



**Historical Markers  
of  
McLennan County**

## **Credits**

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1836-1986

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## Acknowledgements

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Unfortunately, in the barely organized chaos of my office at McLennan Community College, the original list of contributors has been lost. If several names have been omitted, again let me express my regrets, and permit me to express the deepest gratitude to all of you who were so kind to me. I have come away from this project with a renewed conviction that Texans are among the friendliest and most generous people to be found.

Charles Scott Adams,  
Instructor  
Department of History  
McLennan Community College  
Waco, Texas







# Waco Indian Village

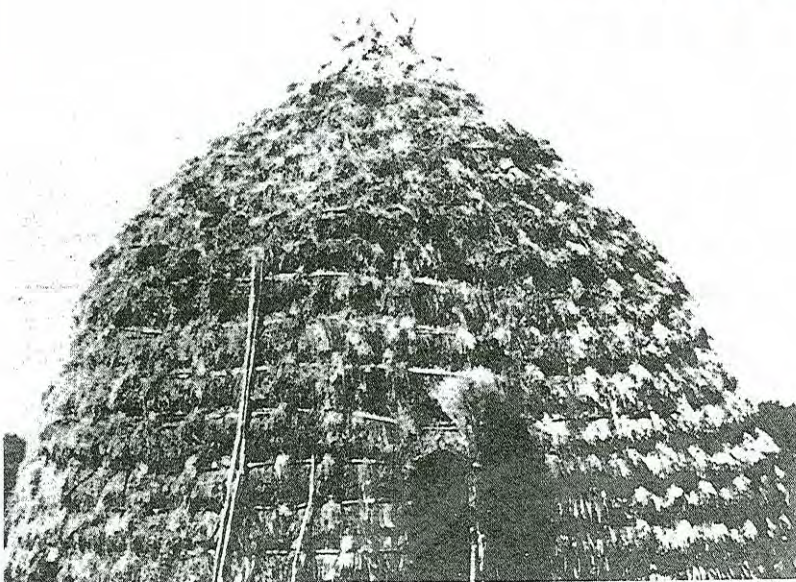
The Brazos River is the third largest watercourse in all of Texas; draining nearly 43,000 square miles of territory, it flows for some 840 miles from Double Mountain Fork far to the west of Waco, down to the southern coast, where it empties into the Gulf of Mexico near Freeport. Along this mighty body of water are various fresh water springs, many of which have either dried up or greatly decreased in volume, with the recent heavy pumping of sub-surface water for irrigation.

Centuries ago, however, springs provided life-giving sustenance to Europeans and Indians alike. Spaniards almost certainly found several such sites in their northward journeys during the 16th century, but well before that time, both native Texas Indians, together with wandering aborigines from elsewhere, had located these precious sources of fresh water. Once settled in such a place, Indian occupants vigorously defended their property against both white and red intruders. To them, water was more crucial even than any bond of blood.

One such spring on the Rio Brazos was the place where the city of Waco, Texas, really began (in an indirect way). The first Indian visitors to this area arrived in the vicinity at least ten thousand years ago, but most were simply nomadic hunters, and no sizable permanent settlements were created for quite some time.

Eventually, three different tribes, two of them loosely related, moved into the valley of the Brazos. The nomadic Tonkawas were pressed eastward into the Waco region by the hostility of the deadly Apaches and the power of the lordly high plains Comanches. A second group, the Tawakonis appeared first in Kansas, but they, too, gave way to the Comanches and migrated southward into Texas to an area just east of the Brazos River. Almost from the beginning, they ran afoul of the Tonkawas. In this continual brawl, they were joined by late-arriving relatives called Wacos who centered their settlements around bountiful artesian springs, which still flow today (although considerably diminished). The springs are located at First and Bridge Streets, and one of the main Waco villages was located in the area of the North Seventh Street Elementary School grounds. In the summer of each year, the Wacos left to hunt buffalo, but they always returned to the great springs about September.

This prosperous life in the Waco vicinity began to deteriorate in 1828 when the Wacos themselves were trailed back to their homeland after a horse-stealing raid and severely punished by irate Cherokees in a confrontation that occurred near the grounds of the old Waco High School along Columbus Avenue. Over the next nine years, the Waco grip upon their villages near the springs was steadily weakened by unending harassment from the Cherokees. Finally, they vacated the area near the beginning of 1837, apparently only a short time before Texas "rangers" arrived in February of that year.







# Waco Spring

The unfailing supply of flowing water was one of the major reasons the Waco Indians established their settlement at the present site of Waco. The spring, called by the Indians "Big Spring," still flows today in the small fenced park just below the suspension bridge. In recent years a beautifully landscaped park called Waco Spring Park has been created along the west bank of the Brazos.

## The H. & T.C. Railroad

Between Bridge and Taylor streets, about a block east of the Brazos River, is a marker commemorating the Houston and Texas Central Railroad. The H. & T.C. was one of many small railroad ventures with grandiose plans that never quite materialized. The company at first bypassed Waco as it developed sweeping plans just after the Civil War for a Houston to Dallas to Denison route.

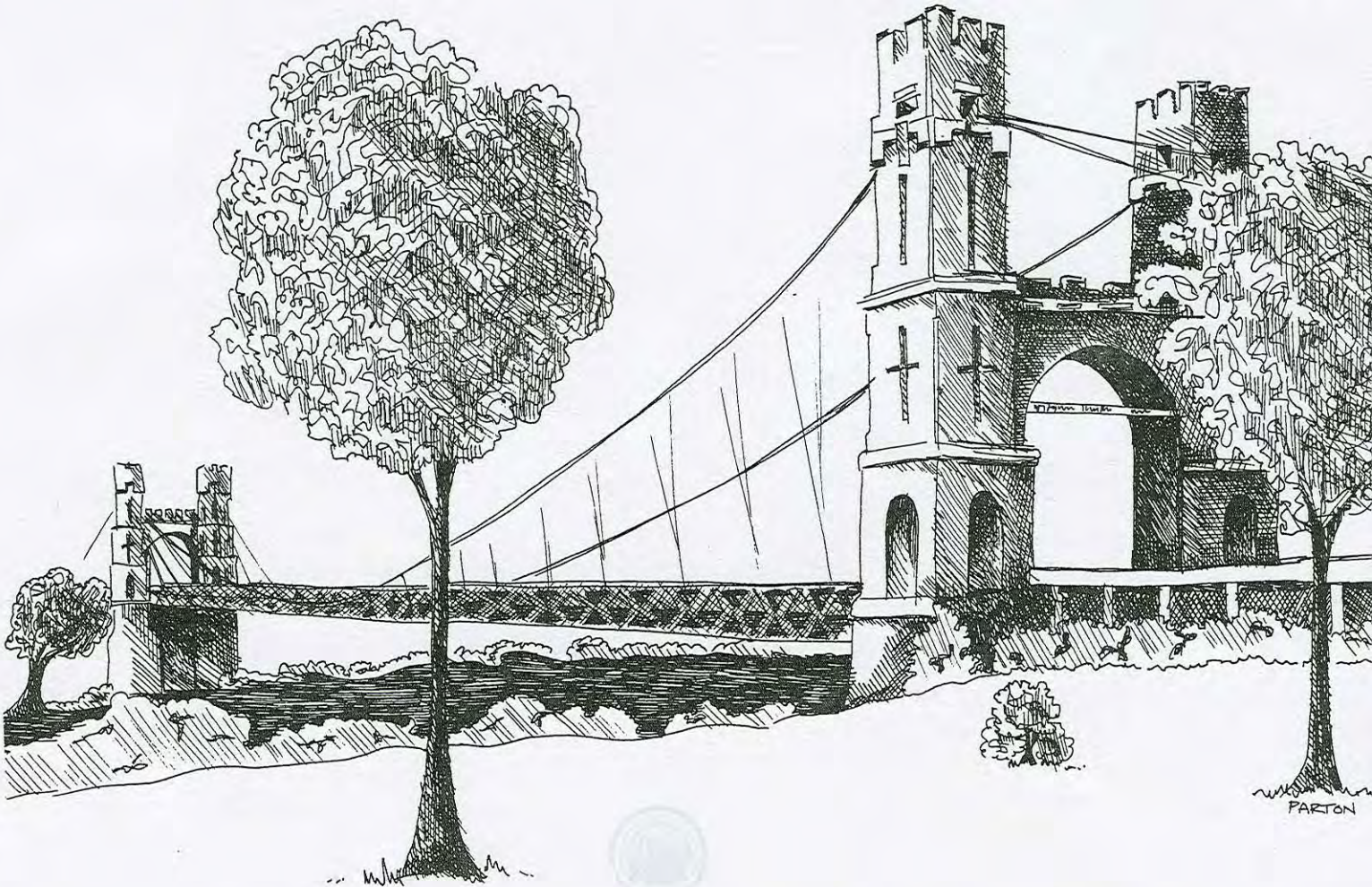
In 1866, in an attempt to avoid being ignored by this line, the Waco Tap Railroad Company (later Waco and Northwestern) was formed. The purpose of this second venture was to lay track from Bremond, thus joining (or "tapping") the H. & T.C. facilities there. This venture was completed in September, 1872, and the "First Citizen of Waco," George Barnard, drove the golden spike that fastened the two lines together.

There were impressive plans to extend the line far to the west (to the Colorado border), but the venture ran out of steam after reaching only to Ross, some 11 miles to the north of Waco. After a stormy courtship with the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad (in which the rejected suitor built its own duplicate line between Ross and Waco), the H. & T.C. legally abandoned its line on April 11, 1929. Ultimately, through several stages of foreclosure and corporate takeovers, both the H. & T.C. and the Waco and Northwestern properties were absorbed by the gigantic Southern Pacific system.

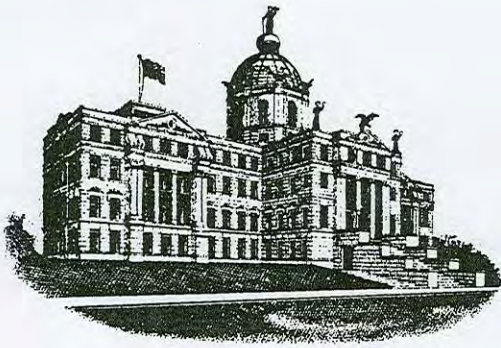


# Suspension Bridge

A gem of 19th century architecture when completed in 1869, the Suspension Bridge represented the first bridge of its type across the Brazos River. This 475-foot marvel of engineering, built for the bargain-basement price of \$135,000, was a collective tribute to the talents of the brick maker William B. Trice of Waco, and New York civil engineer, Thomas M. Griffith. The bricks and masonry were of local origin, while the cables and other steel work were provided by the firm of John A. Roebling & Son of New York, who later won fame as the builders of the monumental Brooklyn Bridge. The Suspension Bridge is located on the Brazos River at a point between Austin and Franklin Avenues (west bank) and Elm and Taylor Streets (east bank). Lake Brazos Drive on the east side is one of the most convenient thoroughfares, passing very close to the site.







WACO, TEXAS

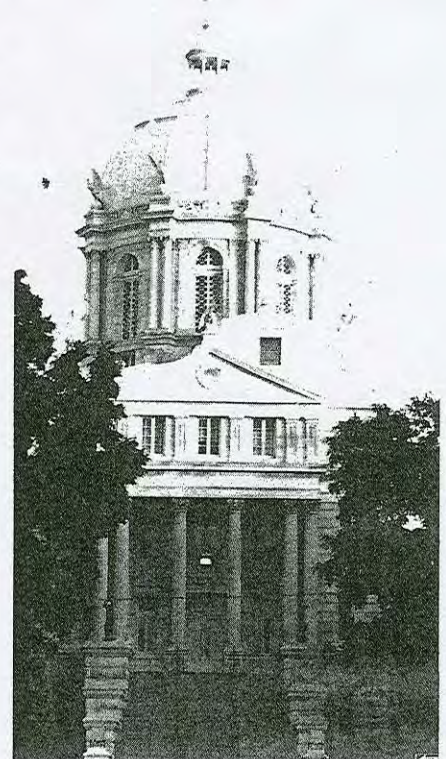
The current McLennan County Court House, located in the 500 block of Columbus Avenue, is only one in a considerable list of structures and locations that have housed McLennan courts over the years since the earliest days of Waco Settlement. In the autumn of 1850, the first local body, in the form of a Commissioner's Court, was constituted. Among the personnel of this early body was Neil McLennan, Sr., who settled in the Waco area even before the dawn of the Texas Republic.

On April 14, 1851, the first District Judge, R. E. B. Baylor, came to Waco and began to hear cases in a small school house north of Washington Street near the Brazos River. A new court house, built by J. W. McCowan, was completed in 1855 at a cost of \$1,800. A more "sumptuous" facility was completed in 1856, from designs submitted by George Barnard, a multi-talented partner in the Torrey Trading Company. This more expensive structure (\$11,500) served the County well until 1874. Located in the public square, the Court House was the scene of an unfortunate accident in 1866 in which John McLennan (nephew of the early settler, Neil McLennan) died in a fall from one of the upper floor windows.

