	13	918	3,912	8,540	994	14,377	0	1	29	93	123
Everman	1945	59	209	1,254	428	164	2,114	0	4	9	5	18
Flower Mound	not confirmed	1	1	2	76	316	396	0	0	0	2	2
Forest Hill	1946	147	607	2,417	1,409	458	5,038	0	10	26	12	48
Fort Worth	1873	30,053	47,276	22,259	137,114	32,826	269,528	218	403	233	602	1,456
Grand Prairie	not confirmed	5	109	881	14,844	1,242	17,081	0	1	14	115	130
Grapevine	not confirmed	162	426	1,032	11,601	866	14,087	0	3	15	154	172
Haltom City	1944	890	4,669	2,351	3,903	1,136	12,949	6	64	29	26	125
Haslet	1961	21	13	18	644	580	1,276	0	0	1	7	8
Hurst	1951	16	2,525	4,517	4,835	346	12,239	0	11	40	63	114
Keller	1955	34	89	818	13,918	1,310	16,169	0	1	8	165	174
Kennedale	1947	102	209	367	2,260	595	3,533	0	0	13	27	40
Lake City	1954											
Lake Worth	1949	238	680	448	582	323	2,271	0	8	3	9	20
Lakeside	1958	8	142	190	323	174	837	0	0	3	6	9
Mansfield	not confirmed	250	317	822	17,307	1,671	20,367	1	3	5	125	134
North Richland Hills	1953	47	2,151	3,404	14,929	1,527	22,058	0	6	32	145	183
Oak Knoll	1944											

Cities	Year of Incorporation	Building Dates						Subdivision Dates*				
		<=1945	1946-1959	1960-1975	1976=>	No Date	Total	<=1945	1946-1959	1960-1975	1976=>	Total
Pantego	1949	3	20	607	441	97	1,168	0	0	14	14	28
Pelican Bay	1981	2	2	99	688	476	1,267	0	0	0	6	6
Richland Hills	1950	2	2,205	394	327	240	3,168	0	6	6	6	18
River Oaks	1941	1,327	1,077	150	235	190	2,979	2	27	2	1	32
Saginaw	1949	36	169	820	6,653	769	8,477	0	2	5	30	37
Sansom Park	1949	323	962	73	207	182	1,747	0	6	1	0	7
Southlake	1956	22	62	321	9,514	995	10,914	0	0	2	175	177
Trophy Club	1985	0	0	0	172	15	187	0	0	0	4	4
Watauga	1958	17	61	2,041	6,126	116	8,361	0	0	8	24	32
West Lake	not confirmed	4	12	0	566	476	1,058	0	0	0	11	11
Westover Hills	1937	37	30	89	127	18	301	0	1	2	1	4
Westworth Village	1941	38	476	21	250	316	1,101	0	8	1	8	17
White Settlement	1941	117	2,315	1,040	1,810	819	6,101	0	12	24	17	53

6| Recreation and Tourism

INTRODUCTION

The county's recreation and tourism sites served both residents and visitors. Outdoor recreation in the county centered around its manmade lakes and public parks, both integral pieces in the county's built environment. In addition to providing places for recreation, they also spurred development. Sites of recreation also contributed to the county's tourism industry. Facilitated first by the highway development, and later by air travel, sites of tourism expanded outside of Fort Worth, resulting in the construction of hotels and motels across the county.

Resources associated with this theme may be individual resources or historic districts and include a wide variety of buildings, structures, and sites including: dams, reservoirs, houses, camps, hotels and motels, club houses, lodges, parks, gymnasiums, amusements, music/dance halls, bars, sports arenas, and theaters. Historic resources associated with recreation and tourism may be significant for: 1) their association with historical events or trends (National Register Criterion A) typically in the Areas of Significance in Commerce, Community Planning and Development, Entertainment/Recreation, and Ethnic Heritage, and/or 2) distinctive physical characteristics, quality of design, or work of a master (National Register Criterion C) in the Areas of Significance in Architecture and Engineering. This theme's period of significance spans from the late nineteenth century, when the first public parks and trolley parks were created, to 1974, meeting the National Park Service's 50-year mark for eligible properties.

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Reservoirs

Beginning in the early twentieth century and continuing through the historic period, manmade lakes altered not only the county's landscape but also significantly impacted development and recreation in the county. Emanating from the need to provide flood control, source municipal water, and conserve water, the damming of the Trinity River and its tributaries provided the added benefit of recreation. Table 6-1 identifies the largest reservoirs created in the historic period in Tarrant County.[216]

[216]Joe Pool Lake was built and inundated between 1985 and 1989 and covers roughly 6,680 acres in southeast Tarrant County and southwest Dallas County.

Table 6-1. List of largest reservoirs created in the historic period in Tarrant County.

Reservoir	Waterway & Location	Years Built/Inundated	Owner	Approx. Size in Acres	Purpose(s)
Lake Worth	West Fork, NW of Fort Worth	1911-1914	City of Fort Worth	3,489	Flood control, Municipal water
Eagle Mountain Lake	West Fork, NW Tarrant Co.	1930-1934	Tarrant Regional Water District	8,738	Municipal, industrial, and irrigation water
Benbrook Lake	Clear Fork, SW Tarrant Co.	1947-1952	Army Corps of Engineers	3,635	Flood control
Lake Grapevine	Denton Creek, NE Tarrant Co. and S Denton Co.	1948-1952	Army Corps of Engineers	6,684	Flood control
Lake Arlington	Village Creek, SW of Arlington	1956-1957	City of Arlington	1,926	Municipal and industrial water

Lake Erie to Lake Arlington: Trolley Parks and Lakes

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the interurban and Fort Worth's streetcar companies built small amusement parks and resorts known as trolley parks to encourage ridership. In the early twentieth century, Tarrant County had four trolley parks: Rosedale Pavilion in Fort Worth, Lake Como in Fort Worth, Lake Erie in Handley, and White City in North Fort Worth. Both Lake Como and Lake Erie, located on the interurban line, featured lakes. Outside the city limits, the rail companies constructed the lakes for cooling their power plants (built on the lakes' shores) and capitalized on their recreational potential. In addition to pavilions, amusement rides, and entertainment acts and concerts, visitors to Lake Como and Lake Erie boated on and swam in the lakes. Despite their popularity, the trolley parks closed as the streetcars and interurban ceased operations due to the growing number of automobiles in the 1920s and 1930s. Giving way to new development, the buildings associated with the parks were lost over time. Lake Como remains part of the Fort Worth's Lake Como Park. Created in the 1950s, on land gifted to the city by Amon Carter, Lake Como Park was designated for use by the Black residents who lived in the Como neighborhood. Part of Lake Erie also survives as the northwestern inlet of Lake Arlington.

