

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Temple to the Brave
Other name/site number: 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue
Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: 1365 Pennsylvania Avenue
City or town: Beaumont State: Texas County: Jefferson
Not for publication: [] Vicinity: []

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this
[] nomination [] request for determination of eligibility) meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my
opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet) the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:
[] national [] statewide [] local

Applicable National Register Criteria: [] A [] B [] C [] D

[Signature] Chief Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Signature of certifying official / Title
Date 11/25/25
Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting or other official Date
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
[] entered in the National Register
[] determined eligible for the National Register
[] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[] removed from the National Register
[] other, explain: _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

<input type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Federal

Category of Property

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	2	objects
1	2	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: RECREATION AND CULTURE: Commemorative Monument

Current Functions: RECREATION AND CULTURE: Commemorative Monument

7. Description

Architectural Classification: LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Late Gothic Revival

Principal Exterior Materials: BRICK, STONE, WOOD, GLASS

Narrative Description (see continuation sheets 6-12)

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations: F (Commemorative Properties)

Areas of Significance: Social History, Architecture (*local*)

Period of Significance: 1931-1975

Significant Dates: 1931-1932

Significant Person (only if criterion b is marked): NA

Cultural Affiliation (only if criterion d is marked): NA

Architect/Builder: Livesay, Wallace B. and Wiedemann, Newell Everett (architects); McIntosh, Roger D. (glass artisan)

Narrative Statement of Significance (see continuation sheets 13-33)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (see continuation sheet 34-37)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested. Part 1 approved on (date)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission, Austin*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): *Historic Resources Survey Update, Downtown Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas, 2018, Project # 00029.*

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less than one acre (0.939 acres)

Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: NA

1. Latitude: 30.074108°N Longitude: -94.092132°W

Verbal Boundary Description: PL S TR 12 N TEVIS, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas (Property ID: 424508) as recorded in the Jefferson Central Appraisal District. Data accessed September 27, 2023 (Map 3).

Boundary Justification: The boundary follows the legal parcel and includes the Temple and other objects added to the property.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Kate Hambright, Marker Chair
Organization: Jefferson County Historical Commission
Street & number: 1149 Pearl Street, 3rd Floor
City or Town: Beaumont State: Texas Zip Code: 77706
Email: katherinehambright@hotmail.com
Telephone: (409) 656-1408
Date: July 24, 2023

Additional Documentation

Maps (see continuation sheets 38-40)

Additional items (see continuation sheets 41-62)

Photographs (see continuation sheets 5, 63-82)

Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Photograph Log

Property: Temple to the Brave
City or Vicinity: Beaumont
County: Jefferson
State: Texas
Photographers: Chad Myzell, Steven P. Lewis, and Kate Hambright
Date: March 8, 2023 - July 3, 2023, August 10, 2024, June 30, 2025, July 22, 2025

All photographs accurately depict property conditions. No changes nor significant deterioration has occurred since the photos were taken in March and July 2023, August 2024, June and July 2025.

- Photo 1: Primary (southeast) elevation, looking northwest, June 30, 2025.
Photo 2: Rear (northwest) and southwest elevations, looking southeast, June 30, 2025.
Photo 3: Title of memorial etched over front door, June 30, 2025.
Photo 4: Detail of three-stepped low relief buttresses on southwest elevation, June 30, 2025.
Photo 5: Southwest and primary (southeast) elevations, looking northeast, June 30, 2025.
Photo 6: Primary (southeast) and northeast elevations, looking northwest, June 30, 2025.
Photo 7: Rear (northwest) elevation, looking south, June 30, 2025.
Photo 8: North corner of Pipkin Patriots Park, looking north, August 10, 2024.
Photo 9: Interior, looking northwest, July 22, 2025.
Photo 10: Interior, looking southeast, July 22, 2025.
Photo 11: Pointed arch stained art glass window, 2023.
Photo 12: Rose stained art glass window, 2023.
Photo 13: Texas under six flags stained art glass window: La Salle in Matagorda Bay, 1685, northeast elevation, 2023.
Photo 14: Texas under six flags stained art glass window: Alonso De Leon, 1689, northeast elevation, 2023.
Photo 15: Texas under six flags stained art glass window: Abdication of Iturbide, 1824, northeast elevation, 2023.
Photo 16: Texas under six flags stained art glass window: Santa Anna Before Sam Houston, 1836, southwest elevation, 2023.
Photo 17: Texas under six flags stained art glass window: Texas Under the Confederacy, southwest elevation, 2023.
Photo 18: Texas under six flags stained art glass window: The Progress of Civilization, 1865, southwest elevation, 2023.
Photo 19: Wainscoting detail (quatrefoil design), 2023.
Photo 20: Altar wainscoting detail, June 30, 2025.
Photo 21: Lectern (altar) and railing detail, 2023.
Photo 22: Vaulted ceiling and truss detail, 2023.
Photo 23: Truss detail, 2023.
Photo 24: Minor cracking of plaster shown near stained glass window on southwest elevation, July 22, 2025.
Photo 25: American Wars Monument added in 2020 (Resource 2, Non-Contributing Object), 2023.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Narrative Description

The Temple to the Brave, constructed 1931-1932, is a one-story Late Gothic Revival building located at 1365 Pennsylvania Avenue, in Pipkin Patriots Park, two blocks from downtown Beaumont, Texas. Designed by local architects Wallace B. Livesay and Newell Everett Wiedemann for the Colonel George Moffett Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the war memorial was dedicated to Texas military servicemen that fought in World War I, and also commemorated people and events in early Texas history. The building is characterized by rough finished Colorado green stone (granite) cladding over common brick, a high pitched gable roof, primary elevation enhanced by a Tudor arch entry and double doors, wooden tracery, pointed arch and circular rose stained art glass windows, and buttresses on the side and rear elevations. The interior features a vaulted ceiling, oak trusses, oak wainscoting, decorative plaster work, open floor plan, and terrazzo flooring. Stained art glass windows throughout the memorial were designed by artisan Roger D. McIntosh of Pittsburg Plate Glass Company. Smaller non-contributing resources on the property include the American Wars Monument (non-contributing object), and signage for Pipkin Patriots Park (non-contributing object). The property experienced minor damage during Hurricane Beryl on July 8, 2024. Despite some changes over time, including the recent storm damage, the property retains a high level of historic integrity.

Setting (Maps 1-4, Figures 1-4, 12-14)

The Temple to the Brave is located at 1365 Pennsylvania Avenue, in Pipkin Patriots Park, two blocks south of the Jefferson County Courthouse and three blocks south of the Beaumont Commercial Historic District (NRHP 1978, amended 2008).¹ American Legion Post 33, one of Texas' ten oldest posts, lies immediately to the park's north at 1320 Pennsylvania Avenue. Formerly bounded on its east by a turning basin in the Neches River, the west by a residential neighborhood and the south by small businesses, a 1971-1972 port expansion project caused the portion of the Neches River turning basin adjacent to the park grounds to be filled in. Homes to the west of the park have now been replaced by a parking lot for the Port of Beaumont. Various street improvement projects, designed to improve congested downtown traffic conditions, gradually reduced the size of Pipkin Patriots Park from 4 2/3 acres in 1919 (the park's creation) to its current size of 0.939 acres by 1964. Despite these changes to land use and setting in the park's immediate vicinity, the Temple to the Brave remains in its original location and is in excellent condition.² Crepe myrtles line the front sidewalk leading to the memorial's front doors. Large live oak trees shade the park grounds.

Resources on the property that are too small in size and scale to be added in the resource count include the Texas Historical Commission Historical Markers for Revolutionary War hero Jean Baptiste Chaison and for the Temple to the Brave and two small granite markers honoring Chaison placed by each of the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution. The Colonel George Moffett Chapter, DAR originally placed the small red granite grave marker for Jean Baptiste Chaison (August 7, 1745 – July 20, 1854) on May 30, 1944 at his gravesite in Jirou Cemetery at Gladys and Oakland Streets. A French American Revolutionary War soldier, Chaison resided in Beaumont from about 1840 until the time of death. In 1969, the stone was cast aside when the United Church of Christ began building on the site of the cemetery.³ Members of the DAR retrieved the granite marker and reinstalled it at Pipkin Park, in front of the entrance to

¹ When the nomination process began, a legal address was not provided for the property in the Jefferson Central Appraisal District but 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue was used by the City of Beaumont (owner). The legal address was updated by the Jefferson Central Appraisal District late in the nomination process. The legal address is now 1365 Pennsylvania and will be used in the documentation. 1350 Pennsylvania is listed in Section 1 under other name. The Central Appraisal District incorrectly lists Pennsylvania Street, but a thorough review of historical records including Sanborn Maps, city directories, newspaper articles, and local street signs on the ground in Beaumont reference Pennsylvania Avenue. Central Appraisal Data accessed September 27th, 2023; verified June 20, 2025. <https://esearch.jcad.org/Property/View/424508?year=2025&ownerId=439507>.

² Stephen S. Cure, *A Centennial Perspective on Texas in the Great War* (College Station, TX: Texas A & M University Press, 2024) 67.

³ "A Brief History of the Temple to the Brave," texashistoryhunter.net; *Beaumont Journal*, June 2, 1944, pg. 13.

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the Temple (Figure 15). A dedication ceremony was held on May 30, 1970.⁴ The Texas Historical Commission Historical Marker honoring Jean Baptiste Chaison was installed in Pipkin Park on October 3, 1976 in front of the entrance to the Temple (Figure 16). The second Texas Historical Marker for the Temple to the Brave was added in 2025 (Figure 21). The Paul Revere Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, placed an additional small upright grey granite marker honoring Jean Baptiste Chaison in front of the entrance to the Temple on November 11, 1995 (Figure 17; Photo 1). One picnic table was also added at an unknown date. A small rectangular granite marker base of unknown date and usage is located along the northeastern edge of the park grounds.

Two non-contributing objects are positioned at the northern end of Pipkin Patriots Park. A large granite monument dedicated in 2020 to American veterans of all wars, placed within a decorative iron fence enclosure, is located on the park grounds immediately to the north of the Temple (Figure 18, Photo 25). Signage for Pipkin Patriots Park was also added after September 2007 (Photo 8).⁵ These non-contributing resources are described later in this section.

Resource 1: Temple to the Brave (Contributing Building)

Exterior

General Characteristics (Figures 5, 10-11, 22, Photos 1-7)

The Temple to the Brave is a one story Late Gothic Revival war memorial built by Colonel George Moffett Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) between 1931-1932. Designed by Wallace B. Livesay and Newell Everett Wiedemann, the building measures approximately 18 feet and 10 inches wide and 32 feet and 10 inches deep. The building is aligned on a northwest by southeast axis, with the entrance facing southeast towards Emmett Avenue. Its northeast side is parallel with the former Sabine Pass Avenue (also known as Riverside Drive), now absorbed by the Port of Beaumont in their latest expansion project (2023). The rear elevation faces Pennsylvania Avenue. It is in the southeast corner of the park grounds.

The exterior is clad in rough finished Colorado green stone (granite) with beaded mortar joints over common brick and sits on a concrete foundation.⁶ The granite was part of the same shipment of stone used during the concurrent construction of the new Jefferson County Courthouse (1931). The structure, or frame, of the building is unknown, but it is likely wood frame. A slate roof, salvaged from the 1893 Jefferson County Courthouse, originally covered the building but was later replaced with composition shingles in 1970. The Temple has a high pitch gable roof. Glass artisan Roger D. McIntosh of Dallas designed and produced the stained art glass windows, which depict various patriotic and historical themes. Late Gothic Revival detailing is reflected in the buttresses, Tudor arch entry with double doors, and pointed arch and circular rose stained glass windows.

Primary Elevation (Figure 5, 21-22, 26, Photos 1, 3, 5-6)

The façade features a Tudor arch entry with recessed double cedar doors. An ornate wrought iron gate, a 2006 addition, shields the entrance.⁷ The top cross bar in the iron gate is designed with a Tudor arch. The double doors are framed by quoins of finished stone. A raised rectangular panel over the doors is incised with the phrase “Temple to the Brave.” A recessed upper 6’2” x 9’9” pointed arch stained art glass window with wood tracery is located above this panel and is

⁴ *Beaumont Journal*, May 28, 1970, pg. 22

⁵ An eight-foot monument base for a former statue of local Beaumont pioneer and former School Board of Trustees President George O’Brien Millard occupied the northern point of the park, but was removed in late July 2025.

⁶ Original plans by architects Wallace B. Livesay and Newell Everett Wiedemann simply called for “rubble” (rough) stone to serve as cladding for the structure. The green stone (granite) for the Temple was donated by local businessman Miles Frank Yount from his quarry located in Manitou, Colorado.

⁷ Added in 2007.

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covered with shatter resistant Lexan. The pointed arch window is also framed by quoins of rough finished stone. A rectangular metal louvre is located under the eave of the roof.

Rear Elevation (Photos 2, 7)

The rear elevation features two low-relief three-stepped buttresses. Directly above is a recessed upper 4'4" circular rose stained art glass window in wood frame covered with shatter resistant Lexan. The circular window is also framed in rough finished stone. A rectangular metal louvre is located above the rose window, under the roof's eave.

Side Elevations (Photos 2, 4-6)

Both the southwest and northeast exterior elevations feature four low-relief three-stepped buttresses and three upper recessed 2' x 3' rectangular stained art glass windows in wood frames covered with shatter resistant Lexan. Each window opening appears to be slightly beveled. The windows are discussed in greater detail later in this section.

Interior of Temple (Figures 6-9, Photos 9-24)

The DAR planned the building with a single room, open floor plan with dual purpose. The building was designed to serve as both a memorial chapel, and a museum to hold artifacts. The rear of the building is designed as an altar space. The front portion of the memorial is devoted to display cases for exhibits. Light from stained glass windows illuminates the space from all four walls. Oak wainscoting, eight and a half feet in height, covers all four walls.

The Temple has a plain terrazzo tile floor. Original architects' plans called for the phrase "Think and Thank" to be intricately spelled out in tile, while a five-pointed star worked out in mosaics would adorn the center of the floor space. Ultimately, these plans were disregarded in favor of utilizing the same terrazzo flooring that was concurrently being used in the 1931 construction of the new Jefferson County Courthouse.

Oak planks cover the vaulted ceiling and are transected with oak beams and trimmed with heavy crown moldings. Two arched oak trusses support the ceiling and are finished with beveled edges and decorative bolts. Two five arm bronze hanging Art Deco light fixtures illuminate the space.

Native carved oak paneled wainscoting trimmed with a quatrefoil design lines the interior walls (Photo 19). Plain plaster covers the remainder of the wall up to the ceiling. The recessed upper pointed arch stained art glass window with wood tracery is located above the Temple's entrance doors and is described in further detail below. Each of the two side elevations are accented by three recessed rectangular stained art glass windows in wood frames. A shallow, freestanding wooden storage closet, a later addition to the Temple, is located on the southwest wall, near the entrance. On the rear wall, a central oak panel features a strikingly unique design of pointed trefoil arches (Photo 20). An ornamental plaster panel, mimicking the panel below with more elongated pointed trefoil arches, rises just above the central wainscoting panel. Ornamental plaster tracery frames the recessed circular rose stained art glass window in its own wood frame (Photo 12). Plain plaster covers the remainder of the upper wall, to the right and left of the rose window and ornamental plaster panel. A rectangular vent is recessed into the wall under the eave, above the rose window.

The rear portion of the Temple is designated as a memorial chapel and worship space. At the rear is a 12-foot oak rail and lectern, or altar (Photos 9, 20-21). Attached to the railing on both ends is an oak post with an inset pointed arch design. The finished railing, connected to both sides of the altar, has flat balustrades, each designed to resemble a pointed trefoil arch. The base railing is mitered around the altar. The altar features fine detail of a large Christian cross ringed by a circle superimposed over two arches and two quatrefoils near its base.

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Placed in front of the altar is a low table upon which is a leather-bound Bible donated by the Beaumont Ministerial Alliance to the Temple during its October 19, 1932 dedication (Photo 9). The Bible was signed by members of its alliance and bears the following inscription:

We, the undersigned members of the Beaumont Ministerial Association, Beaumont, Texas joyfully present this Holy Word of God to the Temple to the Brave in honor of the brave dead of all Texas wars, with earnest prayers and sincere hope that those who make a pilgrimage here will fully appreciate the sacrifice of those gallant men who gave their lives for their country, and further that those pilgrims will worship the Prince of Peace, even Christ, the Savior of men, that they may find the diabolical causes of War and have sufficient Grace and moral courage to drive the useless scourge of War from the face of the earth.⁸

Glass display cases line the room and contain memorabilia donated by veterans or their family members following their military service from various conflicts dating from World War I to the present.⁹ Uniforms, also donated by veterans, are displayed on mannequins or hanging on the walls. Framed etchings and recruitment posters are also found on the walls.

Stained Glass Windows (Photos 9-18)

Architects Livesay & Wiedemann and Beaumont Paint and Glass Company prepared sketches for the stained art glass windows to be included in the war memorial. The windows were then designed in Dallas by renowned stained glass artist Roger D. McIntosh of Pittsburg Plate Glass Company and constructed from imported glass.¹⁰

The pointed arch stained glass window over the double entrance doors is dedicated to the Texas servicemen of the Army, Navy and Air Service who served during World War I and the hope of world peace (Photo 11). The window contains three pointed arch lower panels depicting a doughboy, gun in hand, at center; to his left, a sailor, with lead line and ships; to the right, an aviator holding a compass. The upper section is divided into six panels representing the industries of peace, or "sacrifices made by the soldiers and sailors," entitled Health, Happiness, Capital, Labor, Home and Pleasure.¹¹ The two central panels, Capital and Labor, depict tall buildings, factory smokestacks, a locomotive, hand tools and various raw materials. Featured in the Health, Happiness, Home and Pleasure panels are pastoral scenes of flowers, fields, the ocean, rivers, hills and clouds.

The circular rose stained art glass window opposite the entrance, on the rear elevation, features a central image of the Great Seal of the United States surrounded by the flags of its allies during World War I: France, Great Britain, Russia, Italy, Serbia, Portugal, Greece, Belgium, Romania (spelled Roumania), and Montenegro (Photo 12).¹²

Six small stained glass windows, three on each of the upper southwest and northeast elevations, depict the history of Texas under six flags (Photos 13-18). The northeast windows depict French explorer Rene Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle in Matagorda Bay in the year 1685 (Native Americans in the foreground look on while La Salle's ship pulls into

⁸ Bible donated by Beaumont Ministerial Alliance, Temple to the Brave, Pipkin Park, Beaumont, Texas.

⁹ In 2007 it was rededicated by the DAR on its 75th anniversary to U.S. military service members of all American wars, living or deceased.

¹⁰ Mrs. Wallace Livesay, DAR Building Committee chair, wrote to Pittsburg Plate Glass (artisan Roger D. McIntosh's employer) to obtain estimates for the windows, per Col. George Moffett Chapter, DAR Executive Board minutes, March 18, 1931, DAR Archives, Tyrrell Historical Library, Beaumont, Texas. Upon completion of the project, Roger D. McIntosh signed the windows he designed for the Temple, "McIntosh, 1932." Architects Livesay & Wiedemann had an ongoing working relationship with Roger D. McIntosh, having previously contracted (in 1924) with the artisan to design and manufacture the art glass windows for the new First Baptist Church at Broadway and Willow streets in downtown Beaumont (for which the architects had also drawn plans); *Beaumont Enterprise*, April 12, 1931, pg. 4; *Beaumont Journal*, April 25, 1932, pg. 6 *Beaumont Enterprise*, April 26, 1932, pg. 7

¹¹ *Beaumont Enterprise*, April 12, 1931, pg. 4, *Beaumont Enterprise*, April 26, 1932, pg. 7; *Beaumont Enterprise*, September 29, 1940, pg. 33

¹² *Beaumont Enterprise*, April 12, 1931, pg. 4; *Beaumont Journal*, April 25, 1932, pg. 6; *University Press*, Vol. 66, No. 53, Ed. 1, April 25, 1990, *Beaumont Enterprise*, April 26, 1932, pg. 7; *Beaumont Enterprise*, September 29, 1940, pg. 33

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landing); Spanish explorer and governor of Coahuila, Alonso De Leon, 1689 (Spanish coat of arms; De Leon discovers the remains of La Salle’s settlement); and the Abdication of Agustin de Iturbide, Emperor of Mexico, 1824 (Iturbide, cape flowing, sheathing his sword is pictured superimposed over a map of Mexico next to the Gulf of Mexico. An eagle holding a snake, appears above, surrounded by flames). The southwest windows feature Santa Anna Before Sam Houston, 1836 (the two men in the foreground and symbols of the covered wagon and the Texas Longhorn appearing in the upper sections of the glass); War, 1861, (portrayed by the coat of arms of the Confederacy in the original window, this window has since been replaced; see below); and 1865, The Progress of Civilization, a pictorial map of Texas depicting the state’s many resources (mountains of the west, oil in the central sections, pine trees of the east and cotton fields for which Texas is famous).¹³ Framing the main subject portrayed in each of these six windows are various decorative design elements (flowers, geometric details) as well as symbols pertinent to each scene (a compass, etc.).

