Application # <u>22</u> - <u>0007</u>

HISTORIC TREE NOMINATION FORM – City of Dallas

Please review the Historic Tree Nomination Instructions form prior to submitting the application.

Tree Information
Date: <u>October 24, 2022</u>
Tree Species: <u>Pecan, Carya illinoinensis</u>
Number of trees: <u>1</u>
Tree Address: On the southeast corner of N Beckley Avenue and W Commerce Street, Dallas, Texas
Tree is located (public/private property): <u>Public</u>
Tree Size
Height (approximate): <u>65′</u>
Crown (in square feet): <u>45'</u>
Diameter (DBH): <u>41 1/2"</u>
Approximate age: Estimated to be between 175 to 200 years old
How determined: Based on the ring counting of exposed 28 inch branch cut, 10 feet above surface.
Tree also appears in a 1930 photo of the levee construction, in which it is already a mature tree.
Physical condition: Medium to Poor
Historical and cultural summary: The Survivor Pecan has served for over 175 years as the gateway to
West Dallas, sitting today at the west end of the Commerce Street bridge across the Trinity River
channel from downtown Dallas. Located on the south side of the intersection with Beckley Avenue, the
tree has progressed from seeing the last of the bison herds and their hunters, to stagecoaches and
wagons, to buggies and carriages, and currently, to today's extensive motor vehicle traffic.
Prior to the arrival of the Bryans, Beesons, Cockrells, and other early Dallas settlers, a low-water
crossing of the Trinity River was located just east of present day Commerce Street and Riverside Drive
in downtown Dallas. As a sapling, the Survivor Pecan sat adjacent to one of the many trails that
converged in this area that were used by the bison herds and their native American hunters.
From the construction of the first Commerce Street bridge in 1855 to the early 1900s, the Survivor
Pecan sat near the junction of the Eagle Ford Road and the Fort Worth Pike. Travelers went north at
this junction on the Eagle Ford Road to La Reunion, Eagle Ford, and the Trinity River West Branch

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crossing into present-day Irving. Heading west from the junction was the Fort Worth Pike, the main road between Dallas and Fort Worth during this time period. The tree sat in the Trinity River floodplain at this time, experiencing major floods in 1866, 1871, 1890, and 1908.

Following the massive 1908 flood, West Dallasite C. W. Heppner spearheaded many efforts to adopt plans for channeling the Trinity River and building levees to protect both downtown and West Dallas. Heppner lived on the Fort Worth Pike, a few hundred feet west of the Survivor Pecan. His continued writing and lobbying eventually led to construction of the levees in 1930 and some now refer to him as the father of West Dallas. Luckily, the Survivor Pecan sat just to the west of Beckley at the time since all the trees between downtown and Beckley were removed during the construction. However, the tree moved from inside the floodplain to outside, dramatically reducing the amount of moisture and nutrients it received. The tree started on a steady decline in growth rate and health.

<u>Heading west from downtown Dallas today, the Survivor Pecan is the first big tree encountered.</u> <u>Commerce turns into Fort Worth Avenue which is undergoing a major rebirth along with the rest of</u> <u>West Dallas. Along with this development comes more development and traffic. The tree has lost three</u> <u>major limbs and experienced multiple impacts from passing vehicles. With a little help, maybe the</u> <u>Survivor Tree can live to see West Dallas flourish again.</u>

Nominator

 Name: TxHTC Board of Trustees
 Organization: Texas Historic Tree Coalition

 Address: 16 Steel Road, Wylie, Texas 75098
 Phone: 972-442-1524, ext 236 (Ask for RuthAnn Jackson)

