

HISTORY

Westover Hills, an “ultra exclusive” residential neighborhood and incorporated city completely surrounded by Fort Worth, lies in a hilly area four and one-half miles west of the Fort Worth Central Business District. Most of it is in the John Kinder survey of 1857, the western section being in the 1873 Pete Peterson Survey.

Most of the land was owned by Amon G. Carter in the early 1920s. He sold it to the Fort Worth Extension Company who drew the first plats for development in 1928. A.C. Luther began developing the area in 1930. The general public referred to the area as “leftover hills” because they thought that anyone who wanted a magnificent residence would live in River Crest. The area was considered by some to be a wasteland, too rough and hilly to be developed properly, but Luther continued against the advice of other developers. He built his own home on Valley Ridge Road in 1936.

Discussion of annexing Westover Hills began in Fort Worth in the early 1930s. Opposition developed in 1937, and with a population of about 212 and a vote of 35 residents, it incorporated into a

separate city primarily to avoid payment of Fort Worth taxes. John E. Farrell was the first mayor.

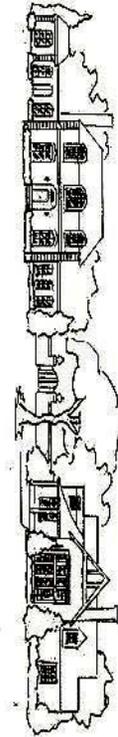
After Westover Hills incorporated as a separate city from Fort Worth, the larger city threatened to discontinue all utility service to the area. Unlike most areas outside of Fort Worth who were charged twice the normal rate for water services, Westover Hills was charged the regular rate and water mains had been in place under the area since 1928. The argument between the two cities escalated into what is known as the “water war” and eventually led Fort Worth City Council to cut off the water to Westover Hills.

Westover Hills Mayor Farrell and Tarrant County Commissioner Jack Lofland appeared within one hour at the Fort Worth City Manager’s office to protest. Westover Hills residents went on a “sit down strike” during which they refused to bathe. The strike lasted three days and ended when Fort Worth turned water back on to Westover Hills. A new Fort Worth City Council was elected shortly thereafter and agreed to charge Westover Hills the regular rate.

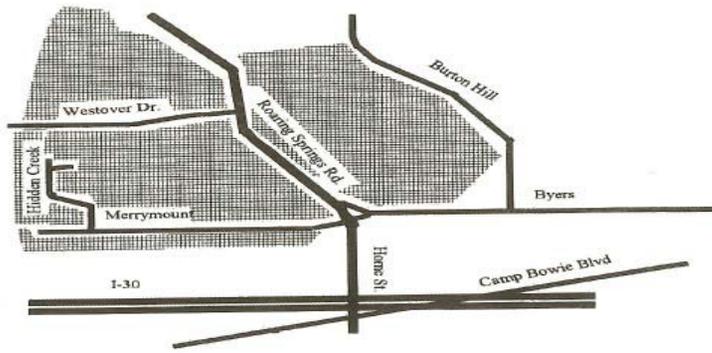
Mayor J. E. Farrell was one of the first to build and reside in Westover Hills. His gothic style home on Westover Road cost more than \$250,000 to build in 1937. Most early residents were active in either the cattle or oil industries.

The town hall was erected in 1940 on land donated by Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Mitchell, using laborers paid by the WPA, and housed the fire and police departments.

Westover Road was originally called Lloyd Drive for one of the early developers. Street paving was not completed until the end of World War II. Most Westover Hills construction was finished by the early 1940s, but building continued slowly during the 1950s and 60s west of the original lots.



WESTOVER HILLS
Greater Fort Worth Association of REALTORS®



NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION

Westover Hills is secluded and quiet. Its winding, tree shaded roads are bordered by large lots with mansions sometimes hidden behind walls or plantings. Most of the homes are architect-designed and custom built for the prominent families who have lived there. Styles are as varied as the architects who designed them ranging from the older Tudor and Mediterranean styles, in the older section, to more contemporary and modern styles in the newer, western part. Approximately thirty structures are listed in the *Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey* published by the Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County, and now owned by Historic Fort Worth, Inc.

This information was conceived, researched and written by Wini Klein, REALTOR®, for the Greater Fort Worth Association of REALTORS®, with assistance from the City of Fort Worth Planning Department, Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County, Historic Fort Worth, Inc., Texas Christian University, Junior League, Fort Worth Independent School District, Tarrant County Tax Office, League of Neighborhoods and encouragement from the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce.

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SCHOOLS

Elementary
Mary Louise Phillips,
3020 Bigham, 817/377-7270

Middle
Wm. Monnig, 3136 Bigham,
817/377-7250

High School
Arlington Heights,
4501 W. Rosedale, 817/377-7200

OTHER INFORMATION

Nearest Fire Station: Westover
Hills Town Hall, Burton Hill Road
Nearest Post Office: 3301 Darcy,
817/336-7732

Nearest Grocery Shopping:
Camp Bowie, Pope's Grocery,
2300 Merrick

Nearest Mall: Ridgmar Mall
City Council District Number:
Westover Hills

School District Number: 7
Voting Precinct Number: 4115

FORT WORTH FACTS

History: Fort Worth was established as a frontier army post in 1849 and named for Gen. Wm. Jenkins Worth. The outpost became a stopping place on the Old Chisholm Trail and a shipping point for great herds of cattle being sent to northern markets.

Population: 700,000
Land Area: 293 square miles
Altitude: 670 feet above sea level
Weather: Normal sunshine
averages 250 days a year
Average mean temperature: 65.5 F
Annual avg. precipitation 29.46 in.

Medical Facilities: 46 hospitals

Education: 66 elementary schools,
19 middle schools, 12 high
schools, 13 special education
schools, 11 major private and
parochial schools, 9 college and
university campuses.

Libraries: 1 main library with 1
regional library and 9 branches

Museums: 11

Parks: 9,026 + acres

Churches and Synagogues: more
than 910 with 45 denominations

Communications: 1 daily
newspaper, 2 weekly papers, 10
TV stations plus cable.