(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM





1. NAME OF PROPERTY					
HISTORIC NAME: OTHER NAME/SIT		Historic District			
2. LOCATION					
STREET & NUMBE	R: Roughly bou	nded by E. Lancaster	Ave., Forest Av	e., Kerr St., and Handley Dr.	
CITY OR TOWN: F	ort Worth	VICINITY: N/A		NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A	
STATE: Texas	CODE: TX	COUNTY: Tarrant	CODE: 439	ZIP CODE: 76112	
3. STATE/FEDERA	L AGENCY CERTI	FICATION			
Historic Places and me x_meetsdoes no	ets the procedural and of meet the National R	professional requirements	set forth in 36 CFR and that this property	g properties in the National Register of Part 60. In my opinion, the property be considered significantnationally	
Signature of certifying official				Date	
State Historic Pres	servation Officer,	Texas Historical Com	nmission		
		es not meet the National Remments.)	egister criteria.		
Signature of commenti	ng or other official	Date			
State or Federal agency	y and bureau				
State or Federal agency 4. NATIONAL PARI		FICATION /			
hereby certify that this entered in the Na See continua determined eligib See continua	is property is: tional Register tion sheet. ole for the National Re	gister	ture of the Keeper	Date of Action	
hereby certify that this entered in the Na See continua determined eligib See continua determined not el	is property is: tional Register tion sheet. ole for the National Re	gister	ture of the Keeper	Date of Action	

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: District

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing

Noncontributing

10 2 buildings
0 0 sites
1 structures
0 objects

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

10

2 TOTAL

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: N/A

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: COMMERCE / Specialty Store, Business, Restaurant, Professional

GOVERNMENT / Post Office DOMESTIC / Single Dwelling

Current Functions: COMMERCE / Specialty Store, Business, Restaurant

VACANT

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Late 19th- Early 20th Century American Movements: Commercial Style

Later Victorian: Folk Victorian

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION CONCRETE

WALLS BRICK, STONE, METAL, WEATHERBOARD, OTHER: PETRIFIED WOOD

ROOF ASPHALT, METAL

OTHER

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-11)

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Central Handley Historic District Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

The Central Handley Historic District is located approximately seven miles east of downtown Fort Worth, Texas. It is appropriately four blocks east of Loop 820 and three miles west of the city's easternmost boundary. The nearly linear district centers around the north side of the 6500 block of East Lancaster Avenue and is composed mostly of early 20th-century 1-story Commercial Style buildings in what was the commercial core of the former unincorporated community of Handley, Texas. Also included in the district is a metal-sided 1-story National Folk style feed store and one 2-story Folk Victorian house. Handley's business district was oriented north of the Texas & Pacific railroad which borders the southern boundary of the district. East Lancaster Avenue, originally called Front Street, was formerly part of U.S. Highway 80 and is still heavily traveled as the four-lane Texas 180 Highway. The district has a total of 12 resources with 10 contributing buildings, 2 noncontributing buildings. The majority of the contributing resources retain integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, and feeling from the district's period of significance.

Description

The Central Handley Historic District is located in far East Fort Worth approximately three miles west of the easternmost city limits. It primarily consists of the north side of the 6500 block of East Lancaster Avenue between Forest Avenue and Halbert Street. Also included in the district are the historic I.B. Howell Feed Store building at 6472 East Lancaster Avenue and two buildings and one Folk Victorian house on the west side of the 3100 block of Handley Drive. The contributing resources within the district are mostly 1-story Commercial Style brick buildings constructed between ca. 1910 and ca. 1933. There are also three buildings in the district influenced by the Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival style that became popular for commercial buildings in the 1920s and 1930s. To the east and west of the district are mid and late 20th-century gas stations, taverns, lumber yards and motels. Also included in the district is one building constructed in 1951, signifying the continued commercial viability of the community after it was annexed into the City of Fort Worth in 1946. Although the block immediately to the west has a few buildings that date from the period of significance, they have either been significantly altered or surrounded by buildings constructed after the period of significance so that the block no longer retains its integrity. North of the district is the town's original residential development with the majority of the houses dating from the early 1900s through the 1930s. Immediately south of the district are the railroad tracks of the former Texas & Pacific Railway Company. The area south of the 6500 block of East Lancaster Avenue is frequently used for parking and also contains a fenced area used for merchandise for the neighboring Handley Feed Store. A Union Pacific caboose sits on the north set of tracks. South of the tracks is a mixture of late 20thcentury commercial and light industrial development. Further to the south is the imposing TXU Electric Power Plant.

Handley, Texas was platted by the Texas and Pacific Railway in 1885. The railway's line was built westward from Dallas to Fort Worth in 1876. The town was platted on a grid pattern running parallel to the T & P tracks. The tracks were laid in a slightly northwesterly/southeasterly direction so that the plat does not follow the true cardinal directions. Handley's commercial core developed on the north side of the tracks and that orientation is still very strong to this day. The blocks along Front Street, now called East Lancaster Avenue, were 300 feet long and divided into 25-foot lots. Although the widths of some of the buildings vary in size, the design of most of the buildings was influenced by this lot width. Within this district were businesses such as grocery and drug stores, beauty and barbers shops, a bank, a theater, dry cleaners, and a post office as well as other establishments common to a small town commercial core. The extant buildings within the district are excellent examples of early 20th century commercial architecture. The buildings were pedestrian oriented and constructed near the street. The 6500 block of East Lancaster Avenue is notable for their

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two-tiered curbs which place the buildings higher above the street than is typically found elsewhere in the area. Period streetlights were installed along East Lancaster Avenue and portions of Handley Drive and Forest Avenue in late 2000.

Methodology

The Central Handley Historic District was identified as being potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in the Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey which included East Fort Worth. This study was published in 1989 under the title of *Fort Worth: Upper North, Northeast, East. Far South, and Far West.* The survey noted that the district was the "finest ensemble of commercial buildings in East Fort Worth dating from the heyday of the Interurban." In 2000, the City of Fort Worth received a grant from the Texas Historical Commission through the Certified Local Government Program for the preparation of a nomination to the National Register. This nomination includes those buildings identified in the initial survey as well as the building at 6472 E. Lancaster Avenue. The later was included in the nomination because of its long association with the commercial history of the Handley area and as an interesting example of a small town feed store.

Each of the contributing and noncontributing resources are described below. The bolded names are the historic name of the building or business at that address. Non-bolded names are the current name of the business at that address. The building at 6523 E. Lancaster Avenue is considered individually eligible for listing on the National Register as an outstanding local example of a Commercial Style building constructed of sandstone and petrified wood.

Contributing and Noncontributing Resources

#1 6472 E. Lancaster Avenue. Howell Feed Store/Handley Feed Store, Inc. National Folk Front Gable. 1924 with side and rear additions added between 1942 and 1950.

Although this building has a Lancaster Avenue address, it faces east toward Forest Avenue. It is a 1-story building covered with panels of corrugated metal. The roof is front gabled with a shed extension on the south side and is also covered with corrugated metal panels. The east elevation is fronted by a concrete loading platform. At the center of this elevation is a loading area that is generally open during business hours. When the business is not operating, the opening is covered by a sliding door sheathed with the same metal panels. To the right of this opening are paired hung windows. To the right of these windows towards the north end of the building is a pedestrian entrance with a nonoriginal metal panel door. Across the front of the building and wrapping around to the south elevation is a metal and wood awning supported by wood posts. Although not original to the building, Sanborn Maps indicate that the building had an awning. Also on this elevation is a large metal sign above the awning reading "Handley Feed Store, Inc." Below the awning are numerous metal advertising signs and a blackboard to list store specials. The south elevation has one sliding door that is covered with the same metal siding. The north elevation has three windows and two sliding doors. The west elevation has shed roofed additions also covered with the metal siding. The interior features exposed roof rafters and most of the floor consists of wide, unfinished wood planks. A feed store has continuously operated in this building since it was constructed. Sanborn Maps from 1930 indicate that the building was originally sheathed with wood. According to

¹ Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey, Fort Worth: Upper North, Northeast, East, Far South, and Far West. Fort Worth: Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County, 1989, p. 5.

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maps from 1942 and 1950, the metal panels were added during this period. The Howell/Handley Feed Store retains much of its early 20th century integrity and is still representative of a small town feed store. It is counted as a contributing building. (Photo 1)

#2 6501 E. Lancaster Avenue. Finch Chevrolet/Deborah Williams & Associates. Commercial Style. ca. 1922.