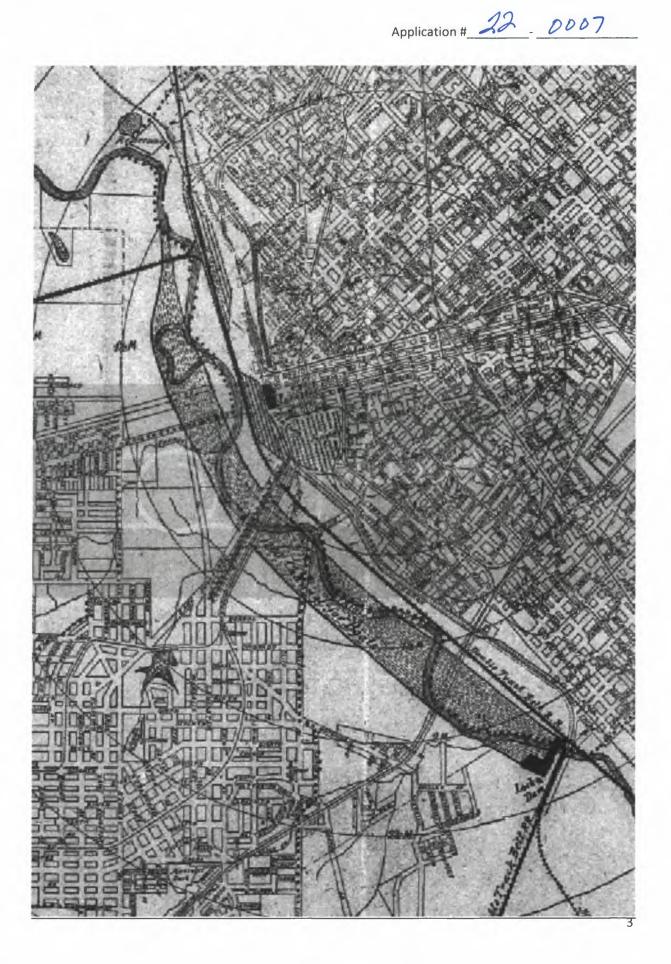
 Email: shouser@arborilogical.com or rajackson@arborilogical.com

Consulting / certified arborist (if applicable)

 Name
 Steve Houser
 Cert. # (if applicable) #TX 0107

 All contact information including address, phone and email are the same as the nominator

Additional Information (add up to 5 photographs, relevant historical information of the tree and the property, assessment of the tree if available, or importance to community, as applicable.):



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Texas Historic Tree Coalition Historic Tree Proclamation

West Dallas Gateway Pecan

WEEREAS, the West Dollas Goleway Pecan has served as an Important waypoint marking the trail from central Dollas across the Trimity River is points south and west for over 175 years;

AND WHEREAS, the West Dailas Ostaway Pocks sits where many trails converged near a lowwater crossing of the Trinity River that was used by both the bises herds and their hunters prior to the astimenent of Dailas and cottle drives on the Shawaee Trail in the serie years of Dailas;

AND WHEREAS, the West Delias Osteway Pecan saw the construction of the first Commerce Street bridge in 1855 and alts at the junction of the old Regin Port Read and the old Fort Worth Pike taking early settlers and traders to all points west of Delian;

AED WHEREAS, the West Dallas Geteway Pecan sat in the Trinity River Roodplato prior to construction of lavaes and served as a rescue point for people on the west side of the Trinity during major floods in 1868, 1871, 1898, and 1888;

AND WHEREAS, West Dallasits C. W. Happener lived adjacent to the West Dallas Osteway Pecan is a three-story bound with a pier on the side used for reacts boats during the floods and badped argumise the Trinity River Laves and Drainage Club to sudept plans for cheaneling the Trinity River and building levees to protect both downlows and West Dallas;

AED WHEREAS, the West Dallas Goteway Pocan served as a shedy gathering place for vendors to sell food and goods in the yeapin of West Dallas and has survived the construction of the inves, construction of roads, and multiple impacts from yassing vehicles;

EOW THEREFORE, the Texas Historic Tree Coelition date hereby procinien the West Dallas Gateway Pecan to be an officiel Historic Tree, which will be listed in our Historic Tree Registry as a living legend and testament to our bistory as a state.

OE TEIS DAT, Eovember 4th, 2022.

Marion Lineborry Chairperson, Historic Tree Committee Tonas Bistoric Tree Conitina

For Office Use

City Staff Recommendation:

YES NO

Chief Arborist, Administrator of review

Submit applications to the Chief Arborist, 320 E Jefferson Blvd., Room 105, Dallas, TX 75203

