

The city of Arlington, Texas is the 50th largest city in the United States, with a population of over 371,000 residents (2008). Situated between Dallas and Fort Worth, Arlington was founded in 1876 and named after General Robert E. Lee's Arlington House. The city's newest addition, the Cowboys Stadium, is expected to draw sports, music and event visitors from all over the globe; it is also the site of Super Bowl XL V in 2011.

A little known secret, even among Arlington locals, is the Historic Fielder House, home of the Arlington Historical Society. In current use as a working museum and creative historical learning center, the two-story Fielder House was the home of James Fielder, a successful businessman from Tennessee.

Built in 1914, it was one of the earliest brick homes in Arlington, with electrical lighting, central heating, a hot water system and indoor plumbing. Fielder, and his wife, Mattie Barnes Fielder, lived in the house until the 1950's.

Opened as a museum in 1980 after a group of local citizens campaigned for its preservation and restoration, it is in current use by the Arlington Historical Society to collect, preserve and interpret local and county historical materials.



Available to the public year round and of special interest to school groups, retirement centers and anyone appreciating history, the Fielder House has several permanent collections (a turn of the century barbershop, doctor's office, and train layout) as well as changing annual exhibits.



One of the more popular collections is the World War II display. During World War II, the government sent a blue star to the families of young men and women serving their country. The stars were proudly displayed in the home's windows. If a serviceman was killed, the family received a gold star. Arlington, Texas families claimed 46 of the Gold Star boys in 1944, when the city's population was just 4,000.

Eight surviving WWII veterans have recorded their experiences for posterity, reliving days they would just as soon forget, so that future generations have a first hand account of the war from men who served and returned.



The Museum's 2010 exhibit will honor the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of America (BSA), as they celebrate 100 years of Scouting in America. Recognizing that past scouting troops kept good records, Historical Society members expect a good compilation of documents and other paraphernalia for the exhibit.

A well known characteristic of the BSA organization is a scout's Eagle Project. The Eagle Scout candidate is expected to put forth significant effort to demonstrate his leadership training, choosing a service project that will benefit his community.

In the summer of 2009, the Fielder House received a new sign as the result of an Eagle Scout service project. Arlington Historical Society Director Geraldine Mills had a wish list that included a new sign for the historical property. The current sign had been in place for almost 30 years. Its original manufacturer, Federal Sign, now Federal Heath Sign, continued to operate as a local Dallas/Fort Worth business. The company answered a Boy Scout inquiry and agreed to manufacture and donate a new sign to the Fielder House. Federal Heath worked with Ms. Mills and the Historical Society on a contemporary design and the new sign was installed on August 27, 2009.

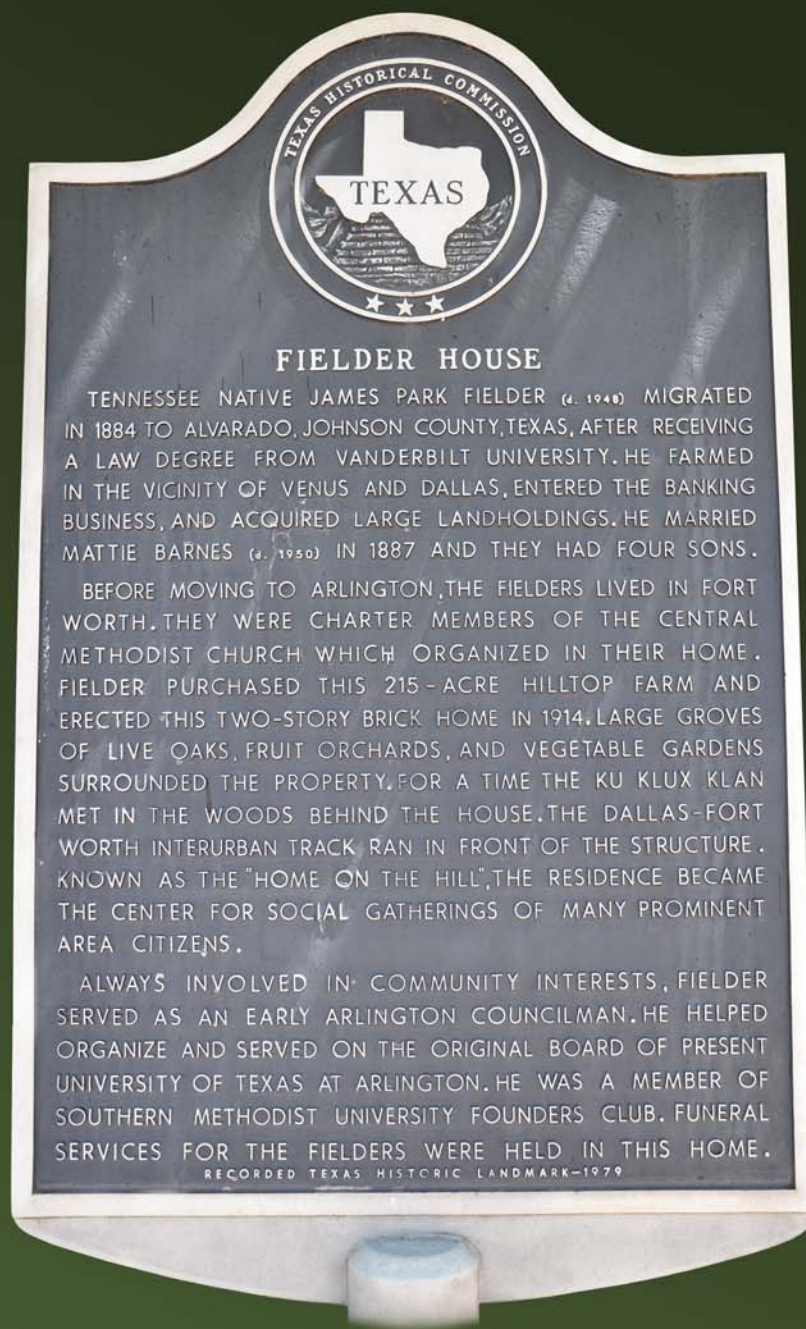


Anita Garmon, La Vine Horton, Martha Martin, Mayor Pro Tem Lana Wolff, Geraldine Mills, Matthew Schmitt



The new 15 ft. sign (shown on the front cover) now proudly stands at the intersections of Fielder and Abram streets in Arlington, alerting all who pass by to the Fielder House location; in the words of the Arlington Historical Society, Where the past becomes a present to the future.





For more information on the Arlington Historical Society and the Historic Fielder House and Museum, please visit:
<http://www.arlingtonhistoricalsociety.org>

For more information on the Boy Scouts of America, please visit:
<http://www.scouting.org>

For more information on Federal Heath Sign Company, please visit:
www.federalheath.com

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