Located at the northeast intersection of East Lancaster Avenue and Forest Drive, this 2-story brick building occupies two lots and measures approximately 50' x 70'. It has a white painted stuccoed facade with a slightly stepped parapet. The second story has four fixed windows. A beltcourse runs between the windows connecting the sills making a continuous line across the facade. The first floor features a centered recessed entrance with nonoriginal metal and glass door and storefront. Flanking the entrance are large openings that are infilled with panels of fixed glass. A secondary entrance is located near the east end of the building. Above the entrances and windows is a fixed metal awning supported by four poles. The second story of the west elevation features seven rectangular window openings that are infilled with nonoriginal fixed windows. The first floor has six smaller window openings that are nearly square. The original windows also have been replaced with fixed units. This elevation also has been stuccoed. The rear or north elevation has five window openings and one entrance with a metal fire escape on the second story. The first story has two entrances. Historically, a 1-story building abutted this elevation. It was removed sometime after 1962. The 2-story building housed an auto dealership, a garage and then a grocery store during the period of significance. Historic photographs reveal that the facade of the building was originally highlighted with a quoin-like effect on the ends of the building. The building is counted as a noncontributing resource due to the application of the stucco on the original brick walls and the replacement of the original windows. (Photos 2, 3)

#3 6505 E. Lancaster Avenue. C.F. Isenman Building/Bob Dollar Antiques. Commercial Style. 1924.

This 1-story green painted brick building has a simple parapet flanked by pilasters. On top of the pilasters are nonoriginal cast lions. In the center of the parapet is a cast name block that reads "C.F. Isenman 1924." The name block is currently covered by a nonhistoric sign for the current tenant. The transoms are covered by wood panels. Below the transoms is a flat metal awning that also extends across the building to the east. Below the awning are nonoriginal glazed panel doors that are flanked by rectangular fixed windows with brick bulkheads. City directories and other sources tend to suggest that the facade may have been divided into two storefronts. The rear of the building is stuccoed and painted white. It has a two story brick wing with a flat roof. The second story portion has a shed roof on the east elevation that is supported by bracketed posts. Hung windows are found on south and east elevation. A metal staircase is located on the east side of the wing. This portion was used as a residence by proprietors of stores in the building and it is believed that it is original to the building or was added by 1930. A shoe repair store was located in this building during most of the period of significance. Although the facade has been painted green and the storefront has been altered, the C.F. Isenman building contributes to the early 20th-century ambiance of the district. (Photos 2, 3, 4)

#4 6507 E. Lancaster Avenue. CDR Signs and Engraving. Commercial Style. ca. 1925.

This 1-story red brick building has a simple parapet with a slightly recessed center section for advertising. The transoms below the parapet are covered with metal panels. A flat metal awning extends across the storefront. The area below the awning has been mostly bricked in with the exception of the center opening. This contains a tinted glass and metal door and is flanked on the left by a large tinted glass sidelight. The rear of the building is of hollow tile painted

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white. It has an attached metal canopy, a center opening with a glazed panel door flanked by hung window openings on either side. This building is counted as a contributing resource. (Photos 2, 3, 4, 5)

#5 6509-6511 E. Lancaster Avenue. Trellis Rose Restaurant. Commercial Style. ca. 1910. Attributed to George Steven Carmack, contractor.

The facade of this 1-story buff brick building is divided into three bays, each flanked by brick pilasters. The parapets of each bay are highlighted with a sawtooth brick corbeling with the parapet of the center bay rising slightly above the outer two bays. The transoms are covered with metal panels and a flat metal awning extends across the width of the building. The westernmost bay features a modern storefront with centered glass and metal door flanked by large fixed glass windows. Nonoriginal brick bulkheads are below the windows. The center storefront has three large fixed windows and nonoriginal brick bulkhead. The east bay has a modern glass and metal storefront with the door located at the west end with a large sidelight to the right. East of this is a large fixed window with nonoriginal brick bulkhead. The easternmost section of the storefront has been bricked in. Pressed metal ceiling tiles remain in the interior. The rear of the building is of brick that has been stuccoed and painted green. There are three entrances, each flanked by 1 2/2 vertical light hung windows. The center and west entrances have small metal canopies over them. The building is counted as a contributing resource. (Photos 2, 4, 5)

#6 6513-6515 E. Lancaster Avenue. American Legion/Handley-Hicks Gallery. Commercial Style. ca. 1916. Attributed to George Steven Carmack, contractor.

This 1-story, two bay commercial building has buff brick of a slightly lighter color than the three-bay building to the west. This building shares features similar to its neighbors on either side including the flanking pilasters and the sawtooth corbeling on the parapet. The transom of the western bay is boarded over. Below the transom is a canvas awning that extends across the east bay. Below the awning is a nonoriginal storefront with paired metal and glass doors on the east end and large fixed windows to the left. A nonoriginal brick bulkhead is below the windows. The east bay has exposed wood and glass transoms; however, these may not be original. The nonoriginal storefront features a centered entrance flanked by large fixed windows. Nonoriginal brick bulkheads are below the windows. The rear of the building has been stuccoed and painted. It features two entrance, each flanked by wood hung windows. The building is counted as a contributing resource. (Photos 2, 4, 5)

#7 6517-6517 A E. Lancaster Avenue. J.E. Smith Dry Goods/The Handley Collection/Enchanted Dolls. Commercial Style. ca. 1918.

This 1-story two bay brick building also features the sawtooth brickwork near the top of the parapet as well as a staggered brick corbeling that is slightly different from its neighbors to the west. The western bay (6517) retains the original dark brown brick. The brick on the eastern bay (6517 A) has been painted white. This bay also has a slightly higher parapet. The transoms of both bays are covered with metal panels. A metal awning is suspended below each transom. However, the awning on the west storefront is also supported by two wood Tuscan columns. This storefront has a centered metal and glass door flanked large fixed windows. The brick below the transoms has been painted green. Pressed metal ceiling tiles are present in the interior. The eastern bay has a glass and metal door flanked by a rectangular fixed window to the left. The brick below the window is not original. The rear of the building has been stuccoed. The west half of the building has entrance flanked by hung windows (the right one is boarded over). A metal canopy provides

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protection for the entrance. The window and door openings on the east half have been infilled. Smith Dry Goods was located at 6517 E. Lancaster throughout much of the period of significance. The building is counted as a contributing resource. (Photos 4, 5)

#8 6519 E. Lancaster Avenue. Lynch Pharmacy/Enchanted Dolls. Commercial Style. ca. 1918.

The facade of this 1-story brick building has been stuccoed so that much of the decorative brick corbelling similar to that found on the building to the west has been obscured. The transoms are boarded over. A nonoriginal flat metal awning is below the transoms. It is suspended by metal rods from the parapet above. The storefront features a metal and glass door with a full-height sidelight to the left. Large fixed windows flank the entrance and sidelight. The rear has been stuccoed and painted white. It has one entrance and a segmental arched window opening that has been infilled. Sanborn Maps indicate that this building was the location of a drug store during the period of significance. The building is counted as noncontributing due to the application of the stucco to the facade. (Photo 5)

#9 6523 E. Lancaster Avenue/3134 Handley Drive. Hubbard Drug Store/Vacant/Jackson's Place Family Haircut Center. Commercial Style. ca. 1933. V.L. Purselley, contractor.