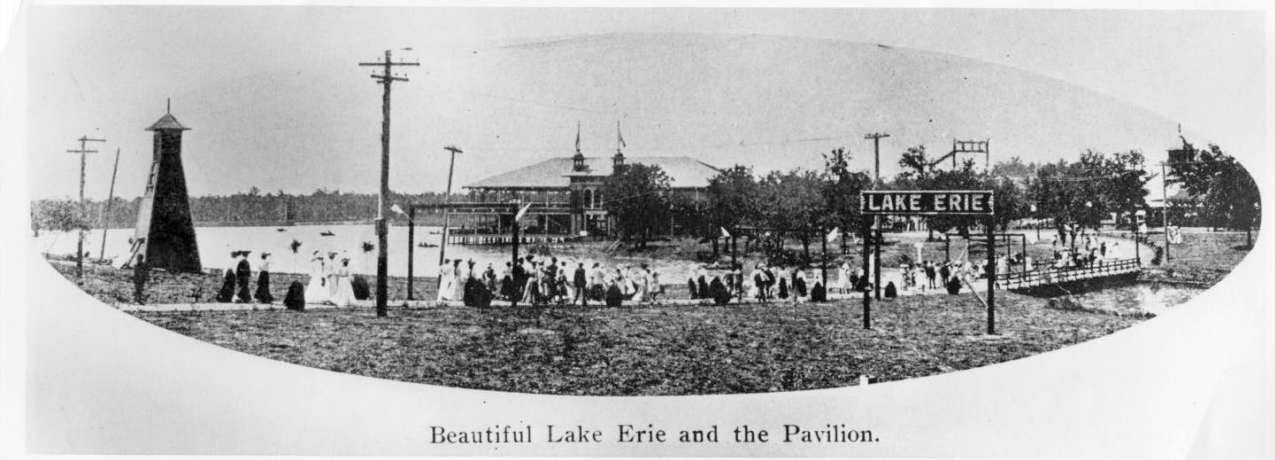


Figure 6-1. Lake Erie, now an inlet of Lake Arlington, in 1904. Source: "Lake Erie and the Pavilion," University of North Texas Libraries, *The Portal to Texas History*, crediting Arlington Historical Society's Fielder House Museum, accessed June 5, 2024, https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth65127.

Figure 6-2. Lake Arlington in 1957 during its inundating. The hole in the lake is its spillway. Like the other reservoirs, Lake Arlington was inundated with rainwater. After the completion of the dam in the spring of 1957, above average rainfall filled the lake and ended one of the worst droughts in the region's history. Due to the speed at which the lake filled, Lake Arlington was dubbed Lake Instant. Source: Fort Worth Star-Telegram Collection, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries. "Richard Smith, engineer, watches flood water fill Lake Arlington," UTA Libraries Digital Gallery, 1957, Accessed June 12, 2024, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/10002278.

The lakes, created by the construction of dams, particularly transformed the western half of the county. (Figure 6-3). While the flood control provided by the lakes created more developable and agricultural land, the creation of the lakes also destroyed some indigenous sites and roads and altered the "economic and physical orientation" of older small communities (Figures 6-4, 6-5).[217] The creation of these lakes required relocation of railroads, roads, utilities, houses, churches, and cemeteries, and reshaped the character of towns like Dido on Eagle Mountain Lake, an existing, small crossroads community that morphed into a supply town for lakeside residents and vacationers. Property owners in the path of the reservoirs also lost their houses, farms, and ranches to eminent domain. In the creation of Lake Grapevine, fifteen property owners, including Grapevine's mayor, lost thousands of acres of farm and pastureland, many associated with the area's dairy farms.[218]

[217] Page, Anderson, and Turnbull, Inc., "Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey: Phase VI-B," 1988, 7.
[218] Nancy Maxwell, "Origin and History of Lake Grapevine, 1919-1953, Part 5: A Community Prepares and Construction Begins," Grapevine Public Library, April 24, 2023, https://grapevinelibrary.info/2023/04/origin-and-history-of-lake-grapevine-1919-1953-part-5-a-community-prepares-and-construction-begins/.

Figure 6-3. Amon Carter and Fort Worth Mayor Frank Edgar Deen, among others, at Benbrook Lake dam in the 1950s. Source: Fort Worth Star-Telegram Collection, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries. "Benbrook Lake and Dam." UTA Libraries Digital Gallery, 1950, Accessed June 5, 2024, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/20085334.

Figure 6-4. Black men from outside Texas accounted for many of the construction workers at Lake Grapevine. The influx of Black residents helped revive some of Grapevine's older churches. Source: Grapevine Public Library, Genealogy and Local History Blog, May 12, 2023, https://grapevinelibrary.info/2023/05/origin-and-history-of-lake-grapevine-1919-1953-part-7-a-new-county-lake-is-born/.