Non-Contributing Resources¹⁴

Resource 2: American Wars Monument (Non-Contributing Object) (Figure 18, Photo 25)

A polished black granite monument memorializing American servicemen and servicewomen of all U.S. wars is positioned to the north of the Temple. The Eagle Scout project of Ezequiel Uribe was dedicated in Pipkin Patriots Park on December 7, 2020. Uribe is the grandson of the Temple to the Brave’s current museum curator, Major Dennis White. Red bricks bearing the names of fallen soldiers are placed on either side of the memorial stone, which is enclosed by a wrought iron fence.¹⁵ This resource was constructed and added to the property less than 50 years ago and is non-contributing due to age.

Resource 3: Signage for Pipkin Patriots Park (Non-Contributing Object) (Photo 8)

A green sign at the northern end of Pipkin Patriots Park was added at an unknown date but after 2007, less than 50 years ago and is non-contributing due to age.

Inventory of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources within Nominated Boundary

Resource	Type	Date	Status
1: Temple to the Brave	Building	1931-1932	Contributing
2: American Wars Monument	Object	2020, Less than 50 years old	Non-Contributing
3: Signage for Pipkin Patriots Park	Object	After 2007, Less than 50 years old	Non-Contributing

Exterior and Interior Alterations to the Temple

In 1970, the slate roof was replaced with a composition shingle roof. The Paul Revere Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution painted the interior of the building during the spring of that same year.

From 1974 to 1976 the Colonel George Moffett Chapter, DAR and the City of Beaumont collaborated in a Bicentennial restoration project. The DAR replaced the 1861 – War window, previously broken beyond repair at an unknown point by vandals, with plain glass and replaced some stained art glass sections needing repairs in other windows. Shatter resistant Lexan was placed over the exterior of all the Temple’s windows. Museum exhibits were arranged in freshly lined display cases and a protective cover was provided for the Bible donated in 1932 by the Beaumont Ministerial

¹³ *Beaumont Enterprise*, April 12, 1931, pg. 4; *Beaumont Journal*, April 25, 1932, pg. 6; *Beaumont Enterprise*, April 26, 1932, pg. 7.

¹⁴ Non-contributing resources were not damaged in Hurricane Beryl.

¹⁵ *Beaumont Enterprise*, December 7, 2020

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Association. An additional showcase for exhibits was also installed. Discovering a termite infestation, the City of Beaumont exterminated the building as well as cleaned and painted its interior.¹⁶

In approximately 1987-1988, the Temple's front doors were replaced. Carpenters with the City of Beaumont hand crafted and installed the new doors, which are exact replicas of the originals. The hardware and hinges from the Temple's original doors were reused.

In 2006-2007, the most significant restoration of the Temple to the Brave was undertaken as a Centennial project of the Colonel George Moffett Chapter, DAR (organized in 1906) following Hurricane Rita, incidences of vandalism, and the "passage of time."¹⁷ Repair costs were shared by the DAR and the City of Beaumont. At the completion of the year and a half long project, the following had been accomplished:

- Exterior stone was repointed.
- Interior plaster was repaired from window leak damage.
- Cavallini Co., Inc. of San Antonio designed and installed an entirely new 1861 - War stained glass window in the 2007 to replace the window that had been destroyed. The company also added one rebar for strength to stabilize a window panel on the Temple's northeast wall and made other minor glass repairs as necessary.
- The terrazzo tile floor, which was cracking, was stabilized.
- Electrical wiring was upgraded.
- The structure's first HVAC/heating system was installed.
- A simple wrought iron gate with attached flag holders was positioned in front of the Temple to secure the front door.
- The City of Beaumont replaced cracked sidewalks on the park grounds and added an entirely new sidewalk leading to the entrance of the Temple.
- Interior wood paneling was polished and display cases were cleaned and repaired.
- All of the museum's artifacts were repositioned, rematted, and relabeled, or cleaned and repaired as necessary.

War – 1861 Window Replacement

During a restoration of the memorial's stained art glass windows in 2007, the Confederate (War – 1861) window was redesigned from scratch as the original 1931 sketches for the windows were apparently lost. There are also no known surviving photographs of the original 1861 window. Cavallini Co., Inc. ("Cavallini") of San Antonio, the restoration art glass studio assigned to the task, created a new window that incorporated design elements from the other five Texas history windows. Cavallini also selected a new central subject that would be appropriate to that particular time period, Lt. Richard "Dick" Dowling. Lt. Dowling was chosen due to his connection with the Southeast Texas area and the Battle at Sabine Pass during the Civil War. The new window is entitled "Texas Under the Confederacy" (Photo 17).

Although it is believed no sketches or photos of the original windows still exist, extant newspaper accounts during the time of the windows' original manufacture do survive. Those records provide a brief description of each of the windows' contents. Prominently featured in each of the five surviving Texas history windows is its representative historical date positioned immediately above that window's central subject, as well as its title placed below the central subject. Extant

¹⁶ City Council Minutes, April 22, 1975, pg. 66, Office of the City Clerk, Beaumont, Texas; *Beaumont Journal*, April 23, 1975, pg. 18; *Beaumont Journal*, May 16, 1975, pg. 9; *Beaumont Journal*, January 23, 1976, pg. 8; *Beaumont Enterprise-Journal*, May 30, 1976, pg. 2B; Final Report of Temple to the Brave Chairman Katharine B. Matthews, Col. George Moffett Chapter DAR, November 1976. Jefferson County Historical Commission Archives; Col. George Moffett Chapter, DAR minutes: Executive Board, September 30, 1974, October 6, 1975, March 1, 1976, DAR Archives, Tyrrell Historical Library, Beaumont, Texas; Col. George Moffett Chapter, DAR minutes: Board of Directors, December 2, 1974, February 3, 1975, March 31, 1975, May 5, 1975, DAR Archives, Tyrrell Historical Library, Beaumont, Texas; Col. George Moffett Chapter, DAR General Meeting minutes, October 2, 1974, DAR Archives, Tyrrell Historical Library, Beaumont, Texas

¹⁷ Informational page of the Colonel George Moffett Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, texasdar.org

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newspaper descriptions were readily available to researchers at the time of the 2007 restoration and provide a helpful aid to compare with the five original surviving windows. The original 1861 window, presumably simply entitled “War,” featured the Confederate coat of arms.

Hurricane Beryl

On July 8, 2024 heavy winds and rainfall during Hurricane Beryl damaged the Temple to the Brave, exacerbating some already existing issues (mentioned above). The damage appears to be minor and was mostly limited to the building exterior.¹⁸

- Minor water intrusion through damaged masonry joints and masonry spalling on southwest and southeast elevations led to some limited interior plaster cracking and peeling near two stained glass windows. There was no apparent damage to the vaulted ceiling or truss detail. Minor repairs to plaster and paint were completed in June 2025 (Photos 10-11, 24).
- Deteriorated window stools and sills, in conjunction with aged, unvented plexiglass coverings, trapped heat and moisture during the storm, intensifying thermal stress on the historic glass and allowing condensation and water ingress.
- The leading in stained glass windows allowed additional rainwater to enter, contributing to the structural stress on the windows.
- Roof replaced in 1970 was unable to effectively shed Beryl’s heavy rain, contributing to ceiling moisture intrusion and suspected foundation stress, which may be linked to terrazzo floor cracking (Photo 21; terrazzo cracking limited to altar and was present prior to storm).
- Front doors, affected by years of deterioration and now exhibiting hardware failure.
- Drainage problems on the west side were compounded by storm runoff leading to foundation damage.
- The interior handrail near the altar loosened.

Integrity

The Temple to the Brave is an excellent local example of a war memorial. Built for the Colonel George Moffett Chapter, DAR, the Temple is at its original location in Pipkin Patriots Park. The setting has changed over the years including the demolition of homes nearby to make way for parking, street changes, port expansion projects, and the intrusion of non-contributing resources to the property resulting in diminished integrity. However, Pipkin Patriots Park retains its 0.939 acre site dating to 1964. Despite changes over the years and minor damage from Hurricane Beryl in 2024, it retains essential physical features of its design, workmanship, and materials characteristic of the Late Gothic Revival style including rough finished Colorado green stone (granite) cladding over common brick, high pitched gable roof, primary elevation enhanced by a Tudor arch entry and double doors, wooden tracery, pointed arch and circular rose stained glass windows, buttresses on the side and rear elevations, and quoins. The interior retains its open floor plan, vaulted ceiling, oak trusses, decorative plaster, terrazzo flooring, oak wainscoting, and altar. With these aspects combined, the property retains the feeling of a Late Gothic Revival style commemorative memorial. While owned by the City of Beaumont, it is still operated by the Colonel George Moffett Chapter, DAR and it remains associated with war commemoration.

¹⁸ As of July 2025, Jefferson County Historical Commission informed THC that the City of Beaumont has applied for Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund grant funds, Email correspondence between Kate Hambricht and Alyssa Gerszewski (THC), June 26-30, 2025.

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Statement of Significance

The Temple to the Brave is located at 1365 Pennsylvania Avenue in Beaumont, Texas. Designed by architects Wallace B. Livesay and Newell Everett Wiedemann for the Colonel George Moffett Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), the property was constructed in 1931-1932 with the support of other local community organizations, the City of Beaumont, civic-minded business owners, and citizens. It is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the area of Social History as an intact example of a World War I monument and memorial chapel built by community partners as a place to mourn, honor, and commemorate Texas military servicemen that fought in World War I, and memorialize people and events in early Texas history. The community donated funds and materials demonstrating a shared commitment to its construction, and it was dedicated in October 1932. The property's design reflected early 20th century commemorative traditions, Beaumont's interest in recognizing and preserving early Texas history, and efforts to encourage citizen patriotism and foster unity. In later decades, the building was rededicated to commemorate those who served all U.S. wars. The property is also nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a rare and remarkably intact example of Late Gothic Revival design by architects Livesay and Wiedemann. The plans were donated by the architects and the design was distinct and stands out in their body of work. The property meets Criteria Consideration F (Commemorative Properties) because it derives its primary significance from architectural distinction and was commemorative in function since its inception.¹⁹ The period of significance spans from 1931 when construction began to 1975, the NPS 50-year cutoff.

Brief History of Beaumont through mid-1970s

Beaumont, Texas is located on the west bank of the Neches River in the northeast part of Jefferson County (Maps 1-2). The city is 85 miles east of Houston on Interstate Highway 10 and about 45 miles north of the Gulf of Mexico. Along with neighboring Orange and Port Arthur, the city forms the Golden Triangle, an important regional industrial area.²⁰

The town of Beaumont grew around the homestead of Noah and Nancy Tevis, who settled on the banks of the Neches River in 1824. Tevis was granted a league of land (2,014 acres) by Empresario Lorenzo de Zavala in January 1835. James and Elizabeth McFaddin arrived from Liberty, Texas in 1833 and became one of the area's most successful ranchers. In July 1835 Henry Millard from New York along with partners Thomas B. Huling from Pennsylvania and Joseph P. Pulsifer from Massachusetts opened the first dry good store in nearby Santa Anna, an older Spanish community south of the present-day port. The Tevis' home, known as Tevis Bluff or the Neches River Settlement, merged with Santa Anna to become the Beaumont town site. In July 1837 the new town was laid out. The 200-acre townsite, all part of the original Tevis grant, was divided as follows: 100 acres from the Pulsifer Company, 50 acres from Tevis and 50 acres from Joseph Grigsby, a cotton farmer originally from Kentucky who had settled downriver in an area that came to be known as Grigsby Bluff. The town was laid out on a grid following a North-South axis that rotated Northwest by Southeast on the eastern side of Main Street in order to follow the river. The name Beaumont is thought to have been the maiden name of Henry Millard's wife. Beaumont was made the county seat of Jefferson County by the First Congress of the Republic of Texas, and a city charter was granted in 1838.²¹ The current municipal government incorporation dates to 1881.

¹⁹ "National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation," U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1995, 39-40, https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB-15_web508.pdf.

²⁰ "Beaumont, TX." *Handbook of Texas Online*, Texas State Historical Association.

²¹ Gachot, M. Arch., Richard. Downtown Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas. Historic Resources Survey Update, December 2018.

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By the mid-19th century, Beaumont's agricultural economy shifted from one based primarily on cotton and cattle, to lumber and rice-milling. The Neches River provided water transport for logs floated downriver for processing at local mills prior to the arrival of the railroad. The discovery that the dock at Pearl Street was 60 feet deep meant larger ships and steamboats could reach Beaumont and provided the impetus for the city's future deep water port development. With the arrival of the Sabine and Eastern Texas Railway in the 1880s, a new land route to mills and markets further expanded the community's commercial capabilities.²²

The city established a supply base for Confederate troops along the southeast Texas coast during the Civil War and set aside its Grand Jury Room as an armory. Business resumed after the war. Lumber milling burgeoned along with rice production. The first commercial rice mill in Texas, the Beaumont Rice Mill, was founded in 1892.²³ Sawmills operated from dawn to dusk. Six railroads, shipping locally refined and milled products, served the city.²⁴ Attracted by jobs and good soil conditions conducive to growing rice, the population increased from 3,296 persons in 1890 to 9,427 by the turn of the century.²⁵ Wealthy elite built mansions along streets surrounding downtown. Commercial buildings sprang up to accommodate the business needs of the expanding community.

The discovery of oil at Spindletop by Anthony Lucas on January 10, 1901 transformed Jefferson County overnight. Beaumont became a boomtown, with its population rapidly tripling to 50,000 in three months before finally stabilizing at 20,000 in 1902.²⁶ By the end of 1901, 585 oil companies had formed and 138 wells were operating in Beaumont. Three major oil companies, the Texas Company (Texaco), Gulf Oil Corporation (Chevron), and Humble Oil (Exxon), formed in Beaumont during the first year of Spindletop. A prodigious amount of lumber was needed to construct oil derricks, railroads, and refineries. The city expanded and over 200 masonry buildings were constructed in 1901 to replace former wooden structures. New construction, worth some \$3.5 million, continued in 1902 with a burst of civic and community buildings, churches and numerous new residential homes. Rice planting reached an all-time high with 5,859 acres planted in the area.²⁷ The discovery of oil at Spindletop had a profound local, national and global impact, ushering in the modern oil industry.

On January 21, 1908, the Sabine-Neches canal, a 15-mile-long, 9-foot-deep, 100-foot wide channel, was completed and linked the Sabine and Neches Rivers between the mouth of the Neches at Beaumont-Orange and the Port Arthur Ship channel. The Port of Beaumont officially opened on April 12, 1916 following construction by the Beaumont and Orange navigation districts of a 25-foot-deep channel and a turning basin, providing deep-water access to the Gulf of Mexico. By 1917, tonnage on the Neches had increased to 1,066,000 from 295,000 in 1915.²⁸

World War I brought sizable federal contracts with the United States Shipping Board worth millions of dollars to Beaumont. Four shipyards, including the Beaumont Shipyard and Drydock Company, McBride & Law Shipyard, Lone Star Shipbuilding Company, and J. N. McCammon Yard, produced numerous ships for the Emergency Fleet Corporation. The Beaumont Shipyard and Drydock Company completed the first wooden Ferris-type steamship to be built for the government in during the war; the Steamship *Oneco* was launched from their 71-acre island in the Neches River on May 11, 1918.²⁹

²² Stratton, Florence. *The Story of Beaumont*. Houston, Texas: The Hercules Printing and Book Company, c. 1925.

²³ Federal Writers Project of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Texas. *Beaumont: A Guide to the City and Its Environs*. American Guide Series. Houston, Texas: The Anson Jones Press, 1939.

²⁴ Stratton, Florence. *The Story of Beaumont*. Houston, Texas: The Hercules Printing and Book Company, c. 1925.

²⁵ "Beaumont, TX" *Handbook of Texas Online*, Texas State Historical Association.

²⁶ Federal Writers Project of the Work Projects Administration in the State of Texas. *Beaumont: A Guide to the City and Its Environs*. American Guide Series. Houston, Texas: The Anson Jones Press, 1938.

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ Hambright, Kate. Military History Report prepared for Jefferson County Historical Commission, May 18, 2022. War time ship production would continue during the second world war, mainly by the Pennsylvania Shipyards.

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Patriotism flooded the local community during World War I. The *Beaumont Enterprise and Journal* promoted the war effort with editorials and inspirational articles. The city band staged patriotic concerts in Keith Park while school children practiced military-style drills. Citizens rolled bandages, grew victory gardens and contributed foodstuffs. By the end of the war, citizens of Beaumont had purchased \$5.7 million in liberty bonds, almost one million dollars in thrift stamps, and had donated \$222,000 to charitable organizations.³⁰

The town was declared a United States military post for the first time in its history.³¹ Beaumont's own Company M, Third Texas Infantry, recently returned from service on the Mexican border, was assigned to the city under the command of Captain Wallace O. Breedlove prior to the unit's departure for Camp Bowie and the western front. Beaumont recruited a second infantry unit, known as Company G, Fifth Infantry, Texas National Guard under Captain Autry M. Greer. Both Beaumont companies were consolidated into Company B (Captain Wallace O. Breedlove, commanding), 143rd U. S. Infantry, 36th Division, 72nd Brigade, which conducted extensive operations in the Meuse-Argonne offensive in France. After the war, the 143rd U. S. Infantry, 36th Brigade was demobilized at Camp Bowie in June 1919 and was reconstituted in the Texas National Guard as the 143rd Infantry. World War I also saw the organization of a machine gun troop at Beaumont under the command of Captain Hugh Morrison Hornsby. The company was created on May 28, 1918. The unit became part of the First Texas Cavalry, Texas National Guard.³² Other local men joined the Marines, Navy, or Air Service. Over 4,000 men from the Beaumont area went to war. Thirty-eight servicemen from the city of Beaumont alone never returned, having been killed in action or died of disease in camp during the Influenza Epidemic of 1918.

On November 13, 1925 Beaumont experienced a second oil boom when the Yount-Lee Oil Company struck oil at Spindletop. With a flow of 59,000,000 barrels a year, the effect on the local economy was immediately felt. Building construction between 1925 and 1927 jumped from \$1.64 million to \$5.25 million.³³ The change to Beaumont's skyline between 1926 and 1933 was transformative. In addition to a new City Hall and Auditorium, 22-story Edson Hotel, 11-story La Salle Hotel, Jefferson Theater, Post Office and Federal Courthouse, and Kyle and Goodhue Buildings, Jefferson County built a new million dollar 13-story courthouse.

At last, though, the effects of a struggling national economy caused by the stock market crash in 1929 reached Beaumont. During the Great Depression, business opportunities dried up and no new opportunities appeared on the horizon. Established businesses closed permanently, and some fine homes were sold. Financially strapped citizens, many unemployed, found themselves unable to pay their property taxes. The city and county received early loans from local businessman Frank Yount and the Yount-Lee Oil Company as well as extensive aid from a variety of federal government relief programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps, Works Progress Administration, and the Public Works Administration.³⁴

Beaumont eventually recovered from the economic crisis along with the rest of the nation and moved forward. Adding to diversified local industries was steel fabrication. Between 1930 and 1950, Beaumont's population grew from 57,732 to 94,014. A new high school and Lamar Junior College added to the city's already impressive list of educational facilities: a total of four high schools, two junior high schools, sixteen grades and the new junior college. The Port of Beaumont was established as a navigation district in 1949 by the 51st Texas Legislature.

Following World War II, refineries and the petrochemical industry replaced declining crude oil production in Beaumont. Shipbuilding was supplanted by steel work at the Bethlehem Steel Company. The Lamar State College of Technology opened in 1951 to accommodate returning GIs and two new hospitals, St. Elizabeth and Baptist Hospital, were

³⁰ Linsley, Judith and Ellen Rienstra. *Beaumont: A Chronicle of Promise*. Woodland Hills, California: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1982.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Hambright, Kate. Military History Report prepared for Jefferson County Historical Commission, May 18, 2022

³³ Linsley, Judith and Ellen Rienstra. *Beaumont: A Chronicle of Promise*. Woodland Hills, California: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1982

³⁴ Ibid.

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constructed. The city's population between 1950 and 1960 grew from 94,014 to 119,175.³⁵ As the city's economy and population grew, however, so did its westward expansion to the suburbs. A significant initial challenge to downtown retail businesses was the opening of the Gateway Shopping Center in 1957 at College and Interstate 10. This westward flight, exacerbated by the aging infrastructure of its buildings, contributed to the decline of the downtown area, although limited construction continued during the 1960s with the addition of the Petroleum Tower in 1961 and First Security National Bank in 1962.