This unusual 1-story building is an outstanding example of a nearly unaltered 1930s-era Commercial Style building. It is constructed of a blend of uncoursed sandstone and petrified wood, materials which were more commonly found on residential construction. The petrified wood reportedly came from Glen Rose, located southwest of Fort Worth in Somervell County.² The south and east elevations have the same material pattern that begins with a band of concrete coping on top of the parapet. Below this is a band of uncoursed sandstone followed by a band of petrified wood laid in an alternating vertical and horizontal ribbon pattern. Below this is another band of uncoursed sandstone and then large panels of petrified wood framed with sandstone. Sited on a corner lot, the building features a beveled entrance with paired glazed wood panel doors surmounted by a transom. Hexagonal tiles are embedded in the pavement in front of the entrance. The east elevation features a large storefront window near the entrance. It has a multiple-light transom above it and a bulkhead below it with green, white, salmon, and pink ceramic tiles. These tiles had been covered with paint until recently. Near the center of this elevation is another entrance with a single glazed wood panel door with a transom above it. Near the north end of the building is another storefront (3134 Handley Drive -- Jackson's Place Family Haircut Center). It has a center glazed wood panel door flanked by 1/1 hung windows with the same glazed tile bulkheads as found elsewhere on the building. The transom has been infilled. A flat metal awning is above this storefront. The south elevation has similar detailing as the east elevation. The west end features a glazed wood panel door with a storefront window to the left, a multiple-light transom above, and the ceramic tile bulkhead below. To the right is another storefront with a reversed entrance and window pattern as the west storefront. To its right is another storefront window with the multi-light transom and ceramic tile bulkhead. A metal awning covers the length of this elevation just above the transoms and wraps around to cover a portion of the east elevation. Sanborn Maps indicate that awnings were located on the building during the period of significance. The interior of the building retains much of its pressed metal ceiling tiles and

² Earl Raymond Waddell, interviewed by Marie Autry, May, June, 1978, Oral Histories of Fort Worth Inc. Copy on file at the Tarrant County Historical Commission, Fort Worth, Texas [hereafter referred to as TCHC].

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is currently divided into three stores. A drug store was located in the southeast portion of the building from the time it was constructed through the end of the period of significance. The western storefront housed a restaurant and the storefront at 3134 Handley Drive housed a barber shop during the period of significance. This building is counted as a contributing resource. (Photo 5)

#10 3126 Handley Drive. Weiler House/A Rare Find Books-Collectibles. Folk Victorian, ca.1906.

Local sources state that this house originally was located on Lancaster Avenue. It appears at its current location on the 1930 Sanborn Map. The 2-story Weiler House is composed of a hipped roof main block with a projecting front gabled bay. Shiplap siding sheathes the exterior. The gabled bay features fishscale shingles on the gable end, a full-width pent roof below the shingles, and paired 1/1 wood hung windows on the second and first floors. The shutters flanking the windows and the flower boxes below are not original. On the south side of the gabled bay is a hipped roof porch with a wood floor and two spindled columns. On the north side of the gabled bay is a shed roofed porch, also with a spindled column, wood floor and turned balustrade. This porch does not appear on the Sanborn maps until 1962. On the rear of the house is a 1-story front gabled wing with a shed roof extension on the south elevation. This area probably once contained a screened-in porch but it has been sympathetically enclosed with hung windows. An asphalt parking lot is located north of the property and the yard behind the house is paved for parking. The Weiler House is counted as a contributing resource. (Photo 6)

#11 3128 Handley Drive. Handley Post Office/Lancaster Crowley Properties. Commercial Style. 1931. B.B. Adams, contractor. NOT FEDERALLY OWNED

This 1-story brick building possesses a symmetrical front with a raised centered entrance with a non-original slab metal door. It is flanked by tripartite windows composed of a center hung wood window flanked by four-light casement windows. A tripartite transom in above the windows. A canvas awning covers the windows and entrance. A stepped parapet provides some decorative detail to the otherwise simply adorned facade. The south elevation has two entrances and two hung windows on the east half of the building. The west or rear elevation has one set of 1/1 hung triplet windows near its center and one 1/1 hung window near the north end. The north elevation has one 6/6 wood hung window near the west end. To the south of the building is an alley (historically known as Kerr Street). An asphalt drive is to the north of the building and provides access to paved parking behind 3126 and 3128 Handley Drive. A chain link fence surrounds portions of the rear yard. This building served as a post office from 1931 through the end of the period of significance. Although the brick has been painted white, the building retains much of its integrity and is counted as a contributing resource. (Photo 6,7)

#12 3132 Handley Drive. Old Handley Post Office/R.B. Smith & Company/Grove Insurance/Eastside Antiques. Commercial Style. ca. 1921 with a rear addition built between 1942-1950.

The facade or east elevation of this 1-story building is composed of a dark brown brick whereas the secondary elevations are constructed of a lower grade orange brick. The symmetrical facade features full-height pilasters on the ends of the building and a centered entrance bay. A non-original metal storefront with tinted glass is in the entrance bay. A canvas awning is above the entrance. Flanking the entrance are triplet 1/1 hung wood windows with a multi-light transom above. Protruding brick headers are used as a decorative element on the parapet. The south elevation has one segmental arched window opening with a 2/2 hung wood window near the west end. The west or rear elevation has two

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2/2 hung wood windows in segmental arched openings on the south half of the building. The north half has a small addition constructed between 1942 and 1950. Its south and west walls are of an orange structural block. The south wall has no windows, the west wall has two 6/6 wood hung windows. The north elevation is of brick and has one entrance. One 6/6 wood hung window is in the original portion of the building. The interior retains its pressed metal ceiling tile as well as its plaster walls, including portions of the wall that divided the original post office from the insurance office that occupied the northern one-third of the building. The building served as the Handley Post Office from 1921 to 1931 when it was replaced by the new post office at 3128 Handley Drive. R.B. Smith & Company, an insurance and loan company, also operated in the building around 1930. It is counted as a contributing building. (Photo 7)

The Central Handley Historic District retains much of its early 20th-century small-town ambiance. Alterations to the storefronts of commercial buildings were a common occurrence as building owners and tenants tried to modernize the appearance of their establishments. Although some of the storefronts have been altered, the parapets and the scale of the buildings are still intact as to visually represent the defining features of the district during the period of significance. The district retains its commercial functions although it no longer provides such day-to-day necessities as grocery and meat markets, variety and drug stores, or banking and postal services. The setting of the district is essentially the same as there is still an active railroad line bordering the district and it is surrounded by the same types of buildings that were present during the period of significance. A notable exception is the loss of the T & P depot located on the south side of the 6500 block of East. Lancaster Avenue. It was demolished in 1950. Several outbuildings at the rear of lots on the 6500 block of East Lancaster Avenue were removed after the period of significance. There has been no infill in the district since 1951. The Central Handley Historic District retains its integrity of design, materials, workmanship, setting, location, feeling, and association.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

- X A PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.

 B PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.

 X C PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL
- D PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Commerce; Community Planning and Development; Architecture

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: ca. 1910-1951

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1946

DISTINCTION.

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown; Adams, B.B./contractor; Garrison, R.C./contractor; Purselley, V.L./contractor, Carmack, George Steven/contractor (attributed); Stevens, Carl, contractor.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-12 through 8-22).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheets 9-23 through 9-24).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- _ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- x previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

- x State historic preservation office (Texas Historical Commission)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- x Local government
- University
- x Other -- Specify Repository: Fort Wo

Fort Worth Public Library, Fort Worth, Texas

Handley Neighborhood Association

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The Central Handley Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A for its association with the development and commercial history of the community of Handley, Texas. The district was the center of the commercial life of the unincorporated small town which subsequently was annexed into the city of Fort Worth in 1946. Platted in 1885 by the Texas & Pacific Railway, the growth of the town was influenced by the presence of the railroad and then the arrival of the Interurban between Fort Worth and Dallas in 1902. As the location of the traction company's power plant and car barns, the town became home to employees of both the Northern Texas Traction Company and the T & P. The Central Handley Historic District was oriented on the north side of the railway reservation with the depot located along the southern border of the district. The businesses within the district served not only the local residents and area farmers but the commuters who traveled on the railroad and the Interurban. The district also is eligible at the local level under Criterion C for its fine collection of early 20th-century small town commercial architecture. The period of significance for the district is from ca. 1910 to 1951. These dates correspond with the date of construction for the earliest extant building in its original location and recognize the district's continued commercial importance to the region following annexation into the City of Fort Worth.

