Longview 150
Texas Historic Landmarks
Longview Museum of Fine Arts in honor of Longview’s Sesquicentennial is proud to present **Longview 150: Historic Landmarks, Featuring East Texas Artists**!

This unique exhibition is the brainstorm of LMFA board member Allen McReynolds, an LMFA exhibits committee member and art collector who happens to be an avid historic preservationalist, history buff, and community volunteer. He wanted to find an artistic avenue for the Museum to celebrate Longview’s 150 years of heritage.

A call was extended to area artists to produce works based on Texas Historic Registered Landmarks within Longview’s city limits. Thirty-eight artists rose to the challenge. The youngest artist, just 10 years old, painted LeTourneau’s University’s Speer Chapel just as her Nana did in 1964. Both works are on display.

Artists were asked to stay within certain canvas sizes, utilizing the medium of their choice. They could take artistic license in composition and angle of property or feature unusual elements of the historic sites. Mixed media, fabric art, watercolor, pencil, pen, acrylic and digital art are all represented.

We hope you enjoy learning as much about Longview’s storied history as we have enjoyed assembling this information to complement the artist’s works and to tell Longview’s history in an interesting, informative manner. Within this exhibit you will learn about Longview’s inception, founder, first homes, founding families and historic districts.

Thank you to the following artists for your participation in celebrating Longview’s 150 years!

Beverly Adler  
Debra Alford  
Lilliana Alford  
Diego Baracaldo  
Wayne Bethard  
Ron Bigony  
Mandi Blackford  
Brenda Brannon  
Diedra Long Camp  
Melissa Charles  
Mary Jean Davis  
Lisa de Graffenried  
Kelly Dillard  
Lissa Dowden  
Budd Dunn  
Caitlyn Fabre  
Theresa Glover  
Mileah Hall  
Frank Herbert  
Dana Huber  
Kathryn Kleekamp  
Mec Lacewell  
Rebekah Lauzier  
Morgan Lewis  
Rick Malloy  
Carol Manley  
Cari Morris  
Joe Mraz  
Natasha Raibon  
Nancy Ray  
Rome Smith  
Emma Kay Staggs  
Sarah Suess  
Susan Turner  
Suzanne Tuma  
Elizabeth White  
Samantha Wilson  
Carol Woolley
This endeavor was made possible in part by a grant from The Summerlee Foundation, a mission-driven, proactive organization with a strong desire to address significant issues in animal protection and Texas history, and by a grant from the City of Longview and the Cultural Activities Advisory Commission.

On November 17, the Texas Historical Commission celebrated 60 years of historic preservation. The Commission began in 1953 as the Texas State Historical Survey Committee, formed by the legislature to oversee state historical programs. Three years later, in 1956, county historical survey committees were created in Texas to carry out preservation work at the local level. The City of Longview’s Historic Preservation Commission was recently formed in 2011, while Preservation Longview, a private non-profit organization, formed in 2006. Both the National Historic Landmarks and the National Register programs, which were formed in 1966, are administered by the National Park Service under the Secretary of the Interior.
Cherokee Trace  
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (1967)  
Location: Corner of US 80 West and White Oak Road

In 1821 near the Cherokee Trace Historic Landmark, Cherokee Indians blazed a trail from near present-day Nacogdoches, Texas, to their home reservation at White River, Arkansas. Amelia (Sparkman) Castleberry Belding, who grew up at the Sparkman’s Rockwall Farm, prepared the Marker Application using the 1840 Handley-Bush historical map.

As late as the 1960’s, Cherokee roses, a white mounding native rose used by the local tribes to mark the trail, could still be seen along parts of Gilmer Road.

Dr. Buddy Jones, the archaeologist who assembled the Gregg County Historical Museum’s Caddo Collection, referred to an 1840 hand-drawn map of the old Native American trade route in the original application materials to the State to document the Trace through Gregg County. In his notes, Dr. Jones indicates that the “trace”, or old Indian trail, crossed Grace’s Creek near Highway 80 and followed 80 to just east of Rockwall Farm, then the trail followed present-day Spring Hill Road to Gilmer, passing through Castleberry lands. It was most likely used by several Indian tribes of the day.
The Grove was a natural timber stand within what became Longview in 1870. Tradition holds that the area’s Freedmen gathered in the grove for worship services as early as the 1850s. Historical references suggest that John R. Magrill sold the one-acre grove tract to the town’s African-American population in 1871; however, a review of Upshur County Deed Records indicate the land transfer was conducted as early as 1854 with a handshake – the Freedmen accumulated $40, Magrill accepted $1.00 in consideration. Acting on the behalf of Magrill and the Freedmen were O. J. Taylor, Silas Billup, and Alick Berry. Deed records indicate this lot was transferred from O.H. and Margaret R. Methvin to John R. Magrill on the 17th day of May 1854.

According to C.A. Magrill, descendant of ‘Uncle John Magrill’ the donor of The Grove, “Uncle John came to Texas from Alabama sometime in the 1840’s, most likely 1845, and acquired a lot of timbered land. There were quite a few Negroes in the area and they had no suitable place to worship. Uncle John deeded the land not just to one group but to all the Negroes of Upshur County so they could build what was then known as a meeting house.”