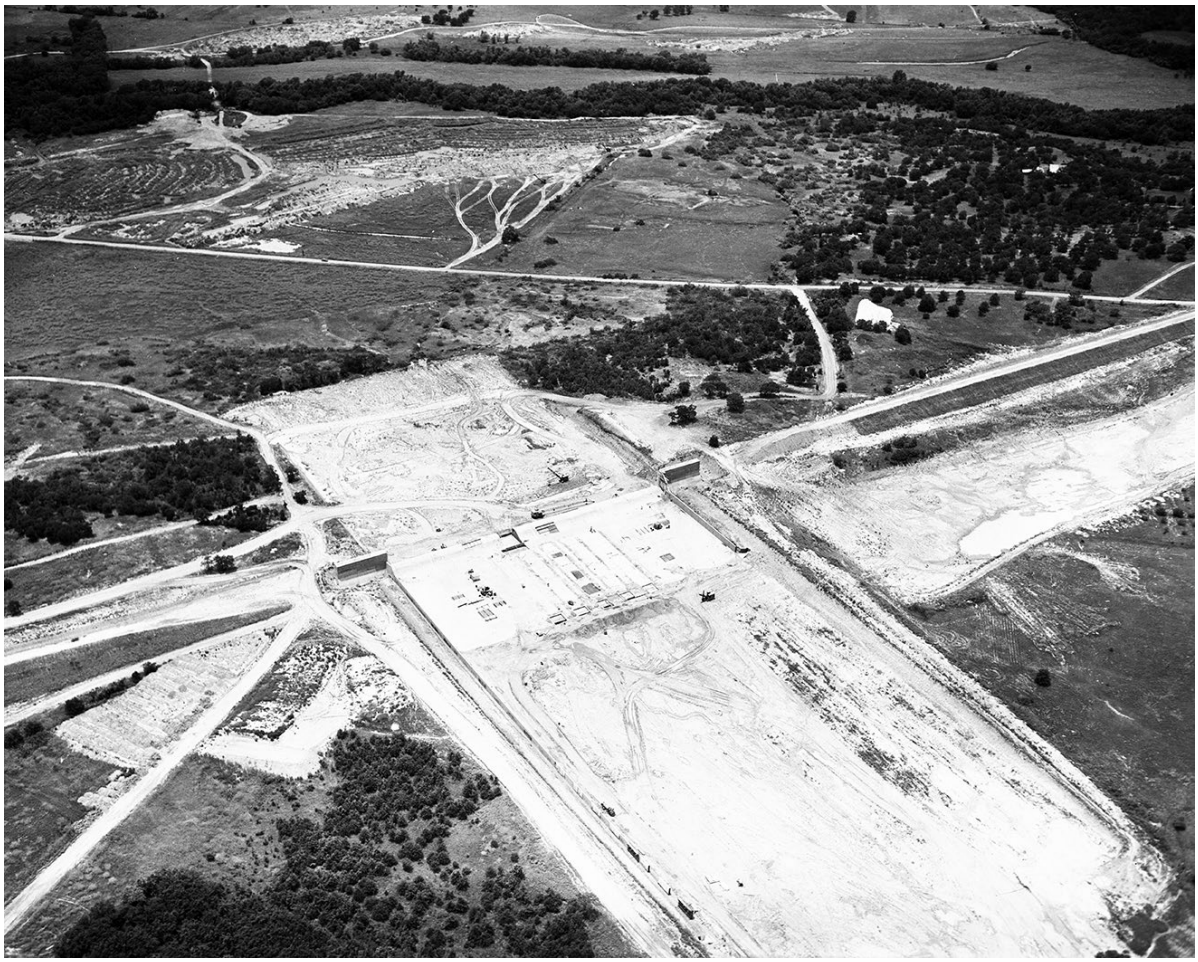


Figure 6-5. Aerial view of the construction of Grapevine Dam in 1950. Parts of the dam that are visible include the concrete spillway, concrete tie-ins to the earthen embankment, and the spillway channel with a retaining wall. Source: Fort Worth Star-Telegram Collection, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries. "Aerial view of the Grapevine spillway." UTA Libraries Digital Gallery, 1950, Accessed June 5, 2024, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/20148066.

> ***Learn more!*** *Read more about the history of Lake Grapevine from the Grapevine Public Library: https://grapevinelibrary.info/2023/02/origin-and-history-of-lake-grapevine-1919-1953-part-1-beginnings/.*

The lakes also spawned roadway, residential, commercial, recreational, and park development. New towns, residential subdivisions, and weekend and vacation houses developed following the construction of the lakes. Around Lake Worth, the City leased land to individuals and commercial ventures (Figure 6-6). Lake Worth Village (then named Indian Oaks) developed on the east side of the lake in the 1920s as a residential and recreation spot. The recreation spot, Casino Park (also known as Lake Worth Amusement Park), developed with a popular casino, dance hall, ballroom, boardwalk, and amusement rides (Figure 6-7). Despite the decline and demolition of Casino Park, the residential neighborhood grew in the postwar era and incorporated in the 1950s as Lake Worth Village.[219]

[219] The Depression and growing tension with the City and State contributed to the decline of Casino Park. Demolition of the buildings occurred in the early 1970s. Also in the 1970s, the City of Fort Worth designated Casino Beach as a public park.

Figure 6-6. Taylor's Directory Map of Lake Worth from 1939. The map identifies various private houses, rented houses, parks, and businesses. Note Indian Oaks (renamed Lake Worth Village) located on the lake's eastern shore. A list of concessions identifies various boat works, groceries, gas vendors, and "dining and dance" establishments. Source: Tarrant County Archives.

Around the rest of the lake, leaseholders constructed a variety of houses, small lakeside cottages as well as larger residences, many of them with stone veneers, throughout the period of significance. Early on, many of the houses were weekend houses, but after World War II more properties became full-time residences. The 1938 Douglas House, or "Holiday Ranch," at 8229 Jacksboro Highway and the NRHP-listed Foster House, built in 1951 on Heron Drive, represent this trend.[220] Several clubs also had camp facilities on Lake Worth, including the YWCA and the Panther Boys Club.[221]

A similar pattern of development occurred on Eagle Mountain Lake following its completion in the early 1930s (Figure 6-8). The Stanfield House on Lakeforest Drive, built for a Fort Worth physician in 1938, was one of the first houses constructed on the lake. Several companies also used properties on both Lake Worth and Eagle Mountain Lake as retreats; Vultee Aircraft Corporation leased the 1928 "Lake Worth Castle" and cottages on Heron Drive to entertain businessmen and dignitaries. Landreth Production Corporation constructed the Landreth Lodge, an employee retreat, on Eagle Mountain Lake in 1938 with a central lodge, four cottages, garage, boathouse, derrick, dock, and lighthouse (both properties extant).[222] Residential development was slower around the other lakes. By 1970, residential development around Benbrook Lake was limited to a small subdivision on its west shores and St. Francis Village, a retirement community established in 1936, on its eastern shores. Per aerial images, much of the residential development around Lake Grapevine and Lake Arlington occurred after 1970.

> ***Learn more!*** *Read more the National Register nomination for the Foster House on Lake Worth: https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/NR/pdfs/12000589/12000589.pdf.*

Figure 6-7. A water skier on Lake Worth with Casino Beach in the background in 1939. Source: Fort Worth Star-Telegram Collection, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries. "Miss Sydnie Lunt rides an aquaplane behind a motorboat on Labor Day," UTA Libraries Digital Gallery, 1939, Accessed June 12, 2024, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/10013801.

[220] Page, Anderson, and Turnbull, Inc., "Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey: Phase II," 1983, 19.
[221] Exact location unknown; future field survey required to determine whether or not it is extant.
[222] Page, Anderson, and Turnbull, Inc., "Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey: Selected Tarrant County Communities," 1990, 138.