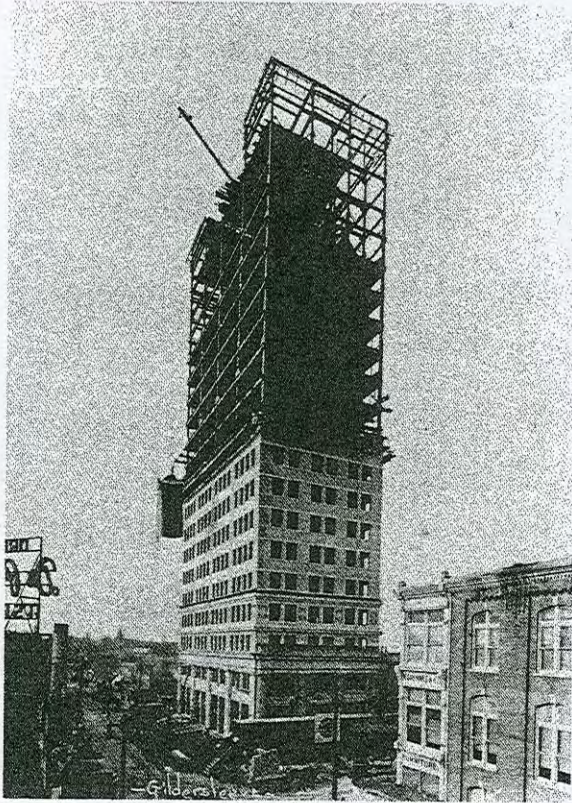
In 1874, a jurisdictional dispute with the City of Waco over the property upon which the Court House was built caused it to be abandoned, and work on a new center was started. The next Court House, completed in 1887, was located at Franklin and South Second Streets, on the northeast corner. It was sold to a local business firm in 1905, and subsequently was torn down.

The current McLennan County Court House was completed in 1901, and it is very typical of the architectural styles of the late Victorian Period. This massive structure, surmounted by a dome suitably decorated with eagles and statues, is laid out on a rectangular four-story plan with an impressive main entrance.

## McLennan County Court House







## Amicable Building

Located at the intersection of South Fifth Street and Austin Avenue, this towering structure was completed in 1912, and for many years was the tallest building in the United States west of the Mississippi River. It survived the destructive tornado of 1953, that flattened smaller buildings close by. Insurance executive Artemus R. Roberts played a leading role in bringing the project to actual construction. The Amicable Building soon became home to several successful Waco businesses, including the transplanted Morrisons' Old Corner Drug Store, a favorite haunt for downtowners on hot afternoons. This firm, famous as the birthplace of the Dr. Pepper soft drink, was a traditional turn-of-the-century establishment, with huge mirrors reflecting the half-light of a cool interior, gleaming marble countertops, and several banks of soda fountains.



In the very early days of Waco Village, Indian inhabitants of the area (and even a few later Anglo-Saxon immigrants) believed that the centrally located artesian springs along the Brazos were endowed with magical properties, including the ability to control weather. It was actually believed by some superstitious individuals that this was the main reason why the Waco vicinity had escaped the more destructive manifestations of frequently capricious Central Texas weather.

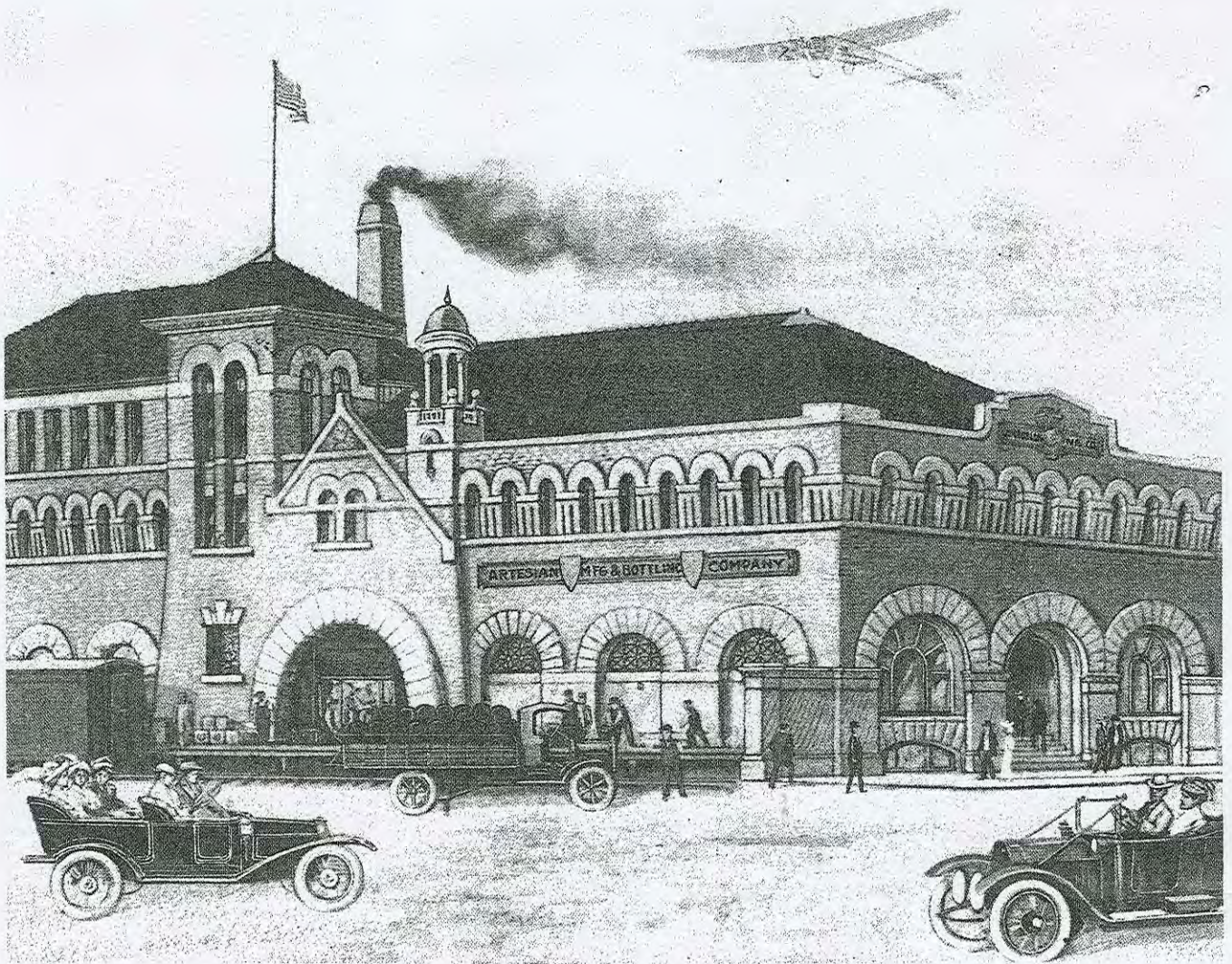
Then, in one horrifying afternoon on May 11, 1953, the myth of Waco "immunity" from bad weather was shattered forever. On that catastrophic occasion, the city was hit by a gigantic twister moving in from the south in a northeasterly path. Although damage was widespread, the killer storm (in some respects, the worst of all time in Texas) saved its greatest wrath for downtown. The tornado struck the heart of the business district at 4:36 p.m. and within seconds it turned the scene into a jumbled melange resembling a World War II battlefield. The terrible destruction inflicted by this deadly behemoth was centered in an area bounded by Austin and Franklin Avenue and extended from about Fourth to Sixth Street, but business outside this zone also suffered heavy damage. Undoubtedly, this was the event that began the exodus of downtown businesses into the newer sections of Waco, a movement accelerated in the next 20 years by the efforts of city merchants to reach the rapidly growing suburban markets. V. M. Cox, who founded the largest family-owned department store in the metropolitan area, was the first of several leading businessmen to relocate after that awful day.

The efforts of Waco doctors and public servants were truly heroic, but the toll in both lives and property was nevertheless a crushing one. Five hundred and seventy-two commercial firms were either destroyed or badly damaged, seven churches and six schools were hard hit, 2,000 automobiles were "totaled", and, most tragically of all, 1,221 citizens were killed or injured. It is a tribute to the immortal frontier spirit of Waco that the city collectively picked itself up out of the dirt, brushed itself off, and began to rebuild with both federal and local help.

# Waco Tornado







*Home of Dr Pepper completed in 1906, located at 5th and Mary, today a landmark building in Waco.*

## The Home of Dr Pepper

The "Home of Dr Pepper" has been synchronous with the history of the product and reflective of various stages of its growth through the years.

Starting out in meager settings, its first places of address have long since given way to the march of progress that marked the growth of Waco, Texas, where Dr Pepper had its origin.



Perhaps no other business has been more intimately connected with, nor made a more lasting impression upon, the City of Waco, Texas, than the Dr Pepper Bottling Company. The distinctive soft drink made by this firm was born when Waco was barely more than a brash teenager of a town, and the two have grown to maturity together.

From the standpoint of history, Dr Pepper is unique because it is represented by not one, but many historical sites. The place where the blend itself was first concocted in late 1884 or early 1885 was a small drugstore at the corner of Fourth and Austin Streets. The first location where Dr Pepper flavoring syrup was produced and sold during the latter part of 1885 was in a small frame building on Bridge Street. The company rapidly outgrew this facility and moved to a larger building on Fourth Street, which also soon proved inadequate. The next move in 1887 was to the ground floor of a 3-story brick building on the corner of Fifth and Jackson. This was the home of pharmacist-owner Wade B. Morrison's Old Corner Drug Store. It was Morrison who cooperated with Charles Alderton and Robert Lazenby in perfecting the formula, and it was also Morrison who gave the beverage its name, selected in honor of a prominent Virginia physician, Dr. Charles Pepper, for whom he worked for a time.

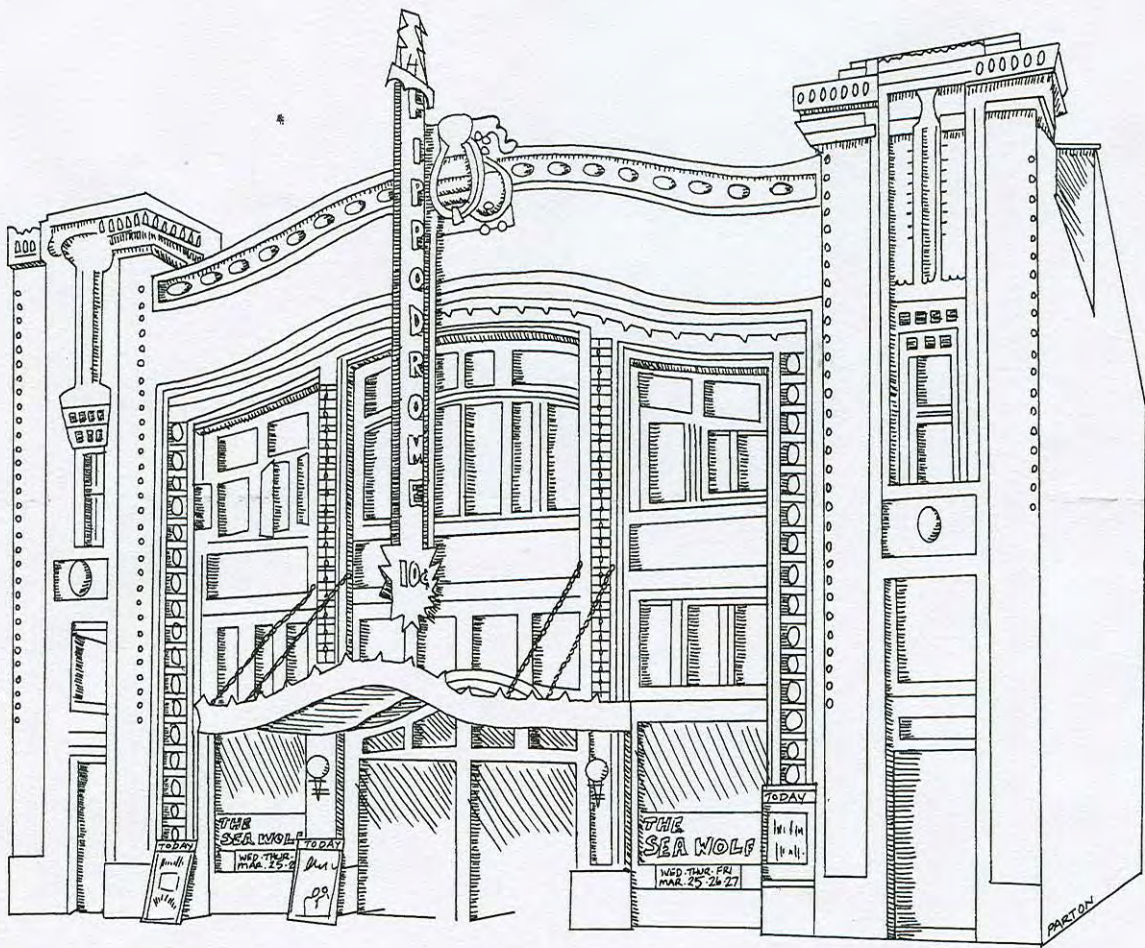
The leading contributor to the birth of Dr Pepper (or Dr Pepper Phos-Ferrates, as it was called) was pharmacist Charles C. Alderton, who perfected the formula at the Fourth and Austin store, after noticing the enticing blend of various scents generated by syrups used at the soda fountain.

Robert S. Lazenby, a nationally known beverage chemist, and already a highly successful maker of soft drinks, assisted Wade Morrison in expanding production from a small-scale drugstore operation to a much larger enterprise in a frame building on Bridge Street (structure no longer exists). In rapid succession, two new facilities were built, including a three-story brick building at the corner of Fifth and Jackson Streets.