Magrill went on to become the Confederate Postmaster of the Earpville community. Over the years, The Grove was an important gathering place for the local African American community and was the location of three early local African American churches, particularly the nearby St. Marks CME Church. The city later adopted the land for use as a park, now known as Magrill Plaza.
William Herman Castleberry, one of the children of Aaron Trice Castleberry, who came to the Pine Tree community from Shelbyville, TX during the Regulator/Moderator War, a violent feud in East Texas between rival factions over land ownership, owned the headright of this location. His siblings patented the land now called Spring Hill, Pine Tree, and the land south of the Sabine River at Hwy 42. This property was left to his daughter, Mrs. Nixon, upon his death.

In 1858, Mrs. Nixon sold 300 acres to Dr. J. N. Allison and his wife Jane (Fisher) Allison. This fine “Virginia Cross”-style home was constructed of slave-made bricks from clay found on site and resembles the Colonel Taylor House in nearby Karnack. The Allison's lived in the home from 1859 up to 1884 when Dr. Allison was killed in front of his drug store on Fredonia Street in a duel with the husband of a patient who had died under Dr. Allison’s care.

Jane Allison sold the home to Mrs. Sarah Waterman Hunter in 1885 and Mrs. Hunter sold to a family named Parmer in 1914. Parmer sold to the Lathrop family in 1928, who sold to Zeigler family who sold to Dick Chick, the general manager of the new Sears complex on High Street, and his family in 1957. The Chicks raised Angus cattle on the ranch.

With the exception of the rear gallery, and the original columns, all of the original structure is still intact. However, there have been several additions, mainly to the rear. Dr. Allison became a wealthy cotton planter, owning at one time over 4,000 acres of cotton plantations in the area.

He was instrumental in the organization of Gregg County from sections of Rusk and Upshur Counties in 1873. The Hunter Cemetery across from the house was recently awarded the Texas Historical Commission’s Historic Cemetery medallion.

Mr. Lathrop leased his 300 acres to Barney A. Skipper, Sr. as a part of the 8,300 acre Skipper Block. The F. K. Lathrop A-1 Well was completed on December 3, 1930 and blew in on January 26, 1931, producing an impressive 18,000 barrels of oil per day. That one well produced 533,080 barrels of oil during its first 35 years of production, and continues to produce.
Earpville
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (1989)
Location: 1107 East Marshall Avenue

Earpville’s historic marker is located near the present-day Teague House which was once within the center of the Earpville community. This area was settled in the late 1840s by Cullin Earp and his son James (d. 1861) and many of their relatives from Alabama. The boundaries of Earpville were considered to be the boundary of Gregg/Harrison Counties and the Brookwood Shopping Center on McCann Road.

Located on the Brooks stagecoach line, the settlement at its height boasted a post office, stage stop, the Methodist church, retail businesses and was the commercial and social center for farmers in the region. Part of James Earp’s original homesite was sold to the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1870. It became the site of the new town of Longview and signaled the decline of Earpville. The arrival of the Earp family members from Alabama greatly increased the population of East Texas at the time. Ossamus Hitch Methvin, Sr., founding father of Longview also lived in Earpville.

The “Family History of James, Cullin, and William Earp and some of their Descendants” does not mention Walter Earp, born in 1797 in Virginia. Walter was the grandfather of famous businessman and lawman Wyatt Earp; therefore, there is assumed to be no relationship.

James Earp’s house was located at the foot of Water Tower Hill on Hwy 80; his father Cullin is listed in the Census of 1850 as a member of the J. Castleberry household; Mrs. J. (listed merely as “C”) Castleberry is believed to be Cullin’s daughter and James’ sister. James sold 1,031 acres of land acquired at auction in 1854 to Septimus and Dr. Job Taylor, a local physician; Dr. Taylor operated a coach stop near the Teague House location.

Susan Tanner,
Earpville ca1860- How it Might Have Looked
Pen and watercolor, 18 X 24 inches- Diptych
Teague House
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (1966)
Date of construction: 1873
Architectural Style: Gothic farmhouse
Location: 322 Teague Street

One of the few remaining houses of Earpville (early Longview), the Teague House was considered to be “an old house” in 1882 when it was purchased by Mary and Lattimus Teague of Alabama. Built before Gregg County was formed from parts of Upshur and Rusk Counties in 1873, the records of the deed were lost when a court house fire destroyed Upshur County records.

With its high-pitched roof and steep narrow brick chimneys, the house is similar to 19th century New England Gothic farmhouses. Each room was warmed by a wood -burning fireplace, and a huge porch still extends across the front and side of the home.

The tall clapboard farmhouse welcomed weary travelers on the William Brooks stagecoach line from Monroe, Louisiana to Tyler, Texas. The Teague family had 10 children, but only one grand-child, who died in early childhood. The Teagues’ daughters, Molly and Sarah, held school sessions and taught music lessons in the home after 1890. There are no Teague family descendants.

Teague Pond, now part of Teague Park, was always part of this site. In 1935, Latimus W. Teague sold 20 acres to the City of Longview as a memorial to his sister Sarah.

Mary Jean Davis, Teague House
Pastel, 18 X 24 inches

Beverly Adler, Teague House
Watercolor, 16 X 20 inches
Teague House
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (1966)
Date of construction: 1873
Architectural Style: Gothic farmhouse
Location: 322 Teague Street

Rick Malloy,
Teague House - Latimus Home
Watercolor, 16 x 22 inches

Carol Manley,
Teague House
Watercolor 16 x 20 inches

Kathryn Kleekamp,
A Simpler Time - Teague House
Oil on canvas, 16 X 20 inches

Joe Mraz,
Teague House
Watercolor, 10 X 14 inches

Carol Woolley,
Teague Latimus House
Oil on canvas, 16 X 20 inches
O.H. Methvin is widely documented to be the founder, or ‘father’, of Longview. About 1848, Methvin, originally from Georgia with his wife Margaret R. and his father, Richard R. Methvin who was from Maryland, migrated to this area. Methvin purchased approximately 1,200 acres from James Earp, founder of Earpville.