Narrative History

The community of Handley was named for Major James Madison Handley, a Georgia native who served with the Forty-sixth Alabama Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. Local folklore contends that after the war, Handley was employed as a drummer for a New York clothing firm. According to one source, Handley was traveling on a stage from Dallas to Fort Worth in late 1865 or early 1866. The driver of the stage stopped at Village Creek in eastern Tarrant County to water his horses. Handley was so impressed with the area that he bought 600 acres in Village Creek plus several lots on Houston Street in Fort Worth. The Tarrant County Courthouse burned in 1876, destroying many of the county's earliest records. However, a check of the deed records reveals that the earliest deed with Handley's name on it was in 1874 for the purchase of the west half of the M.T. Johnson Survey, containing approximately 320 acres. This portion of the M.T. Johnson Survey abutted the Sarah Gray Jennings Survey at the latter's southeast corner. The town of Handley would later be platted in the Jennings Survey. Other deed records indicate that Handley sold the 320 acres of the Johnson Survey to a William A. Handley in 1875. James M. Handley later purchased 677 acres of the R.R. Ramey Survey which also was located in the Handley area.³

In 1876, the Texas & Pacific Railway constructed its line from Dallas to Fort Worth with the line running through the Sarah Gray Jennings Survey. In that same year, a post office was established in the area and named for Major Handley. The railway company established a small station there and a community began to take shape. In 1885, the T & P filed a plat in Tarrant County for the town of Handley. The plat was oriented on a grid street pattern with the railroad tracks running through the center of town on a slightly slanted east/west axis. To the north of the railway reservation was Front Street. The blocks on its north side were divided into 25-foot lots. South of the reservation was Main Street with the blocks on both the north and the south sides divided into 25-foot lots as well. From the plat, it appears that the T & P

³ David Dunnett, "Major J.M. Handley," in Mrs. John [Bettye] Burgess and David Dunnett, *The Handley Collection*, Fort Worth: Amon Carter Museum, [ca. 1980], n.p.; Tarrant County Deed Records, Volume O, Page 61, 62, Volume 170, Page 438, Tarrant County Courthouse, Fort Worth, Texas [hereafter cited as Deed Records]. It has not been determined who was William A. Handley. James M. Handley never married so William may have been a nephew or brother.

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86) OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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anticipated that Main Street would be the major commercial street of the community because of the presence of so many 25-foot lots. The area of the original town was quite small with only the two east/west streets mentioned above and only four north/south streets. From west to east, these streets were West Street, Daggett Street, Jennings Street, and East Street.⁴

By 1900, Handley was a quiet village consisting of approximately 12 houses and about 80 residents. It began to develop rapidly after the arrival of the Northern Texas Traction Company. In 1902, the company built a line from Fort Worth to Dallas with Handley and nearby Arlington being among the stops on the route. The company, reportedly at the request of Major Handley, chose the town of Handley as the location for its car barns and power plant, the latter of which also supplied power to the Cleburne Interurban Railway. The choice of Handley was partially influenced by the community's unincorporated status, thus freeing the company from city taxes. In addition, many of the company's employees chose to make Handley their home. The traction company's presence and its power plant would play a role in future incorporation and annexation struggles in Handley.

The Northern Texas Traction Company developed the power plant's lake, known as Lake Erie, into a recreation destination, thereby insuring more ridership on the line. At the lake were a large dance pavilion and picnic grounds as well as amenities for boating, swimming, bowling, tennis, and golf. Lake Erie became a popular destination for many North Texans. It was thought that as many as 10,000 people would travel to Lake Erie on Sundays, holidays, and for special events. The amusement park's popularity spurred some to predict that Handley and the surrounding area would reap the benefits. In 1904, an article in *The Bohemian* stated:

The result is likely to be a series of pleasant homes along the Interurban, with trees, vines, gardens, plenty of fruit, vegetables, poultry, etc., so that in time there will be continuous improvement between [Fort Worth and Arlington] extending north and south of the tracks with a series of villages like pearls on the Interurban line as a string.

The prediction can be safely made that in ten years one continuous city will reach from Fort Worth to Dallas.

This summer a boulevard sixty feet wide is to be laid out from Fort Worth to Arlington north of the tracks and there are developments further all along between the Interurban and the Trinity River. The scenery along the line is good and in some places strikingly beautiful.⁵

Although the article was over-optimistic, Handley did grow at a steady pace. In 1904, the year the article was written, Handley had a population of 156. By 1915, it had grown to 905. Lake Erie continued to be a draw until the 1920s when the automobile became more popular and other amusement facilities such as Lake Worth north of Fort Worth drew

⁴ Charles Deaton, Texas Postal History Handbook, Austin, Texas: Published by the Author, 1980, 118; Deed Records, Vol. 40, Pages 51-52. The plat is not on a true north/south axis, but runs slightly off at a northeast/southwest direction.

⁵ "Historical East Fort Worth," Advertising Section, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, March 31, 1993. p. 10; "Beautiful Lake Erie, at Handley, The Bohemian, Souvenir Number, World's Fair Edition, Fort Worth: Our Literary Club in Bohemia, 1904, p. 166.

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patrons away.6

In Handley, the Interurban's tracks closely followed those of the Texas & Pacific which were located to the north. It was easy for commuters to switch from one form of transportation to the other due to their proximity. The Interurban was a popular means of traveling to Dallas and Fort Worth as it ran more frequently than passenger trains from the T & P stations in Handley and elsewhere along the railroad line. Many people chose to live in the Handley area because of this convenience.

Few issues of Handley's early newspapers have survived to the present day so it is difficult to trace the development of the town's commercial history. Early newspapers that did survive often featured very little local coverage. In addition, advertisements for local businesses rarely listed addresses as it likely was presumed that residents could easily find the establishments in the small town. For example, a newspaper from 1909 included ads without addresses for J.H. Rainey Funeral Director, Red's Blacksmith Shop, Honeycutt and Pruett (barbers), J.E. Smith General Merchandise, and H.T. Russell Groceries and Feeds. It is believed that the blacksmith shop was located south of the tracks and it is known that Honeycutt and Pruett, J.E. Smith General Merchandise and H.T Russell Groceries and Feeds were located within the boundaries of the district during the period of significance.⁷

In the 1910s, Handley's commercial core began to take on much of the appearance that it has today. The middle portion of the 6500 block of East Lancaster was constructed during this period. Most of the original commercial buildings were small, wood-framed structures. The earliest extant brick building in the district was constructed in ca. 1910. This 1-story buff brick building is divided into three bays by brick pilasters. The parapets of each bay are decorated with a sawtooth brick corbeling with the center bay rising slightly above the outer two. Other buildings constructed during this decade included 6513 E. Lancaster Avenue (ca. 1916) and 6517-6517A and 6519 E. Lancaster Avenue (ca. 1918). These buildings also are 1-story and are very similar to the building at 6509-6511 E. Lancaster.

The most significant building constructed in the commercial area during this period was the Texas & Pacific depot. In 1912, the T & P built a combination passenger and freight depot between the railroad tracks on the south side of the 6500 block of East Lancaster Avenue. This 1-story yellow brick building was built by the U.S. Construction Company. The location of this company is not known but probably was one used by the railroad to construct other depots along its line. The Handley depot shared similar features with other small T & P combination stations constructed during this era. These included a hipped roof with overhanging boxed eaves and a 1 1/2-story tower.8

^{6 &}quot;Historical East Fort Worth," pp. 10, 14.

⁷ Burgess, "The Story of Handley," 6; Telephone interview with Bettye Hicks, March 22, 2001.

⁸ Interstate Commerce Commission, Record Group 134, Bureau of Valuation, Engineering Field Notes, Texas and Pacific Railway, Handley, Texas (Valuation Section 6, Texas, Box 1087), ca. 1917, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland, [copies in author's possession]. For examples of other T & P depots constructed during this era, see issues of *Texas and Pacific Quarterly* for the years 1910-1912.

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The 1920s brought more development to the business district. During the first half of the decade, the east end of the 6500 block of E. Lancaster Avenue was built up with brick buildings. Around 1922, the 2-story building at 6501 E. Lancaster was constructed. Although not highly ornamented, the brick building has a slightly stepped parapet and quoin-like effect on the end pilasters of the facade, although the latter has been obscured by the application of stucco on the exterior. It had a 1-story wing at the rear that was either constructed at the same time as the main building or at least by 1930 as it appeared on a Sanborn Map issued that year. An automobile agency occupied the structure. The C.F. Isenman Building at 6505 E. Lancaster Avenue was constructed in 1924. This 1-story brick building has a simple parapet with a stone or cast inset panel reading "C.F. Isenman 1924." Isenman operated the Handley Shoe and Tailor Shop. A 2-story dwelling is attached to the rear of the building. It, too, was either a contemporary of the front building or was constructed by 1930.9

A permanent facility for the post office was constructed on Jennings Street, now Handley Drive, in 1921. When the town was platted, it is believed that the post office was located in the home of a Mrs. Calais. Although its location is not known, it was said to be "across the tracks," presumably on the south side. Horses were afraid to cross the tracks so the office was moved. Rose (Mrs. William D.) Weiler, wife of an early stationmaster for the Texas & Pacific, was the postmistress when a one-room structure was built behind what is currently the location of Kell's Cleaners on East Lancaster. Mrs. Weiler reportedly carried a line of school supplies in a case in the post office. The Weilers were responsible for the construction of the Jennings Street building. At that time, Mr. Weiler was no longer the stationmaster and instead was operating an insurance and loan company. It was believed that Weiler's office was located in the northern one-third of the post office building. It was common for post offices in small towns to be located in privately constructed buildings as opposed to government constructed buildings in larger towns. ¹⁰