By far the most imposing of all of the early locations of Dr Pepper, however, was an extensive three-story plant completed in 1906. It is an outstanding example of careful design and solid construction, featuring a heavy tile roof, extremely large timber underpinning, and massive brick walls an impressive eighteen inches thick. Even the best efforts of the ruinous 1953 tornado were able to inflict only slight damage. Nearly as immovable as the Egyptian pyramids, the venerable old building still dominates the intersection of Fifth and Mary Streets, although plant activities were moved in 1965.

## **Dr Pepper Bottling Company**







# Waco Theatre

Shortly before the turn of the century, the fertile genius of Thomas Alva Edison produced the most lifelike process for projecting "moving" images upon a flat screen yet achieved. Within a relatively short time, the new "movies" had displaced both vaudeville and the crude nickelodeon "peep-shows" as the favorite entertainment of the masses. The motion pictures provided predominantly rural Texas with an informative view of the volatile ferment of the "Roaring Twenties."

The Central Texas crossroads town of Waco readily accepted this new medium of entertainment, and by 1920 the community had six movie houses. Wacoans queued up to pay from 30 to 40 cents to see the stars of the young industry and to munch contentedly on fresh popcorn. One of the leaders in the Waco film market was the famous Hippodrome Theatre, built in 1913. The "Hipp," as it was commonly called, was designed to showcase not only silent movies, but live road show productions as well. After an initial period of only limited success, the theatre was acquired by the Interstate Amusement Company, owned by entrepreneur Karl Hoblitzelle.

The Hippodrome, which subsequently came to be called the Waco Theatre, is an interesting example of Spanish Colonial Revival style. This type of Architecture is not commonly seen in entertainment facilities. The building today is a result of significant remodeling done in 1929; the distinctive facade, however, is little changed — it is adorned with brown tiles, and sports four sets of double doors leading into the interior. Above the facade is an attractive metal canopy. On the second level above the covering are two large rounded arches, defined by smooth columns, and covered by decorative wooden grilles. On each side of the larger openings are smaller grilled ventilators; the arrangement of these multiple openings is reminiscent of Spanish colonial architecture of the 17th and 18th centuries.

The interior, with room for more than a thousand people, features a large balcony and ornate foliate decoration. The lobby and related offices are of more functional design and appearance.

Extensive renovation of the former Hippodrome is currently under way under the direction of the Waco Performing Arts Company, a private corporation. "Seed" money, funds with which to begin the project, were provided by community development grants from the City of Waco and by energetic fund-raising efforts by the Junior League. These two groups, however, are no longer directly connected with the program. Among others, leaders of the Waco Performing Arts Company include: Mrs. Coke Mills, Mr. David Kultgen, Mr. Ross Segrest, Dr. John Ballew, Mrs. Sharon Allison, Mrs. Charles Metz, Mrs. Frank Levy, and Mrs. R. E. "Bill" Henderson. The Hippodrome is expected to open in the summer of 1986 as a "road house," a theatre that does not produce its own shows but books touring productions.



# William Couper Brann and His Date with Destiny:

## The Brann-Davis Shooting

One of the most brilliant literary figures ever to grace the Waco area was William Couper Brann. Brann was a native of Illinois. He had no formal education, but he was superbly gifted by nature to use words, much in the way that a consummate surgeon uses the tools of his trade. However, from the time Brann first came to Texas from St. Louis, Missouri, the tool he favored most was the pen, which he wielded as a scapel — sometimes employed with the ephemeral softness of a butterfly, and occasionally with all the delicacy of an axe murderer. After an abortive effort to establish himself as a journalist in Austin, William Brann moved to Waco in 1894, and the next year he re-established his famous publication "The Iconoclast," which he termed "... a journal of personal protest."

"The Iconoclast" featured a bewildering blend of gutter crudity and lovely imagery, laced with Brann's uniquely vitriolic wit. He delighted in sniping at what he regarded as myths and superstitions, and nothing charmed him more than a chance to tweak the nose of that bastion of conservatism, Baylor University. Those who resented his assaults upon old and cherished beliefs made numerous threats against his life, but Brann made little effort to be inconspicuous — he simply went cheerfully about his business, usually armed.

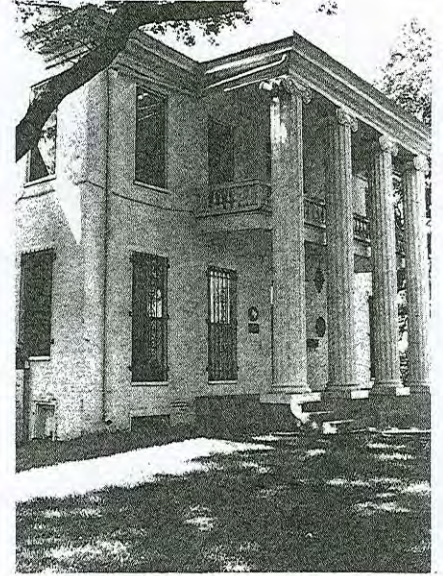
The offices where William Brann did most of his work were located at 124 South Fourth Street, in Rooms 32 and 33 of the Provident Building (demolished in 1959). About 6 o'clock in the evening of April 1, 1898, Brann was walking between Austin and Franklin in the one-hundred block of South Fourth. As he passed an alley, proceeding past F. B. Williams Real Estate (115 South Fourth) with his bodyguard, W. H. Ward, an angry Baylor supporter, Tom Davis, jumped out and fired a wild fusillade at the writer. Brann whirled immediately and replied in kind, and the two antagonists managed to cut down three innocent bystanders, in addition to fatally wounding each other. Mr. Brann, in spite of his serious wounds, was detained at the police station before being taken home. He died the next day and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery.

But even in death, William C. Brann was not spared from the wrath of his enemies — sometime after his interment, an unknown assailant fired a large-caliber bullet into the left temple of the author's profile shown on his tombstone. The mark is clearly visible today.

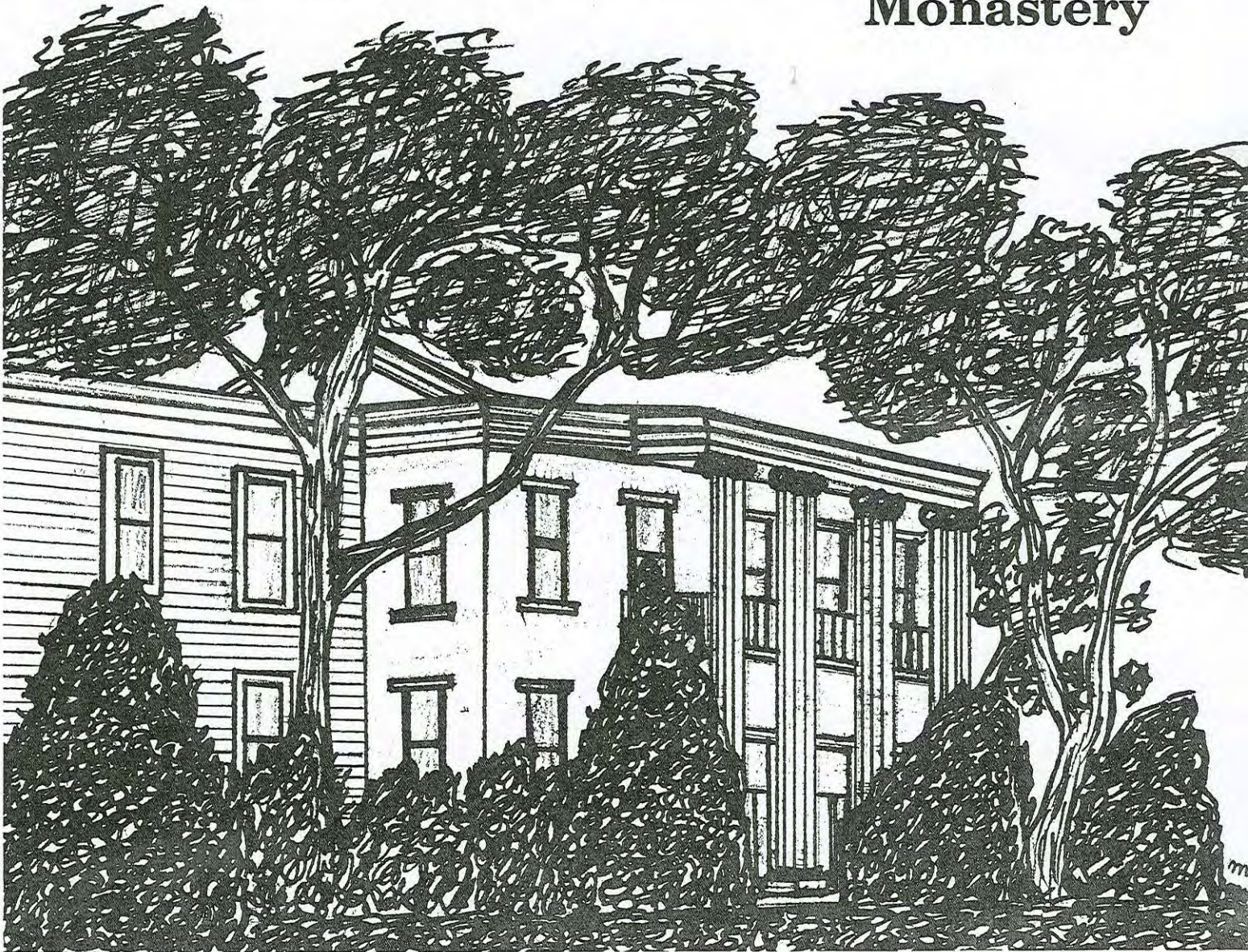




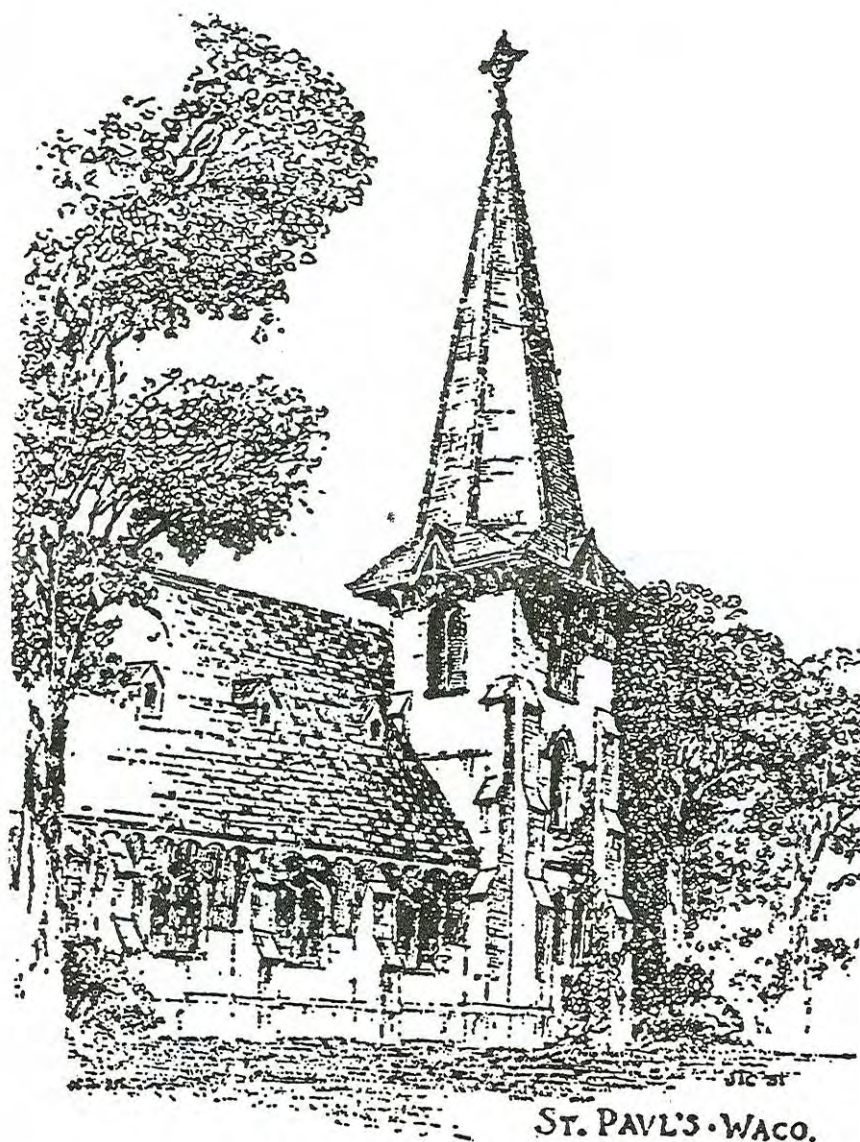
This house was built in 1866 by Captain R. W. Lusk. In 1885, his widow, Margaret Henry Lusk, married her brother-in-law, Dr. W. R. Clifton, a pioneer Waco businessman who lived in the house until 1925. At that time the property was purchased by the Franciscan Fathers for a monastery.



## Franciscan Monastery







## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Episcopalians were among the first settlers in the Waco area, even before McLennan County was formally organized in 1850. Although there were no church buildings available, services were being conducted as early as 1855, under the direction of Reverend George Rottenstein.

In 1863, an Episcopal mission was established at Waco, and on March 19, 1868, the Parish of St. Paul's Church was created through the efforts of Bishop Alexander Gregg and Reverend W. W. Patrick. The first church building, used from 1870 to 1878, was situated at Fourth and Webster. It was later sold to the city for use as a public school. The present facilities at North Fifth and Columbus were completed in June, 1879.