His acreage extended from the present-day Teague Home/Earpville area, westward to Grace’s Creek near Spur 63 and south toward the Sabine River. He and Margaret constructed a modest home on Rock Hill which is the present location of Longview’s water tower located on present-day Center Street, across from the Chamber of Commerce building. His rock quarry provided native stone for the construction of fireplace chimneys, home foundations, and more.

Joseph Mark Sparkman, grandfather of Amelia (Sparkman) Castleberry Belding moved to the area in the 1860’s and was the owner of the Sparkman Boot Factory located on Gilmer Road near Walmart during the Civil War. Mr. Sparkman noted in his diary that Mr. Methvin was the first person he met when he moved here, encountering Mr. Methvin plowing his cornfield on the site of the current Gregg County Court House.

In 1870, O.H. and Margaret sold 100 acres to the Texas & Pacific Railroad for $501.00, thus securing that the railroad line would pass through his property, dramatically increasing the value of his remaining land holdings. Texas & Pacific Railroad Company then founded the town of Longview and donated sites for a courthouse, schools, other community entities, and the formation of several churches; including, First Presbyterian, First Baptist, First Christian and First Methodist. He and Margaret were the parents of three sons – Alexander, Ossamus, and Jefferson. Many of Methvin’s descendants still live in the area. Taken from: “History of O.H. Methvin” by Beth Holloway Dodson.

This portrait of Ossamus Hitch Methvin is by Connecticut artist Jac Lahav, whose works “The Great Americans” were exhibited at the Longview Museum of Fine Arts in 2018, painted Methvin as a gift to LMFA. Lahav incorporated scenes from the museum’s Permanent Collection work “Red Badge of Courage” by artist Charles Shaw into Methvin’s shirt.
Texas and Pacific Railroad Depot
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (2014)
Location: Pacific Avenue at Mobberly Avenue

With railroad expansion headed west, O.H. Methvin deeded 150 acres to Southern Pacific Railroad in 1870. In 1871, Longview became the westward terminus of the railroad. Construction of a railroad line between Longview and Palestine began in 1872 by International Railroad (later called International & Great Northern Railroad). This line reached an area known as “The Junction,” just east of Longview.

Texas and Pacific (T&P) Railway Company acquired Southern Pacific Railroad and began construction on a passenger depot in 1939 at the location. The 1940 completed depot replaced an earlier station that was built in 1874. To access the concrete platform where travelers waited for the train, passengers utilized a tunnel that connected the depot to the platform.

Rebekah Lauzier,
All Aboard
Digital, 16 X 20 inches

Rome Smith,
Cedar Waxwing at Longview Train Depot
Watercolor, 16 X 20 inches

Beverly Adler,
Longview Train Depot
Watercolor, 16 X 20 inches
Texas and Pacific Railroad Depot
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (2014)
Location: Pacific Avenue at Mobberly Avenue

Designed in the Colonial Revival Style, the train depot, also called the T&P/MO-PAC depot, includes stylized quoins, a brick cornice, and grey stone trim used to highlight the coping, keystones, and lintels. The one-and-a-half story building contained a ticket office, waiting rooms, restrooms, telegraph office, yard office, baggage/express office, and mailroom.

The original dormers were removed sometime after construction but were later restored. Two porches were part of the original structure for a waiting area, baggage and freight. As a town founded by the railroad, Longview has always been connected to railways and, at one time, boasted three depots. The 1940 Longview Train Depot is the only remaining depot.

https://www.longviewtexas.gov/3554/Longview-Train-Depot

Joe Mraz,
Longview Train Station
Watercolor, 10 X 14 inches

Diego Baracaldo,
Longview Train Depot
Ballpoint pen on paper, 16 X 20 inches

Elizabeth White,
Dallas Weekend
Oil on canvas, 16 X 20 inches
Lewis - Bivins House
Recorded Texas Historical Landmark (1999)
Location: 208 East College Street

The Lewis-Bivins House was constructed in 1885 or 1895 for local merchant B.F. Lewis and his wife, E.A. Lewis. In 1905, the Lewis family sold their home to James Knox Bivins I, a Confederate veteran and lumberman, who presented the deed to his wife Viola Cobb as a gift, when he moved his family to Longview to be close to his sawmill in the nearby Talley community.

Bivins, born in Henry County, Georgia, April 13, 1845, came to Texas in 1853 with his parents, settling in the part of Upshur County that later became Camp County. It was here Bivins developed a life-long occupation in lumber and it was with this interest that he founded the Bivins community around 1884. There he married, then moved to Longview in 1905. With his brothers’ association, he enlarged his timber holdings and lumber mills. He served gallantly for the Confederacy in the Civil War. He died in Longview on March 23, 1921.

Viola Bivins restored the structure in 1941 with an inheritance from her father. The Lewis-Bivins house is among the last Victorian dwellings in Longview; the other Victorian houses are the nearby Northcutt House, the Rembert-Harrison House, and the Rucker-Campbell House. The remaining single-story frame houses built in this era are the F.L Whaley House, and The Levy-Brown-Birdsong house. The structure exhibits mixed folk-Victorian elements with a slight suggestion of Italianate-style cornice returns, spindle work porch balusters, and decorative porch post brackets. A simple folk form with Queen Anne accents, the design remains largely intact.