By the early 1960s, the petrochemical industry declined, thanks in part to automation. Following a merger, Sun Oil Company moved its offices from Beaumont in 1970, leading to a further loss of employment opportunities. The population of Beaumont in 1970 decreased to 115,919.³⁶ An Economic Development Foundation, Leadership Beaumont, was formed to encourage leadership, present and future. The Central City Development Corporation was established to revive the downtown area. In 1971 citizens of Beaumont approved \$12 million in municipal bonds for improvements to Port of Beaumont and \$18 million for water, sewer, and street improvements as well as a new library and police station. In 1974 an additional \$28 million bond was approved for a new civic center, municipal office building, riverfront park, and covered arena and the South Texas State Fairgrounds.³⁷

Acquisition of Pipkin Park by City of Beaumont, 1919

The City of Beaumont purchased a 4 2/3 acre tract of land from the Neches Investment Company at the corner of Sabine and Emmett Streets on July 14, 1919, as a new park site.³⁸ Commonly called the "Lovers Lane property," the new tract was officially named "Steve Pipkin Park" in honor of Alderman S. W. Pipkin, who was instrumental in negotiating the purchasing of the property, by City Council resolution dated January 20, 1920.³⁹

The proposed park site, located just south of the then city limits, was an irregularly shaped parcel, partially bounded on the south and east by Emmett Avenue and Park Street with the exception of several privately owned lots (Maps 3-4, Figures 1-3). It was entirely bounded on its north side (running southwest to northeast) by the center line of the southwest and south branches of a large gully, or ravine, which transected the property from Park Street on the west (northwest corner of the new park) to the Neches River (northeast corner of the new tract) on the east. The gully separated the park from the southern boundary of the Bryan Addition and George O'Brien Homestead Tract. The southwestern branch of this gully terminated at Park Street. The south branch of the gully emptied on its east end into the Neches River.⁴⁰ A dilapidated wooden span known as the "Lovers Lane Bridge" crossed the gully from the George O'Brien Homestead tract at its southeast corner onto the northeast corner of the Lovers Lane property near the river's edge and was shaded by the venerable "O'Brien Oak" located on the O'Brien Homestead Tract. The new city site was completely bounded on its east side by the west margin of the Neches River, along which ran an unpaved section of Riverside, a shell path known as "Lovers Lane." Lovers Lane originated at the northeast corner of the new park and ran southeast to the intersection of Sabine Pass Avenue and Emmett Street (the southeast corner of the new park).⁴¹ The park overlooked Harbor Island to the east in the Neches River.

³⁵ "Beaumont, TX" Handbook of Texas Online, Texas State Historical Association.

³⁶ Texas Almanac: City Population History from 1850-2000.

³⁷ Linsley, Judith and Ellen Rienstra. *Beaumont: A Chronicle of Promise*. Woodland Hills, California: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1982.

³⁸ Deed, Neches Investment Company to City of Beaumont, July 14, 1919, Jefferson County Deed Records, Vol. 184, pp. 219-220. Tract was formerly the site of Texas Iron Works.

³⁹ Beaumont City Council Minutes, 7/19/1881-12/12/1967. Tyrrell Historical Library, Beaumont, Texas

⁴⁰ *Beaumont Enterprise*, May 1, 1920, pg. 12

⁴¹ Riverside, located just south of the Beaumont City limits, began south of the new park site, at Wallace Street, and extended west to Sabine Avenue and thence north in the direction of Orleans Street, stopping at the large gully dividing the northeastern corner of the Lovers Lane property and southeastern edge of the George O'Brien homestead at the Lovers Lane Bridge.

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O'Brien Oak

Captain Cave Johnson, one of the area's earliest settlers, brought the seedling for the later known O'Brien Oak from Village Creek to Beaumont in the early 1800s and planted it near his cabin along the Neches River. George O'Brien purchased Johnson's homestead in the late 1800s and assumed care of the oak for the remainder of his life. The tree was designated a historical landmark in 1966. In March 1975, lightning struck the aged tree. Efforts to save the oak proved fruitless and it was finally removed on November 29, 1978 by city work crews.⁴² A section of the oak has been preserved and is on display in the mini museum of the Jefferson County Courthouse.

On May 1, 1920 the city contracted with Ellen P. O'Brien, to extend the existing municipal sewer from Park Street to the Neches River, and to fill in the gulleys with dirt and material dredged from Harbor Island in the Neches turning basin. The gulleys were viewed by the city as a prime malarial mosquito breeding ground and its elimination was expected to reduce the city's malaria cases by one-half.⁴³ In return O'Brien agreed to deed a twenty-five foot strip of land to the city measuring from the center of the south gully beginning at the Neches and continuing until the east line of the Bryan Addition.⁴⁴ The land deeded was equivalent to four city lots. Work commenced immediately; pilings were driven as necessary in the gulleys and the reinforced concrete storm sewer, additional 12" sewer line and retaining headwall were constructed in little over a month's time.⁴⁵ Approximately 40,000 yards of sand from the river were necessary to fill in the gulleys and level Pipkin Park following the sewer work.⁴⁶ Several tons of tin cans from the municipal garbage plants were used to fill the Lovers Lane gully prior to it being covered with sand. The old wooden Lover's Lane Bridge at the northeast corner of the park property was subsequently removed.⁴⁷

Leveling of the new park commenced during the spring of 1921. Sand from the previous summer's dredge provided an excellent children's play area. Beaumont's city engineer laid out a baseball diamond and a tennis court.⁴⁸ An old concrete sidewalk tumbling into the river from its deteriorating banks, was recovered and replaced a safer distance from the margins of the water's edge and attractive curbing and decorative gravel placed nearby. Merry-go-round swings were constructed out of tree stumps in the park. Old structures on the newly acquired property were moved away.

On May 3, 1921, City Commissioners approved construction of a swimming pool in Pipkin Park (Figures 3, 12). Built by the City Engineering Department, the task was completed by early August 1921. The 200,000-gallon pool was 100 feet in diameter and 6 ½ feet deep in the center with a gradual incline to approximately two feet at its outer edge. It was fitted with a gravity drain that drained into the Neches River. A two-story house on the park site was remodeled for use as dressing and rest rooms for the new pool prior to subsequent replacement with a new bathing pavilion some years later. During the winter of 1921-1922 the Pipkin Park swimming pool was stocked with fish to aid the city's ongoing campaign against malaria; the fish ate the larvae (hatched in the water) of mosquitos that were responsible for the disease. The park's fish served a dual purpose, as City Manager Roark noted that children would enjoy fishing in the pool in the early spring of 1922. The Pipkin Park swimming pool served the community until the late 1940s, by which point it failed

⁴² "O'Brien Oak," Famous Trees of Texas. Texas A & M Forest Service, The Texas A & M University System.

⁴³ *Beaumont Enterprise*, June 25, 1920, pg. 13; *Beaumont Journal*, September 1, 1920, pg. 10. By early December 1920, the number of reported malarial cases in Beaumont was 200 individuals per day. *Beaumont Enterprise*, December 4, 1920, pg. 2

⁴⁴ Contract, Mrs. Ellen P. O'Brien to City of Beaumont, May 1, 1920, Jefferson County Deed Records, Vol. 210, pp. 372-375

⁴⁵ *Beaumont Enterprise*, May 13, 1920, pg. 3; *Beaumont Enterprise*, May 25, 1920, pg. 8; *Beaumont Enterprise*, June 15, 1920; *Beaumont Journal*, September 1, 1920, pg. 10

⁴⁶ *Beaumont Enterprise*, May 1, 1920, pg. 12; *Beaumont Enterprise*, May 15, 1920, pg. 2; *Beaumont Enterprise*, May 26, 1920, pg. 3; *Beaumont Enterprise*, July 14, 1920, pg. 12; *Beaumont Journal*, August 10, 1920, Pg. 1; *Beaumont Journal*, September 1, 1920, pg. 10

⁴⁷ *Beaumont Enterprise*, September 16, 1922, pg. 5

⁴⁸ A new tennis court was built in 1940 on the Park Street side of the park and included chain-line wire backstops, steel net and a regulation net concrete court.

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to meet appropriate standards of disinfection making cleaning difficult. By the mid-1950s the pool had been filled in and turned into a rose garden.⁴⁹

In July 1921 Beaumont landscape artist Edward Dewson presented plans for bordered walkways, improvements to Lovers Lane, and other amenities to the park intended to showcase the park's new swimming pool to be incorporated over a two-year period.⁵⁰ By 1924, "tennis courts, playgrounds, flower beds, shady walks, bubbling fountains and enclosing rustic stone fences" enhanced the grounds of Pipkin Park.⁵¹

On May 29, 1923, the City of Beaumont purchased a right of way from Chenault O'Brien through the George O'Brien Homestead Tract, enabling the municipality to open Orleans Street southward to Pipkin Park, connect with Lovers Lane through the park grounds to its southeast boundary with Emmett Street, and thence to Sabine Pass, opening an important new thoroughfare for traffic. O'Brien stipulated in his deed with the city that "there shall be located in said street improvements a Park-way or green plat within which to preserve the magnificent Live Oak tree now standing on said premises ..." during its life span.⁵² The former private "Lovers Lane path" located immediately to the north of Pipkin Park as well as the section of Riverside known as Lovers Lane running along and close to the eastern boundary through the park property was paved and the new route was opened as Riverside Drive on July 29, 1924.⁵³ Surveyors took special care when laying out the new road to avoid damaging the venerable "O'Brien Oak."

An extensive plan to relieve downtown traffic further affected Pipkin Park in 1964. Early that year the city obtained final rights-of-way for a planned connector through Pipkin Park for Pennsylvania and Orleans Streets. The connector was to be used to tie the two ends of a proposed north-south Central Distributor to paired one-way streets through the downtown area. A contract for the project was awarded to Trolli & Thompson, Inc., who completed the work in June 1964.⁵⁴ While an important new traffic artery for the city, Pipkin Park was significantly reduced in size, assuming its current isosceles triangle shape (Maps 3-4).

During 1972, as a part of a multi-million-dollar Port of Beaumont expansion and improvement project to attract more general and containerized cargo to Beaumont, the turning basin of the Neches River in front of Riverside Drive was filled in (Figures 13-14). The city gained approximately 15 acres of land for port development from this endeavor and added a new roadway providing new access to the port, a rail line and storage facilities areas for containers.⁵⁵

On March 18, 2003, the City of Beaumont rejected a proposal by city staff to sell certain small parks, including Pipkin Park, due to little usage and low-level facilities but on May 12, 2007 the citizens of Beaumont authorized the City to sell a disused portion of Pipkin Park that had previously become separated from the main park when the City rerouted Pennsylvania Avenue through the park grounds. On May 21, 2008 the City of Beaumont sold this vacant property, 1.688 acres on the west side of Pennsylvania Avenue, to the Port of Beaumont Navigation District.⁵⁶ On September 25, 2007,

⁴⁹ *Beaumont Journal*, November 10, 1950; pg. 8; *Beaumont Journal*, April 9, 1953, pg. 4; *Beaumont Journal*, April 14, 1955, pg. 5

⁵⁰ *Beaumont Journal*, August 13, 1922, pg. 10; *Beaumont Enterprise*, July 18, 1921, pg. 10

⁵¹ *Beaumont Enterprise*, March 30, 1924, pg. 32

⁵² Deed, Chennault O'Brien, et al to the City of Beaumont. Jefferson County Deed Records, Vol. 26, pp. 463-466

⁵³ Later renamed Sabine Pass Avenue.

⁵⁴ *Beaumont Journal*, October 3, 1963, pg. 25; *Beaumont Journal*, October 31, 1963, pg. 14; *Beaumont Journal*, May 4, 1964, pg. 4; *Beaumont Journal*, February 18, 1964, pg. 1; *Beaumont Journal*, June 16, 1964, pg. 1

⁵⁵ *Beaumont Journal*, July 10, 1970, pg. 8; *Beaumont Journal*, April 8, 1971, pg. 1; *Beaumont Journal*, July 14, 1972, pg. 1; *Beaumont Journal*, December 19, 1972, pg. 23

⁵⁶ *Beaumont Enterprise*, March 21, 2003; Resolution No. 07-056, City Council Minutes. Office of the City Clerk, Beaumont, Texas; City Council Minutes, April 29, 2008. Office of the City Clerk, Beaumont, Texas; Deed, City of Beaumont to Port of Beaumont Navigation District of Jefferson County, Texas, May 21, 2008, Jefferson County Deed Records, Instrument No. 2008018596.

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Pipkin Park was renamed “Pipkin Patriots Park” in “recognition and honor of all veterans” upon passage of Resolution No. 07-295 by the City Council of Beaumont.⁵⁷ The park property remained unplatted on the tax rolls until May 2023.

Monument Formerly Located in Park

In March 1927 the walking beam from the *U.S.S. Clifton*, a federal gunboat captured by Lieutenant Richard “Dick” Dowling and his Confederate forces at Fort Griffin, Sabine Pass in 1863 and used briefly as a blockade runner during the Civil War, was moved to Pipkin Park from its prior home in Keith Park.⁵⁸ During March 1964, the 1,800 pound walking beam and its concrete base were moved across the grounds of Pipkin Park and repositioned closer to Riverside Drive (Sabine Pass Avenue) in connection with the Pennsylvania-Orleans Street connector project.⁵⁹ The walking beam was subsequently transferred to Beaumont’s newly constructed Riverfront Park behind the city’s downtown Civic Center in approximately 1988. By January 2013, following a year-long conservation and stabilization process at the Conservation Research Laboratory at Texas A&M University, the beam was relocated to Sabine Pass Battleground State Historic Site.⁶⁰

Criterion A: Social History

Planning and Construction of the Temple to the Brave

Long before the Great Depression, the Colonel George Moffett Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) conceived an idea for a World War I memorial to honor Texas service members, although it would be some years before definite plans to sponsor its construction were finalized.⁶¹ Memorials for a similar purpose had already begun to dot the national landscape as Americans sought to honor the fallen heroes of the “War to End all Wars.”

War memorials constructed either immediately after the Great War, or in the interwar years, often consisted of monuments, statues, sculptures, or plaques.⁶² The Colonel George Moffett Chapter, DAR’s sister chapter in Galveston, the George Washington Chapter, DAR, constructed an imposing granite tablet structure dedicated to World War I soldiers in 1927. Beaumont erected its own modest memorial tablet in 1920.

The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) was formed as a national organization with state and local chapters in 1890, amid Progressive Era social and political reform. The organization was founded by female clubwomen in reaction to the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR’s) exclusion of women. The initial purpose of the organization was “to perpetuate the memory and spirit of the men and women who achieved American independence” and “to foster true patriotism and love of country.”⁶³ Women that joined the DAR “sought to accomplish their goals through commemoration, historical preservation, and education.”⁶⁴

In the first years of the 20th century articles about the Daughters of the American Revolution frequently appeared in the local Beaumont newspaper. One editorial from 1905, which stated that the organization’s national membership then

⁵⁷ Resolution No. 07-295, City Council Minutes. Office of the City Clerk, Beaumont, Texas

⁵⁸ The move was necessary as the City of Beaumont was preparing to build its new City Hall and Auditorium in Keith Park in 1927.

⁵⁹ *Beaumont Journal*, March 12, 1964, pg. 1.

⁶⁰ Sabine Pass Battleground is not far from Beaumont.

⁶¹ Interview with past DAR Regent Mrs. L. B. Pipkin, *Beaumont Enterprise*, July 15, 1956. Minutes and other records of the Col. George Moffett Chapter do not indicate why the DAR ultimately waited until 1931-1932 to construct its World War I memorial.

⁶² Jay Winter, *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning: The Great War in European Cultural History* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1995) 76, 78.

⁶³ Simon Wendt, *The Daughters of the American Revolution and Patriotic Memory in the Twentieth Century* (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2020) 3.

⁶⁴ Simon Wendt, *The Daughters of the American Revolution*, 3.

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numbered 18,000, also provided an excerpt from the DAR's previous annual report: "Never before have so many books been written on the subject of our country's history. Never before have the people studied with unanimity the annals of the past. The coming generation will thus be able to mold their future action by knowledge of the mistakes as well as the glories of the past."⁶⁵ An article in the *Houston Chronicle* that same year commented on the "excellent historical work" already being accomplished by Texas DAR chapters and also reported that the DAR's national historical department had expressed a desire to assist chapters with their program work and historical United States studies.⁶⁶

Several local Beaumont women could claim Revolutionary War ancestors in their lineage and many were coincidentally also involved in the Woman's Reading Club, an active Beaumont literary group that had an interest in promoting local libraries and historical research. In 1905, Mrs. Benjamin Rush Norvell, a member of the reading club, encouraged applications for membership in the DAR.⁶⁷ Named for an American Revolutionary War military leader and ancestor of founding member and Regent Mrs. Rush Norvell, the Colonel George Moffett Chapter of the DAR was formally organized in Beaumont with 15 charter members on February 8, 1906.⁶⁸

During the early years of their organization members of the Colonel George Moffett Chapter involved themselves in the typical work of their sister DAR chapters across the nation by promoting the study of United States history, supporting national committee projects such as the "Old Trails" Committee, and attending conventions as well as local teas and lunches, in addition to sponsoring a local bird house building contest. The chapter participated in a nationwide DAR effort to collect funds to support French children, many of whom lost fathers or both parents when their villages were bombed during the German invasion. The DAR's national War Relief Service Committee, spearheaded by Mrs. Howard L. Hodgkins, "adopted" French children by sending \$36.50 per child, the amount needed to support them for a year, to the Fatherless Children of France Society (FCF), which in turn forwarded the funds in quarterly payments to the children's guardians. The Fatherless Children of France was established in October 1916 by French industrialist, Émile Deutsch de la Meurthe, as a humanitarian organization to support these children.⁶⁹ The children were not formally adopted by their American patrons but rather remained in France, where in addition to the financial aid collected and paid through the FCF they received birthday and Christmas presents and letters from local DAR chapters across the United States. The DAR's national one-year campaign started on April 1, 1918. By April 1919, Beaumont supported 224 French orphans through the Col. George Moffett Chapter, which had become the model for the nationwide DAR fundraising program.⁷⁰ Almost every organization in Beaumont contributed during this campaign.⁷¹

By the 1920s, local chapters in states like Texas which often had a more indirect link to the American Revolution in the thirteen original colonies, shifted their focus to local history. Western chapters instead chose to commemorate and preserve the history of their regions' early settlers and pioneers. By the end of the 1920s, when planning was underway

⁶⁵ *Beaumont Sunday Journal*, August 20, 1905, pg. 5

⁶⁶ *Beaumont Journal*, April 9, 1905, pg. 8

⁶⁷ *Beaumont Enterprise*, March 12, 1905, pg. 9; *Beaumont Journal*, August 13, 1905, pg. 5 and December 24, 1905, pg. 5

⁶⁸ *Daughters of the American Revolution, Colonel George Moffett Chapter, Chapter History*, accessed August 22, 2025, <https://www.texasdar.org/chapters/ColonelGeorgeMoffett/history.htm>.

⁶⁹ Destenay, Emmanuel, "America's French Orphans: Mobilization, Humanitarianism, and the Protection of France during World War". <https://cambridgeblog.org/2024/08/americas-french-orphans-mobilization-humanitarianism-and-the-protection-of-france-during-world-war/> Accessed 9/26/2025.

⁷⁰ The location of the second most successful chapter is not identified in extant news accounts. *Beaumont Enterprise*, April 14, 1918, pg. 4; September 29, 1918, pg. 27; April 16, 1919, pg. 1; April 17, 1919, pg. 9; *Daily Advocate* (Stamford, CT), May 12, 1919, pg. 3; *Sunday Times-Union* (Jacksonville, Florida), April 14, 1918, pg. 34. See also O'Donnell, Joy, "Tales from the Archives: Aiding the Fatherless Children of France in WWI." <https://blog.dar.org/2017/06/02/tales-archives-aiding-fatherless-children-france-wwi> Accessed 9/26/2025

⁷¹ Col. George Moffett Chapter, NSDAR records, Tyrrell Historical Library, Beaumont, Texas. See also *Beaumont Enterprise*, April 14, 1918, pg. 4; September 29, 1918, pg. 27; April 16, 1919, pg. 1. The Col. George Moffett Chapter continues (in 2025) to maintain a file of letters on one of its "adoptees": a young French girl born January 12, 1912, who lost her father during the German occupation. The group sent the child and her mother money and letters of encouragement for several years, from 1918 through 1921, receiving letters of gratitude in return from France.

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for the Temple to the Brave, the DAR had almost 200,000 members nationwide, most of whom were white middle-class women, making it the largest patriotic women's organization at the time.⁷²

Concrete steps taken for the Temple's construction occurred in early 1931. At a joint meeting of the Board of Directors and the National Committee on Americanization and Patriotic Education held on February 23, 1931, Mrs. Rush Norvell moved that the board and committee recommend that the chapter sponsor the building of a memorial chapel in Beaumont to be dedicated to the Texas heroes of the army, navy and air in the World War. The motion was seconded by Mrs. F. J. Duff, Mrs. H. F. Triplett, and Mrs. E. Middleton and passed unanimously.