Another building constructed in the early 1920s was the I.B. Howell Feed Store. Built in 1924, the feed store was a front gabled, 1-story wood-framed building. The building was located to the north of the railroad tracks on land that was part of the original T & P reservation. According to Sanborn Maps, the building was expanded and the exterior sheathed with metal siding sometime between 1942 and 1950. The area surrounding Handley was still largely rural and the feed store provided needed products such as Superior brand stock and poultry feeds to nearby farmers. Several other feed stores were established in Handley but the Howell store outlived them all. Members of the Howell family continued to operate the business until it was purchased by Jim Taber and the name was changed to Handley Feed Store in 1998. The store retains much of its early 20th-century rustic charm such as its wide wood plank floors, exposed roof trusses, and no air conditioning.¹¹

⁹ Tarrant County Tax Records, Tarrant County Courthouse Annex, Fort Worth, Texas; Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Handley, Texas, 1930, Microfilm, Special Collections, University of Texas at Arlington Libraries, Arlington, Texas [hereafter cited as Special Collections, UTA].

¹⁰ Bettye G. Burgess, "The Story of Handley," November 1, 1978. Typed manuscript, p. 5. Copy on file at the TCHC. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Handley, Texas, 1930 [microfilm], Special Collections, UTA.

¹¹ Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Handley, Texas, 1930, 1942, Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Fort Worth, Texas, 1950, 1962; Geoffrey A. Campbell, "Gone to Seed: Feed Store Lacks Comforts but Offers Down-to-Earth Touch," Tarrant Business Section, Fort Worth Star-Telegram, July 24, 2000, p. 9.

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Several other buildings were constructed within the boundaries of the district during the 1920s that were demolished between 1950 and 1962. These included the buildings at 6501, 6503, and 6505 E. Lancaster Avenue. The 1927 Handley High School yearbook gives some clues as to the various businesses that operated in Handley at that time. Again, addresses of the local establishments were not given. In contrast, advertisements for businesses located in Fort Worth or Arlington usually included an address. Among the local businesses advertising in the yearbook and their presumed locations within the boundaries of the historic district were the Weiler Insurance Agency (3132 Handley Drive), I.B. Howell's feed store (6472 E. Lancaster Ave.), Finch Chevrolet Company (6501 E. Lancaster Ave.), and the Handley Shoe and Tailor Shop, C.F. Isenman, Proprietor (6505 E. Lancaster Ave.). Isenman's ad stated "We are prepared to do your Cleaning and Pressing, as well as Shoe Repairing, and will promise you an A-1 job." Other businesses in Handley were T.E. Cashion groceries, Handley Lumber Company (located in the 6700 block of East Lancaster Avenue and no longer extant), Shultz's Drug Store, Handley Bakery and Cafe, the Model Grocery, Mitchell Cash Feed Store, Miller's Meat Market, and the Handley Garage. 12

Another historic business in the district was Smith Dry Goods and Notions, located at 6517 E. Lancaster Avenue. The store was established prior to 1910 by J.E. Smith. He was joined in the business by his niece, Virgie Smith, who took over management of the store after his death in 1933. It continued in operation throughout the period of significance and by the 1950s was known as Smith's Variety Store. ¹³

The 1930 Handley Telephone Book lists all subscribers in the town, but only by name and telephone exchange. Although there are numerous business listed in the directory, it is difficult to know their location. In addition to the businesses previously listed, the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from 1930 provides a few clues to the types of businesses located within the boundaries of the district. The map gives no actual names of the businesses and in most cases just identified the establishment as "store." The type of business and its corresponding modern addresses were feed and produce (6472 E. Lancaster Ave.), auto sales and service (6501 E. Lancaster Ave.) drug stores (6515 and 6519 E. Lancaster Ave.), post office and insurance office (3132 Handley Drive). 14

Around 1931, William D. and Rose Weiler constructed another post office building at 3128 Handley Drive, just one building north of the former post office. This building continued to serve as the post office throughout the remainder of the period of significance. The contractor for the project was B.B. Adams, a well known builder from Fort Worth. Probably sometime between 1921 and 1930, the Weilers moved their home from its location on Front Street to its current location at 3126 Handley Drive (just north of the 1931 building) The Weilers had previously owned Lots 1-4 and 7 of

¹² The Skyrocket, Handley High School Yearbook, 1926-27, Arlington, Texas: Perry Bros. Publishers and Printer, 1927.

^{13 &}quot;Smith Dry Goods and Notions is One of Handley's Oldest Business Firms," unidentified newspaper article [ca. 1953] in Mrs. John [Bettye] Burgess and David Dunnett, *The Handley Collection*.

¹⁴ Handley Telephone Directory, 1930; Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Handley, Texas, 1930.

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Block 2 (the 6500 block of E. Lancaster). As the south half of Lots 1 and 2 were the last to have a commercial building constructed on them, it seems possible that the Weilers' house was located there if it is true that it was moved from Lancaster Avenue. 15

What is perhaps the most unique building in the district was constructed in 1933 at 6523 E. Lancaster Avenue for O.D. and Orlay Stevens by V.L. Purselley. It has a prominent location in the district at the northwest intersection of East Lancaster and Handley Drive. The facade of the 1-story building is highlighted with uncoursed sandstone and petrified wood that reportedly came from Glen Rose, Texas. Another unique feature was the use of polychrome ceramic glazed tiles on the bulkheads underneath the storefront windows. The interior of the building was divided into three stores. During the period of significance, the west store was used as a restaurant (among other things), the main or corner store was a drug store and the north store functioned as a barber shop. The building also was famous within the district because of its association with its owner. Shortly after the building was completed, O.D. Stevens was convicted in 1934 and sentenced to 27 years at Alcatraz for his role in a \$71,000 robbery of the T & P station at Handley and narcotics possession. ¹⁶

The development of Handley was closely tied with transportation issues. Besides being connected to two forms of rail transportation, Handley also had close ties with highway transportation. The Fort Worth-Dallas Pike ran through the central business district of Handley on what was originally Front Street. In the mid 1920s, the pike was widened between the two cities including that portion which ran through Handley. By the mid 1930s, the Fort Worth-Dallas pike was part of "the Broadway of America," also known as U.S. Highway 80 and Texas 1. As the automobile rose in popularity, this meant increased traffic through the heart of the little community. 17

Along with the building projects mentioned above, Handley benefited from New Deal-era construction projects. Works Progress Administration (WPA) funds were used for the construction of water and sewer systems in the community. In addition, WPA funds were used for the construction of sidewalks. Some of these sidewalks bearing a WPA imprint are still extant within the district on Handley Drive. 18

The 1930s brought other changes to Handley. On Christmas Eve 1934, the Interurban made its last run between Fort Worth and Dallas. Texas Motorcoaches, a subsidiary of the traction company, began running buses between the two cities with Handley being a stop along the route. The traction company's power plant had been sold to Texas Electric

¹⁵ See Tarrant County Deed Records, Grantee Indexes for 1876-1937.

¹⁶ Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey, Fort Worth: Upper North, Northeast, East, Far South, and Far West, Fort Worth: Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County, Texas, 1989, p. 148.

¹⁷ Fort Worth Press, October 23, 1925 and June 30, 1926 as transcribed in the Federal Writer's Project, "Guide to Fort Worth," [microfilm] Fort Worth Public Library, Fort Worth, Texas [hereafter referred to as Federal Writers' Project], pp. 3419, 6089-90, 6293.

¹⁸ Earl Raymond Waddell, interviewed by Marie Autry, May, June 1978, Oral Histories of Fort Worth, Inc., typewritten manuscript on file at the Tarrant County Historic Commission.