Frank Herbert,
Lewis - Bivins House
Oil on canvas, 18 X 24 inches

Theresa Glover,
For Lillie Mae (Bivins) Franks
Acrylic, 18 X 24 inches
Greenwood Cemetery
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (2000)
Location: 700 Block of East Magrill Street

Greenwood Cemetery, final resting place to many of Longview's founding citizens, originated in 1877 when J. M. Cornes purchased four acres on this site and, with county surveyor A.S. Taylor, established “the Longview Cemetery.” It lay barely outside the city limits and immediately north of The Junction subdivision which was platted three years earlier by the International & Great Northern Railroad. In 1884, Cornes and Taylor extended their cemetery to Magrill Street by acquiring 155 feet of the subdivision. Plots provided space for an estimated 3,392 graves, plus Potter’s Field, a section for indigent families.

The name “Potter’s Field” dates back to Roman times as pots were used as headstones to mark the graves. Most remains in the pioneer Boring and Leake Cemetery (on what became the east end of College Street) were reinterred here. The earliest headstone from that graveyard is that of Louisa Stroud (1820-1856), the earliest marked grave original to this site is that of Ida Denny (1874-1878).

The cemetery was renamed “Greenwood” in 1905, the same year it was included within the city limits. Burials in Greenwood include a veteran of the War of 1812 and 37 known Confederate veterans. Also located here are the graves of three people killed during the 1894 robbery of the First National Bank of Longview by the infamous Dalton Gang, and those of a family that fell victim to the 1900 Galveston storm.

Many pioneers and prominent citizens are also interred here, including O. H. Methvin, who deeded 150 acres to the Southern Pacific Railroad for the townsite and is known as the father of Longview; Bluford W. Brown, who as state legislator secured the creation of Gregg County; and Britton Buttrill, the Earpville stagecoach stop operator who became a founding commissioner and first treasurer of Gregg County.
Greenwood Cemetary
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (2000)
Location: 700 Block of East Magrill Street

Mec Lacewell,
Rembrances - Greenwood Cemetary
Charcoal and Graphite, 16 X 20 inches

Rebekah Lauzier,
At Peace
Digital, 16 X 20 inches

Emma Kay Staggs,
Lost in Greenwood Cemetary
Oil on Canvas, 16 X 20 inches
Franklin Lucilius Whaley House  
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (1964)  
National Register of Historic Places  
Longview City Historic Landmark  
Location: 101 East Whaley Street

The Southern Pacific Railroad Company deeded Lot 6, Block 2, December 13, 1870 to 41 year old Franklin L. Whaley, a Longview hardware merchant originally from Georgia, Indiana. A year later, in 1871, when this house was constructed for Whaley and his wife Mary Caroline Rogers, it was the fourth home built in Longview. The original portion of the house contained four rooms, the front porch and seven chimneys made with rock from Rock Hill. Later, other rooms and a cellar were added.

Built in a central hall configuration with lumber cut on site, hand hewed and planed, the structure features gabled pavilions, three dormers above the front porch, fine milled wood details, and elaborate jigsawn balustrade and piers.

Mr. Whaley served as mayor from 1891 to 1894 and in 1935 North Street was re-named ‘Whaley’ in his honor. The Whaley's son Lucilius entered Texas A&M’s first class of students. Five generations of the Whaley family lived at the residence. The home is now maintained and occupied by the Sloan Law Firm.

Carol Woolley,  
Whaley House  
Oil on Canvas 18 X 24 inches

Samantha Wilson,  
Whaley House  
Fiber art embroidery, 16 X 20 inches
Rembert - Harrison Home
National Register of Historic Places
Location: 316 South Fredonia

Frank Taylor Rembert (1853-1926) was born in Copiah County, Mississippi. In 1872, he came to Texas where he had relatives and a job with the Houston & Great Northern Railroad in Crockett. While working in Scottsville, he met Kate Womack, and the two married in 1878. The couple moved to Longview where they bought a cottage already on this site. It is believed that the current house utilized the original cottage and the extensive porch and other elaborate exterior details were added before 1900. In recent years, a great nephew of Mrs. Rembert’s, David Harrison, created an application for National Register of Historic Places designation; the home is one of only a few in the county with this important designation.

Frank Rembert became a prominent merchant and investor, operating the firm of Mayfield, Rembert, and Company (later F. T. Rembert Mercantile Company) with his brothers-in-law and owning a cotton oil mill, bank, and several commercial buildings. He was mayor of Longview from 1896 to 1898. Mr. Rembert is recognized as the first millionaire in Longview. In addition to his wide-ranging business interests, he also raised and raced thoroughbred horses.

National Historic Landmark
Local examples in Longview of the National Historic Landmarks and the National Register programs include The Rembert-Harrison House and The Northcutt House, both located on South Fredonia Street. Both of these programs are administered by the National Park Service under the Secretary of the Interior.