Figure 6-8. People at a house on Eagle Mountain Lake in 1952. Source: Fort Worth Star-Telegram Collection, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries. "Eagle Mountain Lake," UTA Libraries Digital Gallery, 1952, Accessed June 12, 2024, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/20128752.

Public parks and recreational facilities also developed along each of the lakes' shores, providing access to boating, fishing, picnic areas, and swimming. Around Lake Worth, the city constructed a 40-mile road along the shoreline and opened Municipal Beach, a popular swimming area visited by over a hundred thousand bathers each season.[223] During the Depression, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) built five shelters around the lake and improved several parks, including Casino Beach and Mosque Point Park, building a comfort station, picnic tables, foot and car bridges, campground facilities, trails, landscaping, and bathrooms. Improvements aligned with the Hare and Hare master park plan prepared for Fort Worth in 1930.[224] The CCC, which had camps around the lake, also began developing what would become the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge at Lake Worth with roads, bridges, paths, picnic areas, and stone shelter houses. The Army Corps of Engineers also created public parks in the design and creation of Benbrook and Grapevine lakes, offering a variety of amenities for day use, picnicking, boat launching, concessions, swimming, and boat rentals (Figure 6-9).

[223] Kenneth Klein, "The Casino Park and Ballroom of Lake Worth," Tarrant County, TXGenWeb, March 13, 20, and 27, 2003, https://sites.rootsweb.com/~txtarran/places/casinopark.htm.
[224] "Mosque Point Park," Fort Worth Park and Recreation Department, accessed June 4, 2024, https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/departments/parks/parks-and-trails/mosque-point-park.

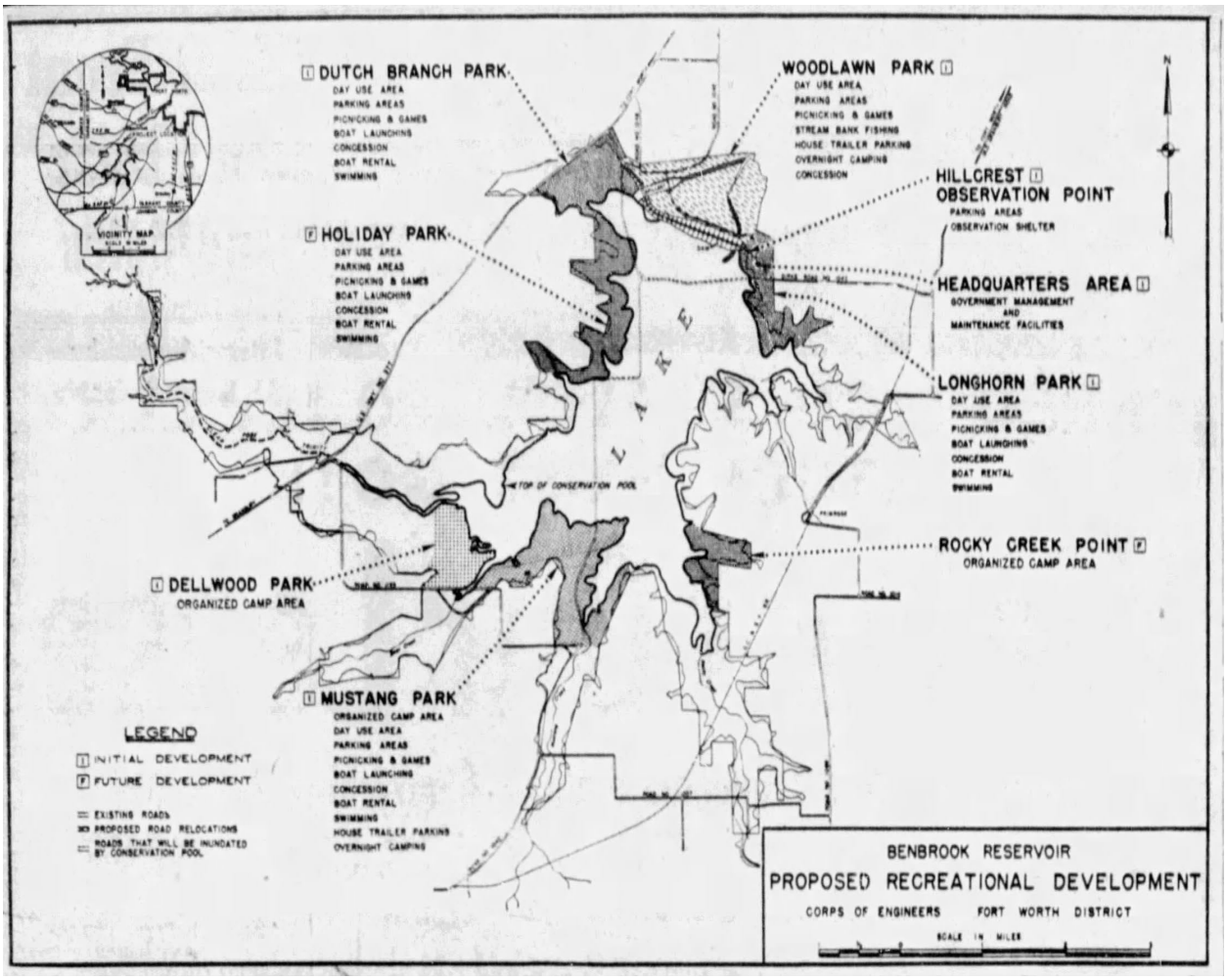


Figure 6-9. Army Corps of Engineers map for proposed parks around Benbrook Lake. Parks include day use and camping areas. Dutch Branch Park, Holiday Park, Mustang Park, Rocky Creek Point, and Longhorn Park were built and remain at Benbrook Lake. Source: *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, October 31, 1952, 14.