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Service Company (now TXU Electric) in 1932. The electric company used it to supply electricity to the surrounding area and as a booster station during peak load periods for the Fort Worth plant. Lake Erie was used by locals and was eventually incorporated into Lake Arlington in the 1950s. 19

At various times during the first half of the 20th century, residents of Handley struggled with the issue of either incorporating the town or being annexed into neighboring Fort Worth. As an unincorporated community, Handley never had any formal local government and the associated services such as police protection, although it did have a volunteer fire department. In 1921, the City of Fort Worth invited several suburbs, including Handley, to be annexed into the city. By 1928, support for annexation appeared to be growing among some Handley residents. In that year, residents voted in favor of having Handley's two schools under the jurisdiction of the Fort Worth Independent School District. William D. Weiler, one of the Handley business leaders who spearheaded annexation efforts, pointed to this action as proof that residents would support annexation. The *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* quoted Weiler as saying "We have tried to incorporate as a village under the laws of the state and failed due to efforts of the Northern Texas Traction Company." A.F. Townsend, manager of the traction company, denied that his company had ever blocked annexation or incorporation of Handley. Supporters of annexation believed that the action would result in the reduction of costs for electricity, water, and gas and would offset the amount residents would owe in taxes.²⁰

However, not everyone in Handley or Fort Worth supported annexation. The *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* reported that the majority of residents opposed the action out of the belief that Fort Worth couldn't offer Handley anything worth the taxes they would have to pay. One Fort Worth Councilman opposed the idea on the grounds that the city did not have the resources to extend police, fire, and other services to the area. The area to be annexed extended from what was then the city's eastern limits for a distance of about 6,000 feet along the Fort Worth-Dallas Pike and about that same width at its widest point, excluding property owned by the Northern Texas Traction Company. In November 1928, Carl Wade, an attorney, and Reverend J. Frank Norris, although a resident of Fort Worth, appeared before the Fort Worth City Council representing Handley residents who desired annexation. Wade informed the Council that a petition had been signed by 263 Handley residents requesting annexation. However, the City's secretary claimed no knowledge of the petition. The Council voted against calling for an election for the proposed annexation by a vote of 4 to 3. The majority of the council believed that such an election would engender ill feelings among Handley residents that might last for years. One councilman stated that it would not be fair to exclude the traction company's property from the proposed annexation area as the company was better able to pay city taxes than most individuals.²¹

¹⁹ Federal Writers' Project, p. 3420.

²⁰ Fort Worth Star-Telegram, December 12, 1921, Fort Worth Press, August 15, 1928, November 27, 1928, as transcribed in Federal Writers' Project, 14316, 7230-31; Fort Worth Record-Telegram, September 7, 1928, Star-Telegram Clippings File, Special Collections, UTA.

²¹ Fort Worth Star-Telegram, October 14, 1928; Fort Worth Press, August 21, 1928, November 21, 1928, and November 27, 1928 as transcribed in the Federal Writers' Project, 7176-77, 7226, 7230-31.

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The question of annexation verses incorporation continued to be of concern. In September 1939, the Handley Civic League established a special committee to study the advantages and disadvantages of incorporation. In October, the League's president, J.B. Parr, stated that he saw no advantage to the community with incorporation. In 1946, Handley residents voted against incorporation 390 to 129 in an election sponsored by the Handley Improvement League. The area to be incorporated was less than four square miles and included what was refereed to as West Handley which bordered the eastern limits of Fort Worth. This combined area had a population of between 2,000 and 5,000 people and Handley itself was believed to be the state's largest unincorporated town.

Residents reluctantly began to consider annexation. Because the community was located outside of the city limits of Fort Worth, residents were being charged double the rate for water as were residents of Fort Worth. Handley's citizens also recognized the need for better garbage disposal, police protection, and bus and telephone services. In December, area residents voted 2,391 for and 2,128 against annexation Although a law suit against the annexation was filed against the City of Fort Worth, the suit eventually was dropped and Handley officially joined the city in March 1947.²²

Annexation brought changes to the Handley area. Most of the community's street names were changed to avoid confusion with other streets in Fort Worth. Front Street became East Lancaster Avenue, West Street was changed to Erie Street, Daggett Street became Forest Avenue, Jennings Street became Handley Drive, and East Street became Halbert Street. Houses in Handley never had numbers so the Fort Worth Public Works Department set about assigning them addresses. The city began operating the Handley water and sewage system. In spite of its absorption by Fort Worth, a strong sense of community remained in the area and the name "Handley" continued to be used for civic associations and businesses. This practice continues to the present.²³

After Handley was annexed into Fort Worth, the community's residents and businesses began to appear in the Fort Worth City Directories. The directories reveal which types of businesses were located within the boundaries of the district. In 1950, the following businesses were located in the district (the addresses have been adjusted to match the current addresses):

- Howell's Cash Feed Store, 6472 E. Lancaster Ave.
- Worth Food Market No. 12, 6501 E. Lancaster Ave.
- Michener Barber Shop, 6505-A E. Lancaster Ave.
- Handley Shoe Shop 6505-B E. Lancaster Ave.
- J.B. Miller Grocery, 6507 E. Lancaster Ave.
- Cotter's Grocery and Market, 6509 E. Lancaster Ave.

²² Fort Worth Star-Telegram, morning edition, September 19, 1939; October 24, 1939, January 10, 1946, May 12, 1946, March 6, 1947, Fort Worth Star-Telegram Clippings File, Special Collections, UTA. One newspaper article placed Handley's population at 4,500. See Fort Worth Press, December 11, 1946, Handley Clippings file, Fort Worth Public Library.

²³ Fort Worth Star-Telegram, morning edition, April 25, 1947 and evening edition, July [illegible], 1947, Fort Worth Star-Telegram Clippings File, Special Collections, UTA.

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- Handley Hardware and Plumbing Company, 6511 E. Lancaster Ave.
- F & M Variety Store, 6513 E. Lancaster Ave.
- Beautyland Beauty Shop, Florence's Flower Shop, 6515 E. Lancaster Ave.
- · Smith's Dry Goods and Notions, 6517 E. Lancaster Ave.
- Virginia's Beauty Shop, Scott's Barber Shop 6517-A E. Lancaster Ave.
- Lynch Pharmacy, 6519 E. Lancaster Ave.
- Al's Cafe, 6521 E. Lancaster Ave. (west storefront of 6523 E. Lancaster Ave.)
- Hubbard Drug, 6523 E. Lancaster Ave.
- Moore, Bill J. & Bonds, Leroy, 3126 Handley Drive (possibly a duplex at 3126 & 3126½)
- · U.S. Post Office, Handley Station, 3128 Handley Drive
- Grove, W.B. Co. Real Estate 3132 Handley Drive/City Water Department Branch, North Side of 313224

Annexation did not prove to be a benefit to all in Handley. This was particularly true for the Texas & Pacific Railway. Prior to annexation, freight service in and out of the community declined during the early 1940s. Some of this decline may have been due to the effects of World War II. In 1940, 23,334 freight receipts were issued at the T & P station whereas in 1944, only 1,502 receipts were issued. Freight traffic to and from the station also decreased during that time. Although the outbound traffic was about the same, the inbound traffic declined. In 1940, 161 incoming cars and 6 outgoing cars were recorded. For 1944, 79 cars were inbound and only 7 were outbound. Perhaps the wartime material shortages accounted from the decrease in inbound car traffic or it is possible that more inbound freight was routed to the T & P facilities at Fort Worth. No passenger service was recorded for those years.²⁵ Freight volume increased slightly after the war but then decreased after Handley was annexed into Fort Worth. Freight handled at the station dropped from 202 carloads in 1947 to 84 carloads in the first 11 months of 1948. It became unprofitable for the railway company to continue operating the station. The Texas Railroad Commission authorized the T & P to cease operation in Handley. Although many residents protested by signing a petition against its closure, the petition was never forwarded to Austin. On May 20, 1949, M.M. Cotton, the station's agent, locked the building. Efforts by the railroad to sell the former station were unsuccessful. In 1950, the title to the 38-year old building was given to the Handley and Caddo Village Boy Scout troops. Material from the building was used to build two scout houses. With the demolition of the Handley depot, the company that platted Handley no longer had a prominent physical presence in the community with the exception of the railroad tracks that continued to parallel the business district.²⁶

²⁴ Fort Worth City Directory, 1950.

²⁵ Charles P. Zlatkovich, Texas & Pacific Railway: Operations and Traffic, El Paso: Westerner Press, 1998, pp. 24, 228.

²⁶ Fort Worth Star-Telegram, morning edition, April 14, 1949 and June 4, 1949, evening edition, Fort Worth Star-Telegram Clippings File; "Quaint Depot at Handley May Feel Ax Of Wrecker; It Doesn't Rate a Whistle," Fort Worth Press, January 26, 1950; Fort Worth Star-Telegram, October 26, 1950. Handley Clippings File, Fort Worth Public Library.