National Historic Landmarks are recognized by the Secretary of the Interior as possessing national significance, and illustrate the nationwide impact of events or persons associated with the property, its architectural type or style, or information potential. A nationally significant property is of exceptional value in representing or illustrating an important theme in the history of the United States, while most properties listed in the National Register are usually of state or local significance. All National Historic Landmarks are also included in the National Register.
The first residence of former Texas Governor Thomas M. Campbell and his wife, often referred to as The Honeymoon Cottage, was constructed ca1878. Thomas Mitchell Campbell (1856-1923), a native of Rusk, worked in the Gregg County Clerk's office in Longview before becoming a lawyer in 1878, the same year he married Fannie Bruner of Shreveport. This small frame cottage served as their first home. It was relocated in the 1940's to make a place for the Bus Station nearby. Restored by Mrs. Bailey M. Salmon, the small house presently serves as offices for a law firm.

The Campbell's second residence was a large two-story Victorian mansion on the site of the present-day Bramlette Building. Later, Governor Campbell, an attorney and President of the International and Great Northern Railroad, and Mrs. Campbell moved to Palestine when he relocated the rail line's headquarters. Governor Campbell was the second native-born Governor of Texas; Governor Hogg, his close friend and colleague, was the first.
The Northcutt House
Recorded Texas Historical Landmark (1982)
National Register of Historic Places
Location: 323 South Fredonia Street

Located within Longview’s South Main Historic District, this fine Victorian home was once surrounded by many fine homes. Built in 1902 by the Rev. W. B. Allen, minister of First Presbyterian Church, for Dr. William Davis Northcutt I and his family, this was the second home occupied by the family in Longview. Their first home, located at 309 S. Fredonia Street, was completed upon the marriage of Dr. Northcutt to his bride Eda Mauthe in 1886. They soon outgrew this house with the birth of seven children, 5 daughters and 2 sons.

The house, constructed of heart pine lumber milled in Tyler, illustrates many of the characteristics of the Queen Anne style of architecture. The exterior of the house exhibits a turret crowned by a conical dome and numerous gable roofs. The interior spaces are divided into six rooms upstairs and six rooms downstairs, with a large central bathroom – the first of its kind in Longview. The interior staircase is constructed of East Texas Curly Pine which is now extinct. The numerous mantles were hand carved and shipped from Virginia.

Dr. Northcutt moved to Longview at the age of 9 from Ackworth, Georgia along with his parents, William George and Julia Northcutt. He attended McClelland’s Boarding School and entered Texas A&M in 1876. He received his medical degree from Louisville School of Medicine in Louisville, Kentucky. He served as Mayor of Longview for 4 terms, he was elected to the school board, county and city health officer, and served as chief of the volunteer fire department.

Dr. Northcutt was also appointed local surgeon for the Santa Fe, Texas and Pacific, and the International and Great Northern Railroads. He was a member of the Texas Medical Association and the American Medical Society, Masonic Lodge, Woodsmen of the World, Rotary Club, Knights of Pythias, and I.O.O.F. Dr. Northcutt was also a member of the First Baptist Church. Dr. Northcutt’s death in 1931 was mourned by the entire community of Longview. His youngest child, Mrs. Arthur (Jessie) Brown, Sr., lived in the Northcutt House with her family until her death in 1976.
Trinity Episcopal Church
Applied for Subject Marker (2020)
Location: 906 Padon Street

The church’s original location was on Center Street, across from the County Court House, on a lot donated by T&P Railroad Company within the 100 Acres of Heritage purchased from Ossamus Hitch Methvin, Sr.

With the discovery of oil at Lathrop’s farm in 1931, Longview’s population exploded necessitating a larger sanctuary and educational opportunities. Church leadership purchased vacant land on Sixth Street adjacent to First Christian Church and St. Anthony’s Catholic Church and School, and sold the original location to Southwestern Bell Telephone Company.

This painting highlights the distinctive characteristics of Anglican and Episcopal sanctuaries world wide: the ceiling rafters are laid out to evoke a Mediterranean fishing boat similar in construction to the one utilized by Jesus during his “be fishers of men” period. The current sanctuary is the second to occupy this spot. The vestry retained B.W. Crain, AIA of Houston-based Wilson, Morris, and Crain to provide the design.

Kelly Dillard,
Trinity Episcopal Church
Mixed media, 18 X 24 inches
First Baptist Church
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (1989)
Location: 200 Block of South Fredonia

This congregation has been in continuous existence since 1871, when fifteen people led by the Rev. D. S. Snodgrass gathered together to form a new church. In 1874, the Texas and Pacific Railway Company deeded two town lots to the Baptist church at the corner of Fredonia and South Streets. The first sanctuary, a small frame building, was erected later that year. A red brick sanctuary, which replaced the original frame structure in 1901, was in turn replaced by a larger building in 1914. In addition to serving its own members, the First Baptist Church has been instrumental in establishing new congregations in the community, including Northside Baptist Church, Valley View Baptist Church, Mobberly Avenue Baptist Church, and Oakland Heights Baptist Church.

First Christian Church
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (1989)
Location: 720 North 6th Street

This church was organized in 1875 by 12 charter members. The congregation met in a schoolhouse until a frame sanctuary was built later that year on land deeded to the church by the Texas & Pacific Railroad Company. James P. Holloway, a prominent area landowner, served as first pastor. A new church building, erected in 1906, was replaced with a brick sanctuary at this site in 1936. The church continues a long tradition of supporting numerous ministries by offering various worship and outreach programs and activities to the community.
First Methodist Church
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (1997)
Location: 400 North Fredonia Street

This congregation traces its history to 1845, when a one-room log meeting house was erected for a church, school, and town hall. The church was served by circuit-riding ministers until 1850. The congregation moved to Earpville on the Stagecoach Road in 1860, and moved their church building to Longview in 1874 to land granted by the Texas and Pacific Railroad Company following the arrival of the railroad. The church has grown steadily over the years and has erected several new buildings to serve its members and expanding programs. The church continues to serve the area as it has for more than 150 years.