Private clubs and businesses, including boat clubs and marinas, also opened on the shores of the lakes for boating and fishing enthusiasts. Likely the oldest boat club in the county, the Fort Worth Boat Club evolved from a group of friends who sailed Minnow boats, 15-foot flat-bottomed plywood boats, on Lake Worth in the late 1920s.[225] In the early 1930s, the club organized and replaced the Minnow boats with larger and faster Longhorn boats (Figure 6-10). The group also relocated to the larger Eagle Mountain Lake in 1934, building a clubhouse at the end of Boat Club Road on the eastern shore (extant) (Figure 6-11). The popularity of boating grew in the postwar era, and other clubs organized, including the Lake Worth Boating and Ski Club on Foster Drive and the Arlington Yacht Club. The Lake Worth Boating Club featured a café and launching ramps, and the Arlington Yacht Club first met at the country club at the south end of Lake Arlington before expanding and moving their clubhouse into a former bait shop in Richard Simpson Park.[226] On Benbrook Lake, the Longhorn Park Fishing Barge and Café opened in 1959, and the Lake Benbrook Marina opened in 1960 (Figure 6-12). The Fishing Barge was the largest

[225] "Brief Timeline of FWBC," Fort Worth Boat Club, accessed June 10, 2024, https://www.fortworthboatclub.com/about.
[226] Future survey is required to determine whether or not these buildings are extant.; Monica S. Nagy, "Will the Arlington Yacht Club sail away?," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, December 15, 2013, https://www.star-telegram.com/news/local/arlington/article3839750.html.

in the Southwest, measuring 250-feet long, but only operated for four years before a fire destroyed the building.[227] The popularity of boating gave rise to a new industry in the county: small boat manufacturing. By 1959, the more than fifteen boat manufactures in the Fort Worth area produced more boats than any other American city, lending it the title of "the Detroit of American boat manufacturing."[228]

Figure 6-10. Fort Worth Boat Club Longhorn sailboats on Eagle Mountain Lake circa 1940. Source: Fort Worth Boat Club Collection, Tarrant County Archives.

Figure 6-11. The Fort Worth Boat Club clubhouse on Eagle Mountain Lake, circa 1950s-1960s. Built in 1934, the Spanish Colonial Revival inspired building is still used by the club. Source: Fort Worth Boat Club Collection, Tarrant County Archives.

[227] "Benbrook Fishing Barge Opens," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, September 5, 1959, 14.
[228] "Fort Worth Becomes Nation's Top Producer of Small Boats," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, January 10, 1960, 95.

Figure 6-12. Lake Benbrook Resort and Marina opened in 1960 and featured a motel, restaurant, pool, beach, and marina. By the mid-1960s, though, newspaper references to the business ceased. Future field survey is required to determine if any of the buildings associated with the property are extant. Source: Benbrook History, City of Benbrook, accessed May 31, 2024, http://www.ci.benbrook.tx.us/PhotoGallery/Album/0/128.

Public Parks

Fort Worth claimed the majority of public parks created in the county before World War II. Some larger, incorporated communities, like Arlington, however, did have parks. Meadowbrook Park, established in 1924, was not only Arlington's first park, but it also had a public swimming pool and the town's first municipal golf course, which opened in 1924 (pool not extant). In the 1930s, Arlington built a small sandstone building, referred to as a "monkey house," that is currently used for maintenance.[229] In Grapevine, the Garden Club spearheaded the creation of the town's first park, City Park (renamed Heritage Park), in the late 1930s, lobbying for the city's purchase of three acres for a park. The Boy Scouts built a hut in the park, and the Garden Club landscaped and maintained the grounds.[230] Other pre-war public recreational facilities include the Keller Recreation Center, also known as the Rock Gym at 350 Keller Parkway (extant) (Figure 6-13). Built in 1934 by the Civil Works Administration (CWA), the building had meeting rooms, locker rooms, basketball courts, and a stage for public use.[231] Renovated in the 1990s, the building is currently used by the Keller Independent School District as its Education Center.

[229] "Meadowbrook Park: Arlington's First Park," City of Arlington, accessed June 12, 2024, https://cdnsm5-hosted.civiclive.com/UserFiles/Servers/Server_14481062/File/Residents/About%20Arlington/History%20of%20Arlington/Parks%20Interpretive%20Signage/Interpretive-Signage-Meadowbrook-Park.pdf.

[230] Trisha Faye, "Grapevine Botanical Gardens," Medium blog, May 2, 2023, https://medium.com/good-vibes-club/grapevine-botanical-gardens-e4b375482848.

[231] "Keller Recreation Center – Keller, TX," Living New Deal, accessed June 5, 2024, https://livingnewdeal.org/sites/keller-recreation-center-keller-tx/.

Figure 6-13. The Rock Gym in Keller in 1986. Built in 1934 by the CWA, the building remains in use today. Source: David Lanier Collection, Tarrant County Archives.

Golf Courses

Private clubs in Tarrant County first opened in Fort Worth in the early twentieth century. River Crest Country Club in West Fort Worth opened in 1911. Established by prominent Fort Worth businessmen, the club was the first in the county and state to include a residential development. Over the next decade, at least five more private country clubs opened in Fort Worth. By the 1920s and 1930s, the nationwide beautification movement saw investment into municipal parks, including the acquisition of park land, landscaping in parks, and the creation of municipal golf courses. Arlington opened Meadowbrook Park Golf Course, a nine-hole course and possibly the first municipal golf course in the county. Fort Worth opened its first municipal club, also Meadowbrook Country Club, in 1938. First opened in 1924 as a private country club, the golf course was donated to Fort Worth and improved with Works Progress Administration funds. In the postwar era, Fort Worth and Arlington added new municipal golf courses. In Fort Worth, the three all-white courses integrated in the mid-1950s, following petitions and lawsuits; the public pools and schools remained segregated into the 1960s. Public and private golf courses played a major factor in suburban development patterns with courses built nearby or incorporated into subdivision designs. Pecan Valley Golf Course, north of Benbrook Lake, opened in 1963 by the City of Fort Worth, outside the growing community of Benbrook and in anticipation of new subdivisions. Another example is the Woodhaven Country Club, a private course with a pool that opened in 1973 as part of the Woodhaven development in East Fort Worth. Outside of Arlington and Fort Worth, despite the organization of parks departments, many of the new municipal courses opened in the 1980s and 1990s, including the Cross Timbers Golf Course in Azle (1995), Grand Prairie's two courses (1963 and 1995 and both in Dallas County), and Iron Horse Golf Club in North Richland Hills (1990). Similarly, many of the private clubs, including clubs in Grapevine, opened after the historic period. In addition to the golf course itself, these clubs often included clubhouses, maintenance buildings, footbridges, snack bars, and a variety of other buildings and structures including pools (Figure 6-14).

Figure 6-14. The 1912 clubhouse at Glen Garden Country Club, Fort Worth's second private golf course. The clubhouse, shown here in 1943, was demolished around 2015. Source: W.D. Smith Commercial Photography, Inc. Collection, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries. "Glen Garden Country Club clubhouse," UTA Libraries Digital Gallery, 1943, Accessed June 14, 2024, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/20089933.