# C. C. McCulloch House

As with many Southern homes constructed in the middle of the 19th century and later, the C. C. McCulloch House was rendered in the architectural style termed Greek Revival (an American adaptation of certain common classical Greek traits in buildings and sculpture). The original home (which is now only the east wing) was a two-story structure with a detached kitchen close to the back of the little cottage; it was erected by Josiah Caldwell in 1866 on property purchased from a large grant for only \$500.

In 1871, Champe Carter McCulloch, a Virginian who came to Texas after the War, purchased the house and surrounding grounds for a considerable appreciated sum of \$6,000 in gold. Within a year, he had completed a much larger addition attached to and located west of the Caldwell home. Exterior walls are of an attractive pink brick, and the house is notable for its four large columns across the front of the larger portion and its impressive floor length windows.

After the death of the last family resident (Louis, one of ten children), the old home stood vacant for a number of years, during which time it suffered cruelly at the hands of vandals. In 1977, title to the property was given by McCulloch heirs to the Historic Waco Foundation, and restoration work began, under the direction of Roy Pledger and David Woodlock of the Texas A&M School of Architecture.







## Earle-Napier-Kinnard House

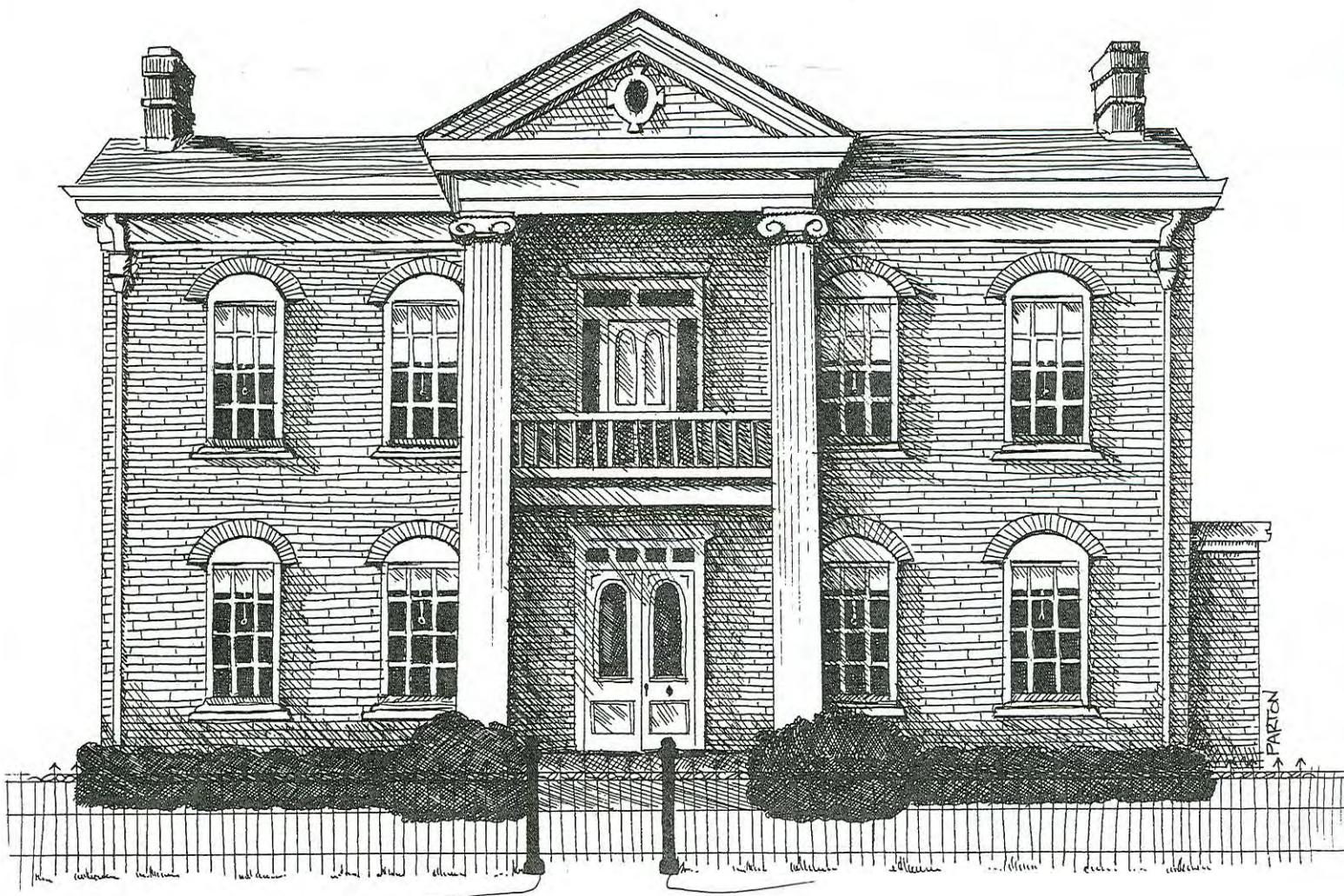
The Earle-Napier-Kinnard home has one of the most interesting histories of any historical site in McLennan County. The original part of the structure is pre-Civil War; it was constructed in 1858 by John Baylis Earle. During the War Between the States, he operated a cotton mill in East Waco, near the present L. L. Sams facilities, producing goods for the Confederate Government. Shortly before his death in 1869, he sold the home to Mr. H. S. Morgan, who in turn sold the property to John Smith Napier, who had moved to Waco from Alabama to recoup his fortunes after the Civil War. Napier made additions to the original building; the structure, now located at 814 South Fourth Street, is much as Napier left it.

Daniel Cannon Kinnard, formerly a Confederate Army Chaplain, moved to Waco, Texas, after the Civil War. He and his bride, the former Sallie Napier (one of the seven children of J. S. Napier) made the Fourth Street residence their home during the time in which Kinnard served as the first minister of the Central Presbyterian Church in the city.



# Fort House

William Aldridge Fort came to Waco, Texas, before the Civil War and soon became a leading figure in Waco business circles; he served as the initial president of the Waco National Bank, which was subsequently renamed the First National Bank and more recently changed to MBank. The Fort Mansion, one of several buildings that originally stood on property at Fourth and Webster Streets, now located at 503 South 4th, was completed about 1868. Constructed from locally made brick, the home was cleverly designed so that all rooms on both floors are favored by cross ventilation. Portions of the home, including the large columns which front the building are typical of the post-Civil War move toward stylized renderings of classical Greek architecture.





# The Gerald-Harris Incident

With the evolution of Waco into staid metropolitan respectability, it is difficult to believe that not so long ago, the city bore (and deserved) a reputation for being a spawning ground for sudden and frequent violence. Its standing as a gunman's paradise seems to have been the result of community-wide effort at all levels of society. Not only felons, as might be expected, but even an occasional member or two of the "best element" found it not only therapeutic but even expedient to blaze away at their compatriots.

A sterling example of the homicidal bent of some 19th century Wacoans occurred in 1897 in the downtown area in a confrontation involving several leading citizens. Perhaps the most notable of the three energetic participants was George Bruce Gerald. Gerald, from Yazoo, Mississippi, was a man with a colorful background. He was a lawyer, commander of his own Mississippi regiment at the battle of Gettysburg, journalist-editor, State Senator (Twenty-second Texas Legislature), and county judge. He was also an exceedingly dangerous man to trifle with, as some of his local enemies were to learn on November 19, 1897.

The confrontation occurred at the intersection of Fourth and Austin, an area which seems throughout history to have had the same effect upon Wacoans as does a full moon.

The other more unfortunate cast members in this violent little playlet were "Waco Tribune-Herald" editor James W. Harris and his brother, William A. Harris. What caused the bloody spectacle were the conflicting feelings of Gerald and the Harrises concerning turbulent social critic, William C. Brann. Judge Gerald was an avowed supporter of the caustic writer, while the Harrises resented the deadly barbs that Brann frequently directed at Baylor University. Less than a month before the fateful day, editor Harris and the older Judge (some 27 years his senior) had engaged in a brief fist fight over the newspaperman's refusal to print (or return) Gerald's letter concerning Brann.

On November 19, 1897, the Harris brothers laid a two-sided ambush for Judge Gerald at Fourth and Austin, stationing themselves so as to catch the older man in a crossfire as his carriage passed. In the melee that ensued, the leather-tough old Mississippian returned their fire with such deadly effect that W. A. Harris was killed, and James Harris was so hard hit that he died soon afterward. Gerald suffered a shattered arm that had to be amputated, but he survived.





## First Presbyterian Church of Waco

The city of Waco, Texas, was only a toddling infant in 1855 when the First Presbyterian Church of Waco was formed. Originally called the First Presbyterian Church of McLennan County, the group was organized under the early leadership of Reverends Samuel Taylor and Thomas Alexander. For 16 years the congregation met in borrowed facilities, but in 1871 the first church building was erected at Second and Jackson Streets, just across from a huge cotton storage lot.

Between 1883 and 1911, First Presbyterian occupied quarters at 812 Austin Avenue. At that time, the church moved to its present address at 1100 Austin. In 1955, on the proud occasion of its centennial, a membership count showed a total of 1,055. First Presbyterian, in a sense, may be called the "mother of churches." Two other local bodies, Trinity Presbyterian (since dissolved) and Westminster Presbyterian, respectively, were created by the senior Presbyterian congregation of McLennan County.





## The William Cameron House

Since the 1870s, the Cameron family has played a leading role in the development of Waco, Texas. William Cameron immigrated to the United States from his native Scotland in 1852. When the Civil War began, he enlisted in the Missouri Militia, fought at Springfield in August, 1861, and was taken prisoner. After hostilities ended, Cameron established a lumber firm and did extensive business with the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railroad. In 1875, he came to Waco, Texas, and bought out the lumber holdings of John F. Sedwick. Within 20 years, William Cameron owned grain and flour mills in Fort Worth and Waco, together with a huge complex of 60 lumber yards in Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma. His headquarters, however, remained in Waco, Texas.

In 1878, as a surprise gift to his wife, Flora, he arranged with the famous architect, W. W. Larmour, for the construction of an ornate Victorian mansion at what is now Thirteenth and Austin. At the time, the site selected was a cornfield. This gorgeous old residence served successfully as a home for the family and for a short time as the location of the Waco Public Library. It has since been demolished.



# The Sturgis House

The Sturgis family has enjoyed a long and distinguished relationship with Waco. Edwin Anson Sturgis came to Waco in 1859. He served with distinction in the Confederate Army, and returned to Waco at the close of the War in 1865. E. A. Sturgis subsequently prospered in real estate, and served as Mayor from 1878-1882, and again from 1886-1888. On January 31, 1867, a son, James Henry Sturgis was born. The younger Sturgis became a successful financier with both the local First National Bank and the Scottish American Mortgage Company of Edinburgh, Scotland. In 1887, J. H. Sturgis contracted for the construction of a home built from plans rendered by W. W. Larmour, who also designed several other classic Waco residences. The structure, located at 1316 Washington, is one of the most beautiful surviving examples of Victorian architecture anywhere in the state. Until October, 1983, the carefully maintained old building remained in family hands. At that time it was sold, and today is occupied by the law offices of Olson, Stem, and Buenger.

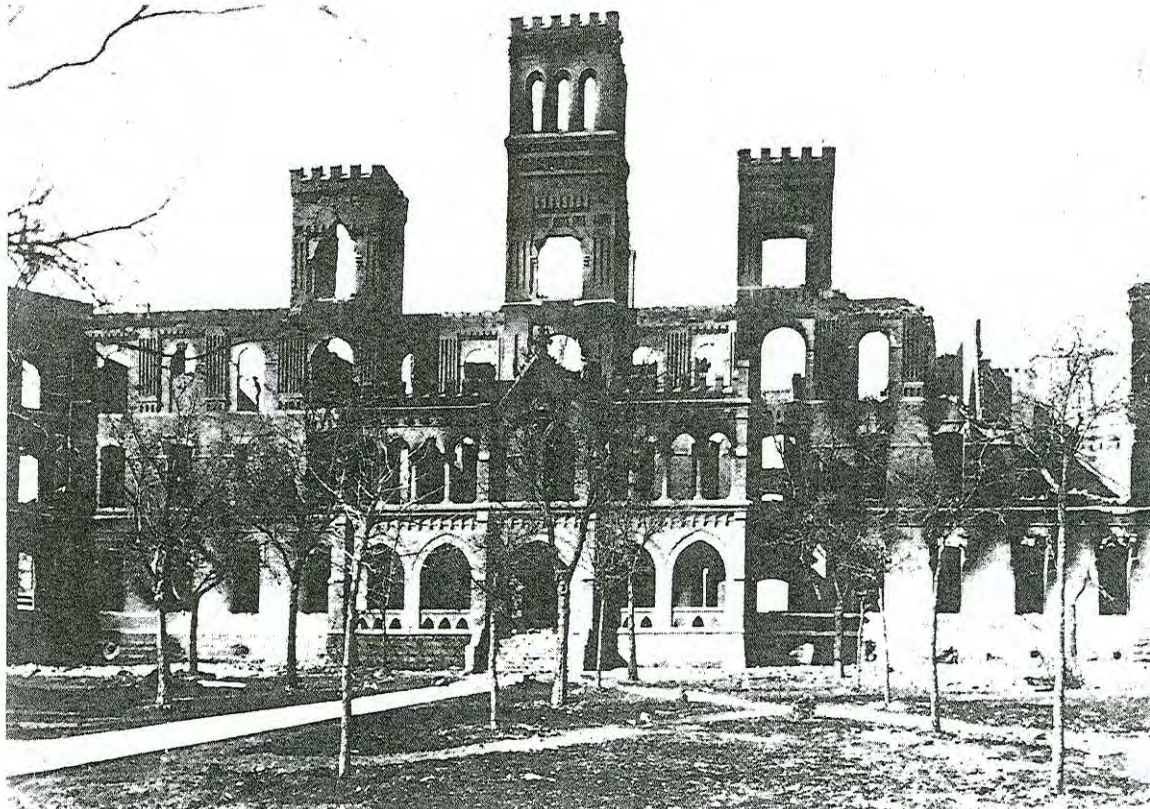




# Texas Christian University

Today, Texas Christian University, with its permanent campus located in Fort Worth, Texas, is one of the most widely respected private educational institutions in the state. To most Texans, T.C.U. and Cowtown are synonymous, but over the years the school has operated in several locations.

