

FP-042

PLAQUE HONORING 58 SIGNERS OF THE TEXAS DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Very little is known about this plaque, located in Fair Park's Grand Plaza. It honors the 58 men who signed Texas' Declaration of Independence from Mexico in 1836. Since the 1936 Texas Centennial Exposition commemorated that pivotal point in Texas history, we assume the plaque appeared in the plaza at that time.

The plaque also makes reference to 58 trees planted in honor of each signee. Today, about 30 trees stand in the grove immediately around the plaque. It's not clear if the other trees have perished since 1936 or were trees elsewhere in the park.

The plaque states it was a gift to the park from the 1936 class of Forest Avenue High School, which today is James Madison High School.

An interesting side-note: although this plaque refers to 58 signers of the declaration, Wikipedia says there were 59.

But if you count the names of the signers listed on the Wikipedia page about the declaration, there are 61, including the secretary. Meanwhile, a visual of the actual Declaration of Independence, with names listed beside it, show 60 signers, including the secretary. So, the actual number of men who signed the call for independence appears to vary according to the source.

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