The postwar period saw an expansion in the number of public parks in the county. The creation of parks coincided with suburbanization and the incorporation of older communities. Developers of postwar subdivisions often set aside land for community parks, pools, and playgrounds. In Arlington, a 1959 Master Plan recommended that 5 percent of the total land area in subdivisions of twenty acres or more be dedicated to parks.[232] In line with the recommendation, the City opened Fielder Park, a small neighborhood park in Briarwood Estates in the 1950s and Randol Mill Park in 1953 in the Parkview neighborhood. Randol Mill Park provided residents with amenities for fishing, picnicking, swimming, tennis, baseball, and basketball. Due to segregation, Black residents had separate parks. Fewer in number, and often smaller with fewer amenities, these parks opened in Black neighborhoods. In Arlington, George Stevens Park, a two-acre neighborhood park, opened in 1957 in The Hill neighborhood.[233] The city continued adding to its park system in the postwar era and built its first recreation center, Meadowbrook Park Recreation Center, in 1963 (extant) (Figure 6-15).

[232] Komatsu Architecture, "Arlington Historic Resources Survey Updated," Prepared for the City of Arlington, September 2007, 21.

[233] Jason Sullivan, "Learning More About 'The Hill': Arlington's Historic African American Community, MyArlingtonTX, February 7, 2022, https://www.arlingtontx.gov/news/my_arlington_t_x/news_stories/history_of_the_hill.

Figure 6-15. The Meadowbrook Park Recreation Center in Arlington in 1963. Constructed in 1963 and still in use today, the recreation center in Arlington was added to Meadowbrook Park during a period of park expansion that saw cities building similar types of facilities. Source: Fort Worth Star-Telegram Collection, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries. "The Meadowbrook Park recreation center, Arlington, Texas," UTA Libraries Digital Gallery, 1963, Accessed June 12, 2024, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/10001911.

Newly incorporated communities created parks departments, adopted park plans, and began acquiring and developing park land. In Bedford, the City acquired the Bedford Boys Ranch, a ranch for wards of the court that operated from 1949 to 1957, and opened Bedford Boys Ranch Park in 1974.[234] The roughly fifty-three-acre park included a pool, football field, gymnasium, and cafeteria. In Keller, incorporated in 1955, the city developed twenty-eight acres of donated land for Bear Creek Park. Dedicated in 1973, the park was the first in the city and spurred the growth of more public parks.[235] Other communities like Mansfield, though incorporated earlier, added its first park in 1960. Mansfield purchased the 6.9-acre tract of land next to the city's only public pool, which opened in 1959 (the pool was infilled in the mid-1970s). Nearly a decade later, Mansfield created a parks and recreation board in the early 1970s to oversee and guide development. [236]

[234] "Boys Ranch Park History," City of Bedford, accessed June 10, 2024, https://bedfordtx.gov/806/Boys-Ranch-Park-History.
[235] "Ceremony rededicates Bear Creek Park," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, June 9, 2010, 3.
[236] "Mansfield Parks and Recreation History," City of Mansfield, accessed June 10, 2024, https://www.mansfieldtexas.gov/1841/Mansfield-Parks-and-Recreation-History.

TOURISM, ATTRACTIONS, AND AMUSEMENTS

The county's early tourism and attractions were generally limited to Fort Worth, with entertainment and social events at schools, churches, and lodges accounting for most of the activity outside the city. Saloons also provided entertainment, but some communities, including Mansfield, banned them before 1900.[237] Transportation expansion in the twentieth century, though, fed a nascent tourism industry. A growing middle class and the highway expansion of the 1920s and 1930s spawned a new auto-oriented leisure industry. In addition to new state highways, two of the country's primary cross-country highways, the Bankhead Highway and Meridian Highway, traversed the county. New local attractions, such as Arlington Downs (demolished), a horserace track, and Top-O-Hill Terrace (extant), a restaurant and tearoom-turned casino in Arlington, expanded the county's tourism industry outside of Fort Worth. Tarrant County also benefited from the state's centennial celebrations in 1936. In addition to travelers driving through the county to the Texas Centennial Exposition at Fair Park in Dallas, Fort Worth hosted its own event, the Texas Frontier Centennial. A celebration of the Old West, the event featured Casa Mañana, an open-air amphitheater (replaced with the current geodesic dome in 1958) and attracted nearly one million visitors.[238] In response to the growing number of travelers, roadside camps, cabins, and tourist courts appeared on the county's highways and near tourism sites like Lake Worth, including Lacy Courts, a stone-veneered motor court opened in 1937 (Figure 6-16).[239] Another example is the Shady Tour Rest tourist court at 4036 E. Belknap Street in Haltom City, built in 1934 on the new state highway (SH 377).

> ***Learn more!*** *Read more about the Bankhead and Meridian highways from the Texas Historical Commission:*
>
> *Bankhead Highway: https://thc.texas.gov/travel/historic-highways/bankhead-highway*
>
> *Meridian Highway: https://thc.texas.gov/travel/historic-highways/meridian-highway*

Jacksboro Highway

Widened and paved following a recommendation in the City of Fort Worth's 1927 Bartholomew Plan (a transportation master plan), Jacksboro Highway (then North Henderson Street) was the primary route to Lake Worth and later Eagle Mountain Lake in the mid-twentieth century. The highway's colorful history started in the 1930s when entrepreneurs opened nightclubs along the highway, hoping to capitalize on and rival the popularity of Casino Park. One business was the Showboat, a popular nightclub located in a life-size showboat replica. Clubs on the Jacksboro Highway hosted a variety of musical acts, with the Skyliner Ballroom, Fort Worth's large dance hall, hosting popular white and Black artists, including Louis Armstrong and Tina Turner (the building was demolished in 1969). By the 1940s and 1950s, in addition to the dining, dancing, and music clubs, the highway became infamous for illicit activities including gambling, bootlegging, exotic dancing, and organized crime. Members of the LGBTQ community also found refuge at some of the bars on Jacksboro Highway. Prohibited from most bars and nightclubs, LGBTQ members were welcome at clubs including the Skyliner Ballroom, El Toga, Lil Elvira's, and Little Lou Lou's in the 1960s and 1970s (only Little Lou Lou's building extant at 5420 Jacksboro Highway). Few other relics of this era survive; most have been demolished for new commercial development. Among the extant buildings is the Rocket Club building at 2130 Jacksboro Highway. Built in the late 1940s, the Rocket Club was a popular dance club.