In September, 1873, the University was established at Thorp Springs, just west of Granbury, Texas, under the name of Add-Ran Male and Female College. This unusual name was derived from a combination of the first names of founders Addison and Randolph Clark. In 1890, the Disciples of Christ Church assumed responsibility for management, and the name was changed to Add-Ran Christian University. Five years later, another move was made (to Waco) after certain inducements were offered, including a building recently vacated by financially troubled Waco Female College. The city home of T.C.U. (as it came finally to be called after 1902) was located just west of Eighteenth Street, between Mitchell and Alexander. Texas Christian University remained in Waco, Texas, until 1910, when a ruinous fire on March 22 severely damaged the main structure on a three building campus. Shortly thereafter, Fort Worth out-bid both Dallas and Waco for the opportunity to provide a new campus, and the school was relocated there.





# Proctor Springs

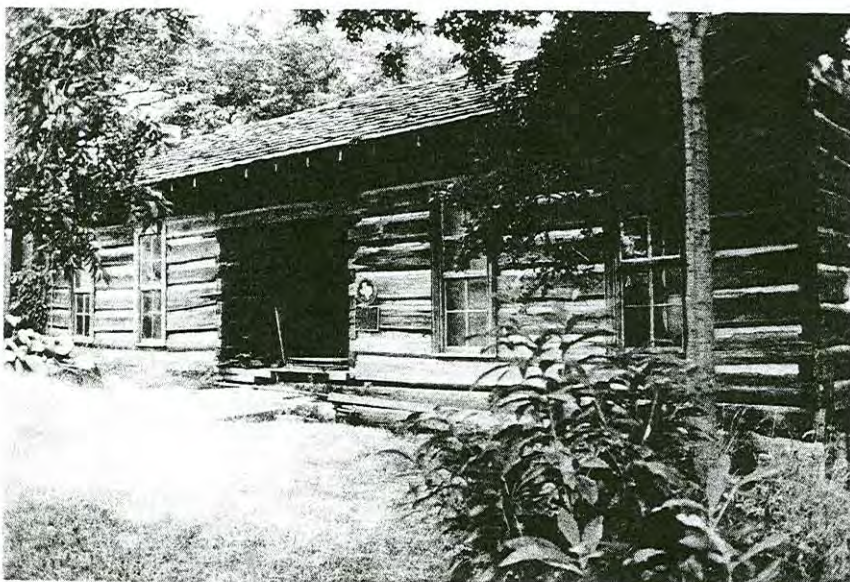
The Proctor Springs site is located in beautiful Cameron Park, the largest natural city park in the state of Texas. It is about a half-mile or less into the park from the Fourth Street entrance, to the north of Herring Avenue. The area was named in honor of Joseph W. Proctor, a Texan patriot who had the distinction of serving in the Armed Forces of the Republic for several periods from March 15, 1836, to January 26, 1838. During that time, Private Proctor took part in the stunning defeat of Santa Anna at San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. Subsequently, he also was a member of the intrepid Ranger detachment that established Fort Fisher on the Brazos River in 1837.

For his services to Texas, Joseph Proctor was awarded 640 acres by a grateful government in April, 1852.

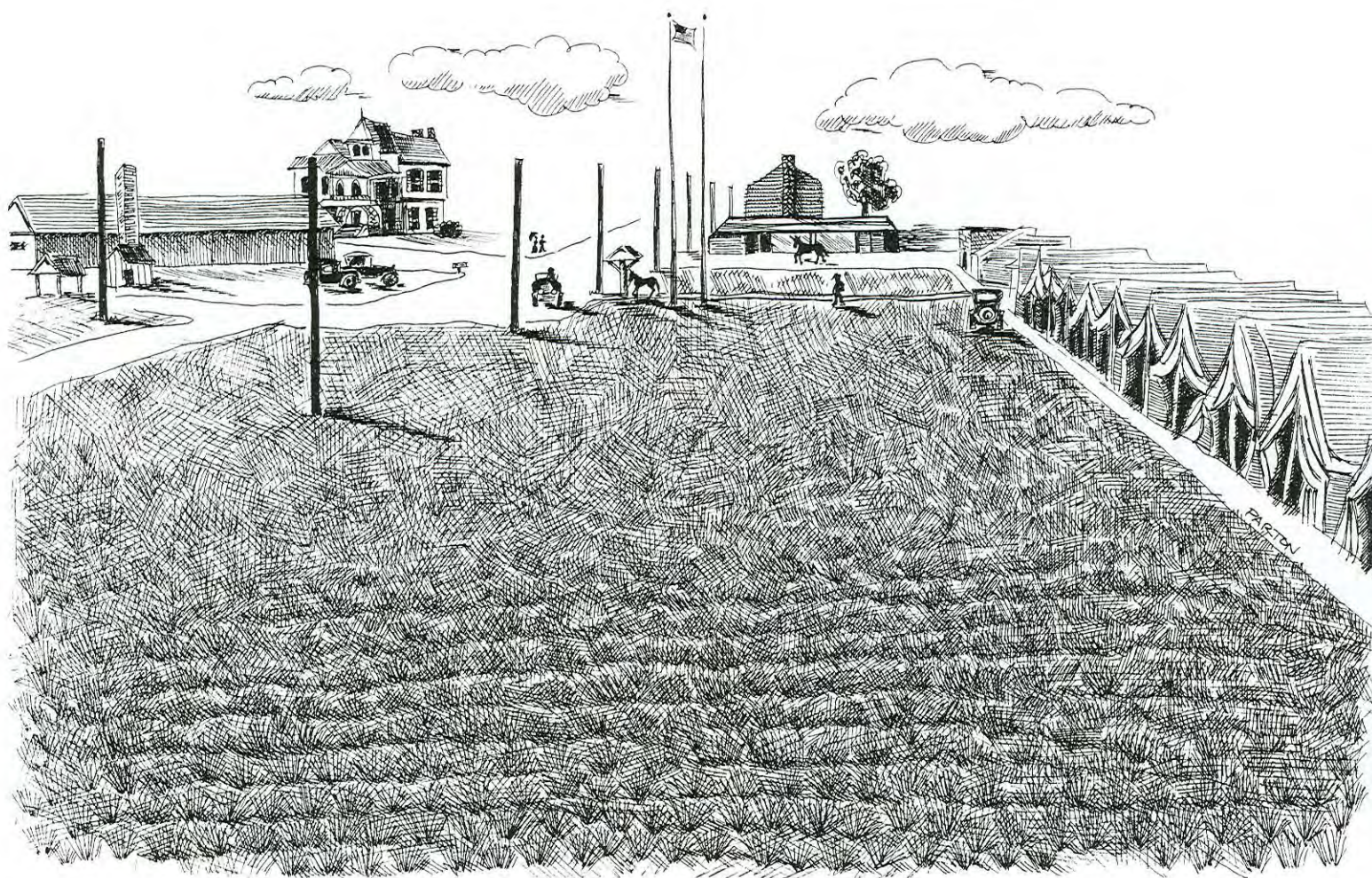
## Hoyle Cabin

For those interested in the relatively primitive but utilitarian and charming architecture of the pre-Civil War frontier, a visit to the transplanted Hoyle Cabin is a must. Located at 421 Rice, the presence of the impressive little structure is a product of the dedication and energy of eminent local historian, Roger Conger. Mr. Conger was instrumental in the careful moving of the little structure from its original location in Rusk County, where it was erected in 1858.

Utilizing original materials where possible, the cabin was painstakingly reconstructed. It is characterized by four large windows across the front (the wall above which is formed of huge 48 foot long logs) and a breezeway, or "dog-run," separating the cabin rooms.



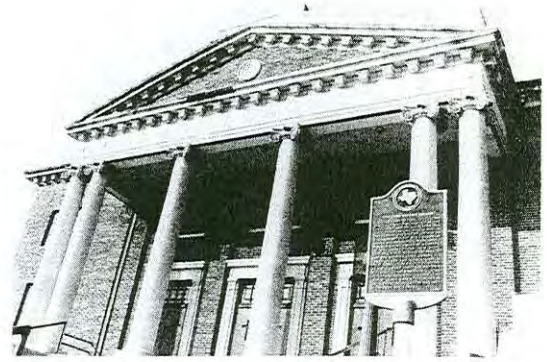




## Camp MacArthur

Camp MacArthur was a major training facility for the United States Army in the early part of the 20th century. It was an expansive installation with tent quarters and administrative offices centered near the present intersection of North 19th and Park Lake Drive, and a large rifle range located on lower ground at what is now the northern terminus of MacArthur Drive. From here, doughboys were dispatched to do battle with the Kaiser in 1917-1918.



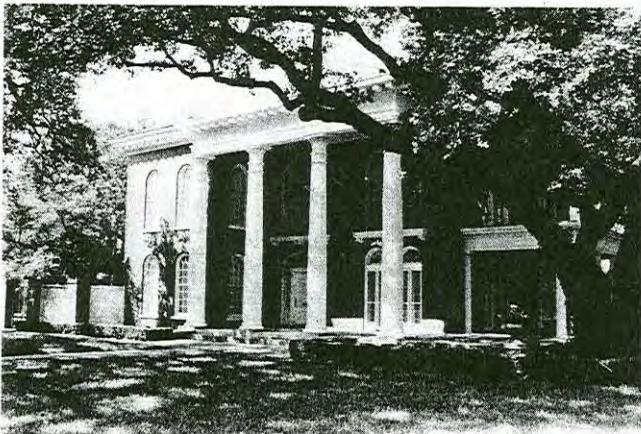


As in most other southern cities of the Civil War era, in Waco, Texas, the corrosive practice of segregation pervaded almost every area of local life, including the practice of religion. It was a type of segregation not generally supported by law, but by the sad evolution of custom. Black Wacoans who wished to practice their faith were tolerated by some Christian congregations, but usually, as in the case of First Baptist Church, services were carefully separated. Even this limited concession was resisted by local secessionists, but First Baptist persisted bravely with its program.

The 18 black members of the church formally requested permission from the leaders of the First Baptist Church to separate from the parent organization in 1866, and with the help of Dr. Rufus Burleson (later the first president of Baylor University in Waco), they did so. Thus, New Hope Baptist, the first black Baptist church in McLennan County, began life on June 10, 1866, in the peculiar environment of an old foundry at Jefferson and North Sixth Streets. The first minister to serve the vibrant little group was Stephen Cobb, a selfless and dedicated pastor who served for his entire eight-year tenure without a designated salary.

The present quarters of this pathfinder congregation are located at 915 North Sixth. The church is a tribute both to the energy and to the independence of spirit of a small group of 18 souls.

## New Hope Baptist Church



## The Johnson-Taylor House

The imposing Johnson-Taylor home, at 1725 North Fifth Street, is readily recognizable by its four lovely, soaring, fluted columns across the front porch. The basic structure (exclusive of a two-story north wing addition) was completed in a somewhat leisurely fashion between 1873 and 1879 by Waco merchant, Sanford Johnson. Johnson lived there until he left Waco for California in 1887.

In 1912, the home was purchased by Kentuckian Peter G. Taylor, who was affiliated for years with the local Cooper Grocery Company. It was Taylor who was responsible for adding a roomy two-story addition on the north side of the original building.

