

FOCUS ON ...

3-2-09 *Star-telegram*

A call to arms for the confluence

On Feb. 13, *Star-Telegram* writer Sandra Baker wrote that Heritage Plaza, a once-acclaimed jewel on the Trinity River bluff in downtown Fort Worth, has been named one of Texas' Most Endangered Historic Places.

The plaza, designed by Lawrence Halprin, a master of landscape architecture, was built to commemorate the nation's Bicentennial in 1976. It is near the site of the city's original settlement on the bluffs overlooking the Trinity River below.

Sadly, it has been allowed to deteriorate and is closed because of safety issues.

From the lanai of Heritage Park, one can stand and behold the magnificence of two great rivers flowing afar from different regions, plighting their troth at Fort Worth.

This picture-book confluence of the Clear and West forks ought to be No. 1 on the list of Most Endangered Historic Places, for it is slated to be covered by a 33-acre town lake.

Should the town lake and Trinity River Vision become reality, will they in 35 years share the same fate as Heritage Plaza?

Bitterer tears will flow over the loss of the confluence as viewed from Heritage Plaza than ever were shed over the multimillion-dollar vandalism with which Tarrant County College, while taxpayers stood mute, pillaged the bluffs at the very door of the courthouse, for it will be the complete and irretrievable loss of our fabled and treasured 1849 Ripley Arnold landmark heritage.

Residents of Fort Worth! To arms! Preserve, protect and defend the confluence!

— Don Woodard Sr.,
Fort Worth