Melissa Charles,
First United Methodist in Spring
Watercolor, 16 X 24 inches

Rome Smith,
American Gold Finch at First Methodist Church
Watercolor, 16 X 20 inches
First Methodist Church
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (1997)
Location: 400 North Fredonia Street

Ron Bigony,
First United Methodist Church
Watercolor, 16 X 20 inches

Frank Herbert,
First United Methodist Church
Oil on Canvas, 16 X 20 inches

Ron Bigony,
First United Methodist Church
Watercolor, 16 X 20 inches

Theresa Glover,
Lost and Found (FUMC)
Acrylic, 16 X 20 inches
First Presbyterian Church
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (1994)
Location: 301 North Center Street

This church was established by nine resident members of the Old School Southern Presbyterian Church as a mission in the new town of Longview in 1872. The first church building was erected on land donated by the Texas and Pacific Railroad in 1874. The Rev. James H. Wiggins was installed as the first full-time pastor. The congregation helped establish two mission churches in the area by 1894. A new church building was constructed in 1900 and a third at this site in 1940. The congregation continues to sponsor outreach and missionary programs in Longview and in other parts of the world.

Suzanne Stadden Brown Tuma,
All Tucked In.
Pen and acrylic paint, 16 X 20 inches

Emma Kay Staggs,
First Presbyterian Bell Tower
Oil on canvas, 16 X 20 inches
First Presbyterian Church
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (1994)
Location: 301 North Center Street

Mileah Hall,
Provision of Love First Presbyterian Church
Oil on Canvas, 16 X 20 inches

Melissa Charles,
Tulip Tree in Spring at First Presbyterian Church
Watercolor, 16 X 24 inches

Melissa Charles,
First Presbyterian Church in Spring
Watercolor, 16 X 24 inches

Lissa Dowden,
First Presbyterian Church
Oil on canvas, 16 X 20 inches
Harmon General Hospital Chapel  
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (1997)  
Location: East end of LeTourneau University, 2100 South Mobberly Avenue

Authorized by the U. S. Army in 1942 and named for Colonel Daniel Warrick Harmon, Harmon General Hospital was in operation from November 1942 to December 1945. This ecumenical chapel opened in January 1943. Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish clergy served here. The hospital property was acquired by the LeTourneau Foundation in 1946 for use as a college. Despite several years as a storage facility, the chapel retained enough of its original fabric for renovation in the late 1950s and again in 1983 when it was formally named Speer Chapel.

The structure remains a well-preserved vernacular chapel. Its notable features include a front-facing gabled roof, center projecting entrance with the roof below a central steeple, and wood sash windows.
Harmon General Hospital Chapel
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (1997)
Location: East end of LeTourneau University, 2100 South Mobberly Avenue

Lillian Alford,
Simplicity
Sketch with acrylic, 16 X 20 inches

Lillian Alford,
The Heavens
Sketch with acrylic, 11 X 14 inches

Age 10- Lillian painted this piece just as her ‘Nana’, Debra Alford, did in 1964.

Budd Dunn,
Speer Chapel
Watercolor and acrylic, 18 X 24 inches

Wayne Bethard,
Harmon Chapel
Watercolor, 16 X 20 inches
L.J. Everett Building
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (1997)
Location: 214-216 Fredonia Street

Constructed in 1910 by Lafayette J. Everett, a local businessman who resided in Gladewater, from a design by architect Samuel Joseph Blocker, the former Citizens National Bank building is the only surviving example of Classical Greek Revival commercial architecture in the city. The two-story with raised basement is constructed of brick load-bearing walls and detailed with wood and stone ornamentation. Fronting fifty feet on Fredonia and one hundred feet on Bank Alley, the major focal emphasis at the south corner with a rounded bay and recessed main entrance at the first level. A secondary commercial space fronts on the Fredonia side with a display area and stair entrance to the second story.

Blocker was a regionally-prominent architect and educator. In addition to the Everett Building, he designed numerous commercial, residential, and school buildings in Longview and East Texas. Blocker served as superintendent for the Longview and Dallas School systems, taught in Dallas, and during his forty years involved in education, wrote technical textbooks. He is also distinguished as one of the earliest members of the State Architectural Association.

In 1979, Mrs. Ann Lacy Crain purchased the building and donated it for the creation of an historical museum. Owned since this purchase by the Gregg County Historical Foundation, the structure is operated as the Gregg County Historical Museum.

Ron Bigony, Historical Museum
Watercolor, 16 X 20 inches

Diego Baracaldo, Gregg County Historical Museum
Ballpoint pen on paper, 16 X 20 inches

Wayne Bethard, Fredonia Street
Oil on Canvas, 30 X 48 inches
Although Longview’s main post office is not a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, the building is significant for the architect and it is home to a massive mural commissioned through the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The building itself was constructed with support from the Treasury Department during the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration. Architect Louis A. Simon and engineer Neal Melick oversaw the construction, and the building opened in 1939.

The oil on canvas mural titled “Rural East Texas,” painted by Thomas M. Stell, Jr. in 1942 hangs in the post office lobby. The mural celebrates the history of farming in East Texas and demonstrates how mechanization changed the agricultural industry.

