

## OLD TIGE FIRE STATION

### HISTORY:

From 1907 to May 2, 1975, Old Tige Fire Station has valliantly served the City of Dallas as an emergency facility. Today, it is the oldest remaining fire station in the city and is still active during two weeks of the State Fair and Cotton Bowl weekend. In its early years of service, the surrounding area of South Dallas was a hub of city life and Hook and Ladder Company #5 (who occupied Old Tige) were a well known and respected fire fighting team. Today, Old Tige is still a landmark at its location on the corner of Second and Parry Avenues - the doorway to downtown from Fair Park.

Thus Old Tige is a significant legacy from the early years of Dallas' development. This building was the central fire station for the growing city. As a result, the Fire Fighter's Museum Inc. has assumed control of the building, dedicating it as a memorial to the firemen who have lost their lives protecting the property of Dallas citizens. They maintain Old Tige as an educational museum which preserves the environment of early fire stations and which serves as a repository for artifacts demonstrating the evolution of fire fighting technology.

### ARCHITECTURE:

Old Tige is typical of many public structures built during the turn of the century era. That is it is a very basic, unelaborated expression of architectural influences prevalent during the period. The usual exceptions to this rule are city halls or court houses which are actually public monuments. Southern Supply Warehouse and Turtle Creek Pump Station are examples of the public building circumstance, in that the use of arches is identifiably romanesque but not as embellished as similar romanesque arches on the Old Courthouse. Thus the buildings are identifiably of the period but for reasons of cost are very pragmatic, almost severe in their execution.

Old Tige was designed in this way and with the exception of the parapet emblem, embodies fundamental qualities common to many buildings of the period. The homes on South Blvd., J.H. Brown school, and other buildings share architectural characteristics with Old Tige - such as window treatment, horizontal lines in the facade, etc.

The most embellished aspect of the structure is the area from the under cornice, up. Here, more elaborate Beaux Arts influences can be identified, such as the cornice moulding and cornice supports.

#### PRESERVATION CRITERIA:

1. Symmetry of the facade design - The horizontal and vertical balance of opening placement, ornamentation, and facade relief should be maintained in the existing structure and any additions to it.
2. Horizontal expression - The use of elongated 'pilaster capitals', continuous cornice edges, cast stone 'bearing blocks', lentils, and continuous cast stone capping; creates a series of horizontal lines across the facade. This continuity of horizontal lines should be preserved and perpetuated in the existing building or any additions to it.
3. Openings - The grouping of windows in twos or threes, creates large opening forms which are visually subdivided by smaller lines. The grouping of smaller windows to create multi-sectioned larger openings should be preserved. Also the symmetrical distribution of window grouping should be preserved as suggested in criteria number 1.
4. Window and door - The use of multi-paned glazing in windows and doors should be preserved in the existing structure or any additions to it.
5. Detail - The present use of frequent facade reliefs in the form of pilaster capitals, bearing blocks, lentils, or ornamentation; creates a quality of relief that should be preserved in the existing building or any additions to it.
6. Parapet - The present parapet with its cast stone emblem is a singularly strong feature of considerable identity. The parapet should be preserved and unaltered.
7. Materials - Brick and cast stone.

In view of Old Tige's historic and architectural merit, The Historic Landmark Preservation Committee finds this structure to be meritorious of historic designation as a Dallas Landmark.

In consideration of the structure's architectural qualities, The Historic Landmark Preservation Committee also finds the above preservation criteria appropriate for inclusion in an ordinance of designation.

A motion recommending the designation of Old Tige and endorsing the preservation criteria was unanimously passed by The Historic Landmark Preservation Committee on January 6, 1976.

  
Chairperson: Historic Landmark Preservation Committee