



TEXAS
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The State Agency for Historic Preservation

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December 8, 2008

Daniel G. Carey, Director
National Trust for Historic Preservation, Southwest Office
500 Main Street, Suite 1030
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

RE: Heritage Park Plaza, Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Dear Mr. Carey:

Thank you for your interest in nominating Heritage Park Plaza in Fort Worth, Texas, to the National Register of Historic Places. The park is individually **eligible** under Criterion C, in the area of Landscape Architecture, at the national level of significance, as an outstanding example of a modernist urban water garden designed by internationally-acclaimed landscape architect Lawrence Halprin. The park also meets Criterion Consideration G as a property that has achieved significance in the last 50 years because it is widely recognized as a work of exceptional significance in modernist landscape design.

In the late 1960s the Fort Worth Streams and Valleys Committee, together with the philanthropic Amon G. Carter Foundation and Sid Richardson Foundation, Charles D. Tandy, and Ruth Carter Johnson, commissioned Lawrence Halprin and Associates to design a public park that would commemorate the establishment of the original military post of Fort Worth in 1849 as well as the upcoming United States Bicentennial celebration in 1976. Constructed between 1977 and 1980 near the location of the historic fort, high upon the bluffs that overlook the confluence of the West and Clear Forks of the Trinity River, Heritage Park Plaza masterfully incorporates concrete surfaces with water features and elegant, geometric arrangements of trees to create an intimate series of outdoor rooms intended for quiet reflection and relaxation. Today Heritage Park Plaza retains a high degree of its physical integrity despite deferred maintenance and its recent closure to the public. Other Halprin landscapes around the United States recently have been threatened with demolition or have been lost, making Heritage Park Plaza an even more precious cultural resource at the national level.

All National Register nominations are reviewed by the State Board of Review, which meets three times each year. To aid in meeting the final draft deadline for any given SBR meeting, it is recommended that first draft nomination forms be submitted to me for a courtesy review as soon as it is ready. You may submit your first draft in rough form; if you do, expect that it will receive more general comments than it would were it closer to the final draft stage. In some cases it may take 2 or more drafts to reach the final draft version. I encourage you to closely follow the format in the publication *Guidelines for Listing Your Property in the National Register of Historic Places*. In order for your nomination to be placed on the agenda, we must receive a FINAL DRAFT in time to copy it and send it to the board members 30 days in advance of the board meeting. In addition, staff requires at least 2 weeks to review and comment upon each draft nomination. Those nominations which need further work of any kind will not be considered final drafts.

If you have any questions, you may contact me at 512-463-6046 or by e-mail at rachel.leibowitz@thc.state.tx.us, or Greg Smith, the National Register Coordinator, at 512/463-6013 or by email at greg.smith@thc.state.tx.us. We appreciate your efforts to preserve this extraordinary property. Thank you for your interest in the National Register and in preserving an important part of the cultural heritage of Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel Leibowitz".

Rachel Leibowitz, Ph.D.
Historian, Federal Programs, History Programs Division