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After annexation, the Central Handley Historic District continued to function as a regional commercial center with mixed success. A new post office was constructed outside of the district and the post office at 3128 Handley Drive was closed. In 1952, the Handley bank constructed a new facility at 3129 Handley Drive, just north of the district. It eventually outgrew this facility and constructed another bank in the early 1960s at Lancaster Avenue and Weiler, west of the district. The buildings housing the old bank and the Gem Theater were demolished prior to 1962. In 1957, the Dallas-Fort Worth Turnpike, now part of Interstate 30, opened north of the Handley area. When traveling between the two cities, drivers no longer had to pass through Handley on old U.S. Highway 80 on East Lancaster Avenue. New development sprung up along the turnpike. These combined forces drew customers away from Handley's business district.

There are three antique stores, a doll store, and an art gallery in the district. These businesses draw clients from all over North Texas. A sign and engraving business is located at 6507 E. Lancaster Avenue. A restaurant has recently opened at 6509-11 E. Lancaster Avenue. In addition, local business owners and residents have formed the Handley Initiative in an effort to revitalize the community's commercial core. The Handley Initiative raised funds for the installation of period streetlights along several streets including portions of East Lancaster Avenue, Forest Avenue, and Handley Drive. It also has petitioned the Fort Worth Historic and Cultural Landmark Commission to designate 6472 E. Lancaster Avenue, the 6500 block of East Lancaster Avenue and portions of the 3100 block of Handley Drive as a local district. In addition, the City of Fort Worth has launched a corridor revitalization program throughout the city. One of the corridors included in this effort is East Lancaster Avenue.

Architectural Significance

The Central Handley Historic District is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion C for its excellent collection of early 20th-century commercial buildings. Most of the buildings are 1-story and were constructed between ca. 1910 and 1936. The predominant style within the district is best described as the Commercial Style. The examples within the Central Handley Historic District are constructed of brick or stone. One of the identifying features of this style is the parapet. Within the district, they vary from the fairly unadorned brickwork found on the Isenman Building at 6505 E. Lancaster Avenue to ones with decorative brick corbeling such as that found on the building at 6517 E. Lancaster Avenue. Commercial Style buildings typically also have flat or slightly sloping roofs, transoms above the storefronts, centered entrances that are often recessed, and bulkheads below the windows. Examples of nearly intact storefronts can be found on the building at 6523 E. Lancaster Avenue. This building is considered to be individually eligible for the National Register for its unusual sandstone and petrified wood exterior.

Although the designers or architects of the buildings are not known, it is known that B.B. Adams was the contractor for 3128 Handley Drive. This building was constructed in 1931 and served as the Handley Post Office through the end of the period of significance. Adams was a well known contractor in Fort Worth and constructed several bungalow-style fire stations in the 1920s. Other projects included the Flemish-influenced 2-story Gartner House at 935 Hillcrest Street built in 1930; the Friedson House, a 2-story Tudor Revival style house at 2420 Medford Court East, built in 1931, the Lackey House, 2300 Medford Court East, a 2-story Tudor Revival style house constructed in 1933; the Simon House at 3760 Country Club Circle, a 2-story Colonial Revival house constructed in 1937; Gambrell Street Baptist

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Church, 1616 W. Gambrell Street, a Late Gothic Revival style church constructed in 1948-49; and University Christian Church at 2720 S. University Drive, constructed in 1933 in the Spanish Eclectic Style.²⁷

Other contractors whose work is located in the district included V. L. Purselley who constructed the highly unusual sandstone and petrified wood Commercial Style building at 6523 E. Lancaster Avenue in 1933. Two buildings located in the 6500 block of East Lancaster have been attributed to George Steven Carmack. These 1-story brick Commercial Style buildings constructed in ca. 1910 (6509-11) and ca. 1916 (6513-15) are very similar to each other with sawtooth pattern brick corbeling along the parapet. Carmack constructed numerous buildings in the 1920s and 1930s throughout Fort Worth, many of which were residences.

The Weiler House at 3126 Handley Drive is a good local example of a Folk Victorian style home. This 2-story building is sheathed with shiplap siding and has a hipped roof main block with a projecting front gabled bay. The facade of the gabled bay features fishscale shingles on the gable end and a full width pent roof below the shingles. On the south side of the bay is a hipped roof porch with spindled columns. The shed roofed porch on the north side may not be original to the building but is sympathetic to the design of the house. It is believed that this house was constructed around 1906 and was originally located on East Lancaster Avenue. It was moved to its present location prior to 1930.

The Central Handley Historic District is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A for its association with the development and commercial history of the community of Handley, Texas. From its association with the Interurban between Dallas and Fort Worth, its continued growth through World War II, and its annexation into the city of Fort Worth, it has retained its sense of a commercial core serving the surrounding area. In addition, the district is eligible at the local level of significance under Criterion C for its outstanding collection of early 20th-century commercial architecture. Although the district has undergone some decline since the period of significance, current revitalization efforts are attracting new businesses and patrons alike. Listing of the Central Handley Historic District on the National Register will further assist these efforts.

²⁷ Carol Rourk, Fort Worth's Legendary Landmarks, Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1995, pp. 138, 160; Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey, Fort Worth Southside, Fort Worth: Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County, 1986, p.109; Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey, Fort Worth: Upper North, Northeast, East, Far South and Far West, Fort Worth: Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County, Texas, 1989, pp. 11, 146, 188, 216, 220, 235, 237, 244.

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Central Handley Historic District Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY approximately 3 acres

UTM REFERENCES Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 14 666840 3622980 3 14 666980 3622800

2 14 667000 3622940 4 14 666800 3622840

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheet 10-25)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION (see continuation sheet 10-25)

11. FORM PREPARED BY (with assistance from Monica Penick and Gregory Smith, THC historians)

NAME/TITLE: Susan Allen Kline, planner

ORGANIZATION: City of Fort Worth Planning Department DATE: July 2001

STREET & NUMBER: 1000 Throckmorton Street TELEPHONE: 817-871-8012

CITY OR TOWN: Fort Worth STATE: Texas ZIP CODE: 76102

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see continuation sheet MAP-26)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet PHOTO-27)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: (see continuation sheet OWNERS-28 through OWNERS-29)

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE:

CITY OR TOWN STATE ZIP CODE

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 25

Central Handley Historic District Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the southeast corner of Block 2 of the Handley Addition, proceed west along the south boundary line of Block 2 to the northeast corner of Forest Avenue and East Lancaster Avenue; proceed in a northerly direction along the east curbline of Forest Avenue (west line of Lot 12 of Block 2) to the southeast corner of Kerr Street and Forest Avenue; proceed east along the north boundary of Block 2 of the Handley addition until parallel with the southwest corner of Block 12 of the Handley addition; proceed north along the west boundary of Block 12 to the north boundary line of Lot 2; proceed east along the north boundary of Lot 2 to Handley Drive; proceed south to the point of beginning.

Also included in this nomination is 6472 E. Lancaster Avenue, defined as Lot A3A (of Block A, historically part of the original T & P Railway Reservation), beginning at the southwest corner of Forest Avenue and East Lancaster Avenue; proceed in a westerly direction along the south boundary of East Lancaster Avenue to the northwest corner of Lot A3A; proceed in a southerly direction along the west boundary line of Lot A3A to the southwest corner of Lot A3A; proceed in a northerly direction along the southern boundary of Lot A3A to the southeast corner of Lot A3A; proceed in a northerly direction along the east boundary of Lot A3A to the northeast corner of Lot A3A, the point of beginning.