Born in Cuero, Texas, in 1898, Thomas M. Stell Jr. displayed artistic talent at a young age. He trained as a draftsmen in Dallas, New York, and Chicago before attending the Rice Institute. In 1923, he moved to New York to study at the Arts Students League, training under the muralist Augustus Vincent Tack. In 1928, Stell returned to Dallas to teach at the Dallas Art Institute. He then joined “The Dallas Nine,” a group of painters, printmakers, and sculptors living and teaching in Dallas in the 1930s.

As an artist and teacher, Stell mirrored the works of early Italian and Flemish painters, becoming a master portraitist who strove to connect his work with the viewing public. Stell’s work includes “Portrait of Janet Kendall” (1934), “Portrait of Dale Heard” (1935), and “Portrait of Wanda Ford” (1943).

The Works Progress Administration hired Stell to be the state director of the American Index of Design in 1938. Four years later, he moved to San Antonio to teach at Trinity University. During this period, he painted the Longview Post Office mural. Later, in 1945, he moved to Austin to teach and study drawing at the University of Texas, Austin, where he also entered graduate school. Thomas M. Stell Jr. returned to Dallas in the 1950s, where he remained an artist and teacher until his death in 1981.
Longview Community Center  
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (1994)  
Location: 500 East Whaley Street

Longview’s Federation of Women’s Clubs began raising funds for a community center soon after they organized in 1934. The Federation produced matching funds for an appropriation by the Gregg County Commissioners’ Court to build this structure in 1940. It houses an auditorium, foyer, kitchen, two dining rooms, and a drawing room. It is an excellent example of the Moderne style and features vertically banded windows with circular accents and a simplified cornice and entablature. The site of numerous activities, the center continues to provide space for important community functions.

Natasha Raibon,  
Go Far, Go Together  
Acrylic, 36 X 24 inches
Gregg County was formed in 1873 and Longview was chosen as the county seat. The first temporary courthouse was a small building at the corner of Fredonia and Tyler Streets. It soon proved inadequate, and another temporary courthouse was set up on the second floor of the two-story W. G. Northcutt Hardware Store. The only brick building in town, the Northcutt Store was also the only structure to survive a devastating downtown fire in 1877.

In 1874, the county built a jail and levied a special tax to finance construction of a permanent courthouse. Designed by F. E. Ruffini and completed in 1879, the French Second Empire style building featured a mansard roof and a central clock tower. Structural problems were soon evident, however, and by 1896 the building was condemned and demolished.

A new red brick Romanesque Revival courthouse, designed by Fort Worth architect Marshall R. Sanguinet, was completed on the square in 1897. The East Texas Oil Boom of the 1930s resulted in overwhelming business at the courthouse, and by 1932 the county had replaced the red brick courthouse with a modern Art Deco building. Enlarged over the years with several additions, it continues to serve the county today.
Tracy Flanagan Residence
Location: Charlotte Drive

The Tracy Flanagan Family Home is part of a National Register Historic District neighborhood bounded by Sixth Street, West Marshall Avenue/Hwy 80, Teague Street and Padon Street. The district called Nugget Hill encompasses some of the best oil boom era mansions constructed in the mid-late 1930’s. The Flanagan family settled along the Sabine River ca1845. Records indicate the grandfather of Tracy granted a ROW across his farm for the construction of a ferry crossing across the river. The former home of the oilman and his wife Arlene was one of the first to be constructed in the Nugget Hill neighborhood created by Builder J. C. Turner, Sr., on Turner’s former horse farm.

The Spanish Colonial Revival mansion is characterized by the use of authentic red tile roofing, stucco, carved window lintels, wrought-iron gates and railings inside and out, leaded-glass windows, stained glass, and many other construction details. The basement, designed as a men’s card room, supposedly hosted late night poker games of the rich and famous, including Clark Gable. Mrs. Flanagan, whose name blessed downtown Longview’s Arlene Theatre, had her footprints embedded in the theater’s sidewalk for decades. Many Longview residents remember her driving the streets of Longview in her yellow Rolls Royce automobile, quite a site in East Texas.

The residence, its contents, and the Flanagan family’s farm on the Sabine River were gifted to Trinity Episcopal Church upon their deaths. The current owners have spent the past 10 years painstakingly restoring the home to its former beauty.

Rick Malloy,
Flanagan Home - Nugget Hill
Watercolor, 16 X 22 inches
Johnny Cace’s Seafood & Steak House  
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (2009)  
Location: 1501 East Marshall Avenue

This East Texas landmark, established by John “Johnny” Cace, Jr. has served the area since 1949. Johnny was the son of a Yugoslav immigrant who grew up on the island village of Prvic Luka and spent his childhood fishing and boating in the Adriatic Sea. Johnny and his family moved to Longview in 1949 and opened Johnny Cace’s Seafood and Steakhouse. They lived above the restaurant which became known for quality seafood, fresh shucked oysters, and Creole recipes. The original location was expanded threentimes before a New Orleans style building was erected in 1964.

Longview News Journal - Carl L. Estes  
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (1967)  
Location: Foyer of the Longview News Building, 314 East Melvin Street

One of America’s giants of journalism. Newsboy, reporter, advertising manager, foreign correspondent, editor-publisher. Born in New Market, Tennessee; came to Texas in youth and worked during his school days part-time at the Commerce Journal. During the First World War, he served in the cavalry; he returned home to become one of the organizers of the first American Legion post in Texas at Commerce in 1919. During WW II, he was a Navy Commander, serving in the Pacific, and married WAVE Margaret McCowan. He was the publisher of the morning, evening, and Sunday editions of the Journal until his death.
In 2011, Longview’s City Counsil created Longview Historic Preservation Commission, a volunteer board responsible for the protection and enhancement of landmarks and districts which represent distinctive elements of Longview’s historic, architectural, and cultural heritage. The Commission consists of seven positions appointed by City Council which shall, among other duties, adopt criteria for and manage the designation of local historic landmarks and historic overlay districts within the City of Longview.