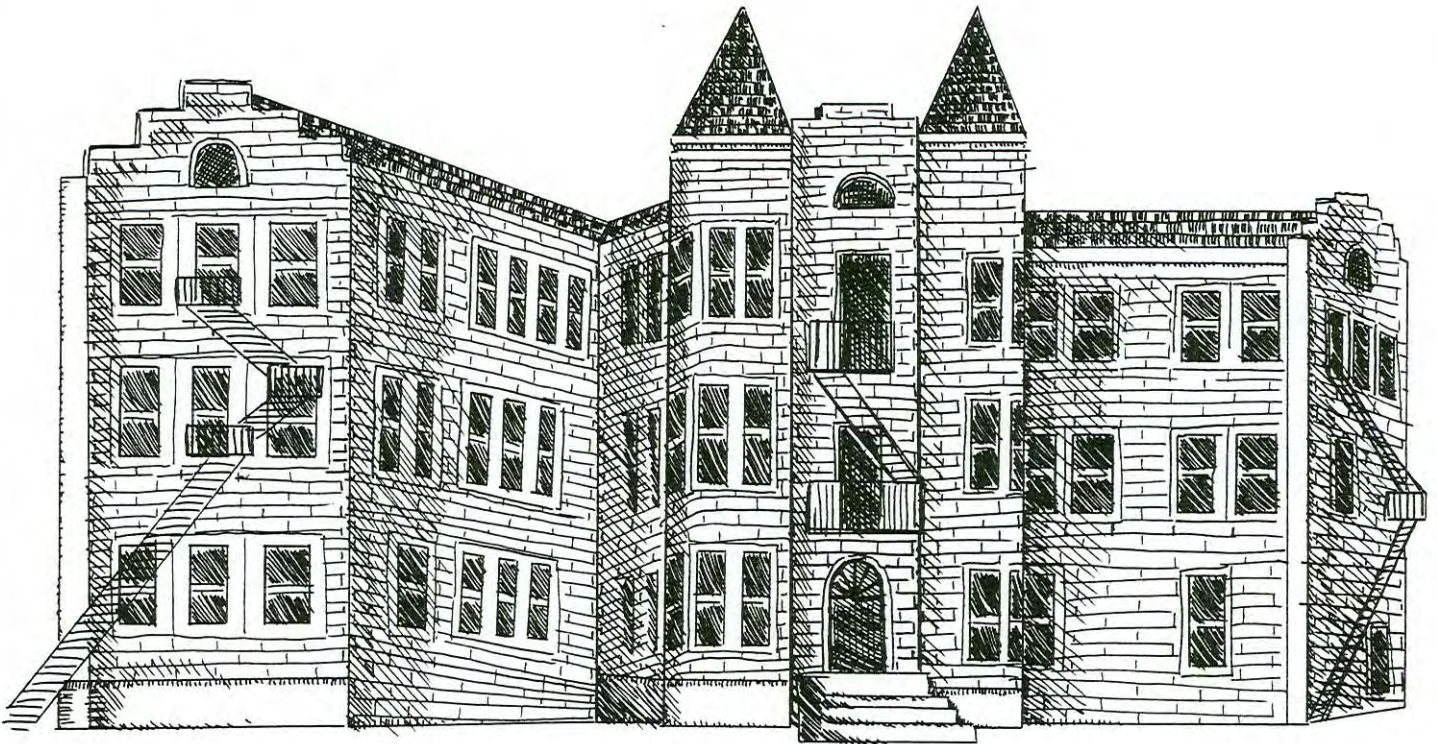
Currently, the former Johnson-Taylor House serves as a multi-purpose location for civic and cultural functions, under the auspices of the present owner, Waco Council of Garden Clubs, Inc. It now is referred to as the Nell Pape Garden Center, in honor of Mrs. Gustav Hermann (Nell) Pape who deeded the property to the organization.



# Paul Quinn College

At a Houston conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, plans were made for the establishment of a college for black students in the Spring of 1872. The institution, first located in Austin, Texas, was initially called the Connectional College. A few years later, the school was moved to Waco, Texas; it operated as a modest little trade school in one building located at Eighth and Mary Streets, and emphasis was placed upon practical skills such as blacksmithing and carpentry.

In May, 1881, the college was renamed Paul Quinn, in honor of William Paul Quinn, long-time missionary in the service of the A.M.E. Church. At that time it was formally chartered by the State of Texas, and continued activities in a much expanded form in new quarters on a 22-acre campus at 1020 Elm Street. Paul Quinn College has the distinction of being the oldest liberal arts institution of higher learning for blacks in the State of Texas.





# Kellum Family Cemetery

The Kellum Cemetery, located on the northeast corner of the intersection of Dripping Springs Road and Herring Avenue, is one of several private family plots located around the Waco area. Like most of the others, it is overgrown and sadly neglected. In addition, the sight of several headstones with their tops barely protruding above the surface suggests that the little graveyard was inundated more than once by turn-of-the-century floods that ravaged territory along the eastern side of the Brazos.

The Kellum family moved to Texas from Alabama and Mississippi, and in 1854 purchased land along the Brazos River in the Dripping Springs road area. During the Civil War, William Kellum served in the Confederate Army; while on duty with the Quartermaster Corps, his father, Edward Kellum (who had been born seven months before the U.S. Constitution was written), died in 1863.

The younger Kellum returned to Waco after the war, engaged in a successful wholesale grocery venture with the Rotan interests and later was a director of the Waco Suspension Bridge Company. But the post-war years were tinged with sadness — a son, John, died prematurely in 1869 at the age of 14. The last burial in the cemetery was that of William Kellum, who died in 1890 at the age of 72.

The Kellum Cemetery is surrounded by a spiked wrought-iron fence enclosing an area about 120 feet on a side. The fence seems to be of early Victorian vintage, and it is well-preserved. To the east of most of the graves (but within the iron fence) is a brick enclosure about 30 feet by 10 feet in area. It was higher at one time (now about one foot), but probably flooding damaged the structure over a period of years. Within are two plain, uncarved headstones, one about two feet tall, the other a few inches shorter.





## East Terrace

"East Terrace," a large and attractive example of the Italian Villa architectural style popular in the latter 19th century, has enjoyed a sometimes precarious existence since its completion in 1874. On several occasions during the intervening years, East Terrace was threatened by flooding from the Brazos River. The force of river waters weakened walls reinforcing the terrace and also deposited silt over much of the brick paving atop the terraced area.

The home was built by John Wesley Mann from distinctively colored brick made in the kilns of a brick yard that he and William B. Trice owned in the City. It is located at 100 Mill Street. Mann and his wife, Cemira, lived there until his death in 1909; he accumulated diverse holdings in milling, ice-making, lumber processing, and was president of Waco National Bank (First National Bank [MBank]) from 1884 to 1892.



# Earle-Harrison House

Baylis Wood Earle was born in South Carolina in 1801. He moved to Mississippi in the 1830s and became a prosperous physician and landowner. In 1858, Earle moved to Waco, purchased a good-sized tract (about one and one-half acres) and built a large home, originally located in the 800 block between South Fourth and South Fifth Streets. The building was rendered in typical Greek Revival style, with the most unique feature the large number of tall pillars that adorn the north and east sides. Earle died on April 2, 1859, only 13 months after coming to the city.

In 1872, General Thomas Harrison, a distinguished veteran of service in both the Mexican War and Civil War (Confederate Army of Tennessee), purchased the property and moved the big structure to an area closer to South Fourth Street. Harrison enjoyed a productive career as a lawyer, district judge, and a Democratic presidential elector in 1872. He died at Waco, July 14, 1891. The rugged old home, built in part from post oak and cypress, stolidly withstood the ravages of time until 1968 when the G. H. Pape Foundation moved the Harrison House to 1901 South Fifth and began a painstaking restoration process.

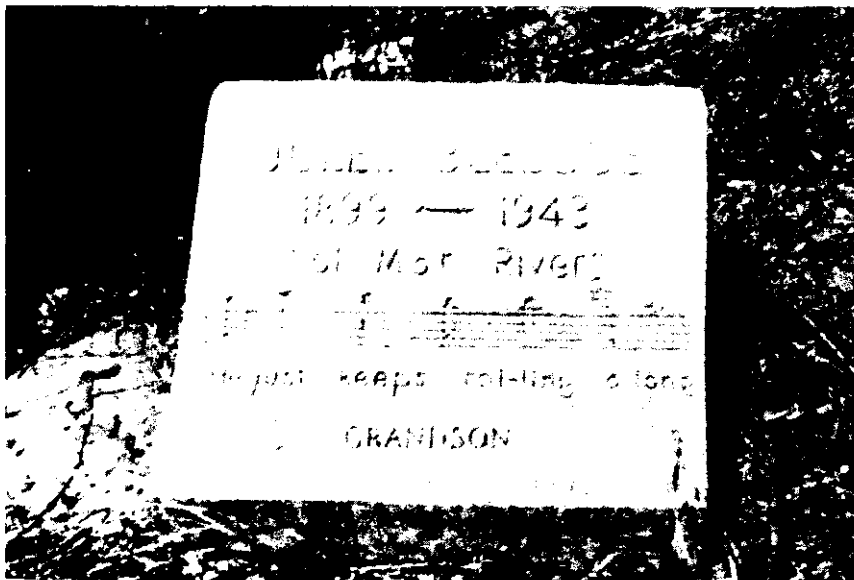




# George Butler - Jesse Harrison House

The Butler-Harrison House is located a little less than one mile to the east of the Brazos River at 1018 Taylor. It was built in 1869 by businessman-entrepreneur George Butler for his wife Emiline, and is notable as one of the earliest brick homes known to have been built east of the river. The brick used in the original structure was of a lovely rose hue and was held together by a lime and sand mixture (cement had not been invented yet). When first erected, the home consisted of a kitchen, bedroom, and living room, with somewhat elongated windows arranged at the corner of each room on the west side.

Unfortunately, the needs of physical reality forced Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Harrison to modify and add to the old home; an upper portion covered by asbestos siding, and a portion of the southeast corner built of lighter-colored brick are not part of the residence built by Butler. The author had the good fortune to be shown around the exterior of Butler-Harrison House by Dr. E.L. Harrison, a woman of rare grace and charm, who is the current owner.

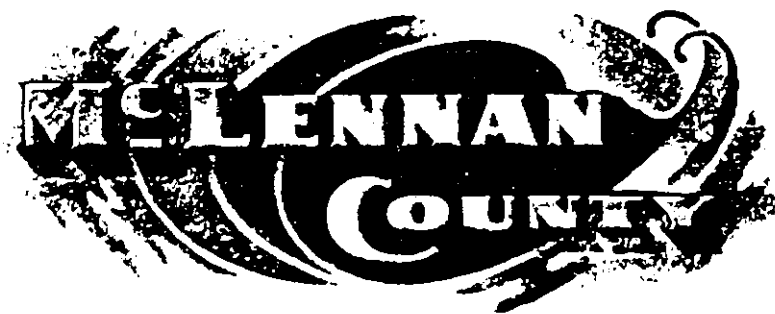


## Greenwood Cemetery

The city of Waco established Greenwood Cemetery in 1875, with equal acreage allocated for the White and Black communities. In the 1930's, Mrs. Emma Norwood and others 'founded the People's Cemetery Association' to maintain the property. Church, masonic, and political leaders lie here beside people from many walks of life. The most famous is the great American baritone Jules Bledsoe (1899-1943), a native of Waco. Bledsoe studied abroad, starred in Grand Opera, and gave a classic to the world when he sang "Old Man River" in the original cast of "Showboat."

Greenwood Cemetery is located at the corner of Earle and Price streets in East Waco.





WACO. TEXAS

## McLennan County

McLennan County was created on January 22, 1850 from portions of Robertson and Milam counties. The county is 1,035 square miles in area. It was named for Neil McLennan who settled on the South Bosque in 1845. The county was organized in August, 1850, with Waco as the county seat. This historical marker is located two miles north of Waco Drive on Highway 81.



# First Street Cemetery

First Street Cemetery was Waco's first public graveyard. The land was purchased by the Masonic fraternity and the town of Waco on April 6, 1852. Two additional acres were added January 24, 1869, by the Waco Lodge No. 70 and the McLennan Lodge No. 241, IOOF. Among other noteworthy figures buried there is the intrepid Captain Thomas Barron, commander of the Ranger detachment which established the first Fort Fisher.

## Thomas Hudson Barron: Soldier and Public Servant

In 1837, Texas Secretary of War William Fisher made the decision to establish a base for operations against the Indians on the northern edge of the populated portion of the Republic. This installation was to be located in the Brazos River Valley, a turbulent zone where merely staying alive was frequently a questionable proposition. For this dangerous mission, Virginian immigrant Thomas H. Barron was chosen. A veteran of service in the Ranger Company of Sterling Robertson, Captain Barron led a detachment of 44 mounted volunteers into the area, along the Brazos, which had only recently been vacated by Waco Indians (February, 1837).

The little outpost soon thrown up by the rangers was just as quickly vacated about three weeks later on government orders, but both Barron and one of his lieutenants, George Erath, had been impressed by the tremendous potential of the lands around the Brazos River, and both were to return there after leaving Republic service.

Thomas Barron returned to the Valley in 1847 to develop 320 acres that had been surveyed by his friend Erath; he built his cabin in the vicinity of the grounds of the old Waco Indian village (approximately the 600 block of North Seventh). When the first McLennan County Commissioners' Court was constituted in 1850, Barron and Shapley Ross were chosen by commissioners to plan roads connecting the Waco area with Waxahachie to the north and Nolanville to the southwest. Later, in 1851, when Judge R. E. B. Baylor began to hold district court sessions in Waco, Thomas Barron served as the clerk of the court. Captain Barron is buried in the First Street Cemetery which is close to the Fort Fisher Museum and Park, just off I-35.



# Fort Fisher

When the Republic of Texas was born in March, 1836, various tribes of Indians occupied territory within the infant nation; in some portions, Texans were firmly entrenched; in others red men were the masters, and in yet other vicinities the question of who was in control was a matter of daily conjecture.

One such hotly disputed zone where the Indians still held the upper hand, and frequently wielded it in bloody fashion, was the Brazos River Valley. Wacos along the river (with the exception of an occasional setback from Cherokee intruders) jealously defended their productive farmlands, and fast-moving Comanches and Kiowas were a threat to everyone (white and Indian), both to the north and the south of the River.

As the wave of American settlement began to press hesitantly northward toward the Brazos, the most intrepid of immigrants who formed the cutting edge of this movement sometimes found death instead of fortune. An early pioneer, John Boyd, managed to construct a cabin about four miles south of modern Waco, but constant harassment by Indians finally drove him away. Then, Laughlin McLennan, father of the famous "Bosque John" McLennan, was killed along with his wife on Pond Creek in present Falls County. Finally, a large party of Comanches and Kiowa allies overwhelmed Fort Parker on May 19, 1836, (south of Mexia in Limestone County). This last event was apparently the immediate factor that decided the young Texas government to establish a somewhat exposed forward outpost on the Brazos River in an attempt to better protect northward-bound settlers. Secretary of War William Fisher ordered a detachment of 45 "Rangers" into the vicinity of the old Waco Indian Village to set up a base in 1837.