The DAR wanted to preserve the nation's heritage for future generations. Their envisioned memorial would therefore also be functional and serve as a museum, holding valuable historic artifacts.⁷³ Following the decision to name the war memorial "Temple to the Brave," the purpose of the building was expanded over the coming months. It would serve as a monument and memorial chapel to honor Texas servicemen of World War I, "who have fought ... to establish and maintain the democracy, integrity and loyalty of the United States."⁷⁴ It was meant to honor the sacrifices of those that served.

Beaumont made important contributions to the war effort. Thousands of area men served their country in the military and local shipbuilding efforts helped provide critical vessels needed for combat. Two infantry companies and one machine gun troop had been organized in Beaumont. Some years later, Company C, 143rd Infantry was officially formed on November 24, 1926 at Beaumont as a unit of the National Guard. In the aftermath of the war, local citizens were particularly receptive to the DAR's proposed monument and the many veterans of the local American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars posts also lent their support to the DAR project.

Amidst the significant economic, political, and social upheaval following the war, and the economic uncertainty brought on by the Great Depression, Beaumont's veteran and patriotic organizations were determined to cultivate and reinforce local citizen patriotism and foster unity. A public memorial would ensure that "the memory of their service and sacrifice would continue in the community."⁷⁵ For the DAR specifically, commemoration was directly linked to what they saw as their patriotic duty and societal role as good and moral citizens. These efforts reflected their shared values and the strong inclination to encourage national loyalty and to provide a place for the community to mourn those that were lost in combat, reflect and remember, and show appreciation for the sacrifices of those that served.⁷⁶ With a desire to honor those who had fought to bring peace to the world following the Great War, Beaumont citizens donated generously to the proposed memorial.

According to a later interview with Mrs. L. B. Pipkin, local regent of the Colonel George Moffett Chapter, DAR at the time of the Temple's construction, the City of Beaumont offered a choice of three locations for the proposed memorial: the triangle at Main and Crockett Streets, Magnolia Park, and Pipkin Park.

The Colonel George Moffett Chapter, DAR selected Pipkin Park due to its proximity to the Neches River, hoping that ships steaming past the building near the Port of Beaumont would dip their flags as a sign of respect. Unfortunately, Mrs. Pipkin stated, "somehow the captains were never told."⁷⁷ As a possible nod to the chapter's expressed wishes for

⁷² Simon Wendt, *The Daughters of the American Revolution*, 5, 59.

⁷³ Col. George Moffett Chapter, DAR Minutes, February 23, 1931

⁷⁴ *Beaumont Enterprise*, December 13, 1931, pg. 18

⁷⁵ Michael Nelson, "Is This your Boy? The Spirit of the American Doughboy in World War I Memorialization," M.A. Thesis, University of Nebraska, 2022, 66.

⁷⁶ Jay Winter, *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning*, 80-82; Wendt, *The Daughters of the American Revolution*, 3.

⁷⁷ Interview with past DAR Regent Mrs. L. B. Pipkin, *Beaumont Enterprise*, July 15, 1956

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the monument, attorney A. D. Moore, in his keynote address at the laying of the cornerstone on December 13, 1931, would express a hope that all nations' "ships in passing may be touched with the spirit of world peace enshrined here."⁷⁸

The City of Beaumont approved the erection of the memorial "to the World War Heroes of Texas" in Pipkin Park on March 3, 1931. The Temple was to be planned and built by the Colonel George Moffett Chapter, DAR and presented to the city upon completion.⁷⁹

The dedication ceremony for the plot of ground upon which the Temple to the Brave was to be built took place on Saturday, Memorial Day, May 30, 1931. In his address, attorney J. M. Combs stated that "we erect here a temple unique" that would "be extraordinary in that it will memorialize all patriotic figures, both in war and in peace. It is to memorialize not only those brave Americans of the past and present, but those of the future as well."⁸⁰ He added, "May I suggest that we, as good Americans, here dedicate ourselves anew to these great fundamental principles upon which our republic is founded, liberty, justice, equality before the law, and brotherhood."⁸¹

The Temple was built as a monument and memorial chapel to honor men that fought and died in World War I and to commemorate certain events and figures in early Texas history. While this monument stands out as unique in Beaumont, across the nation, many war monuments featured a blend of patriotic, historical, and religious themes, as seen in the subject building.⁸² It conveyed messages of patriotism, loyalty to the nation, reverence, and hope.

The cost of the proposed building was estimated at about \$25,000.00; however, civic-minded local suppliers donated almost all of the materials needed for the project, including architects Wallace B. Livesay and Newell Everett Wiedemann; Miles Frank Yount; Beaumont Building Material Company; Beaumont Cement Sales Company; Broussard-Warfield Co.; Wm. Cameron & Co.; A. L. Carter Lumber Company; Coale Lumber Company; masonry contractor C. B. Cooke; Gulf Manufacturing & Lumber Company; Harris Seale Co., Inc.; Hicks & Beck; Houston Structural Steel Co.; W. B. Laudes; Mabry Manufacturing & Lumber Company; Miller Vidor Lumber Company; McDaniel Bros.; C. A. McKinley & Sons; Neches Lumber & Building Company; Norvell-Wilder Supply Company; H. H. Sanders & Son; Sherwin-Williams Company; South Texas Lumber Co.; Texas Builders Supply Co.; E. H. Willis; E. L. Wilson Hardware Co.; and others.⁸³

The local DAR began state-wide fundraising efforts on April 2, 1931 with a goal of raising a minimum of \$7,000 to \$10,000 to cover costs of labor and freight on the stone donated by Miles Frank Yount. The DAR donated the first \$1,000 themselves.⁸⁴ Local radio station KFDM offered its services during the drive. Donation posters and post cards, artistically designed by Wallace Livesay, and boxes were placed in local hotels – Beaumont, La Salle and Edson – and bank lobbies (Figure 10).⁸⁵ Under chapter memorial drive chairman Mrs. E. Middleton, drive captains and their teams also canvassed the business section for donations.⁸⁶ Participation was open to one and all. No donation was considered too small. Funds

⁷⁸ *Beaumont Enterprise*, December 14, 1931, pg. 1

⁷⁹ Beaumont City Council Minutes, 7/19/1881-12/12/1967, Tyrrell Historical Library, Beaumont, Texas; *Beaumont Journal*, March 3, 1931, pg. 3

⁸⁰ Former District Judge; later U. S. Congressman for the Second District of Texas

⁸¹ *Beaumont Enterprise*, May 31, 1931, pg. 1

⁸² Jay Winter, *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning*, 71-72, 78-79, 85, 90.

⁸³ *Beaumont Enterprise*, May 24, 1931, pg. 2; *Beaumont Enterprise*, May 24, 1931, pg. 2; Contract, Mrs. L. B. Pipkin, Regent for Col. Geo. Moffett Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and King-Huff Construction Co., Inc., October 1931. Courtesy of Tyrrell Historical Library Archives, Beaumont, Texas

⁸⁴ *Beaumont Journal*, April 8, 1931; *Lubbock Morning Avalanche*, March 21, 1931, pg. 1; Col. George Moffett Chapter, DAR Minutes, March 4, 1931; *Beaumont Enterprise*, March 4, 1931, pg. 1

⁸⁵ Col. George Moffett Chapter, DAR Minutes, March 18, 1931 and April 1, 1931, DAR Archives, Tyrrell Historical Library, Beaumont, Texas; *Beaumont Enterprise*, March 29, 1931, pg. 7; *Beaumont Enterprise*, May 1, 1931, pg. 18

⁸⁶ *Beaumont Enterprise*, May 20, 1931, pg. 9

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raised during the drive would be used for local labor and materials and freight charges for the stone. The Beaumont Ministerial Alliance gifted a Bible to be placed in the Temple to the Brave.⁸⁷

Plans for the Temple to the Brave were drawn by architects Livesay and Wiedemann at no cost as their gift to the project.⁸⁸ Livesay's spouse, Mrs. Wallace B. (Julia Bryan) Livesay, was a member of the Colonel George Moffett Chapter, DAR and served as Chairman of its Memorial Committee at the time of the Temple to the Brave's construction. No extant records indicate that the DAR specifically requested a particular design for the construction of their memorial. However, the concept of a Late Gothic Revival commemorative stone structure with stained art glass windows as envisioned by Livesay and Wiedemann fully captured the sentiments the DAR wished to express. Realized during the early years of their joint partnership in Beaumont, the Temple's design is unique in the architects' body of work. Livesay and Wiedemann contracted with Dallas-based glass artisan Roger D. McIntosh to design and produce the art glass windows. The architects already had a working relationship with McIntosh as they had previously hired him to design and fabricate the art glass windows for the First Baptist Church at Broadway and Willow Streets in downtown Beaumont.

Local entrepreneur Miles Frank Yount of Yount-Lee Oil Company, owner of Yount Quarry in Manitou, Colorado, furnished the Colorado green stone for the exterior of the Temple for transport costs only. The granite was part of the shipment used in the concurrent construction of the new Jefferson County Courthouse (1931).⁸⁹ It was estimated at least 170 tons of stone would be used in the construction of the memorial.⁹⁰ The same plain terrazzo tile flooring that was concurrently being laid in the new Jefferson County Courthouse was used as flooring in the Temple to the Brave. The roof was constructed from slate tiles salvaged from the old 1893 Jefferson County Courthouse.

The most distinctive stained-glass windows positioned on the primary and rear elevation were also donated. The Yount-Lee Oil Company donated the rose window which adorns the rear elevation.⁹¹ The circular rose window featured the flags of the allies that fought in World War I and the shield of the United States at center (Photo 12). The Colonel George Moffett Chapter, DAR donated the large pointed arch window. The pointed arch window was dedicated to servicemen of the Army, Navy and Air Service that participated in World War I (Photos 10-11). The youthful, masculine sailor, doughboy, and aviator guard and watch over the globe positioned above a pastoral backdrop.⁹² The smaller upper sections reference the protection of democracy and cultural values including health, happiness, home, and capital deemed important to the Beaumont community and the nation at the time.

The American Legion, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Women's Club, Boy Scouts, Jefferson County Medical Association, and Business, and Professional Woman's Club, each purchased one of the six small Texas under six flags windows (Photos 13-18). These windows featured early explorers and military leaders in heroic scenes of territorial expansion and military victory, often displayed against pastoral backgrounds. The recognition of specific individuals and events reflected their importance to Beaumont, attitudes about Texas history at the time, and how the community chose to memorialize them in 1931. The depictions also reflected the DAR's broader interest in recognizing, interpreting, and preserving early local history as was seen in other western states. The goal was to cultivate local and national pride about the past.⁹³

⁸⁷ *Beaumont Enterprise*, March 29, 1931, pg. 7; *Beaumont Journal*, October 28, 1931, pg. 9; "Temple to the Brave," setxac.org

⁸⁸ *Beaumont Enterprise*, March 5, 1931, pg. 2; *Beaumont Enterprise*, May 20, 1931, pg. 9; *Beaumont Enterprise*, May 24, 1931, pg. 1

⁸⁹ *Beaumont Journal*, November 22, 1968, pg. 22

⁹⁰ *Beaumont Enterprise*, March 5, 1931, pg. 1 and pg. 2; *Beaumont Enterprise*, July 30, 1931, pg. 12

⁹¹ *Beaumont Enterprise*, September 29, 1940, pg. 33; *University Press*, Vol. 66, No. 53, Ed. 1, April 25, 1990

⁹² Jay Winter, *Sites of Memory, Sites of Mourning*, 72. In particular, the doughboy pictured with the weapon reflected national commemorative traditions that originated after the Civil War and Spanish American War, but the use of stained glass instead of a statue was unique; Jennifer Wingate, *100 Cities 100 Memorials: Restoration, Recognition & Remembrance, A Tribute to the 100 Official Centennial World War I Memorials* (Kenosha, WI: Pritzker Military Museum and Library, 2024) 23-24; Jennifer Wingate, *Sculpting Doughboys*, 8-9; Lisa Budreau, *Bodies of War: World War I and the Politics of Commemoration in America, 1919-1933* (New York: New York University Press, 2010) 3-4.

⁹³ Simon Wendt, *The Daughters of the American Revolution*, 14, 47-48, 59.

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The six flags featured represent the six nations that governed Texas:

1. France, depicting the ship of French explorer Rene Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle, with Native Americans on the shore looking outward toward the ship sailing into Matagorda Bay, 1685.
2. Spain, depicting Spanish explorer Alonso de Leon discovering Fort St. Louis, the failed settlement established by La Salle, 1689.
3. Mexico, depicting the abdication of Agustin de Iturbide, Emperor of Mexico, shortly after independence from Spain, 1824.
4. Republic of Texas, depicting Sam Houston and Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto at the culmination of the Texas Revolution, 1836.
5. Texas under the Confederacy, depicting Lieutenant Richard “Dick” Dowling and references to specific Confederate victories including the Battle of Sabine Pass for which Dowling was known, 1861.
6. United States, depicting the geography of Texas and the oil and cotton industries signifying the “progress of civilization,” 1865.⁹⁴

Research did not confirm whether the organizations that donated each of the windows were allowed to choose the subject matter. However, given its mission to preserve history, the DAR likely decided that they should reference World War I and Texas history. Temple to the Brave was constructed later than most World War I memorials, and depictions of Texas history may also have been influenced by the large-scale planning for the 1936 Texas Centennial, a statewide effort underway by 1931.⁹⁵ This property, however, was not built as part of the official statewide program and instead was solely a local endeavor. In this period, veterans and patriotic organizations frequently created local memorials to “promote positive memories of the war.”⁹⁶

A contract was signed with Winter King, President of King-Huff Construction Co., Inc., on October 28, 1931 to erect the structure.⁹⁷ The terms of the contract called for \$6,204.50 to be paid to the contractor as follows: \$2,114.50 in donated materials furnished by the Colonel George Moffett Chapter, DAR; and \$4,090.00 in cash as follows: 90% as work progressed and the balance upon completion. Estimates were to be furnished by the architects. The contract stipulated that if there were not enough material and funds available to complete the building, the contractor was to be paid for all work done. An itemized list of donated materials and merchants supplying same was attached to the contract. Not included in the original bid were art glass, electric lamps or fixtures.⁹⁸

⁹⁴ *Beaumont Enterprise*, September 10, 1931, pg. 17; *Beaumont Enterprise*, October 29, 1931, pg. 21; *Beaumont Enterprise*, February 16, 1932, pg. 6; *Beaumont Enterprise*, April 10, 1932, pg. 27; *Beaumont Enterprise*, October 20, 1932, pg. 9. The dates noted are ordered sequentially in the building, but it’s important to note that the actual chronology differed somewhat. For example, Spain controlled Texas prior to French arrival, and Texas was admitted to the United States in 1845 prior to the Civil War.

⁹⁵ Bonnie Tipton Wilson and Gregory Smith, National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, *Monuments and Buildings of the Texas Centennial*, 6. Interpretation of Texas history in the 1930s reflected the values and local identity of those working to memorialize it at the time. To them, it was a way to honor Texans that came before them. With more time and distance, historians now view these events with added complexity and nuance. For more on the history of commemoration, see Seth Bruggeman, *Here, George Washington was Born: Memory, Material Culture, and the Public History of a National Monument* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2008). For more on interpretations of Texas history over time, see Walter L. Buenger and Robert A. Calvert, ed, *Texas Through Time: Evolving Interpretations* (College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 1991).

⁹⁶ Jennifer Wingate, *Sculpting Doughboys*, 20. Disillusionment about the causes and benefits of the U.S. involvement in World War I was common in society in the 1920s and 1930s. Monuments were intended to be a unifying force.

⁹⁷ *Beaumont Journal*, October 28, 1931, pg. 9; Winter King was a prominent builder in Beaumont for fifty years until his death on April 13, 1976. He came to Beaumont from Austin prior to 1920 and was first employed a construction manager for Conway Brown before branching out on his own as a general contractor. He was a past president and one of the early organizers of the Association of General Contractors. During WWII he started the Winter King Realty Co. and taught a real estate class at Lamar College. In 1946 he formed the Winter King and Son Construction Company with his son, Jack L. King.

⁹⁸ Contract, Mrs. L. B. Pipkin, Regent for Col. Geo. Moffett Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution and King-Huff Construction Co., Inc., October 1931. Courtesy of Tyrrell Historical Library Archives, Beaumont, Texas

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A formal groundbreaking ceremony for the project took place on October 29, 1931.⁹⁹ In an article dated November 1, 1931, the *Beaumont Enterprise* stated the building would “stand not only as a memorial to the past but to reflect the progress of the future.”¹⁰⁰ On November 5, 1931 the Colonel George Moffett Chapter, DAR obtained a city permit to build the Temple to the Brave in Pipkin Park. The building would be of stone and brick construction, with a concrete foundation.¹⁰¹

The cornerstone was laid in an impressive and elaborate ceremony on Sunday, December 13, 1931. No photos of the ceremony appear to be extant. A box placed in the cornerstone included a Bible presented by Mrs. H. F. Triplett; a picture of the Virginia home of Colonel George Moffett, for whom the local DAR chapter was named; mementos supplied by the local consuls of Venezuela, Mexico, and France as symbols of goodwill and friendship; a roll of Jefferson County’s servicemen in all wars; newspaper clippings describing the Temple; and a copy of the December 13, 1931 *Beaumont Enterprise*. The program featured music by the Magnolia Petroleum Band, the American Legion Drum and Bugle Corps of Beaumont and Port Arthur, and the Woman’s Club Chorus. The keynote address was given by attorney A. D. Moore, who pointed out the significance of the new Temple to the Brave. The memorial was dedicated to world peace. Moore spoke eloquently of the Temple by Beaumont’s “waterway leading to all nations.”¹⁰²

An elm tree claimed to be one of only six grafts in the United States taken from the elm underneath which George Washington stood when assuming command of the Continental Army in 1776, was planted to the right of the Temple.¹⁰³ The tree was dedicated on February 22, 1932 by then Colonel George Moffett Chapter, DAR regent Mrs. L. B. Pipkin, who presented it to the city. The elm is no longer standing.

The Temple to the Brave was dedicated on October 19, 1932, the anniversary of British General Charles Cornwallis’ surrender to George Washington at Yorktown (Figure 11). Dedicatory speeches, as reported in several news articles, lauded not only the service of Texas men (soldiers, sailors, airmen) but also honored women who served in the Army or Navy Nurse Corps or other non-combat roles during the first World War.¹⁰⁴ During a moving ceremony, the Temple’s doors were opened and three Boy Scouts, representing the three principal faiths of the city – Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish – each placed wreaths on the altar. Rev. J. A. Smart, whose son Carroll Smart was the first Beaumont soldier killed during World War I, consecrated the altar and offered a prayer for peace.

The Colonel George Moffett Chapter, DAR officially turned the Temple to the Brave over to the City of Beaumont during its dedication.¹⁰⁵ During the presentation, Mrs. L. B. Pipkin stated, “Memorials are great human documents. They tell the story of the affairs of man, his reverence, his simplicity and his nobility of mind. It is in our memorials that we find a priceless heritage of inspiration and strength.”¹⁰⁶

⁹⁹ *Beaumont Enterprise*, November 1, 1931, pg. 18

¹⁰⁰ *Beaumont Enterprise*, November 1, 1931, pg. 18.

¹⁰¹ *Beaumont Enterprise*, November 6, 1931, pg. 11

¹⁰² *Beaumont Enterprise*, December 14, 1931, pg. 1

¹⁰³ This claim has not been confirmed.

¹⁰⁴ *Beaumont Journal*, October 11, 1932, pg. 7; *Beaumont Enterprise*, October 12, 1932, pg. 2; *Beaumont Enterprise*, October 16, 1932, pg. 6; *Beaumont Enterprise*, October 19, 1932, pg. 8; *Beaumont Journal*, October 20, 1932, pg. 14; Informational page of the Colonel George Moffett Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, texasdar.org. This date (the nineteenth) would have been particularly significant to the Daughters of the American Revolution, sponsors of the Temple to the Brave, in that Cornwallis’ surrender to Washington effectively ended the Revolutionary War. On November 11, 2007, the DAR rededicated the Temple to the Brave on its 75th anniversary as “a memorial to American military from all America’s wars.”

¹⁰⁵ *Beaumont Enterprise*, February 14, 1932, pg. 15; *Beaumont Enterprise*, October 12, 1932, pg. 1; *Beaumont Enterprise*, October 19, 1932, pg. 8; *Beaumont Enterprise*, October 20, 1932, pg. 14

¹⁰⁶ *Beaumont Enterprise*, July 15, 1956; *University Press*, Vol. 66, No. 53, Ed. 1, April 25, 1990; Little information was located on the public reaction to the building upon completion.

