

GRAND PRAIRIE HISTORIC LANDMARKS

PURPOSE

Grand Prairie Historic Landmarks were originated and designed by the Grand Prairie City Council through the Grand Prairie Historic Commission in 1979 in order to preserve the history of the area now recognized as Grand Prairie, Texas. In 2015, the City Council transferred the responsibility to the Grand Prairie Historical Organization.

The specific objectives of the Grand Prairie Historic Landmark program are as follows:

1. To encourage appreciation for and preservation of historic buildings, sites, homes, and cemeteries in Grand Prairie.
2. To formally recognize efforts to preserve historically significant structures and sites.
3. To establish a “historical trail” and publish information of historic landmarks for the children and citizens of Grand Prairie to follow in order to learn about the history of their city.
4. To formally recognize the buildings and/or sites of the historic firsts in the area now known as Grand Prairie. Include such sites as first post office, first school, first store, and first church.

DESCRIPTION

The marker signifying a Grand Prairie Historic Landmark is a numbered circular bronze marker six (6) inches in diameter. The marker was designed by the Grand Prairie Historic Commission, under direction of Harry King, in 1979.

The markers are installed in concrete at the designated site or affixed to the designated structure by the City of Grand Prairie.

The marker should be displayed at the site so that it is easily visible by members of the general public. When applicable, the Grand Prairie Historic Landmark marker should be installed at the base of a corresponding Texas State Historical Marker. If affixed to a structure, it will be installed as follows: 12 inches from the left edge of the front entry (as facing it) to the right edge of the marker and 60 inches from the floor level to the lower edge of the marker.

Designation and installation of a Historic Landmark marker will in no way interfere with the property owner’s right to alter his property and will in no way protect historic buildings or sites. However, the landmark may be rescinded by the Organization if significant changes, destruction, or removal of a recognized structure occurs.

Similarly, designation of a Grand Prairie Historic Landmark in no way makes the City of Grand Prairie or the Historical Organization responsible for the maintenance or condition of the designated property.

PROCEDURES

1. A potential historically significant landmark is brought to the attention of the Historical Organization by a member of the Organization, an interested citizen, a group of citizens, or a historic survey.
2. The application and required research should be completed by the interested party.
3. Completion of the form, including applicable research and documentation, is necessary before the Organization will consider recommending designation of a Historic Landmark.
4. The application will be evaluated by the Organization at the next regularly scheduled meeting after completion and submission of the form.
5. Should the Organization determine the site meets the established guidelines for a Grand Prairie Historic Landmark, it shall notify the City Council and city liaison that it has been designated as such. At this time, the Organization should also recommend the appropriate number to be assigned.
6. Numbers will be assigned chronologically beginning with the oldest landmark, if and when possible. Numbers do not have to be assigned in numerical order.

GUIDELINES

Grand Prairie Historic Landmarks will be awarded by the Grand Prairie Historical Organization, after the following guidelines have been complied with:

- Structure or site must be within the corporate limits of the City of Grand Prairie.
- Structure or site should be at least 50 years old or have had a significant impact on the community.
- The following basic information should be obtained and documented:
 - * Historical date(s), including date built, dates renovated
 - * Exact location
 - * Chronology of owners, renovations, uses
 - * Complete description of building, site, home, or event
 - * Explanation of renovations
 - * Floor plan
- Historical significance to Grand Prairie, the area, or the state should be explained and documented. The social or economic impact should be included, when applicable.
- A current photograph of the structure or site should be included with the application. Whenever possible, historic photographs should also be included.
- In addition, at least one of the following criteria must be met:

General Criteria for Historic Marker Designation

1. Is distinctive in character, interest or value; strongly exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, ethnic or historical heritage of the City of Grand Prairie, State of Texas or the United States, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Site or structure associated with a particular ethnic, religious, social or cultural group's history or development.
 - b. Site or structure associated with the founding, development, or expansion of a historical or established business in the City of Grand Prairie, the State of Texas or the United States; or
 - c. Site or structure associated with a documented theme in the history of Grand Prairie.
2. Is an important example of a particular architectural style or specimen in the City of Grand Prairie, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Example of a high style form of architecture such as Victorian, Art Deco or Beaux Arts;
 - b. Example of a revival style of architecture such as Classical revival or Tudor Revival; or
 - c. Example of a documented vernacular or regional architecture such as a shotgun or bungalow.
3. Is identified as the work of an important architect or master builder whose individual work has contributed to the development of the City of Grand Prairie, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Work of an architect, landscape architect or builder known on a national scale such as Louis Kahn, Phillip Johnson, or Tadao Ando;
 - b. Work of an architect or builder known for specific contributions to Grand Prairie; or
 - c. Work associated with an architecture, landscape architecture or building firm identified with significant projects in Grand Prairie.
4. Embodies elements of architectural design, detail, materials or craftsmanship which represent a significant architectural innovation, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Contains specific and identifiable architectural features;
 - b. Contains information about primitive or archaic construction methods or design; or
 - c. Contains materials significant for their use or manner of use.
5. Bears an important and significant relationship to other distinctive structures, sites or areas, either as an important collection of properties of architectural style or craftsmanship with few intrusions, or by contributing to the overall character of the area according to a plan based on architectural, historic or cultural motif, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Contributes to a neighborhood or area described by previous historical survey as eligible local or National Register District;
 - b. Associated with an established pattern of development applied similarly across a defined neighborhood or subdivision;
 - c. Associated with a style of architecture, type of construction, or detailed feature of significance to a class of building or geographic area.
6. Possesses significant archeological value which has produced or is likely to produce data affecting theories of historic or prehistoric interest, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Tests a hypothesis or process in important research in the social sciences, natural sciences or humanities;
 - b. Corroborates or enhances current information on the past, its people, or processes; or
 - c. Reconstructs a culture or site for the purpose of identifying and explaining connections to or between historic or prehistoric events, cultures, or peoples.
7. Is the site of a significant historic event, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Location of a specific event important to the history of the city, state, or country;

- b. Specific location of a pattern of events significant to the history of the city, state, or country such as part of the Chisholm Trail or a depot on the railroad; or
 - c. General location establishing a pattern of events significant to the city, state, or country.
8. Is identified with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the culture and development of the City of Grand Prairie, State of Texas or the United States, including, but not limited to:
- a. Site associated with a specific person of significance to the city, state, or country;
 - b. Site associated with a business or personal interest to someone of significance; or
 - c. Site associated with a known organization or group of people with significance such as a fraternal organization or congregation.
9. Represents a resource, whether natural or man-made, which greatly contributes to the character or image of a defined neighborhood or community area, including, but not limited to:
- a. Explain a feature that caused a specific pattern of development;
 - b. Defines a relationship between features, sites, or structures such as the orientation of structures around a community park or the location of a school within a neighborhood; or
 - c. Expresses an aesthetic or historic sense of a period of time such as a carriage house or a hand drawn well.
10. Is designated as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark or state archeological landmark, or is included on the National Register of Historic Places.