The original Fort Fisher was established near the artesian springs (the Wacos and Tawakonis had grudgingly vacated the main village only a short time before).

Upon reconsideration, however, the government decided that the crude little installation was not positioned where it would do the most good for the frontier, and it was ordered abandoned. The modern version of Fort Fisher (an attractive reproduction of a frontier-era fort) was opened in 1968 several miles to the south and east of the original. Situated in a 35-acre park in the area of Interstate Highway 35 and Lake Brazos Drive, it serves as a museum for Texas Ranger and western history and is a bit more elaborate than the brush shanties that constituted the 1837 version of the place.

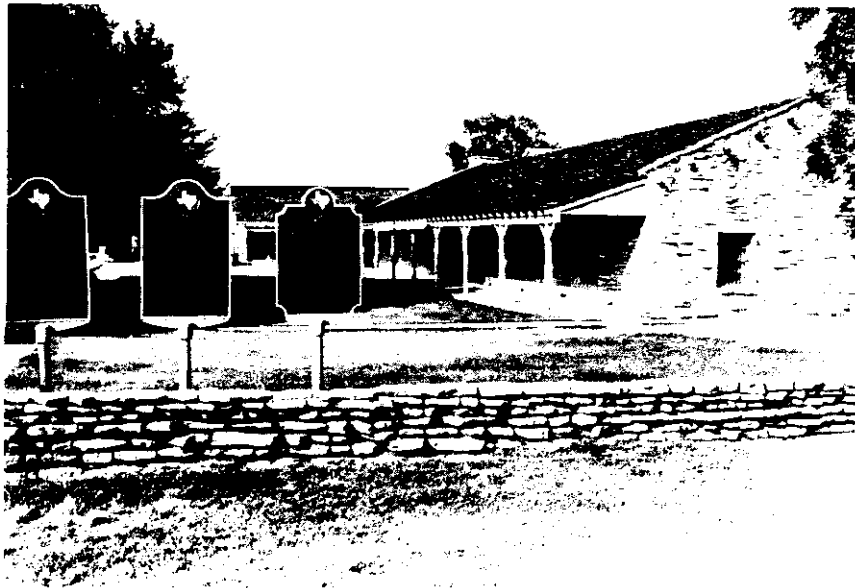


# County Seat of McLennan County — Waco

Within site of this marker located on the grounds of Fort Fisher, March 1, 1849, occurred the first sale of town lots at Waco Village. In 1850 Shapley P. Ross operated a ferry across the Brazos. McLennan County was created the same year. Waco, the county seat, grew steadily as a center of trade, education and industry for a rich farm and ranch area. At the turn of the century Waco was one of the major inland cotton exporters.

Three Texas governors have resided in Waco: Richard Coke (1874-1877), Sul Ross (1887-1891), and Pat M. Neff (1921-1925). Baylor University moved to Waco in 1886 and Texas Christian University was located here between 1896 and 1910.

Flood control dams in the Brazos basin built in 1954-1965 assure future water supply for the area and have opened much land for development in metropolitan Waco.



Before 1875 in Texas, cattle roamed over thousands of acres of public land, and free grazing became a tradition. After 1875, however, an increasing farm populace tended to protect their crops and other property with barbed wire fences which were much resented by cattlemen. Cattle losses in drouths of the 1880's provoked such widespread cutting of fences that the Texas government recognized this as a crime and in 1884 enacted laws to curb the practice.

Texas Rangers were dispatched by the governor at the call of county judges and sheriffs to apprehend the fence cutters. They operated from the Red River to the Rio Grande, and from the Panhandle to the pine woods of East Texas. Disguise and concealment were required, and one of the rangers who won praise for his work pronounced it the most disagreeable duty in the world. The struggle went on for some years. Finally, however, stockmen who had wanted to restore the open range were won over to fencing their own lands and using windmills to water their cattle herds. The Texas Rangers had in one more instance helped to stabilize life in the West. This historical marker is located on the grounds of Fort Fisher.

## The Texas Rangers and the Fence Cutters



# Zion United Church of Christ

Today, Zion United Church of Christ occupies several blocks of South Eighth Street, with additional parking facilities on South Ninth. It includes a well-maintained sanctuary, air-conditioned fellowship hall, and education building.

The original structure, built in 1881 (but dedicated the next year) was located at 629 South Eighth Street in Waco. It served as the congregation home until the beginning of World War I, when the present building was occupied. The organization of the church membership began earlier in 1881 with the arrival in Waco of Reverend Fred Werning (sent to Texas by the German Evangelical Church of North America). Early services were held for a time in the quarters of First Methodist Church at Second and Jackson Streets (not Presbyterian, as the nicely detailed church history by Schack suggests).

Among the interesting developments in the history of the Church are these vignettes: In 1909, after 27 years of a spartan existence, the luxury of electric lighting was added; in January, 1915, as a concession to the rampant feminism of the period, segregation of the sexes during services (formerly men on the left, women on the right) was ended; and in 1942, services which traditionally had been conducted in German (at least part of the time) were discontinued, due no doubt in part to the onset of World War II.

The Church, from the time of its establishment by Reverend Werning, has operated under three different names: From 1881 to 1934, it was called, simply, Zion Church; in 1934, with the merger of the Evangelical Synod of North America and the Reformed Church of the United States, Zion Church became Zion Evangelical and Reformed Church; ultimately, in 1957, with the union of the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian denomination, Zion United Church of Christ assumed its current name.

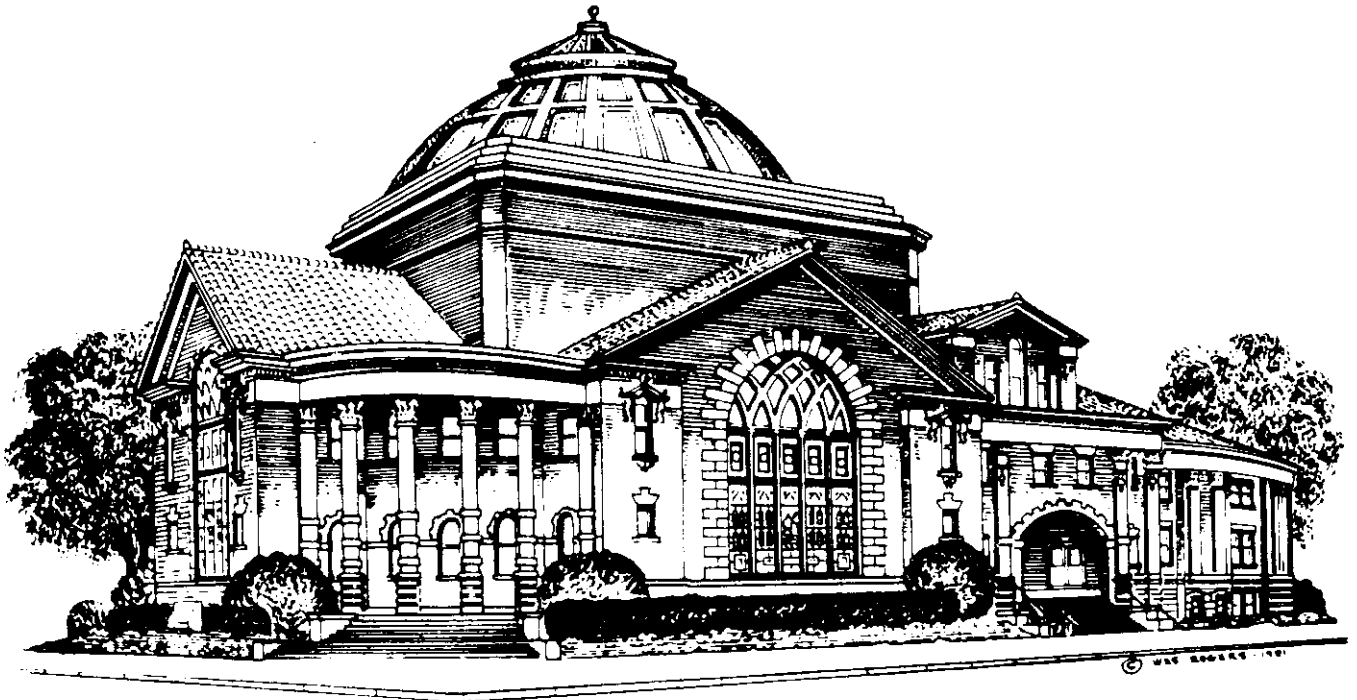




# First Baptist Church of Waco

In a region of Texas where Baptists are numerically dominant, the First Baptist Church still stands out among the many. Its genesis is a tribute to the extraordinary talent and energy of Reverend Noah T. Byars. Reverend Byars played a pivotal role in the Texas Revolution. The Declaration of Independence of our Republic was signed in his blacksmith shop at Washington-on-the-Brazos, and during the course of the war, he performed vital service as armourer to forces commanded by General Sam Houston. In 1851, he became the first pastor of the First Baptist Church in Waco. For the first three years of its existence, the church shared quarters with First Methodist Church at Second and Jackson Streets, before moving to the initial location of First Baptist proper, at Fourth and Mary.

When this building burned in 1877, for a time the congregation lived a gypsy existence, meeting first in the county courthouse, and then in a Baylor men's dormitory, which stood at one time on the site of the present church. After initial financial problems, the membership was relieved to move into the newly completed ground floor of facilities still under construction in 1880 at the corner of Fifth and Webster Streets. Completed in 1883, the original portion of the church building is an attention-getting though somewhat bewildering mixture of byzantine, Greek, and gothic architectural styles, but the result of this diverse blend is certainly an imposing sight well worth the trip for visitors.







# Baylor University

Baylor University, chartered by the Republic of Texas in 1845, is the oldest institution of higher learning in continuous operation in the state. Baylor began activities on its original campus at Independence in 1846, and continued functioning there until 1861. At that point, continuing friction between the board of trustees and then-president Rufus Burleson, reached an intolerable level. Burleson resigned, took the entire faculty of the male department with him, and moved to Waco, Texas. There, he organized Waco University, with facilities at Fifth and Clay Streets. Two dormitories were situated just to the south of the present site of First Baptist Church.

Until 1886, Waco University and Baylor University functioned as separate entities, with Baylor operating as an exclusively male school (the female branch maintained an independent existence during this period). Then, the newly created Baptist General Convention ordered the consolidation of Baylor University with Burleson's school, and in 1886 Baylor University at Waco, Texas, was established on a campus between Fifth and Eighth Streets. For many years, Baylor has been well-known for its commitment to academic excellence, and today ranks as the largest Baptist university in the world.





# R. E. B. Baylor

One of the leading southern Baptists of the 19th century, Robert Emmett Bledsoe Baylor was born, humorously enough, in Bourbon County, Kentucky, in 1793. A veteran of the War of 1812, Baylor later represented the state of Alabama in the Twenty-first Congress of the United States, beginning his tenure in 1828. Two years after becoming a Baptist minister in 1839, he came to Texas where he made important contributions toward the establishment of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. Judge Baylor was also very energetic in his support of denominational education, and when a Baptist university was established at Independence in 1845, it was named in his honor.

After a period of service on the Supreme Court during the days of the Texas Republic, he became a United States District Judge, and conducted the first district court session in McLennan County on April 14, 1851. He died in 1873, and was originally interred on the old Independence campus of Baylor; but shortly after the entry of the United States into World War I, his body was reburied on the campus of Mary Hardin-Baylor University in Belton, Texas. An impressive statue commemorating him is located on Speight Street in front of the Pat Neff Administration Building at Baylor University.



# Rufus C. Burleson

When Baylor University (founded in Independence, Texas, in 1845) moved to this city to consolidate with Waco University in 1886, the first president of the newly amalgamated institution was Alabama native Rufus Columbus Burleson. A many-sided man — slave owner (one), minister, missionary, and educator — few people made more significant early contributions in Texas to the cause of education and to the strengthening of the Baptist role in the state.

Working as the Texas agent for the Peabody Education Fund, Burleson was instrumental in bringing about legislative action toward the creation of an educational institution for the training of teachers; he was equally active in efforts by the Texas State Teachers Association to plant the roots of a public school system in the state.

In the field of denominational religion, he was one of the founders of the Baptist State Convention in 1848, and was an officer in the Waco Baptist Association on several occasions. Certainly, one of his most interesting achievements came in 1866 when he assisted a group of 18 former slaves to organize New Hope Baptist Church (900 block of South Sixth). It was the first black Baptist church in the Waco area. Rufus Burleson died in Waco in May, 1901, and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery, which is located at 2124 South Fifth.





# Pat Morris Neff

Baylor University has been favored throughout its history with capable executive leadership. The author has read the correspondence of many of these men, and he has had the honor of meeting two of them. Whether by spoken or written word, they come across universally as men of charm, intelligence and goodwill. But since student days in graduate school at Baylor, the author has always had a personal preference for Patrick Neff.