The Petroleum Building
City of Longview Historic Landmark (2018)
Location: 202 East Whaley Street

The Petroleum Building is a five-story building, originally constructed as the DownTown Auto Park parking garage in 1953. This structure was sold to Earl Hollandsworth and Lee Travis on October 20, 1954 for a cost of around $1,250,000. Earl Hollandsworth and Lee Travis were two influential East Texas businessmen who developed their drilling company, Hollandsworth Drilling Company, into one of the largest such companies in the Southwest region. Their operations extended into Colorado, Utah, Indiana, Oklahoma, and Louisiana. By 1954, Hollandsworth and Travis operated under the name of Earlee Industries. They purchased the DownTown Auto Park, the precursor to the Petroleum Building.

By 1956, this building was converted into an office building. At the time, the building housed a coffee shop and jewelry store on the ground floor. Offices were installed on the upper floors and included tenants such as accountants, drilling companies, oil operators, and other oil-related businesses, attorneys, and insurance agencies. This building was occupied into the 1970's.

The Petroleum Building is a noted Modern Movement architectural product of the Texas architectural firm Wilson, Morris, Crain & Anderson. A notable partner in the firm was local architect B. W. Crain, who designed many commercial, residential, school and church buildings in Longview. This firm was established following World War II. The firm designed and constructed numerous housing developments as post-war economic demand surged. Through the late 1940s and early 1950s, the firm graduated from residential endeavors to commercial designs. Notable works include buildings at the University of Texas and at Rice University, the corporate headquarters of Southwestern Bell, Houston Power and Light, and Texaco, the Houston Post (later Houston Chronicle) building, and the Downtown Houston Post Office, among others. The firm’s most-known contribution was the design and construction of the Houston Astrodome (National Register of Historic Places, 2014). Other local examples include the Longview National Bank (1959) and a plant and offices for Udell, Inc. (1960).
The Modern Movement in architectural design captures the prevailing thought and advances in technology from 1920 through 1970. As a discipline, the architecture remained rooted in the fundamental concerns of the interrelation of light, space, and texture; however, practitioners adopted pragmatic approaches as far as designs were concerned. The movement’s buildings are characterized by straightforward expression, a newfound awareness of the environment, structural honesty, and functional integrity. Features of this type of design include the incorporation of mass-produced and prefabricated elements, especially when it was to include designs surrounding the ever-expanding use of personal automobiles.

At present, a residential development firm based in Austin has acquired the tower, conducted renovations, and re-opened it under the name of Alton Towers in mid-March 2020.

Emma Kay Staggs
Petroleum Building
Oil on canvas, 18 X 24 inches

Diedra Long Camp,
Petroleum Club @ Alton Plaza
Watercolor, 18 X 24 inches
WHAT PROTECTS HISTORIC BUILDING AND HISTORIC SITES?

In 1966, Congress enacted the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) to protect the existence and continuance of historic buildings and historic sites for the public benefit and heritage. Was there something that began a national ‘push’ to create Federal laws to protect America’s history? Well, in fact, there were two (2) nationally publicized demolitions which triggered an outcry among history and architecture lovers across the country.

The first was the demolition of New York City’s Penn Train Station. Considered by many architectural historians to be one of the most beautiful commercial buildings ever constructed in America. The second was a lawsuit filed by historians and the American public to prevent the destruction of part of America’s history - an important battlefield 45 miles west of Washington, D.C. for the development of suburban shopping mall.

According to Congressionally authorized studies performed by the National Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program, almost 60% of the 243 significant battles of the Revolution and War of 1812 retain no “significant and lands from the period of battle.” More than 20% of important Civil War battles are similarly destroyed forever, covered by roads, housing developments and other modern development. Our nation loses approximately one acre of hallowed ground every hour.

The fight to stop the Penn Station demolition reached to the highest echelons of American society. Publicity shy former First Lady Jackie Kennedy Onassis was on of many public figures who testified in a barrage of public hearings before the New York City Council and the U.S Congress. This public outrage did not stop the Station’s demolition, but it, and the lawsuit, did pave the way for the creation of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The NHPA directs all states to administer federal preservation laws and policies. The Texas Historical Commission serves as the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) as required by the 1966 NHPA. These policies and programs serve as the foundation for all the states’ preservation offices and create a unified national historic preservation effort.

As one of the most visible programs of the Texas Historical Commission (THC), historical markers commemorate diverse topics in Texas history, including: the history and architecture of houses, commercial and public buildings, religious congregations, and military sites; events that changed the course of local and state history; and individuals who have made lasting contributions to our state, community organizations, and businesses.

Historical markers can be found in all 254 Texas counties. Age, significance, and architectural requirements govern the eligibility of topics and sites when applying for either a subject marker, historic Texas cemetery marker, or a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL).

More than 16,000 markers now have been placed across the state, including more than 3,800 (RTHL) markers. RTHL are properties judged to be historically and architecturally significant. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) awards RTHL designation to buildings at least 50 years old that are worthy of preservation for their architectural and historical associations.

Photo credit: Penn Train Station, 1924