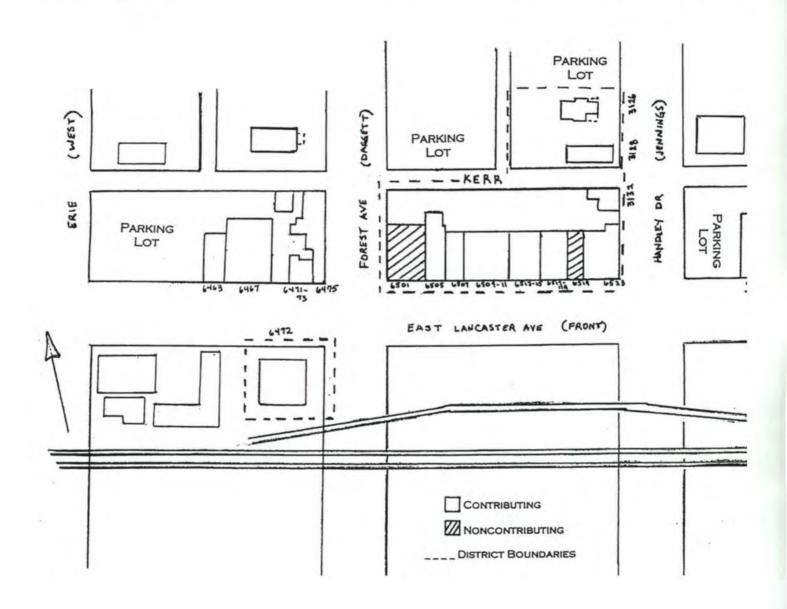
Boundary Justification

The Central Handley Historic District is a discontiguous district, which includes the majority of the historic commercial core of the community that retains its historic and architectural integrity. One portion of the district is located diagonally across the street in a southwesterly direction from the main portion of the district. This portion contains a historic feed store at 6472 E. Lancaster Avenue that retains much of its historic integrity and has had a long association with the commercial life of the community. The west half of this block was excluded from the district because the lumber yard at that location post-dates the period of significance. Although the north side of the 6400 block of East Lancaster Avenue has a few buildings that date from the period of significance, it has been omitted from the district due to its lack of integrity resulting from alterations and additions to historic buildings and infill after the period of significance. The south sides of the 6500 block of East Lancaster Avenue were omitted from the boundaries because there are no buildings or structures on them. The district also includes two commercial buildings and one historic house located on the west side of the 3100 block of Handley Drive. Although the house at 3126 Handley Drive did not have a commercial function during the period of significance, it is included in the district due to its association with William D. and Rose Weiler. The Weilers were responsible for the construction of the buildings at 3128 and 3132 Handley Drive. In addition, Mr. Weiler ran an insurance company in the district and Mrs. Weiler served as postmistress during part of the period of significance. The lots immediately north of the Weiler House are paved for parking and further north are several nonhistoric commercial buildings; all are excluded from the boundaries of the district. The 6600 block of Lancaster Ave. includes four commercial buildings which may be added to the district at a later date, but whose current owners objected to listing at this time.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section MAP Page 26

Central Handley Historic District Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas



National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 27

Central Handley Historic District Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Central Handley Historic District Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas Photographer: Susan Kline March 2001 Negatives on file with the City of Fort Worth

6472 E. Lancaster Avenue Camera facing west Photo 1 of 7

6501 (noncontributing), 6505, 6507, 6509-11, 6513-15 E. Lancaster Avenue Camera facing northeast Photo 2 of 7

Rear of 6507, 6505 and 6501 (noncontributing) E. Lancaster Avenue Camera facing south Photo 3 of 7

6505, 6507, 6509-11, 6513-15, 6517 E. Lancaster Avenue Camera facing northwest Photo 4 of 7

6507, 6509-11, 6513-15, 6517-17A, 6519 (noncontributing), 6523 E. Lancaster Avenue/3134 Handley Drive Camera facing northwest
Photo 5 of 7

3128 and 3126 Handley Drive Camera facing northwest Photo 6 of 7

3132 and 3128 Handley Drive Camera facing northwest Photo 7 of 7

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section OWNERS Page 28

Central Handley Historic District Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Property:

6472 E. Lancaster Avenue, Handley Addition, Blk A Lot 3A

Owner:

Taber, James C.

6472 E. Lancaster Avenue Fort Worth, TX 76112

Property:

6501 E. Lancaster Avenue, Handley Addition, Blk 2, Lots 11 and 12 (Noncontributing)

Owner:

Grove, W.Barry and Robert B. 10412 Long Meadow RD

Oklahoma City, OK 73162

Property:

6505 E. Lancaster Avenue, Handley Addition, Blk 2, Lot 10

Owner:

Dollar, Bobby K. etux Frances

7529 Yolanda Drive Fort Worth, TX 76112

Property:

6507 E. Lancaster Avenue, Handley Addition Blk 2, Lot 9

Owner:

Gandy, Thomas and Jan Jordan

RR 6 Box 6807 Palestine, TX 75801

Property:

6511 [6509-11] E. Lancaster Avenue, Handley Addition, Blk 2, Lots 7-8-W10"6

Owner:

Koch, Richard and Susan 6724 Calender Rd.

Arlington, TX 76001

Property:

6513 [6513-15] E. Lancaster Avenue, Handley Addition, Blk 2, Lots 5-E15' 6

6517 E. Lancaster Avenue, Handley Addition, Blk 2, Lot W20' 4

Owner:

Hicks, Donald Lee & Elizabeth

803 Red Oak Ln. Arlington, TX 76012

Property:

6517 [6517A] E. Lancaster Avenue, Handley Addition, Blk 2, Lots E5' 4-W7 1/4' 3

Owner:

Yale, K.C. P.O. Box 8745

Fort Worth, TX 76124

Property:

6519 E. Lancaster Avenue, Handley Addition, Blk 2, Lots W3 1/4' 2 E17 3/4' 3 (Noncontributing)

Owner:

Yale, K.C. P.O. Box 8745.

Fort Worth, TX 76124

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section OWNERS Page 29

Central Handley Historic District Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Property: 6523 E. Lancaster Avenue, Handley Addition, Blk 2, Lot S 72' 1 - 72' E 21 3/4' 2

Owner: Luck, Wm J & D Luck Cred. Trust

7108 Camp Bowie Blvd. Fort Worth, TX 76116

Property: 3132 Handley Drive, Handley Addition, Block 2, Lots N43' 1 N43' E21 3/4' 2

Owner: Kauth, Gary R. etux Marie

3132 Handley Drive Fort Worth, TX 76112

Property: 3128 Handley Drive, Handley Addition, Block 12, Lot S 27 1/2' E 80' 1

3126 Handley Drive, Handley Addition, Block 12, Lots 2 and 1 Less SE Pt.

Owner: Lancaster Crowley Invest. LLC

Attn: Kirk Lancaster P.O. Box 8926

Fort Worth, TX 76124

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION			
PROPERTY Central Handley Histor NAME:	ic District		
MULTIPLE NAME:			
STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Tarrant			
DATE RECEIVED: 12/05/01 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/12/02 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:	DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/27/0 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/20/02		
REFERENCE NUMBER: 01001472			
REASONS FOR REVIEW:			
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDO OTHER: N PDIL: N PERI REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR	SCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: NOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: NOTATIONAL: NOTATIONAL:		
COMMENT WAIVER: N			
ACCEPTRETURNREJE	CT		
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:			
RECOM./CRITERIA			
REVIEWER	DISCIPLINE		
TELEPHONE	DATE		
DOCUMENTATION see attached commen	ts V/N see attached SLR V/N		



Central Handley Historic District 6472 E. Lancaster Ave
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas
Photographer: Susan Kline
January 2001
Neg: City of Fort Worth
Looking W
1 of 7



Central Handley Historic District

6501 (noncontributing) 6505, 6507, 6509-11, 6513-15 E. Lancaster

Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photographer: Susan Kline

January 2001

Neg: City of Fort Worth

Looking NE

#2 of 7



Central Handley Historic District

Rear of 6507, 6505, and 6501 (noncontributing) E. Lancaster Auc

Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photographer: Susan Kline

January 2001

Neg: City of Fort Worth

Looking 5

3 of 7



Central Handley Historic District
6505, 6507, 6509-11, 6513-15, 6517 E. Lancaster Ave
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas
Photographer: Susan Kline
January 2001
Neg: City of Fort Worth
Looking NW
4 of 7



Central Handley Historic District
6507, 6509-11, 6513-15, 6517-17A, 6519 (noncontributing) 6523 E. Lancaster Ave/
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas
Photographer; Susan Krine
January 2001
Neg: City of Fort Worth
Looking NW
5 of 7



Central Handley Historic District
3128 and 3126 Handley Drive
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas
Photographer: Susan Kline
January 2001
Neg: City of Fort Worth
Looking NW
6 of 7



Central Handley Hestoric District
3132 and 3128 Handley Drive
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas
Photographer: Susan Klino
January 2001
Neg: Cuty of Fort Worth
Looking XIW
7 of 7