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PRESERVATION TEXAS NAMES THE STATLER HILTON HOTEL IN DALLAS
A SAVED SITE ON ITS TENTH ANNIVERSARY RETROSPECTIVE LIST OF
TEXAS’ MOST ENDANGERED HISTORIC PLACES

AUSTIN, TEXAS...The Statler Hilton Hotel in Dallas is one of 12 sites that Preservation Texas,
Inc. has named to its tenth anniversary retrospective list of Texas’ Most Endangered Historic
Places.

Originally named to the 2008 list of Texas’ Most Endangered Historic Places, it is designated as a
saved site on the 2013 list. Preservation Texas officials announced the selections on the steps of
the Texas State Capitol on Preservation Day, February 20. The annual announcement is part of
Preservation Day activities organized by Preservation Texas. Advocates from all over the state
come to participate in informational sessions, meet with legislators at the Capitol, and get an in
depth look at lessons to be learned from the sites named to the list.

“The 2013 list provides a retrospective for us,” said Charlene Orr, president of Preservation
Texas, Inc., a statewide partner of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. “We decided to
focus on lessons learned during the last 10 years by highlighting success stories as well as
losses and threatened sites that continue to need urgent attention.” The 2013 list includes six
saved sites, three threatened sites and three lost sites.

“Our six saved sites reflect the importance of collaboration between committed grassroots
leadership and elected officials and city officials who realize the importance of historic
preservation,” she continued. “It’s this powerful combination of resources that can make the
difference in preserving a site or losing it.”

“Inclusion of lost sites is important because it illustrates some of the very real obstacles
communities face in their efforts to preserve the historic resources of Texas,” said Orr. “And by
including threatened sites, we hope to generate additional support that will take them to the next
level in their preservation process.”
Completed in 1956 at a cost of $16 million, the Statler Hilton Hotel stands 19 stories high and included 1,000 guest rooms and a ballroom that could accommodate 2,200 standing. The architect, William Tabler of New York, designed a Y-shaped building that employed a flat-slab structural system, the first full application of its kind. The hotel's sheer size, bold form and exuberate blue panels made it an icon of mid-century Modern design.

When the building received its Texas’ Most Endangered Historic Places designation, it was vacant, underutilized and unappreciated. The main factor in saving the building was a loud outcry from the preservation community. Preservation Dallas worked to educate the public, city council, and staff about the importance of the building to Dallas’s architectural history, and why it needed to be saved. That effort was bolstered by endangered designations by Preservation Texas and the National Trust for Historic Preservation who helped call state and national attention to the building and its importance as an outstanding example of mid-century Modern design. The publicity and advocacy effort attracted outside developers, as well as local prospects, to give the building a second look.

The Statler Hilton is now owned by a private developer who has cleaned out the building, removed hazards, and repaired the façade. He also has created a model residential unit to show how the building could be converted to residential use.

Saving the Statler Hilton is significant for the preservation community because it shows cities that it is possible to preserve and re-purpose large, post-World War II complexes successfully. It was also important for Dallas because it preserved what is believed to be the downtown’s best block of mid-century modern architecture.

Named to the Preservation Texas tenth anniversary retrospective list of Texas’ Most Endangered Historic Places were:

**SAVED SITES**

- **John S. Harrison House, 1852**  
  14997 Evans Rd. Selma, Bexar County  
  2006 Most Endangered List

- **Grota Homestead Neighborhood, 1890s**  
  Houston, Harris County  
  2006 Most Endangered List

- **Statler Hilton Hotel, 1956**  
  1914 Commerce Street, Dallas, Dallas County  
  2008 Most Endangered List

- **Albert Fall Mansion, 1907**  
  1725 Arizona Avenue, El Paso, El Paso County  
  2004 Most Endangered List

- **Texas Capitol View Corridors**  
  Austin, Travis County  
  2007 Most Endangered List

- **Texas State Railroad, 1896**  
  Palestine and Rusk  
  Rusk, Anderson and Cherokee Counties  
  2007 Most Endangered List

**LOST SITES**

- **Corpus Christi Memorial Coliseum, 1954**  
  402 South Shoreline Boulevard, Corpus Christi, Nueces County  
  2004 Most Endangered List

- **Sanderson Railroad Depot, 1883**
Sanderson, Terrell County  
2005 Most Endangered List  
**Port of El Copano, 1722**  
Near Bayside, Refugio County  
2008 Most Endangered List  

**THREATENED**  
**Bob’s Oil Well, c. 1930**  
Junction of Highway 70 and State Highway 70, Matador, Motley County  
2004 Most Endangered List  
**Kaufman County Poor Farm**  
Texas Highway 34 and FM 1388, Kaufman, Kaufman County  
2012 Most Endangered List  
**Duval County Courthouse, 1916**  
400 E. Gravis Ave., San Diego, Duval County  
2011 Most Endangered List  

Sites receiving the *Texas’ Most Endangered Places* designation receive consultation in such areas as technical assistance to identify preservation needs and set priorities, fund raising expertise, and advocacy assistance by fostering partnerships and building community support. Preservation Texas also helps to raise awareness with social media.

Preservation Texas, Inc. is a statewide nonprofit organization that advocates for preserving the historic resources in Texas. Preservation Texas named its first list of endangered historic sites in 2004. Preservation Texas’ Most Endangered Historic Places program is funded by generous grants from the Burdine Johnson Foundation, Texas Historical Commission, and the Partners in the Field Challenge grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and our sponsors.

For more information on *Texas’ Most Endangered Historic Places*, visit our Web site at [www.preservationtexas.org](http://www.preservationtexas.org), or phone Preservation Texas, Inc. at 512-472-0102.

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