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Plans were made to form a Board of Trustees for the management of the building to include representatives from the Colonel George Moffett Chapter, DAR, United Daughters of the Confederacy, American Legion and auxiliary, Spanish-American War Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars and auxiliary, Daughters of 1812, Woman's Club, Chamber of Commerce, Young Men's Business League, and several citizens at large. The board would arrange to keep the building open to visitors; accept items for donation; plan and conduct exhibitions and "so manage its affairs that it would always be a center of patriotic endeavor."¹⁰⁷ Permanent officers were elected to the Board of the Trustees on February 9, 1933 at City Hall and included chairman, Mrs. L. B. Pipkin; H. E. Braunig, vice chairman; Mrs. R. E. Masterson, secretary, and Mrs. P. H. Mahon, treasurer. Initial members of the board included Mrs. A. B. Marks, Mrs. Dale Broussard, Mrs. Clara Chinski, W. B. Livesay, R. C. Black, N. M. Harris, Mrs. R. E. Masterson, Mrs. C. A. Mendoza, Mrs. P. H. Mahon, Mrs. Lipscomb Norvell, Mrs. L. B. Pipkin, Mrs. R. F. Pray, Mrs. E. Middleton, H. E. Braunig, Ben Irby and parks superintendent Frank L. Bertschler. Members voted to leave a key to the building with the chamber of commerce "to be at the disposal of responsible citizens who wish to take visitors through." The board adopted regulations at this meeting. Meetings were to be held quarterly on the second Thursdays in January, April, July, and October.¹⁰⁸

Temple to the Brave between 1932 and 1975

While the Col. George Moffett Chapter, DAR gifted the Temple to the Brave building to the City of Beaumont at the time of its dedication on October 19, 1932, the DAR continues to oversee the memorial's day to day operations and opens its museum to visitors. A museum curator, retired Jefferson County Sheriff's Department Major Dennis White, has also assisted with museum openings and tours since 1987 (following the period of the Temple's significance).

Helmets, bayonets, rifles, uniforms, photos, posters and other memorabilia donated by veterans or family members connected to their service in World War I and other conflicts are located in the display cases positioned in the front portion of the building or hung on the walls. A piece of oak from the frigate *USS Constitution*, donated to the Colonel George Moffett Chapter, DAR by United States Commissioner G. Shepherd at Galveston upon the building's dedication, holds a special place of honor in the Temple's collections. The original Bible dedicated to the Temple in 1932 by members of the Beaumont Ministerial Alliance remains prominently positioned in front of the altar, open to its prayer for world peace. Central to the memorial's primary intent as envisioned at the time of its construction, all guests have been invited to view the inscription by DAR docents and reflect upon its meaning. A book listing all the building's donors, written in calligraphy on vellum pages by DAR member Erin O'Brien at the time of the Temple's dedication, is placed near the entrance of the memorial.

Other than the Temple's dedication on October 19, 1932, no religious observances appear to have taken place inside the memorial except for wreath laying ceremonies on Memorial Day.

Since the Temple's inception, the DAR have opened the Temple for special docent-led tours as well as on annual patriotic holidays except for July 4th.¹⁰⁹ As the building was unventilated for much of its existence and because of local holiday celebrations, it was felt that not many patrons would be drawn out on that day.¹¹⁰ Out of tradition, the DAR continues to keep the Temple closed on Independence Day so that families may stay home and enjoy the holiday. On Flag Day the DAR provided patrons with a copy of the Flag Code and small American flags.

¹⁰⁷ *Beaumont Enterprise*, October 12, 1932, pg. 1

¹⁰⁸ *Beaumont Enterprise*, February 10, 1933, pg. 7; *Beaumont Journal*, February 10, 1933, pg. 10

¹⁰⁹ *Beaumont Journal*, Tuesday, May 30, 1967, pg. 11

¹¹⁰ The building's first HVAC system was not installed until 2007. This tradition continued even following the addition of an HVAC system in 2007.

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In October 1933, the interior of the Temple was illuminated at night for the first time as a courtesy to Goods Roads convention visitors. All citizens were invited to “include the memorial in their automobile tours.”¹¹¹ The lights showcased the memorial’s stained art glass windows to great effect and the intent was to continue to utilize them on special occasions. It is unknown how long this practice continued.

Due to its limited openings throughout each year, large crowds flocked to the Temple to visit whenever they had the opportunity. In September 1940, an estimated 500 people visited the memorial in a single day, including many children.¹¹² Ever curious, children through the decades have visited the memorial with parents and grandparents, and have been allowed to handle certain exhibits and try on uniforms.

A preponderance of the museum’s visitors has always been veterans, who are the first to arrive and the last to leave. The reverential space inspires reflection. The curiosity of other museum guests invites conversation and the opportunity to share their experiences.

The longest continual openings of the Temple to the Brave occurred in 1936 and 1940, respectively. The building was open every afternoon from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. during the American Legion state convention held in Beaumont from August 30 through September 1, 1936. Local citizens were also invited to view the exhibits. Various local women’s organizations acted as hostesses during the event, including the Woman’s Club, Spanish War Veterans auxiliary, Jewish Women’s Council, and Catholic Daughters of America.¹¹³ In 1940, the Temple opened daily in observance of Constitution Week from September 16 through September 20.¹¹⁴

During the 1930s and 1940s the DAR hosted annual Memorial Day services at the Temple in connection with the building’s regular opening for visitors to view the war memorabilia. From that period forward American Legion Post 33, located one block to the north of Pipkin Park, continued to place a wreath at the Temple’s doors or altar or otherwise incorporate the building into its own Memorial Day services, paying homage to fallen servicemen and later, servicewomen as well. One of the earliest American Legion Posts in the United States, Post 33 received its temporary charter on September 5, 1919. The post suffered the loss of many of its early records, including photographs, due to building damage and a detailed description of these services is no longer available.

The most striking use of the Pipkin Park grounds upon which the Temple is located occurred on Memorial Day, 1969. Former American Legion Post 33 commander and disabled World War I veteran Dale Broussard, then chairman of locally owned Broussard’s Mortuary, designed a personal tribute to Beaumont servicemen who died in combat during World War I. He created a field of twenty-five graves, comprised of twenty-two crosses and three stars of David, on the park grounds between the Temple and the nearby American Legion Post 33. Behind the graves was a sign with red letters spelling out the phrase “Lest We Forget” (Figure 28). Broussard hoped that his exhibit would bring renewed attention to this day of remembrance.¹¹⁵

Armistice Day (later Veterans Day) wreath laying ceremonies or other services also figured sporadically in the life of the Temple, although typically the memorial was just opened to visitors on that annual patriotic day “dedicated to the cause of world peace.”¹¹⁶ The most notable city-wide observance of Armistice Day occurred at 11:00 a.m. on November 11, 1952. American Legion members fired from a special fireworks gun placed on Harbor Island in the Neches River

¹¹¹ *Beaumont Enterprise*, October 12, 1933, pg. 8

¹¹² *Beaumont Enterprise*, September 30, 1940, pg. 10

¹¹³ *Beaumont Enterprise*, August 9, 1936, pg. 34; *Beaumont Enterprise*, August 29, 1936, pg. 3

¹¹⁴ *Beaumont Journal*, September 16, 1940, pg. 9; *Beaumont Enterprise*, September 17, 1940, pg. 2

¹¹⁵ *Beaumont Journal*, May 28, 1969, pg. 18

¹¹⁶ Excerpt, 52 Stat. 351; 5 U. S. Code, Sec. 87a, approved May 13, 1938. “History of Veterans Day.” U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs, <https://department.va.gov/veterans-day/history-of-veterans-day/>

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while F-8 jet fighters and B-29 Superfortresses performed a flyover during a mile long parade through downtown Beaumont, culminating in front of city hall for memorial services and a mayoral address. Simultaneously, Legion members placed wreaths on local war memorials, including the Temple to the Brave. A destroyer escort, docked at the city docks, was open to visitors.¹¹⁷ Archival photos of events at the Temple to the Brave were not found in the DAR files maintained at the Tyrrell Historical Library in Beaumont or in other extant record sources pertaining to the memorial. A Texas state holiday since 1921, Armistice Day became a national holiday in 1938. In 1954 Congress changed Armistice Day to Veterans Day in “honor of veterans of all American wars.”¹¹⁸ This 1950s change, and the fading connection to World War I by that point, may have influenced the ongoing evolution of public commemoration at Temple to the Brave over the years. World War I monuments were often rededicated in subsequent decades and expanded to memorialize those who fought in all U.S. conflicts through the Vietnam War and beyond.¹¹⁹

In September 2020, the Pipkin Park Honor Guard, a Boy Scout-based group, was organized due to the Temple to the Brave’s significance and the Scouts’ relationship with the building. Along with American Legion Post 33, the Honor Guard conducts Gold Star and 9/11 ceremonies on the grounds of Pipkin Park near the Temple to the Brave.

Criterion C: Architecture

Brief Overview of Late Gothic Revival Architecture

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Late Gothic Revival architecture became a popular choice for religious and educational institutions in the United States. “In both variations of the style, architectural design relied on European precedents. In most instances, the innovation of American architects and their designs blended with those precedents to create a hybrid American result.”¹²⁰ Among the religious denominations to embrace Late Gothic Revival design were the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Catholic Church, resulting in countless examples across the country. The Methodist Church even opted to make the Gothic style the official style of the denomination.¹²¹ Changes in higher education in the late 19th century served as a catalyst for innovation in campus planning and architectural design at American colleges and universities resulting in the construction of new Collegiate Gothic buildings. Bryn Mawr and Princeton University featured designs by Cope and Stewardson in the 1890s, but the style was popularized by the firm of Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson with Ralph Adams Cram at the helm. Many other colleges and universities soon adopted the style.¹²² Collegiate Gothic “evoked the tradition, religious devotion, prestige, and lineage of academia by recalling the monasteries, cathedrals, and both Oxford and Cambridge universities in England but often on a larger scale. It afforded newer institutions to provide a standard style while still allowing room for each building on campus to have unique details to identify its use and function.”¹²³ Given the preference for the style within ecclesiastical and educational institutional design, Livesay and Wiedemann would have been well aware of these trends, and it’s not surprising Late Gothic Revival was chosen for the Temple to the Brave.

Late Gothic Revival architecture is characterized by high pitched gable roofs and often bell towers providing a strong vertical emphasis, masonry construction, intricate tracery, pointed arch window and door openings, buttresses, and

¹¹⁷ *Beaumont Journal*, November 3, 1952, pg. 17

¹¹⁸ Stephen S. Cure, *A Centennial Perspective on Texas in the Great War*, 64-66.

¹¹⁹ Michael Nelson, “Is This your Boy? The Spirit of the American Doughboy in World War I Memorialization,” M.A. Thesis, University of Nebraska, 2022, 89, 100.

¹²⁰ Hannah Curry, Ella McIntire and Delfin Weis, “Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Rosenberg, Fort Bend County, Texas” National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2022, pg. 22.

¹²¹ *Ibid*, pg. 23.

¹²² Marcus Whiffen, *American Architecture since 1780: A Guide to the Styles* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 1992) 173-175; Glenn Patton, “American Collegiate Gothic: A Phase of University Architectural Development,” *The Journal of Higher Education*, January 1967, Vol. 38 No. 1, pp. 1-8.

¹²³ *Ibid*, pg. 23.

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stained glass windows including circular rose windows, coupled with vaulted ceilings and often ornate interior materials and detailing. Late Gothic Revival churches often feature cruciform plans. Gothic design, embracing spirituality, was seen as an antidote to the materialism of the modern age and historicists relied upon it to recalibrate and “redress the frailties of modernity.”¹²⁴ Late Gothic Revival architecture provided a sense of stability and tradition.¹²⁵

Temple to the Brave as an Example of Late Gothic Revival Design

Plans for the Temple to the Brave (1931-1932) were drawn during the early careers of Livesay and Wiedemann, at the height of their partnership in Beaumont (Figures 5-11). The property is an outstanding example of Late Gothic Revival architecture. The memorial’s design strongly evokes tradition and ecclesiastical architecture. Created later than many World War I memorials, the detailed architectural design and delicate stained-glass artistry reflects the intentionality of the groups that supported its construction. Visible character defining features of Late Gothic Revival architecture include rough finished Colorado green stone (granite) cladding over common brick, a high pitched gable roof, a primary elevation enhanced by a Tudor arch entry and double doors, quoins, wooden tracery, pointed arch and circular rose stained glass windows, and buttresses on the side and rear elevations. The interior features an open floor plan, vaulted ceiling, oak trusses, oak wainscoting, decorative plaster work, and terrazzo flooring. Stained art glass windows throughout the memorial were designed by Dallas-based Roger D. McIntosh of Pittsburg Plate Glass Company. The stained art glass windows depict heroic and patriotic images of servicemen in all branches of the military, the flags of United States allies during World War I, and select individuals and events in early Texas history. Three rectangular stained glass windows are positioned in a regular pattern along each side elevation much like the nave of a church. The altar, positioned at northwest end of the building indicates its use as a quiet place for mourning, reflection, and remembrance.¹²⁶ Livesay and Wiedemann envisioned and beautifully communicated a lasting war memorial that invites its viewers into the shared remembrance of sacrifice, and hope for world peace.

Livesay and Wiedemann, Architects

Wallace Bright Livesay (1886-1972) and Newell Everett Wiedemann (1895-1976)

Wallace Bright Livesay was born January 20, 1886 in Frankfurt, Greenbriar County, West Virginia, the son of John and Sarah Robinson Livesay. He graduated from the University of Illinois with a degree in architectural engineering and by 1910 was employed as a civil engineer for the railroad in Virginia. While working as a consulting engineer for a steel construction company in Wilmington, Delaware, Livesay married Julia Bryan on March 22, 1917. He was then hired as a professor, textbook author and structural engineer in the architectural department at the University of Illinois, where he first became acquainted with his student and later business partner, Newell Everett Wiedemann. Livesay then moved to southeast Texas and was employed as an engineer with the Texas Company (Texaco) of Port Arthur prior to relocating to Beaumont as an architect. “Who’s Who in Engineering” rated Livesay one of the 11,000 foremost engineers in the nation.

Newell Everett Wiedemann was born on March 16, 1895 in Equality, Gallatin County, Illinois, the son of Charles and Lou Wiedemann. Wiedemann worked as a farmer for his father in Clay County, Arkansas prior to his enlistment in the Army on December 5, 1917 during World War I. He was discharged from service on March 19, 1919. Wiedemann attended the University of Illinois, where he was a student of Wallace B. Livesay, and earned degrees in both architecture (1920) and architectural engineering. He also studied art at the École de Beaux Arts in Paris, France. He married Virginia

¹²⁴ Ziolkowski, Jan M. “Point Taken: Gothic Modernism and the Modern Ages,” *The Juggler of Notre Dame and The Medievalizing of Modernity*, Volume 3: The American Middle Ages. pp. 262, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctv5zfv24.9>

¹²⁵ *Ibid*, pg. 287

¹²⁶ Scalbert, Irénée. “The Nature of Gothic.” *Architectural Association of Architecture*, AA Files, 2026, No. 72, pp. 73-77, 79-91, 93-95.

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Winstead on June 13, 1921. Upon his graduation from the University of Illinois, the University of Kansas employed Wiedemann as a professor of architecture. He subsequently resigned when Livesay and Wiedemann decided to open an architectural firm in Beaumont, Texas.

Livesay and Wiedemann, Architects opened for business on July 1, 1922 in the V. Weiss Building in downtown Beaumont. By 1923, the firm opened a branch office in Port Arthur. In late spring 1924, Livesay and Wiedemann affiliated for a time with the firm of R. H. Hunt & Co. of Dallas, Texas and Chattanooga, Tennessee, architects of churches and school buildings of the southern states. Livesay and Wiedemann designed numerous homes, churches, schools and other buildings across southeast Texas, including the Temple to the Brave (1931-1932) and sketches for its stunning stained art glass windows. Their work also included designs for encaustic mosaics. Significant projects included the former First Presbyterian Church, 948 Fifth Street, Port Arthur (1925), currently home of New Light Missionary Baptist Church; Central Fire Station, a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, 400 Walnut at Mulberry, Beaumont (1927); the former First Baptist Church, Broadway and Willow (1924-25); John H. Phelan house 2810 Calder Avenue, Beaumont, (1929); W. Oscar Vaughan House, 229 Allien Place, Port Arthur (1926); former Park Street Christian Church at Victoria Street and Washington Boulevard, Beaumont (1928), currently the Golden Triangle Christian Fellowship Church; the Wallace B. Livesay House, 2385 Harrison Avenue, Beaumont (1929); Dr. Herbert D. Harlan House, 2460 Long Avenue, Beaumont, (1929); Adolph S. Hansen House, 2710 Griffing Residential Park, Port Arthur (1929); J. Alex Marshall House, 2425 Long Avenue, Beaumont (1931); and the remodel of the First Baptist Church at Pearl and Forsythe Streets (Tyrrell Public Library, 1923) when the property was donated and converted for as library. In 1936, during Livesay and Wiedemann's partnership, Newell Wiedemann was one of seven architects selected by the federal government to consult on government projects in the Panama Canal Zone. Wiedemann was selected due to his extensive training in designing schools. The three-month project entailed assembling complete standard forms, contracts, and specifications for the school division.

Livesay and Wiedemann were well known and respected throughout the region and state. Their designs expressed both function and inspiration and the buildings emoted feelings of both beauty and purpose. Their work often reflected early 20th century Spanish Colonial or Colonial Revival styles, and the architects notably experimented with Late Gothic Revival design with the First Presbyterian Church ("First Presbyterian") in Port Arthur (1925, extant, Figure 19) and the former Park Street Christian Church ("Park Street") in Beaumont (1928, extant, Figure 20) early in their partnership. Both served as precursors for the Temple to the Brave (1931-1932). Each of the brick churches featured an asymmetrically placed tower and a number of low relief buttresses, high-pitched gable roof, rear classroom addition, a mix of rectangular, pointed and Tudor arch windows openings occupied by stained glass windows and ornate tracery, and cast stone ornamentation. The design of First Presbyterian was more modest overall, while Park Street was more elaborate. Particularly the Park Street recessed main entrance featuring three stone Tudor arches framed by stone quoins at the top of a wide, tall multi-step stone staircase, and the large central Tudor arch window opening beneath the gable exhibited an elevated design.¹²⁷ Each of the churches has undergone interior renovations or repairs over the years making a study of the architects' original designs difficult. It's unclear if either was originally designed with a circular rose window at the rear, but the attached multistory classroom additions, original to each church, makes it unlikely.

When compared to these two precedents, it's clear that the architects drew more inspiration from Park Street Christian Church for the design of Temple to the Brave. Noticeable similarities include the high-pitched gable roof, central Tudor arch entrance framed by quoins of finished stone, the large pointed arch window framed by quoins, and small rectangular metal louvre under the eave of the roof. Temple to the Brave stands out with its rough finished Colorado green stone exterior cladding, and circular rose window, and remains remarkably intact with few alterations and a very high level of historic integrity. It also appears to be the only monument of its kind designed by the architects.

¹²⁷ The plain glass window was also depicted in Livesay and Wiedeman's original sketch for the building that appeared in the *Beaumont Enterprise*, April 15, 1928, pg. 33.

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Wiedemann moved to Waco in the mid-1940s. He married his second wife, Annah Bell McKechnie, on February 5, 1949. While in Waco, he continued as an architect, notably designing the Parkdale School, the city's first air-conditioned school; the Jefferson-Moore High School and Salvation Army Center. He also designed a Veterans Administration hospital in Panama. Weideman served as president of the Waco Chapter of the American Chapter of the American Institute of Architecture and held a fellowship in the Society of American Registered Architects. He died September 28, 1976.¹²⁸

Livesay continued designing buildings in Beaumont following his partnership with Wiedemann. A notable example of his solo work is the Security State Bank & Trust Co. Building at 725 Orleans Street (1949). In 1951 his son, Tom B. Livesay, joined him in his architectural practice, followed by Wallace B. Livesay, Jr., and together father and sons produced a prolific body of work for the remainder of Wallace B. Livesay's life.¹²⁹ Wallace B. Livesay died November 16, 1972 and he is interred at Magnolia Cemetery in Beaumont after a career spanning fifty years. He was a lifetime member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Texas Society of Architects.

Brief Comparative Analysis of Similar Monuments¹³⁰

World War I changed the global landscape. Its most devastating side effect, however, was the tragic loss of millions of lives in combat. In a message to Congress on January 8, 1918, President Woodrow Wilson uttered the following words:

We entered this war because violations of right had occurred which touched us to the quick and made the life of our own people impossible unless they were corrected and the world secured once for all against their recurrence. What we demand in this war, therefore, is nothing peculiar to ourselves. It is that the world be made fit and safe to live in; and particularly that it be made safe for every peace-loving nation which, like our own, wishes to live its own life, determine its own institutions, be assured of justice and fair dealing by the other peoples of the world as against force and selfish aggression. All the peoples of the world are in effect partners in this interest, and for our own part we see very clearly that unless justice be done to others it will not be done to us. The programme of the world's peace, therefore, our programme ...¹³¹

Part of his 14-point program for world peace, Wilson's points would form the basis for peace negotiations following the war.

