

3-5-09 Star-Telegram

## FOCUS ON ...

### **Think of plaza in business terms**

The solution to the Heritage Plaza problem, posed in the lead editorial Friday, could be found in the Monday edition. (See: "Heritage Plaza," Feb. 27, and "A call to arms for the confluence," March 2)

Heritage Plaza is not only the center of the original settlement of the city, it is the best location to view the scenic center of the evolving Trinity River Vision.

From the catwalk that projects out from the Plaza, one can see and appreciate the whole of Town Lake and the heart of what will be the most interesting portion of the Trinity River Vision. The view is breathtaking now but will be enhanced by the improvements planned for the near North Side.

When I worked for Clint Murchison on a stillborn project in Irving called Texas Plaza, we leased space in a high-rise that had a view of the entire area we were trying to sell.

Heritage Plaza would be not only the perfect, but also the appropriate, place to get a view of the area and tie the project to the city. The triple-trunk live oak tree on the west edge of the park is the only living thing left on the ground that once held the fort that gave the city not only its name, but also its character.

The trail leading down the bluff where some of the original settlers lived is the way the soldiers took their horses to water twice a day.

It seems to me that those who have the Trinity River Vision could repair the park and have it as the place where the Vision can be viewed as it unfolds.

It can be done for far less than the \$7 million estimate and pay off immediately and in the future.

— Willard Thomas,  
Fort Worth