

By: King of Taylor

H.R. No. 1998

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Many proud citizens of Abilene gathered at the  
2 William G. and Shirley Swenson Home on April 10, 2011, to celebrate  
3 its designation as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark; and

4 WHEREAS, Designed by Abilene architect William P. Preston,  
5 the two-story structure was completed around 1910 for the family of  
6 William Gray Swenson; this first generation Swedish-American  
7 entrepreneur and civic leader held key positions at Citizens  
8 National Bank from its founding in 1902 until the 1960s; as  
9 president of Abilene Light and the Abilene Ice Company, he brought  
10 vital improvements to the city's infrastructure; he was also  
11 instrumental in the establishment of the Abilene and Northern  
12 Railroad and the Roscoe, Snyder, and Pacific Railroad and served as  
13 a director of both railways; moreover, he was involved in the  
14 development and construction of numerous major buildings that  
15 continue to grace downtown Abilene today; and

16 WHEREAS, The Swenson Home features the broad overhangs and  
17 long, horizontal lines indicative of the Prairie architectural  
18 style, along with Mission-inspired elements such as the quatrefoil  
19 windows and a curved dormer over the front entrance; in 1928, the  
20 6,300-square-foot residence underwent exterior modification as the  
21 original cypress siding was covered with a brick veneer, the wood  
22 shake roof was converted to clay tile, and a grape arbor was added;  
23 the finely crafted interior features a grand staircase often used  
24 as a setting for formal photographs; and

1           WHEREAS, Until 1986, the home remained in the Swenson family;  
2 Sue Edmunda Stubbeman, a granddaughter of the original owner and  
3 the wife of former state representative David Stubbeman, proposed  
4 that it be donated to the Abilene Preservation League, and that  
5 organization continues to own and maintain it today; and

6           WHEREAS, Thought to be the largest and most intact early  
7 20th-century residence in the city, the Swenson Home has been  
8 considered an Abilene landmark since the time of its construction,  
9 and it is indeed fitting that it has received the highest honor that  
10 the state can bestow on a historic structure; now, therefore, be it

11           RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
12 Legislature hereby commemorate the dedication of the William G. and  
13 Shirley Swenson Home as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark and  
14 commend all those involved in preserving this irreplaceable  
15 treasure.