In the United States alone, the U. S. Department of Defense listed 116,516 American war deaths.¹³² That figure included over 5,000 Texans.¹³³ Across Texas, monuments to honor its fallen heroes began to appear shortly after the war. War memorials included small monuments, statues, or plaques generally located on courthouse grounds, in cemeteries, on

¹²⁸ Newell Everett Wiedemann: *Beaumont Enterprise*, June 7, 1936, pg. 15; N. E. Wiedemann obituary. *Waco-Tribune-Herald*, September 30, 1976, pg. 2; U.S., Find a Grave Index, 1600s-Current, ancestry.com; U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900-2016 – 1920 University of Illinois, ancestry.com; Arkansas, Marriage Certificates, 1917-1972, ancestry.com; U.S. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918, ancestry.com

¹²⁹ Wallace Livesay: U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 (multiple), ancestry.com; 1910, 1920 United States Federal Census; *The Indianapolis News*, Indianapolis, Indiana, March 22, 1917, pg. 7; U.S. Newspapers.com Obituaries Index, 1800s-current; *Beaumont Enterprise*, June 22, 1922, pg. 9; *Beaumont Enterprise*, July 2, 1922, pg. 2; *Beaumont Enterprise*, June 17, 1923, pg. 14; *Beaumont Enterprise*, May 4, 1924, pg. 30; *Beaumont Journal*, March 1, 1933, pg. 12; Wallace B. Livesay House, <https://sah-archipedia.org>; *The Owensboro Messenger*, March 25, 1917, pg. 14; U.S., World War I Draft Card Registration Cards, 1917-1918; Obituary, Wallace B. Livesay, *The Daily News Leader*, Staunton, Virginia, November 17, 1972; Obituary, Wallace Livesay, Sr., *Beaumont Journal*, November 16, 1972, pg. 34

¹³⁰ Comparable examples mentioned were constructed around the same time and many focused on honoring those who fought in World War I.

¹³¹ President Wilson's Message to Congress, January 8, 1918; Records of the United States Senate; Record Group 46; Records of the United States Senate; National Archives.

¹³² American War and Military Operations Casualties: Lists and Statistics. Congressional Research Service, 2020.

¹³³ "The War to End War," World War I Centennial. Texas Historical Commission.

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university campuses, in parks, city plazas, or at the Texas Capitol grounds.¹³⁴ Houston's Cenotaph to the Unknown Soldier (1920), originally located at the old City Hall at Market Square (subsequently moved in 1939 to Sam Houston Park), is a 10-foot-tall structure designed as a tower, sponsored by the Houston War Mothers. Four tapered levels of pink rough-cut granite blocks are stacked in the shape of a small tower. A large granite block sits on top of the tower and is faced with a bronze plaque featuring an eagle with outstretched wings on its top edge. In Beaumont, local citizens banded together in 1920 to purchase and erect a small granite tablet to local servicemen who had perished in the war. Other granite or marble tablets were installed at Fort Worth (1920), Love Field in Dallas (1922), and Texas A & M College (1924) honoring soldiers of a religious affiliation, military post, or school. Except for the Beaumont memorial tablet, all these monuments listed the names of local war dead.¹³⁵

The George Washington Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution erected an impressive upright granite monument on a terraced base flanked by benches on either side in 1927. Galveston's fallen war heroes from the First World War are listed on a large bronze plaque attached to the front of the granite tablet.

Renowned Italian sculptor Pompeo Coppini's Littlefield Fountain (1920-1933) on the University of Texas campus in Austin provides a more metaphorical interpretation of a military memorial. The prow of a ship rises from the waters, bearing the figure of a winged Columbia bearing aloft two torches with two additional figures of a soldier and sailor beside her. Together, the three figures represent the armed forces sailing overseas to defend democracy. Mermen ride hippocamps in front of the ship.

In 1923, the Ezekial window was added to the Congregation Temple Emanuel in Beaumont. The 16-foot-tall stained glass window was created to honor Sam Lewis who died in France in 1918.¹³⁶

A. J. Moore, a member of the San Antonio Scientific Society, stated in 1919 that a memorial should have four considerations: dignity, suitability, permanence, and usefulness "for the men who died and the men who went, ready to die if need be, and offered their lives for the living."¹³⁷ As a counterbalance to the more traditional memorials to war dead, commemorative hospitals, parks, halls, schools, gardens and other "useful spaces that would benefit the living" were erected across Texas and the nation following World War I. Time and a second World War, however, often faded these associations to World War I, until few recalled why such spaces had originally been dedicated.¹³⁸

Moore's comments presaged the later built San Antonio Municipal Auditorium, a new performing arts facility. The 12-sided, Spanish Colonial Revival style auditorium, constructed in 1926 and dedicated with significant fanfare to the fallen of World War I in news accounts, was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1981. It was first renovated in 1985 and then subsequently rebuilt and expanded into the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts (2010-2014). The correlation between this structure and its history as a World War I memorial is not readily apparent to visitors today.

¹³⁴ Stephen S. Cure, *A Centennial Perspective on Texas in the Great War* (College Station, TX: Texas A & M University Press, 2024) 62-85.

¹³⁵ Beaumont had originally intended listing the names of its war dead on its modest 1920 stone tablet, and editors published numerous updated lists in its local newspapers, the *Beaumont Enterprise* and *Beaumont Journal*, requesting readers to review names for accuracy of spelling, service, and connection of each individual to the local community. The list could not be completed or verified prior to installation, and the stone was ultimately erected without names on May 31, 1920 in Keith Park (subsequently moved to the corner of Main, Mulberry and Liberty Streets in 1927). *Beaumont Enterprise*, March 24, 1920, pg. 1; *Beaumont Enterprise*, March 25, 1920, pg. 10; *Beaumont Enterprise*, March 27, 1920, pg. 6; *Beaumont Enterprise*, March 30, 1920, pg. 12. Beaumont's fallen soldiers were also subsequently all ordered government headstones by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the local Farrell D. Minor Veterans of Foreign Wars Post. *Beaumont Journal*, May 26, 1925, pg. 1.

¹³⁶ Stephen S. Cure, *A Centennial Perspective on Texas in the Great War*, 82-83.

¹³⁷ *San Antonio Light*, January 18, 1919, pg. 10

¹³⁸ Steven Trout, "Commemoration and Remembrance (USA)," 1914-1918 Online, *International Encyclopedia of the First World War*, <https://encyclopedia.1914-1918-online.net/article/commemoration-and-remembrance-usa-1-1/>

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Another exception includes the current Darrell K. Royal – Texas Memorial Stadium (University of Texas at Austin, 1924), which was originally dedicated to all Texans who served during World War I. As later wars ensued, it was rededicated twice. In 1977, the stadium was rededicated, for its third time, to American soldiers of all wars.

Huntsville Memorial Hospital was chartered on April 4, 1927 as a memorial to the military heroes of World War I. The facility later partnered with Community Hospital Corporation in 2020 and continues to pay tribute to its original purpose while providing medical services.

When compared to these other contemporaneous examples, the Temple to the Brave stands out as unique. The DAR approached Livesay and Wiedemann with a desire to build a “temple unique,” a practical memorial that would not only honor fallen Texas servicemen of World War I, but be dedicated to the world peace envisioned by leaders and ordinary citizens alike around the globe. This concept is perfectly expressed in the architects’ Late Gothic Revival design. The Temple to the Brave, with its vaulted ceiling, finely crafted altar and glow of light from stained art glass windows, allows visitors the opportunity to reflect and learn.

Roger D. McIntosh (1888-1977), Glass Artisan

Roger Demontluzin McIntosh was born on October 8, 1888 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana to William McIntosh and Abi McCollum. He was so impressed as a youth with the finely crafted, hand-painted stained art glass produced by the artists at the Dallas Art Glass Company that he decided upon glasswork as his own career. By at least 1905, he was first employed by Dallas Art Glass Company. He left Dallas in 1910 to work for Waco Art Glass Works. McIntosh returned to Dallas by 1912 and his employment with Dallas Art Glass upon learning of the illness of his elder brother. McIntosh then joined the Dallas branch of Pittsburg Plate Glass Company in 1918. He was highly skilled and became “one of the foremost designers of glasswork in the country by the time of the Depression of the thirties.” Pittsburg Plate Glass phased out its “old fashioned” Art Glass Department in the 1940s. McIntosh continued with the company, designing plate glass storefronts.

McIntosh purchased a house at 1518 Tremont (now Abrams) in 1922, known as “The Shack,” that he used as his home/studio. It was filled with stunning items reflecting his skilled craftsmanship and fine attention to detail, including windows, mirrors, lamps, light fixtures and hand carved woodwork. McIntosh’s home was added to the National Register of Historic Places on March 1, 1983. McIntosh was “the craftsman responsible for much of the Art Deco and traditional glasswork in Dallas, Fort Worth, and throughout the Southwest.” His work can be found at numerous prominent buildings, churches, and properties subsequently listed on the National Register of Historic Places.¹³⁹ McIntosh died on February 27, 1977 and is buried at Oaklawn Cemetery in Dallas.

Conclusion

The Temple to the Brave is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Social History and Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level of significance. The property meets Criteria Consideration F (Commemorative Properties) because it derives its primary significance from architectural distinction and was commemorative in function since its inception. The period of significance is 1931-1975.

¹³⁹ U.S., Find a Grave Index, 1600s-current, ancestry.com; Texas, U.S., Death Certificates, 1903-1982, ancestry.com; Lewis, Tracy. “Living in Glass Houses,” *Texas Monthly*, December 1977, pp. 128-131; 1900, 1920 and 1930 U.S. Federal Census (Dallas) and 1910 U. S. Federal Census (Waco), ancestry.com; U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995 (Dallas - multiple years and Waco, 1911), ancestry.com; Mason, Alan S. “McIntosh, Roger D., House.” National Register of Historic Places, March 1983. On file at the Texas Historical Commission. Accessed May 25, 2023.

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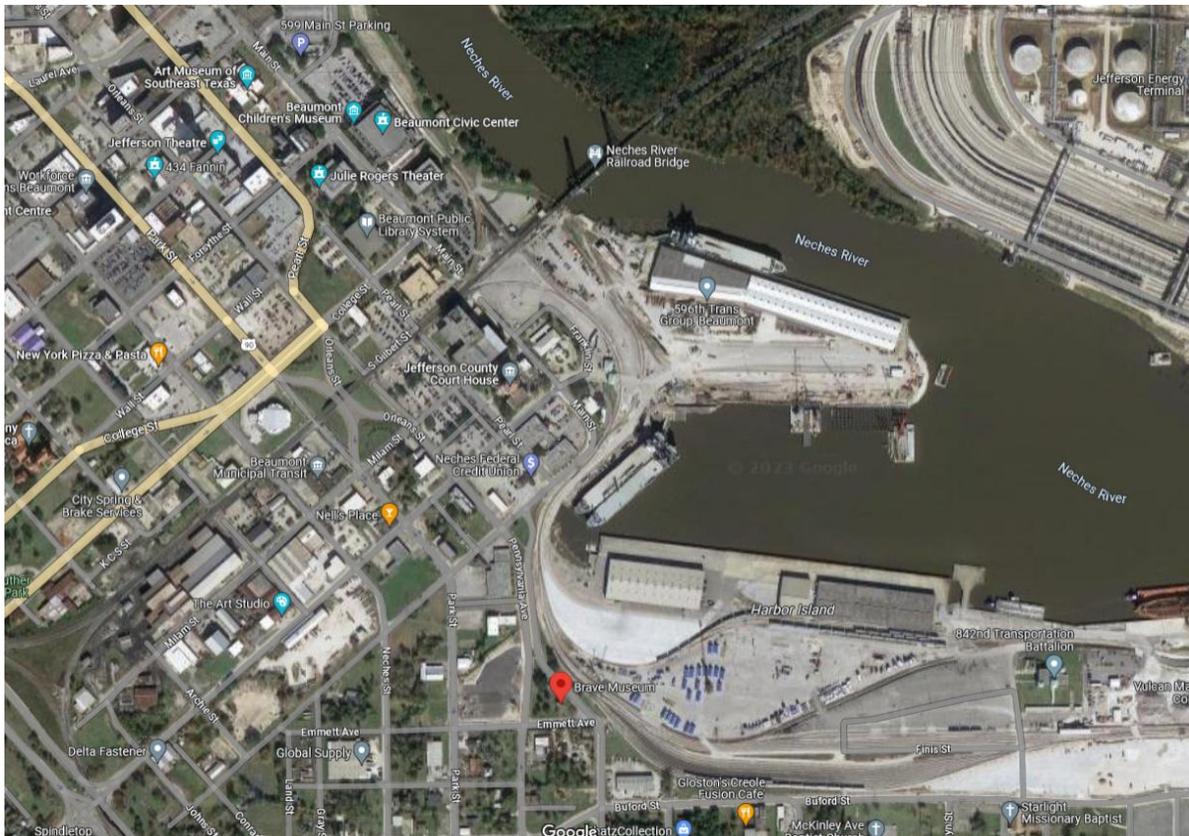
Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Maps

Map 1: Jefferson County, Texas



Map 2: Google Map showing Temple to the Brave in Beaumont, Texas, accessed June 7, 2023.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Map 3: Jefferson Central Appraisal District Map. PL S TR 12 N TEVIS, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas (Property ID: 424508) as recorded in the Jefferson Central Appraisal District. Data accessed September 27, 2023. The boundary follows the legal parcel and includes the Temple and other objects added to the property.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Map 4: Google Earth Map, accessed June 19, 2025.



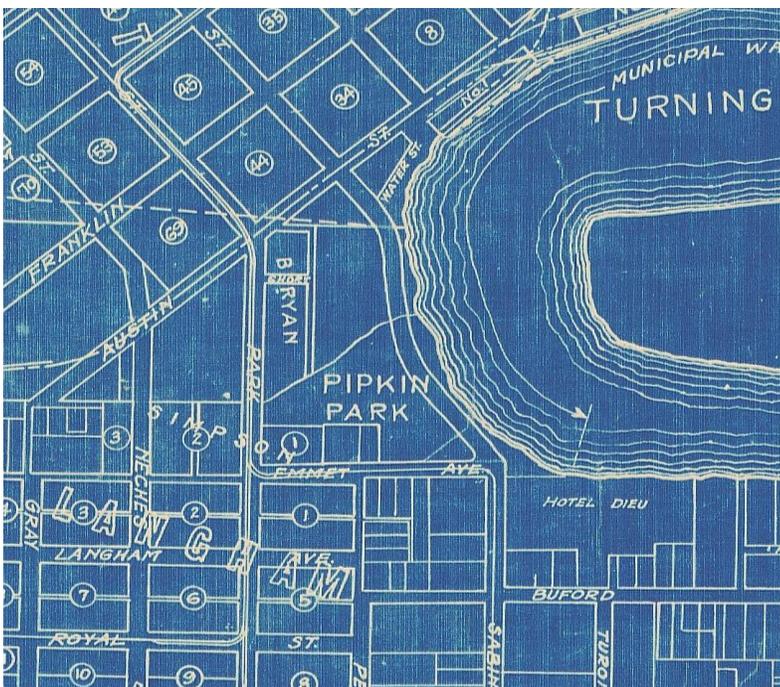
Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Figures

Figure 1: Neches Investment Company land alongside Neches River and two blocks from Jefferson County Courthouse in downtown Beaumont, 1913. Would be purchased by City of Beaumont as park in 1919 (future site of Temple to the Brave in 1931-1932). Official Map of Beaumont, 1913. Courtesy Tyrrell Historical Library.



Figure 2: Pipkin Park, 1920. Industrial Map of Beaumont, 1920. Courtesy Tyrrell Historical Library.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Figure 3: The Temple to the Brave was built 1931-1932. Sanborn Map Beaumont 1929 – Sept. 1931 Rev. 1941, Vol. 1, Sheet 42. Available at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.

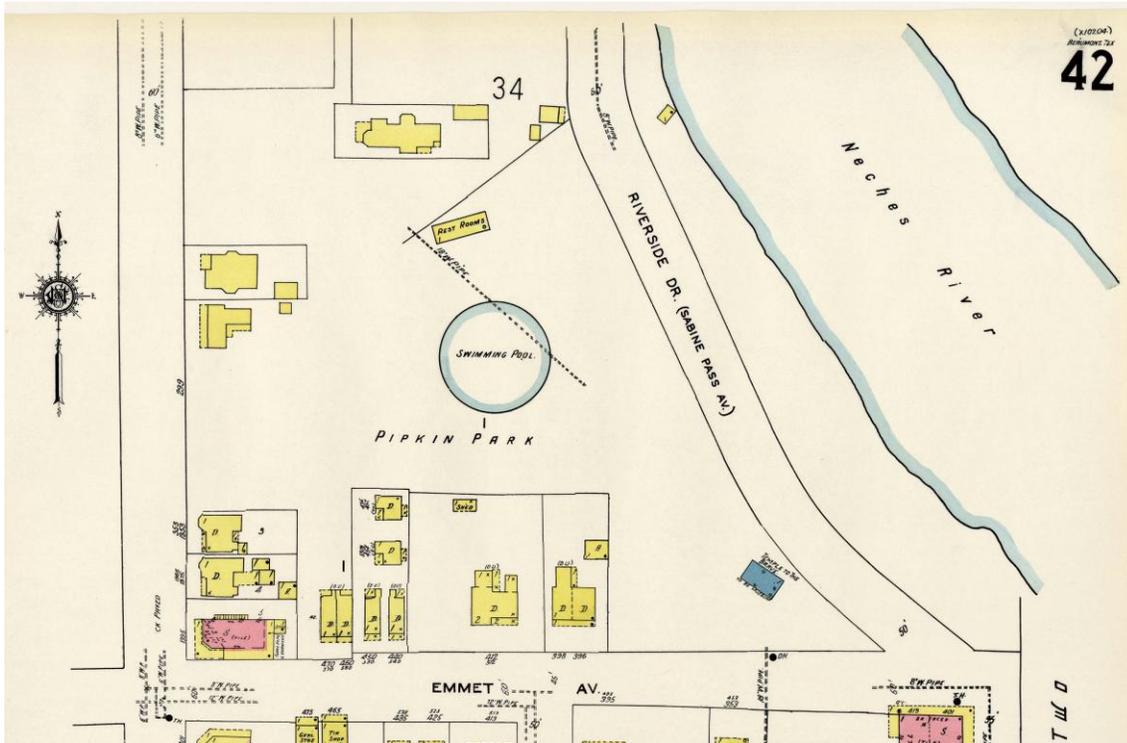
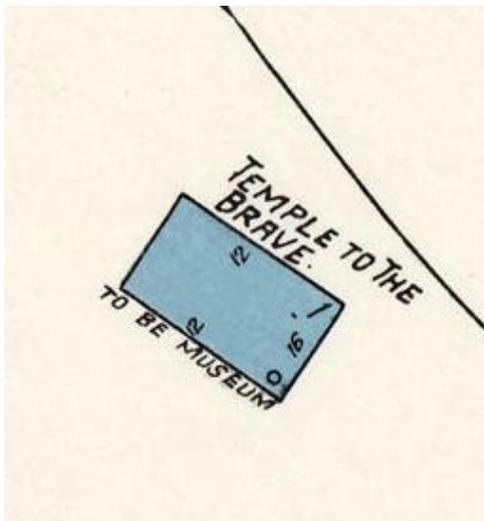
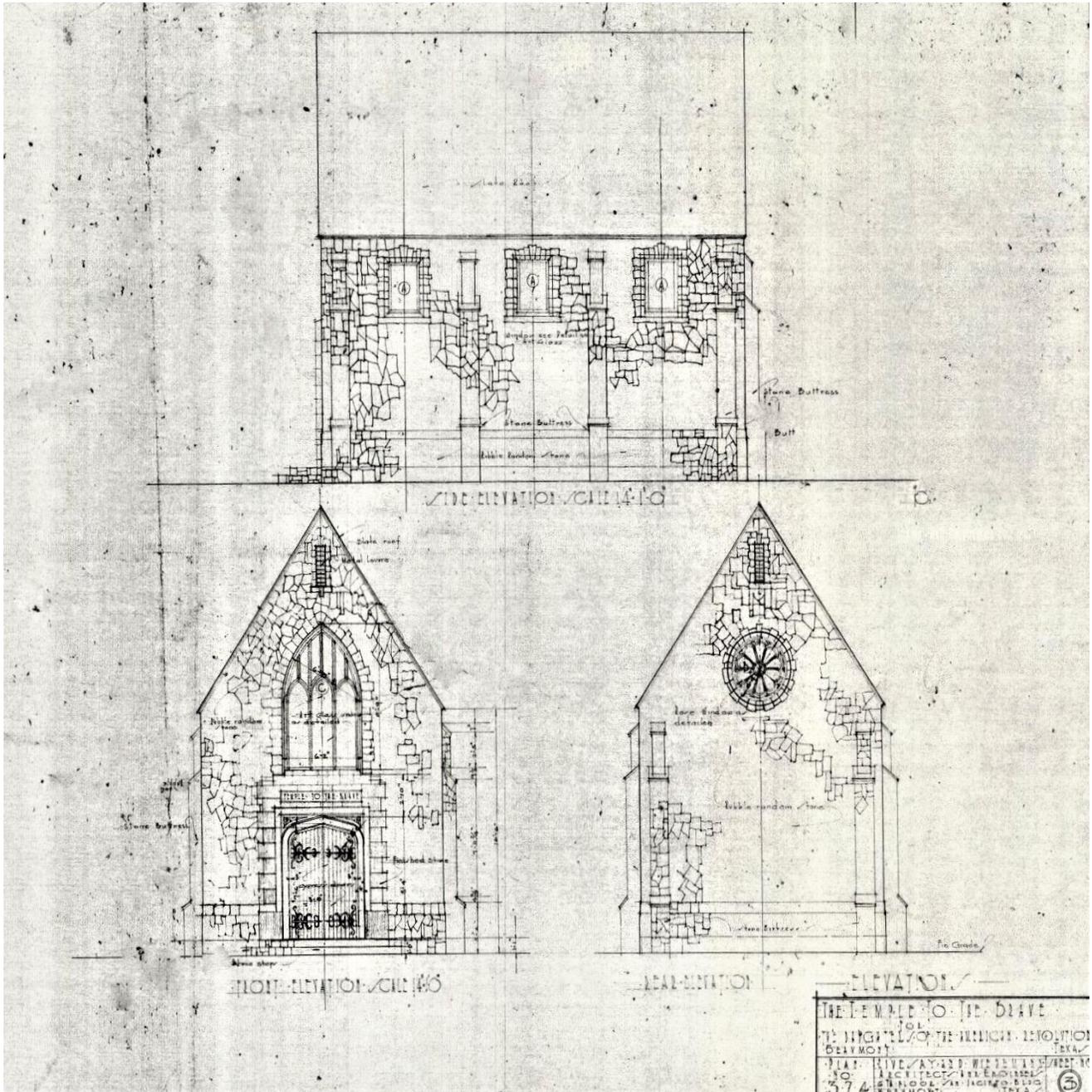


Figure 4: Detail Temple to the Brave. Source: Sanborn Map Beaumont 1929 - Sept. 1931 Rev. 1941, Vol. 1, Sheet 42, Available at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.