> ***Learn more!*** *Read the Historic Context and Survey Plan for the City of Fort Worth to learn more about attractions and tourism in Fort Worth: https://www.fortworthtexas.gov/files/assets/public/v/1/development-services/documents/all-preservation-and-design/historic/historic-context-survey-plan/1830_task-5_final-contexts__survey-plan-addendum_2021-09-21.pdf.*

[237] Diane E. Williams, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Mansfield, Texas," National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. Texas Historical Commission, Austin, 2003, E-79.
[238] "Cowtown Sallys Forth: The Frontier Centennial," Hometown by Handlebar blog, July 18, 2022, https://hometownbyhandlebar.com/?p=10644.
[239] Page, Anderson, and Turnbull, Inc., "Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey: Selected Tarrant County Communities," 1990, 132.

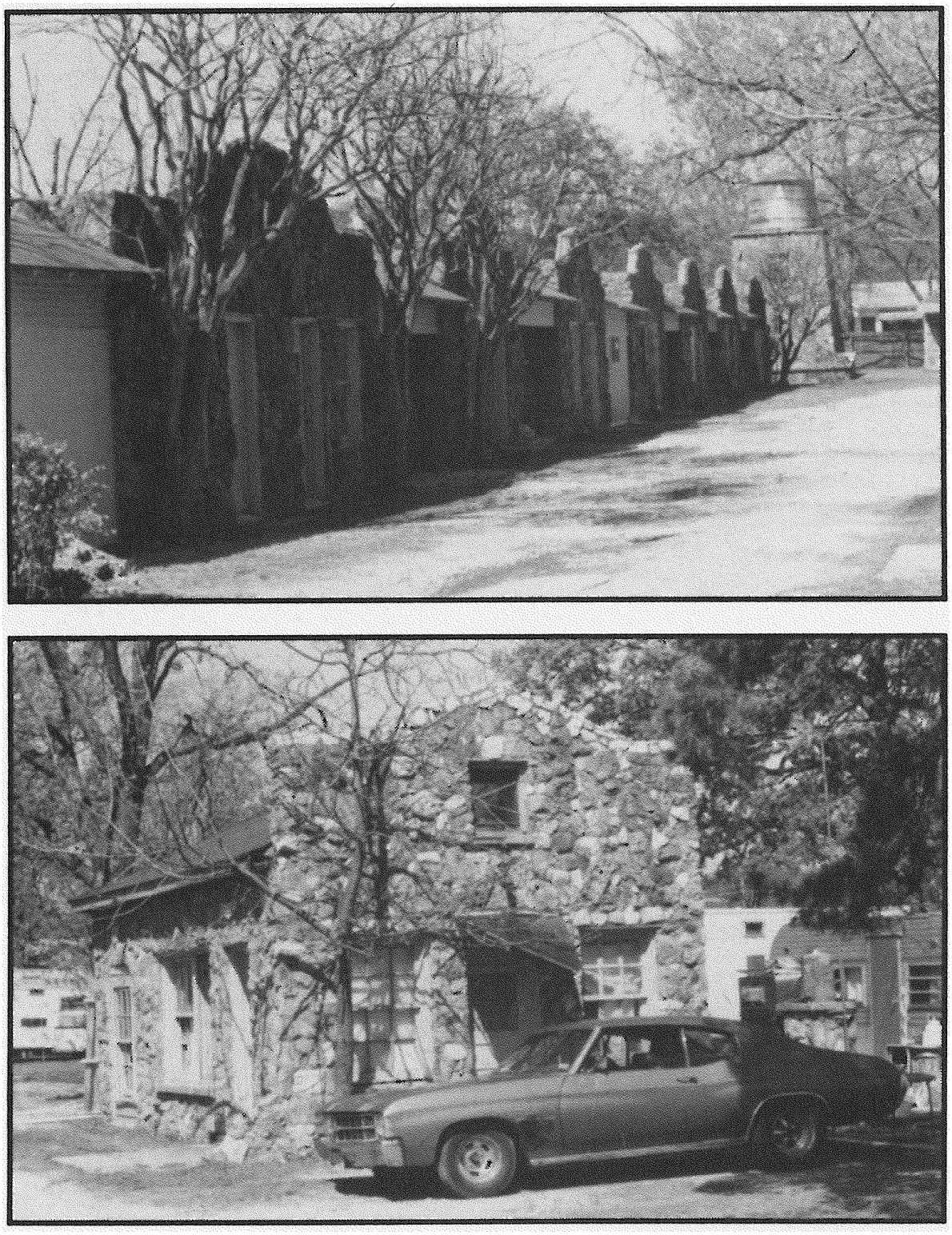


Figure 6-16. Lacy Courts was one of the many tourist courts constructed in the 1930s as a response to the growing number of automobile travelers and recreationists. Built in 1937, the tourist court was representative of the property type, consisting of stone veneered duplex cottages with connected carports. Built on Lake Worth in the 4500 block of Surfside Drive, the tourist court no longer appears to be extant per Google Street View. Source: Page, Anderson, and Turnbull, Inc., "Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey: Selected Tarrant County Communities," 1990, 132.

The Green Book

Segregation and racial discrimination in Tarrant County persisted in the public and private realms into the 1960s, making travel difficult for Black men and women. Restricted to where they could shop, swim, sleep, eat, and see a movie, Black travelers and entertainment seekers sought out Black-owned businesses. The Tarrant County listings in the *Green Book*—the travelers' guide for African Americans established in 1936—from the 1940s through the 1950s are limited to Fort Worth and include Black-owned restaurants, hotels, and service stations. Reflective of the city's segregation, most of the businesses were clustered east of downtown on E. 5th, E. Terrell, and E. Rosedale streets in Fort Worth's predominantly Black neighborhood. Like the Jim Hotel, a Black-owned blues and jazz hotel downtown, most of the buildings listed in the guide were demolished in the 1960s and 1970s for the convention center and freeway construction.[240]

The tourism industry exploded in the postwar era, enabled by interstate and freeway construction and the county's airports and the burgeoning commercial air travel industry. Throughout the historic period, several airports provided commercial air travel in Tarrant County. Meacham Field in North Richland Hills opened in 1925 and was the primary airport until Amon Carter Field (renamed Greater Southwest International Airport) opened in 1953 in Fort Worth. Dallas's Love Field also serviced the region. By the end of the historic period, the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport near Euless and Grapevine opened in 1974, quickly becoming one of the busiest airports in the country.