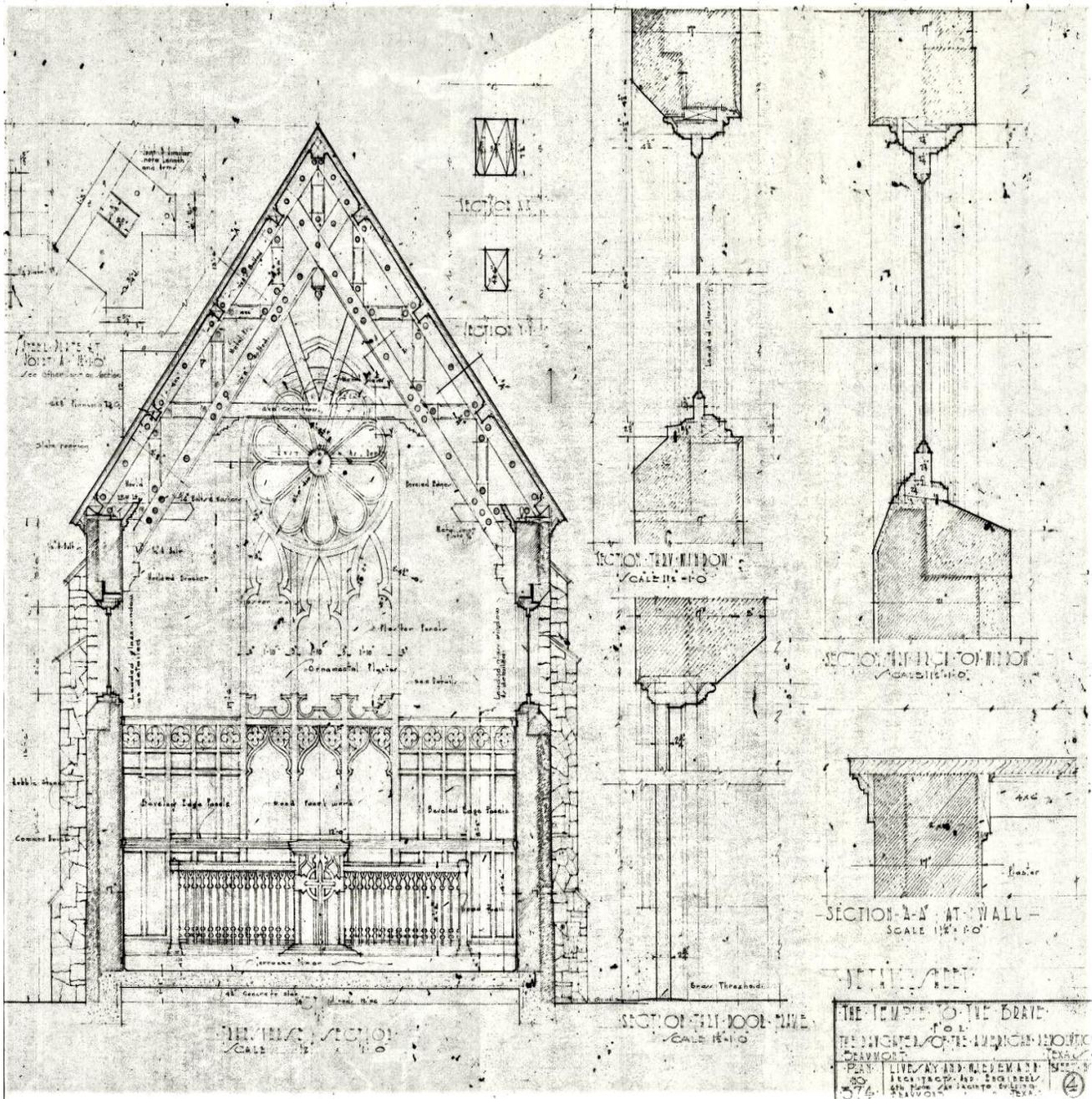
Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Figure 5: Livesay and Wiedemann, architects. Temple to the Brave plans, 1931. Front, rear and side elevations.



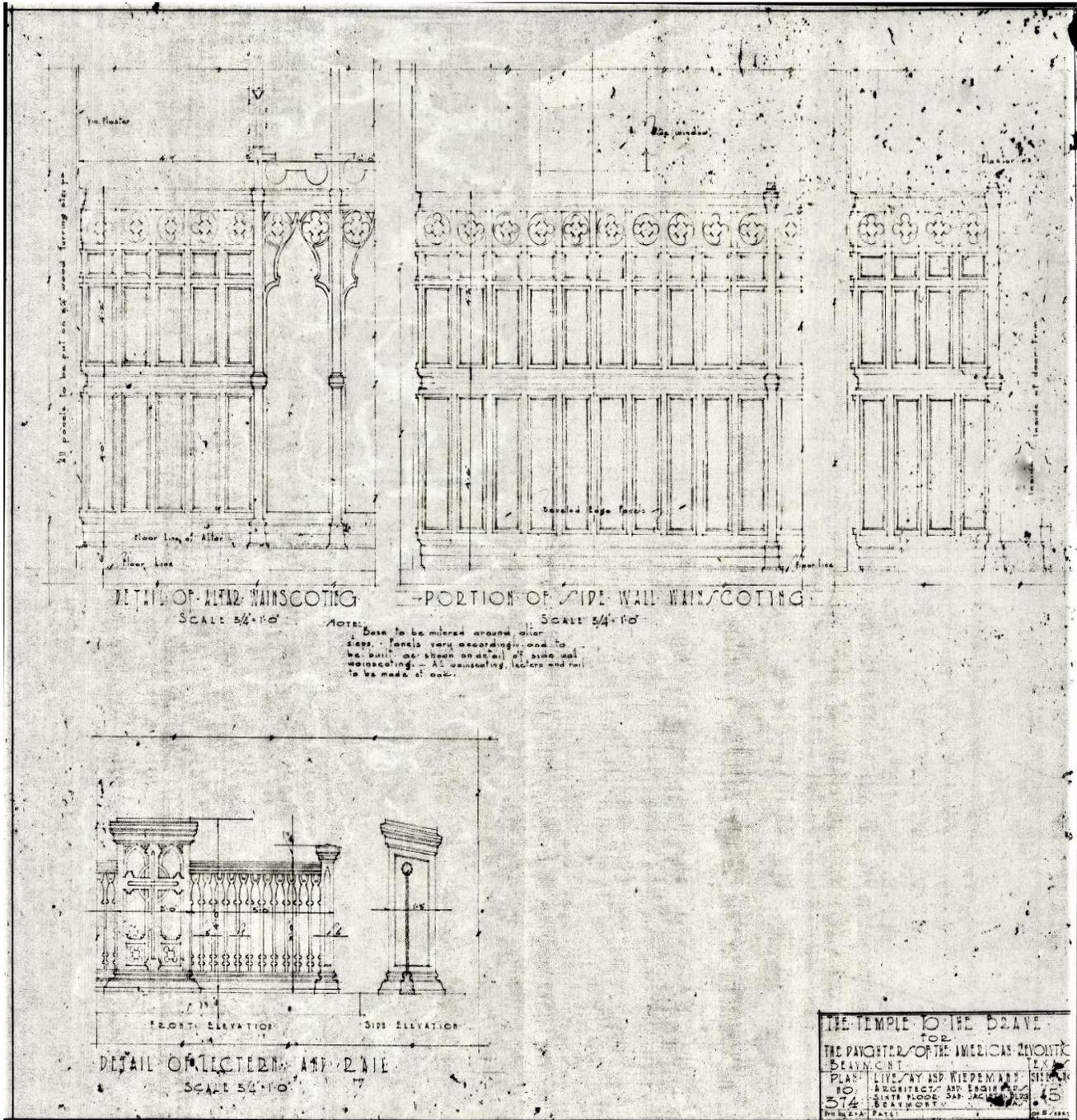
Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Figure 6: Livesay and Wiedemann, architects. Temple to the Brave plans, 1931. Detail, rear interior elevation, altar and altar railing, truss, window and door framing.



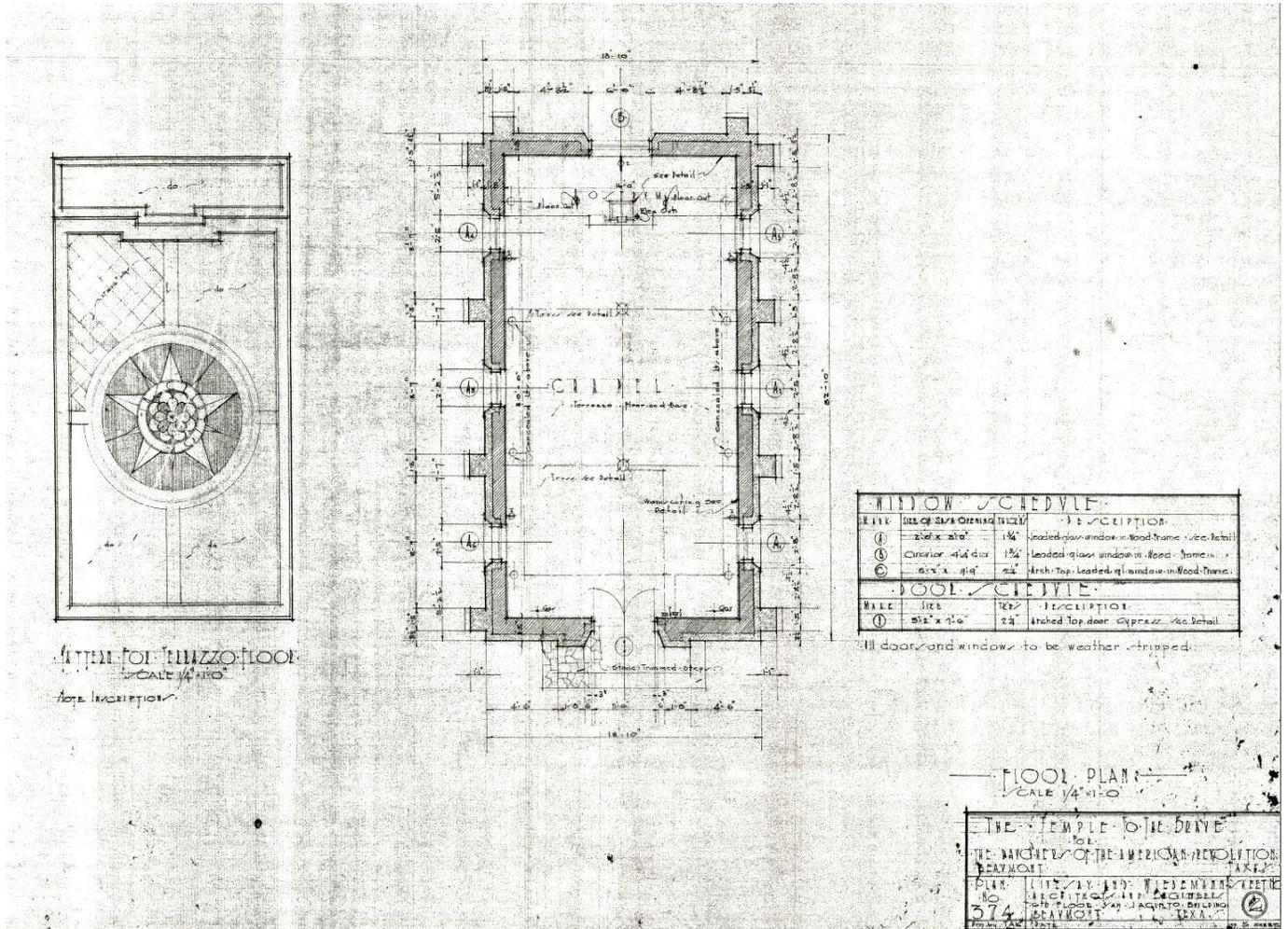
Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Figure 7: Livesay and Wiedemann, architects. Temple to the Brave plans, 1931. Detail, altar and side wall wainscoting, lectern (altar) and railing.



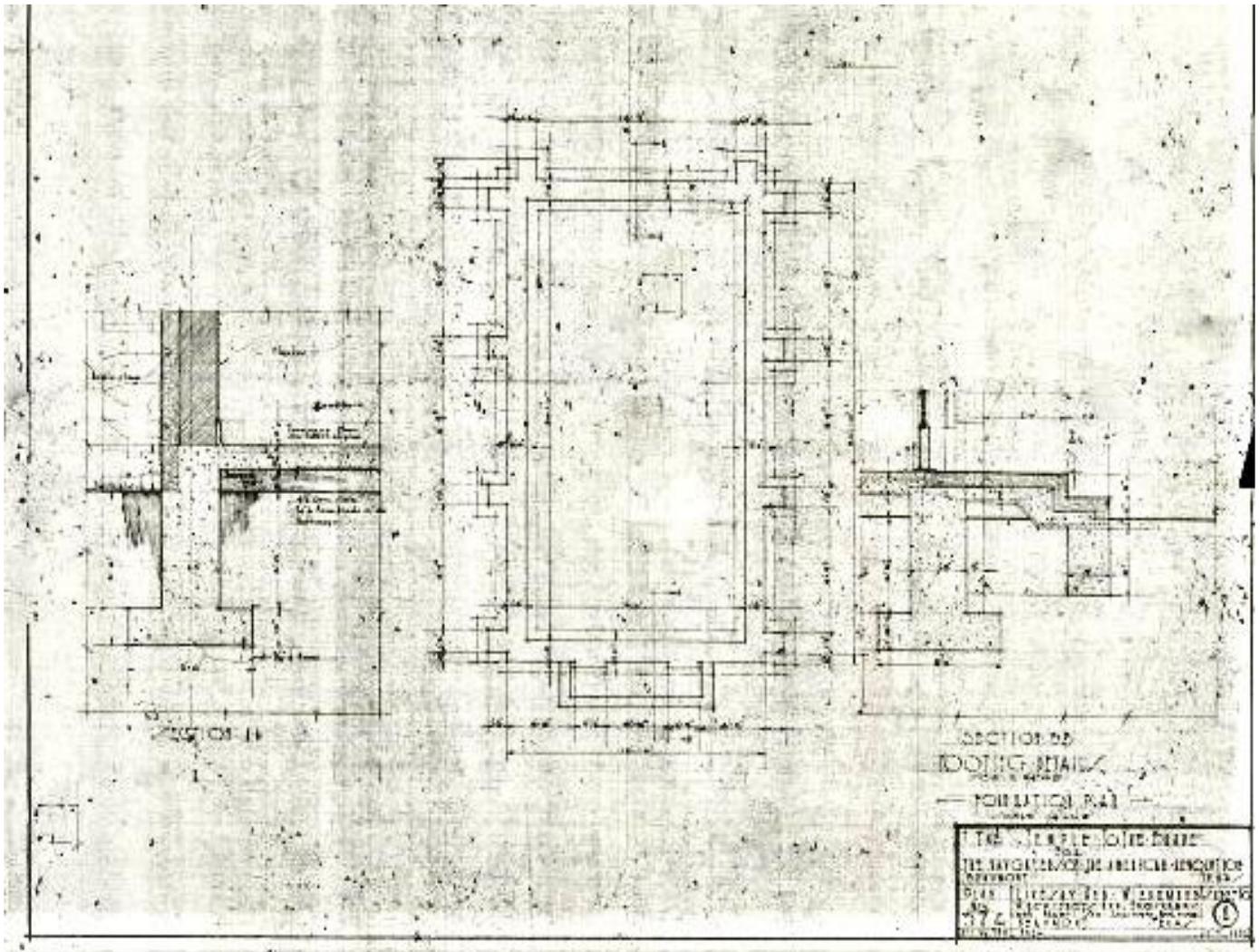
Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Figure 8: Livesay and Wiedemann, architects. Temple to the Brave plans, 1931. Detail, window and door schedule. Also included on this plan is the pattern for the intricately designed terrazzo floor originally envisioned by the architects. Ultimately, the same plain terrazzo tile flooring that was concurrently being laid in the new million dollar 1931 Jefferson County Courthouse, also then under construction, was used as flooring in the Temple to the Brave.



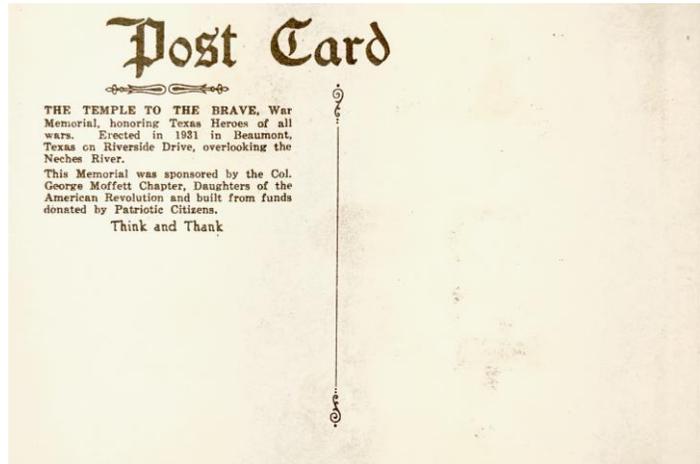
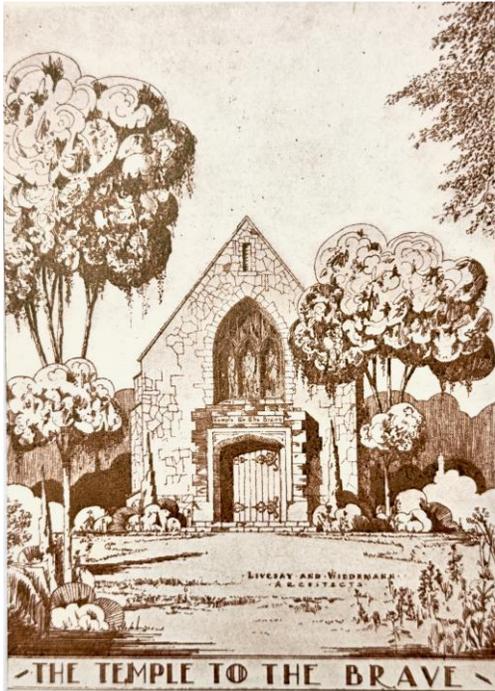
Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Figure 9: Livesay and Wiedemann, architects. Temple to the Brave plans, 1931. Detail, roof.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Figure 10: Promotional Postcard, Temple to the Brave, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1931. Drawing by Livesay and Wiedemann, Architects. Jefferson County Historical Commission Archives.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Figure 11: Temple to the Brave, 1939. Tyrrell Historical Library Digital Archives.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Figure 12: Historical aerial photo of Pipkin Park, 1950s. Temple to the Brave, lower left corner of park grounds.
Tyrrell Historical Library Digital Archives.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Figure 13: Pipkin Park, 1970, bounded on the east by the Neches River. Temple to the Brave is located in the southeast corner of the park. United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey, Beaumont, Texas East Quadrangle Topographic Map. Available at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.