Accommodating the growing number of postwar travelers were new hotels, motels, gas stations, and restaurants. Along the highways and interstates, new motels like the Landmark Motel in Saginaw opened (extant, at 405 US Highway 287). Major thoroughfares, like Main Street and Division Street in Grand Prairie and Arlington, saw a proliferation of motels and restaurants, often featuring neon signs to capture the attention of motorists (Figure 6-17). A similar pattern occurred near the airports. In Euless, the 140-room Western Hills Inn opened in 1957, providing free limousine rides to and from the Greater Southwest International Airport (Figure 6-18).[241] In 1958, Elvis Presley stayed at the hotel after playing a gig at the hotel's Caribe Club.

Figure. 6-17. Trade Winds Motel, built around 1955 at 2406 Main Street in Grand Prairie. Like many of the motels of the era, the Trade Winds had a neon sign to attract motorists. Source: HHM & Associates, Inc., 2013.

[240] HHM & Associates, Inc., "Historic Context and Survey Plan: City of Fort Worth," 232.
[241] "Western Hills Inn," Euless Historical Preservation Committee, Flickr, accessed August 16, 2024, https://www.flickr.com/photos/eulesshistory/5793593779/in/photolist-9PXFzV-a3mPXY-brSokR-brSnS6-brSn36-8HbbEy-8X8tUh-brSq5z-brSoTe-brSp8k-brSrs4-brSqtZ-brSpLx-brSpoa-brSnuZ.

Figure 6-18. The Western Hills Inn and Caribe Club, built in 1957 in Euless near Great Southwestern International Airport. The City of Euless demolished the building and constructed its current police station on the site. Source: "Western Hills Inn," Euless Historical Preservation Committee, Flickr, https://www.flickr.com/photos/eulesshistory/5793593779/.

As the country's middle class grew and travel became easier and faster, new businesses and attractions opened for the increasing number of entertainment-seekers and vacationers. Along the county's highways, small recreation and entertainment businesses including skating rinks, bowling alleys, and drive-ins opened. New music clubs and dancehalls, like the Hi Ho Ballroom (circa 1959) and Starlite Room (circa 1955), both in Grand Prairie, opened along a major thoroughfare between Dallas and Fort Worth (both extant) (Figure 6-19).[242] Some of these venues also bolstered the Tejano music scene in North Central Texas. Luther DeLa Garza was a leading proponent and supporter of Tejano music in the postwar era, founding Capri Records in Dallas and booking Tejano bands at the Hi Ho Ballroom beginning in the 1960s. Dedicated to promoting Tejano bands and musicians, in 1973 DeLa Garza and his wife Vivian purchased the Camelot Ballroom at 2811 S. Cooper Street in Arlington (not extant) for this purpose.[243]

Other popular attractions included the rodeo. Outside of Fort Worth's popular rodeo at the Stockyards, in operation since the early twentieth century, smaller rodeos like the Audie Murphy Rodeo in Euless opened in the postwar era. Located on the highway between Dallas and Fort Worth, the rodeo was

[242] Survey data gathered from Hardy·Heck·Moore, Inc. and Blanton & Associates, Inc., *The Development of Highways in Texas: A Historic Context of the Bankhead Highway and Other Historic Named Highways*, Texas Historical Commission, 2014, available at: https://thc.texas.gov/travel/historic-highways/bankhead-highway.
[243] Luther DeLa Garza, obituary, *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, February 18, 2009, Z7.

popular among locals during its years of operation between 1945 and the mid-1960s.[244] Mansfield also had a rodeo. Located on US Highway 287, Kow Bell Indoor Rodeo opened in 1959 and was popular into the 1980s (not extant) (Figure 6-20).

Figure 6-19. The Hi Ho Ballroom, built circa 1959, at 2315 W. Jefferson Street in Grand Prairie. The Hi Ho Ballroom is extant and currently functions as an event center. Source: HHM & Associates, Inc., 2015.

Figure 6-20. The Kow Bell Indoor Rodeo in Mansfield, date unknown. Built on US Highway 287 in 1959, the rodeo arena had an open roof and a canvas top that was lowered during inclement weather. Mansfield ISD purchased the property in 2004 and demolished the arena to make room for a high school. Source: City of Mansfield, accessed June 5, 2024, https://www.mansfieldtexas.gov/1361/Kow-Bell-Indoor-Rodeo.

[244] "Audie Murphy Arena," Marker number 18516, Texas Historical Commission Atlas, accessed June 11, 2024, https://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/Details/5507018516.

Large tourist attractions also opened in the postwar period. In Fort Worth, more museums, including the Herbert Bayer-designed Fort Worth Art Center (1954), the Philip Johnson-designed Amon Carter Museum of American Art (1961), and the Louis Kahn-designed Kimbell Art Museum (1972), opened in the Cultural District. Downtown, the Tarrant County Convention Center opened in 1968. Designed by a consortium of five Fort Worth architects, the convention center brought in some of the world's largest musical acts, including Elvis, the Rolling Stones, and Bob Marley.[245] The largest attraction opened in Arlington in 1961. Following the construction of the Dallas-Fort Worth Turnpike (Interstate Highway 30) in 1957 and the opening of the Great Southwest Industrial District (GSID), a 5,000-acre industrial park, GSID's developer purchased the tract west of the district for an amusement park. By 1964, Six Flags Over Texas surpassed the Alamo as the state's top tourist attraction.[246] The park established Arlington as a tourist destination and helped bring a Major League Baseball team to Tarrant County in 1971 (Arlington Stadium was demolished in 1994). Not all the attractions were as successful as Six Flags, though. Next to Six Flags, the City of Arlington opened Seven Seas Marine Life Park in 1972 (Figure 6-21). The park failed to gain popularity, and the City sold the animals and closed the park in 1976 (now the site of the Arlington Sheraton Hotel, some of the park's buildings and structures remain).[247]

Figure 6-21. Aerial of Seven Seas Marine Life Park, Arlington, circa 1972. Source: Jack White Photograph Collection, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries, UTA Libraries Digital Gallery, accessed August 29, 20024, https://library.uta.edu/digitalgallery/img/10004627.

[245] HHM & Associates, Inc., "Historic Context and Survey Plan: City of Fort Worth," 109.
[246] Komatsu Architecture, "Arlington Historic Resources Survey Updated," 18.
[247] Lucius Seger, "Seven Seas Marine Life Park," *Handbook of Texas Online*, accessed August 16, 2024, https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/seven-seas-marine-life-park.