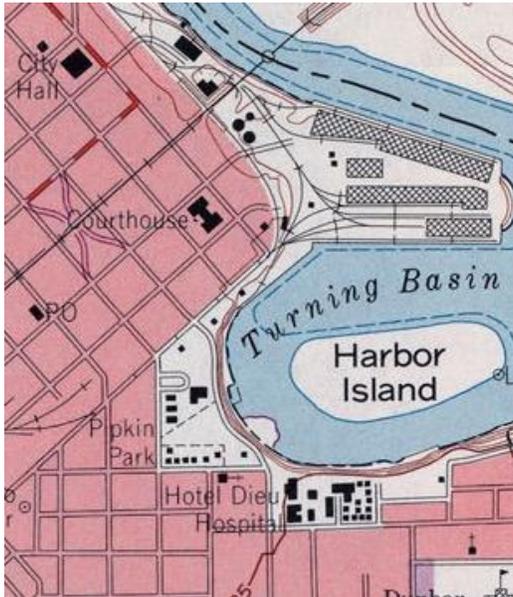
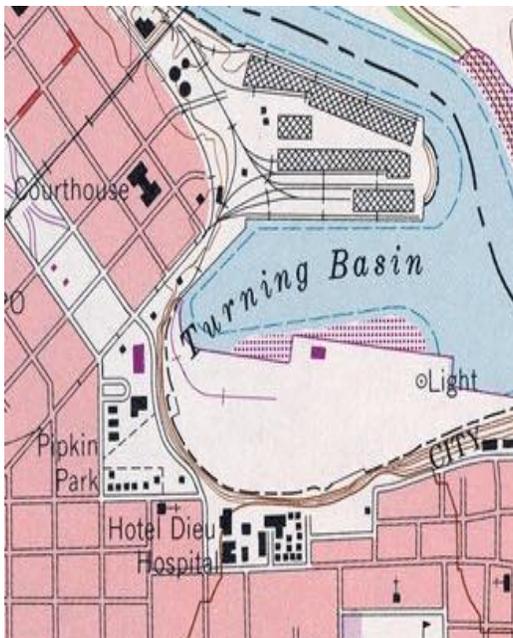


Figure 14: Pipkin Park, 1974. Temple to the Brave is located in the southeast corner of the park. View to park's east following the fill of a portion of the Neches River turning basin by the Port of Beaumont. United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey, Beaumont, Texas East Quadrangle Topographic Map. Available at the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History, University of Texas at Austin.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Figure 15: Inscription for DAR Jean Baptiste ("Jonas") Chaison grave marker

Revolutionary Soldier (1775 – 1783) JONAS CHAISON
Placed by the Col. George Moffett Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution

Figure 16: Inscription for 1976 Texas Historical Commission Historical Marker

(August 7, 1745 - July 20, 1854) Jean Baptiste ("Jonas") Chaison was born in Nova Scotia, of French parents. After imprisonment by the British during the French and Indian War, he and his parents fled in 1763 to France, where he was soon orphaned. He returned to North America, and joined the Colonial Army in 1775 at Quebec, to take revenge against the British. Continuing in the Continental Army, he served with Lafayette at Brandywine, 1777; fought at Germantown, 1777; was wounded serving under Greene and Marion at Eutaw Springs, 1781; and found under Lafayette's command at Yorktown, 1781. Coming to western Louisiana as a cattleraiser and farmer about 1785, he married Marie LeBlanc and had eight children. About 1840 he moved to Beaumont to live with his son McGuire Chaison (1809-1859). He was strong and healthy of mind and body as long as he lived, and farmed here until 1854. Dying at a few days under 109 years of age, he was buried in Jirou Cemetery (3 mi. N). He was one of the few men of the American Revolution involved in Texas history. The Daughters of the American Revolution marked his grave site in 1944. The DAR marker was moved here to Pipkin Park when a church was built in 1969 in the extinct Jirou Cemetery

Figure 17: Inscription for NSSAR Jean Baptiste ("Jonas") Chaison granite marker

Revolutionary Soldier (1775 – 1783)
Jonas Chaison (1745 – 1854)
Placed by Paul Revere Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution

Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Figure 18: Inscription for American Wars Monument added in 2020 (Resource 2, Non-Contributing Object)

Obverse:

Central Panel: This Monument Commemorates Our Appreciation for all Men and Women Who Served in the Armed Forces to Protect Our Rights and Freedoms. "We Will Never Forget."

Left Panel: Revolutionary War of 1812 Mexican-American War American Civil War Spanish American War World War I

Right Panel: World War II Korean War Vietnam War Gulf War Iraq War in Afghanistan

Reverse:

"Prepare for the Unknown by Studying How Others in the Past Have Coped with the Unforeseeable and the Unpredictable." General George S. Patton

Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Figure 19: Photo showing First Presbyterian Church (“First Presbyterian”) at 948 Fifth Street, Port Arthur (1925).
Photo by Kate Hambricht, October 9, 2023.



Figure 20: Photo of Park Street Christian Church at Victoria Street and Washington Boulevard, Beaumont (1928).
Photo by Kate Hambricht, October 6, 2023.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Figure 22: Front elevation prior to construction of recent Texas Historical Marker. Photo by Kate Hambright, April 2025.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Figure 23: Rear (northwest) and southwest elevations, March 2023 prior to Hurricane Beryl.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Figure 24: Detail of three-stepped low relief buttresses on southwest elevation, March 2023 prior to Hurricane Beryl.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Figure 25: Southwest and primary (southeast) elevations, looking northeast, March 2023 prior to Hurricane Beryl.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Figure 26: Primary (southeast) and northeast elevations, looking northwest, March 2023 prior to Hurricane Beryl.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Figure 27: Rear (northwest) elevation, looking south, March 2023 prior to Hurricane Beryl.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Figure 28: Dale Broussard, former American Legion Post 33 commander and World War 1 veteran, on Temple grounds on Memorial Day 1969. Signage reads “Lest We Forget”, courtesy Jim Broussard.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Photographs

Photo 1: Primary (southeast) elevation, looking northwest, June 30, 2025.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Photo 2: Rear (northwest) and southwest elevations, looking southeast, June 30, 2025.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Photo 3: Title of memorial etched over front door, June 30, 2025.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Photo 4: Detail of three-stepped low relief buttresses on southwest elevation, June 30, 2025.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Photo 5: Southwest and primary (southeast) elevations, looking northeast, June 30, 2025.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Photo 6: Primary (southeast) and northeast elevations, looking northwest, June 30, 2025.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Photo 7: Rear (northwest) elevation, looking south, June 30, 2025.



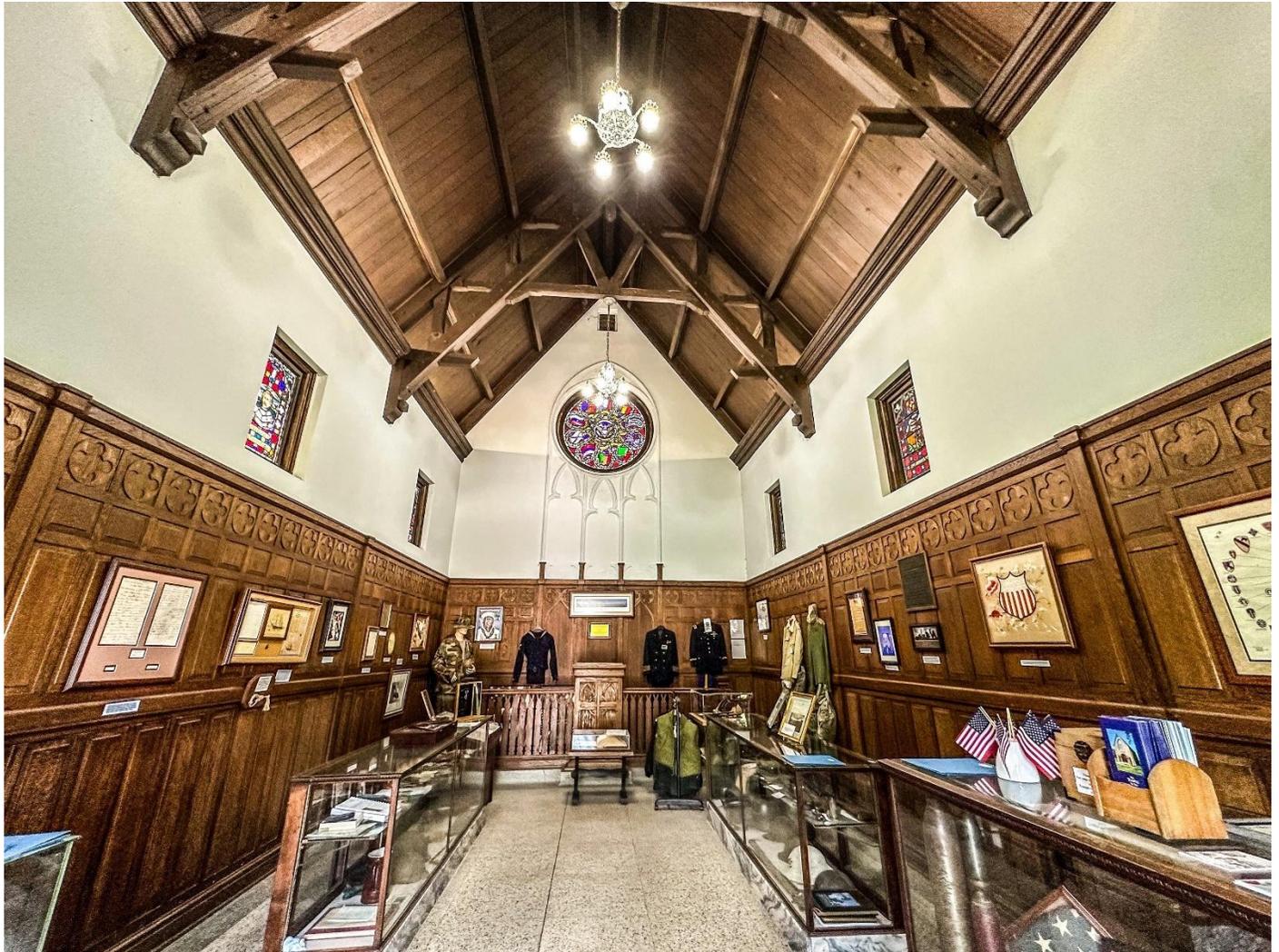
Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Photo 8: North corner of Pipkin Patriots Park, looking north, August 10, 2024.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Photo 9: Interior, looking northwest, July 22, 2025.



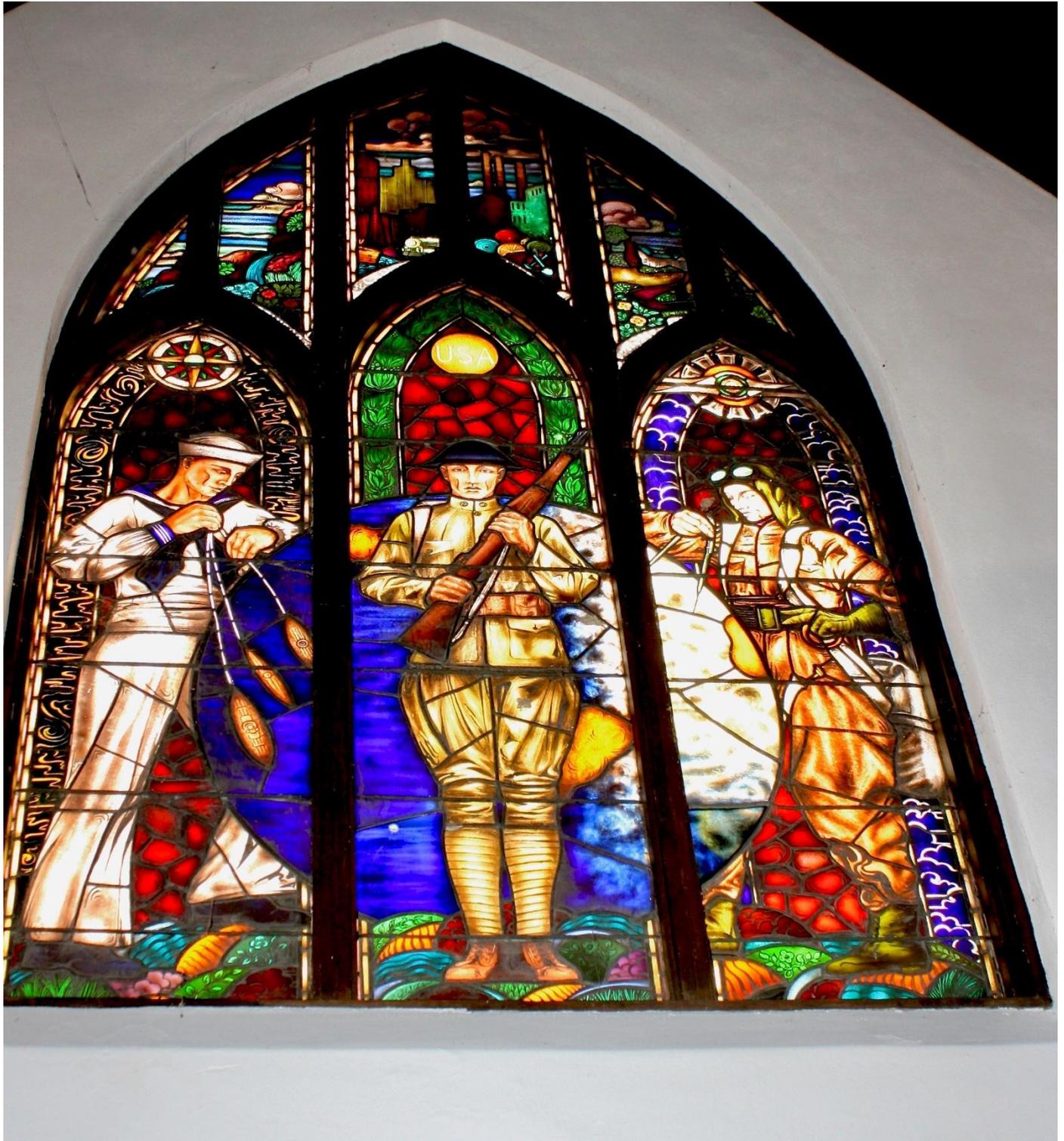
Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Photo 10: Interior, looking southeast, July 22, 2025.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Photo 11: Pointed arch stained art glass window, 2023.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Photo 12: Rose stained art glass window, 2023.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Photo 13: Texas under six flags stained art glass window: La Salle in Matagorda Bay, 1685, northeast elevation, 2023.

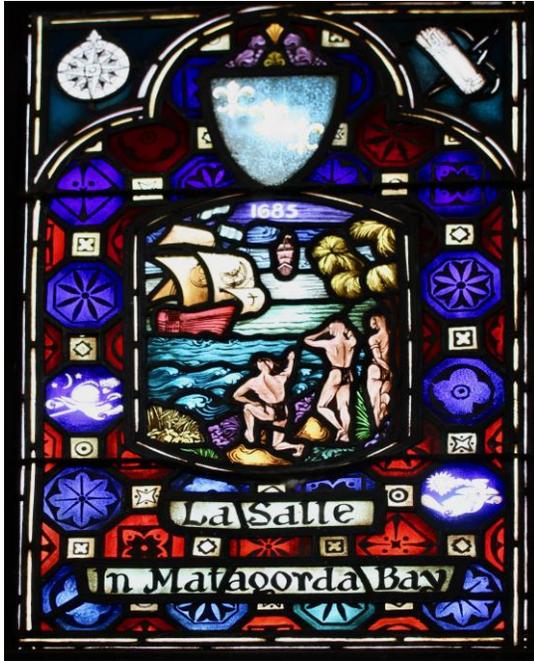


Photo 14: Texas under six flags stained art glass window: Alonso De Leon, 1689, northeast elevation, 2023.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Photo 15: Texas under six flags stained art glass window: Abdication of Iturbide, 1824, northeast elevation, 2023.

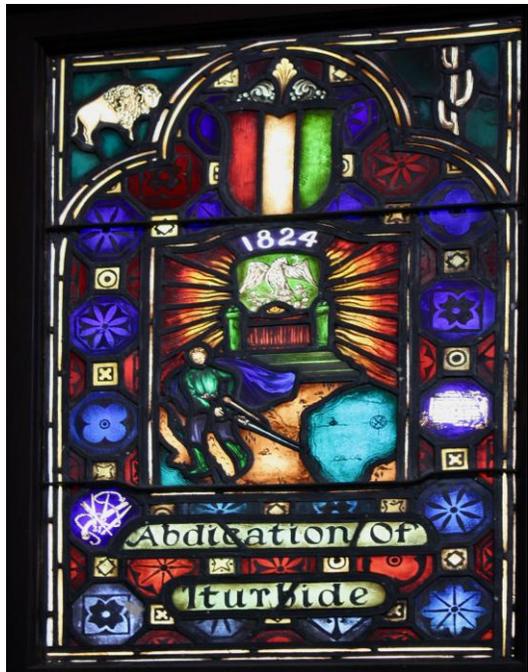


Photo 16: Texas under six flags stained art glass window: Santa Anna Before Sam Houston, 1836, southwest elevation, 2023.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Photo 17: Texas under six flags stained art glass window: Texas Under the Confederacy, southwest elevation, 2023.

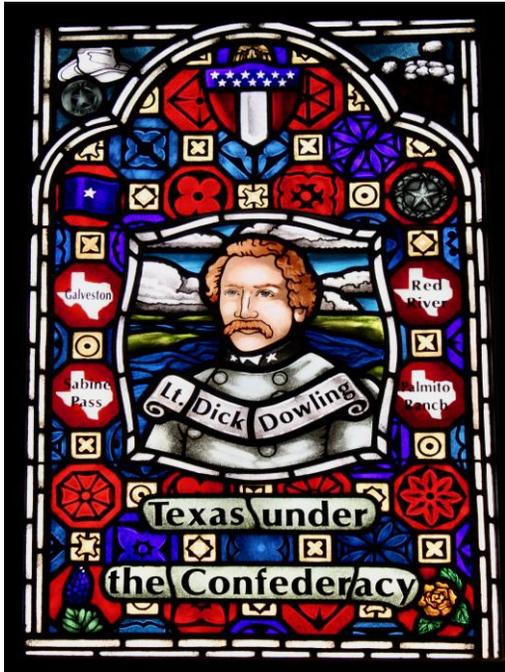
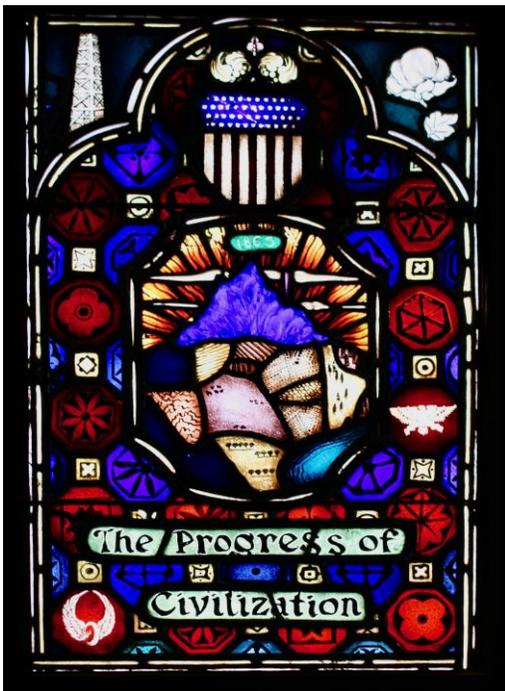


Photo 18: Texas under six flags stained art glass window: The Progress of Civilization, 1865, southwest elevation, 2023.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Photo 19: Wainscoting detail (quatrefoil design), 2023.



Photo 20: Altar wainscoting detail, 2023.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Photo 21: Lectern (altar) and railing detail, June 30, 2025.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Photo 22: Vaulted ceiling and truss detail, 2023.



Photo 23: Truss detail, 2023.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Photo 24: Minor cracking of plaster shown near stained glass window on southwest elevation, July 22, 2025.



Temple to the Brave, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas

Photo 25: American Wars Monument added in 2020 (Resource 2, Non-Contributing Object), 2023.