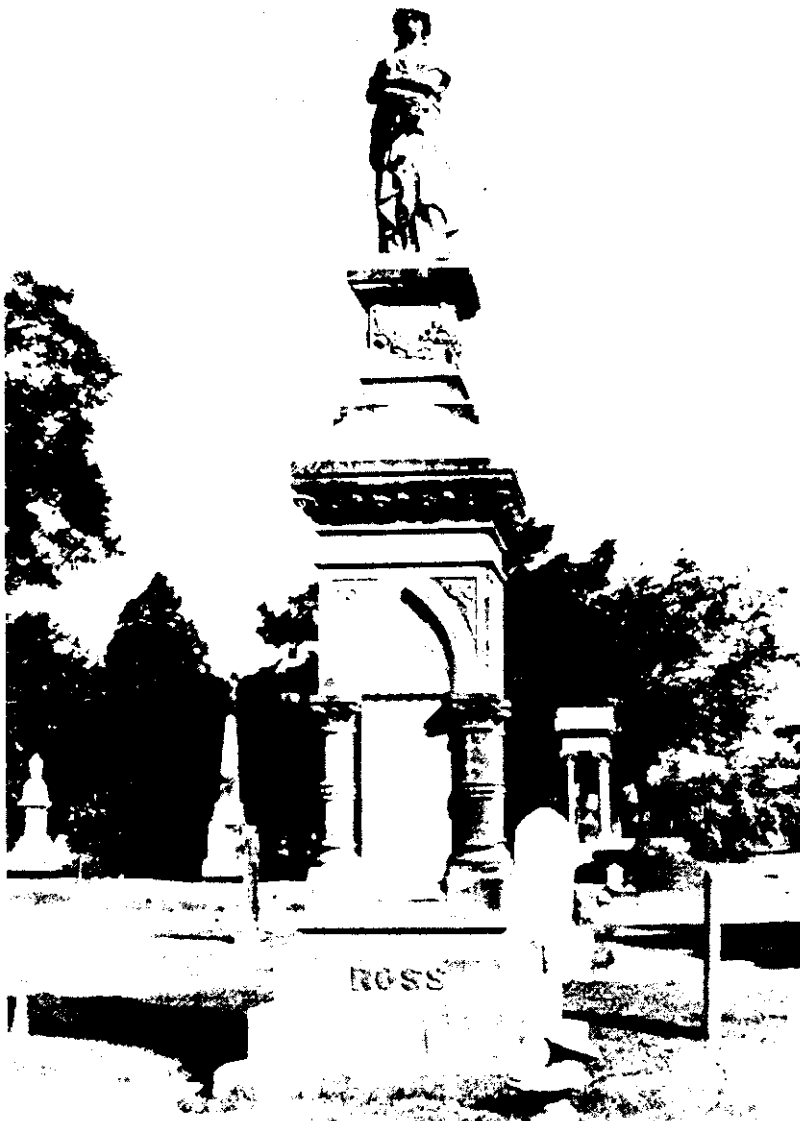
Neff was a patrician gentleman of the old school — stern, strong-willed, and with a devotion to occasional outbursts of flowery oratory. He was also a man of great warmth and humor, who was never more delighted than when he was the object of affectionate student pranks.

When Pat Morris Neff came to Baylor as President, he already had behind him a career distinguished enough for several men — one of the youngest house speakers in any state legislature in history (commencing in 1903 when he was barely 32), brilliant McLennan County prosecutor (better than a 98 per cent conviction rate), and 27th governor of Texas (1921-1925). Although Governor Neff had already done yeoman duty for Baylor as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, his most monumental achievements were yet to follow, after he assumed the executive chair in 1932. For the services he rendered, everyone who loves Baylor University should be eternally grateful.

It would be difficult to overstate Neff's accomplishments, but quite probably had he not been on the scene during the Depression years, the school might have ceased to exist. Hard times called for hard measures; Neff was forced to prune faculty and staff, and those who remained took a 15 per cent pay cut — even then, the fortunate few who remained had to accept one-fourth of their pay in school scrip, which local businessmen discounted a discouraging 50 per cent. Incredibly, Pat Neff managed to build four new buildings and increase the campus area during his difficult tenure. Baptist leader, strong president, and champion of academic freedom, Pat Neff left the presidency in 1947. He died in 1952 and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery in the 2100 block of South Fifth.







## Oakwood Cemetery

Before Oakwood Cemetery was established in 1878, the land was used as a fair grounds and a race track. The 157-acre burial ground is the successor to the First Street Cemetery, the oldest important cemetery in Waco. Many bodies from earlier graveyards were moved here beginning in 1878 because of better maintenance of the grounds.

Since 1898 the Oakwood Cemetery Association, a private group, has operated the cemetery. The land, however, remains the property of the city. The board of directors of the association consists of women only as provided in the original bylaws.

Among the eminent Texans interred here are three governors: Richard Coke (1874-1877), Lawrence Sullivan Ross (1887-1891), and Pat Morris Neff (1921-1925). Also, Neil McLennan, Texas pioneer for whom McLennan County is named, is buried in Oakwood. In addition, there are two old adversaries: Rufus C. Burleson, President of Baylor University, and William Cowper Brann, crusading editor of the "Iconoclast," who was shot by a man who resented Brann's attacks on Baylor University. Also interred is William Cameron, "Lumber King of the South." As of April 2, 1969 burials totaled 18,804. Oakwood Cemetery is located at the end of South Fifth just across LaSalle.



## **Jerome Bonaparte Robertson and Felix Huston Robertson: Knights in Gray**

When the South went to war in 1861, Texans came forward in great numbers to serve the Stars and Bars in every capacity and in nearly every theater of war. But few were more gallant than the Robertsons. The elder Robertson, Jerome Bonaparte, was a Kentucky native of remarkable talents — doctor, soldier of the Texas Republic, and Texas legislator (both houses). At the outbreak of the Civil War, he raised an infantry company, which later became a constituent unit in the famous Texas Brigade first commanded by the great John Hood. In 1862, he assumed leadership of the Brigade and led it through the bloody savagery of Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, and Chickamauga. (He held command of this elite unit longer than any other man.) After 1865 he returned to Texas, and in 1879 he moved to Waco where he lived until his death in 1890.

The oldest child of Jerome was Felix Huston Robertson, a native Texan, Baylor University (Independence) graduate, and West Pointer. As a loyal southerner, he resigned from the Academy and immediately took a commission in 1861 in the Confederate Artillery service, rising to the rank of major by July, 1863, (from Fort Sumter to Chickamauga to Atlanta). In 1864, rebel President Jefferson Davis appointed him to the rank of brigadier-general of cavalry in the command of the well-regarded Joseph Wheeler, a position held until he was severely wounded near Augusta, Georgia, in November, 1864.

After the war, he returned to Texas and McLennan County and became a holder of extensive properties within the county. He had the distinction of being the only native Texan to rise to the rank of general officer during the War Between the States, and in the postwar period he was a leading spirit in several Confederate veteran groups. He died at Waco, Texas, in 1928.

Both of the indomitable Robertsons are buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in the 2100 block of South Fifth Street.





The story of Second Baptist Church is a remarkable (miraculous?) story of persistence in the face of discouraging odds. Formed as a convenience to the South Waco members of New Hope Baptist Church (who were periodically prevented from attending by the swollen floodwaters of Barron Branch), what was first called Second Colored Baptist Church was established in 1879 in a small facility on Canal Street to the south of Barron Branch.

In 1897, Second (Missionary) Baptist Church, as it had then come to be designated, moved into larger quarters on South Second Street, and over the next few years experienced severe financial problems. In February, 1901, a forced sale of the church properties was held at McLennan County Courthouse, but the top bidder, a black man named William Graves, generously agreed to hold church assets in trust until they could be redeemed by the organization. It took 18 years of painful effort to do so, but nothing seemed to be impossible for this indomitable little group.

Just when Second Baptist appeared to be over the hump, fate dealt the church another cruel blow. On December 12, 1922, fire devastated the main building. As the nation slowly headed into the Great Depression, the fortunes of Second Baptist Church also worsened. The erection of a more modern brick structure in 1924 (the current one) caused the Church to incur debts in excess of \$20,000. Once again, in July, 1937, Second Baptist went on the auction block, and once again was rescued through the action of another benefactor (this time, Farm Home Savings and Loan Association of Missouri). Farm Home granted Second Baptist leaders additional time to pay their note, and heroic efforts accomplished this considerable feat in November, 1943.

The existence of Second Baptist Church of Waco is today an impressive monument to courage, persistence, and most of all, to faith. The current structure is located at 1205 M. L. Cooper Drive.

## Second Baptist Church of Waco, Texas



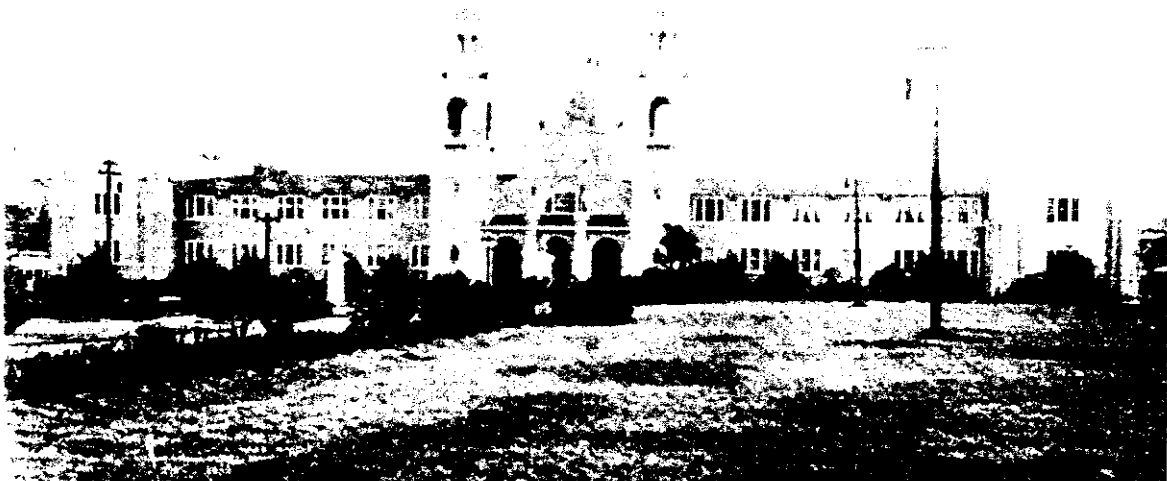
# Texas Cotton Palace

Although cattle played an important role in the growth of Waco (with the famous Chisholm Trail passing close to Waco, and the Shawnee Trail moving right through the city), the importance of the cotton trade played the most crucial role of all in shaping this community. Corn and wheat made money, but cotton came to be the most important crop grown in the Brazos Valley. Four years after the Civil War, more than 350,000 bales were produced in Texas, and 20 years later, the figure had grown to 1,500,000 bales, with McLennan County as one of the leading centers of production.

Waco's interesting relationship with cotton developed into a full-blown love affair, in which the magical fiber came to dominate not only the business environment but city social life as well. In 1893, civic leaders began to discuss the possibility of creating a monument to the cotton culture, which had brought so much prosperity to the city. In 1894, a small group of some of the most important men in city history (among them Sam Sanger, R. B. Parrott, Ed Rotan, and James I. Moore) organized themselves into a board of directors and conducted a fund-raising drive. The effort raised \$40,000 — \$25,000 of which was used to build an extensive exhibition hall, with the entrance to the grounds at Thirteenth and Clay Street.

The opening day of the first Cotton Palace Exposition, November 8, 1894, was attended by Governor James S. Hogg, a host of other dignitaries, and enough spectacles (amusement rides, a herd of Shetland ponies, and numerous musical acts) to satisfy all but the most jaded of viewers. Unfortunately, the "first Cotton Palace" died a premature death in January, 1895, when fire destroyed the fair building.

In 1910, the Young Men's Business League (a forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce) led the way in the construction of new Cotton Palace facilities in a triangular shaped area with the main entrance at Clay and Thirteenth surmounted in 1914 by an attention-getting arch upon which a 16-foot statue of King Cotton held court in solitary grandeur. This monarch presided over a domain that included an imposing main building with a big central dome, a 10,000 seat coliseum, and three exhibition buildings. For a period of time, a small zoo fronted Clay Street. The Cotton Palace facilities closed in 1930, after hosting more than eight million visitors, including a single-day mark of 117,208. Today, the old cornerstone of the main building is preserved on a gray granite base near the top of Lover's Leap in Cameron Park.







## Ross Oak

It would be nearly impossible to discover a family who had a more profound effect upon McLennan County and Texas than the Ross clan. The father (Shapley Prince), two superb sons (Lawrence and Peter) and even a family slave (Armistead) all played important roles in transforming Texas from a wilderness into a thriving state. Four daughters and three other sons had less spectacular careers, but they were all of the hardy stock that formed the bone and sinew of Texas society.

The patriarch, Shapley Prince Ross, was a postmaster (Waco's first), soldier, cattle driver (on the first such venture launched from Waco in 1854), Texas Ranger, and incidentally, the builder of the first home in Waco (near the intersection of First and Bridge Streets).

The incomparable Lawrence Sullivan Ross was a Texas Ranger, decorated Confederate brigadier, governor of Texas (1887-1891), and president of Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College until his death in 1898.

Peter Fulkerson Ross was an equally extraordinary individual. At only 19, he accompanied his father on a Missouri cattle drive. The next year, he helped organize the only cattle drive ever undertaken from Waco, Texas, all the way to Chicago, Illinois. Shortly before the Civil War, he did important work on the frontier in the service of the Texas Rangers, and during the 1861-1865 conflict, he served the Confederacy in the western theater of war (mostly Tennessee and Mississippi). From 1876-1880, he served as sheriff of McLennan County.

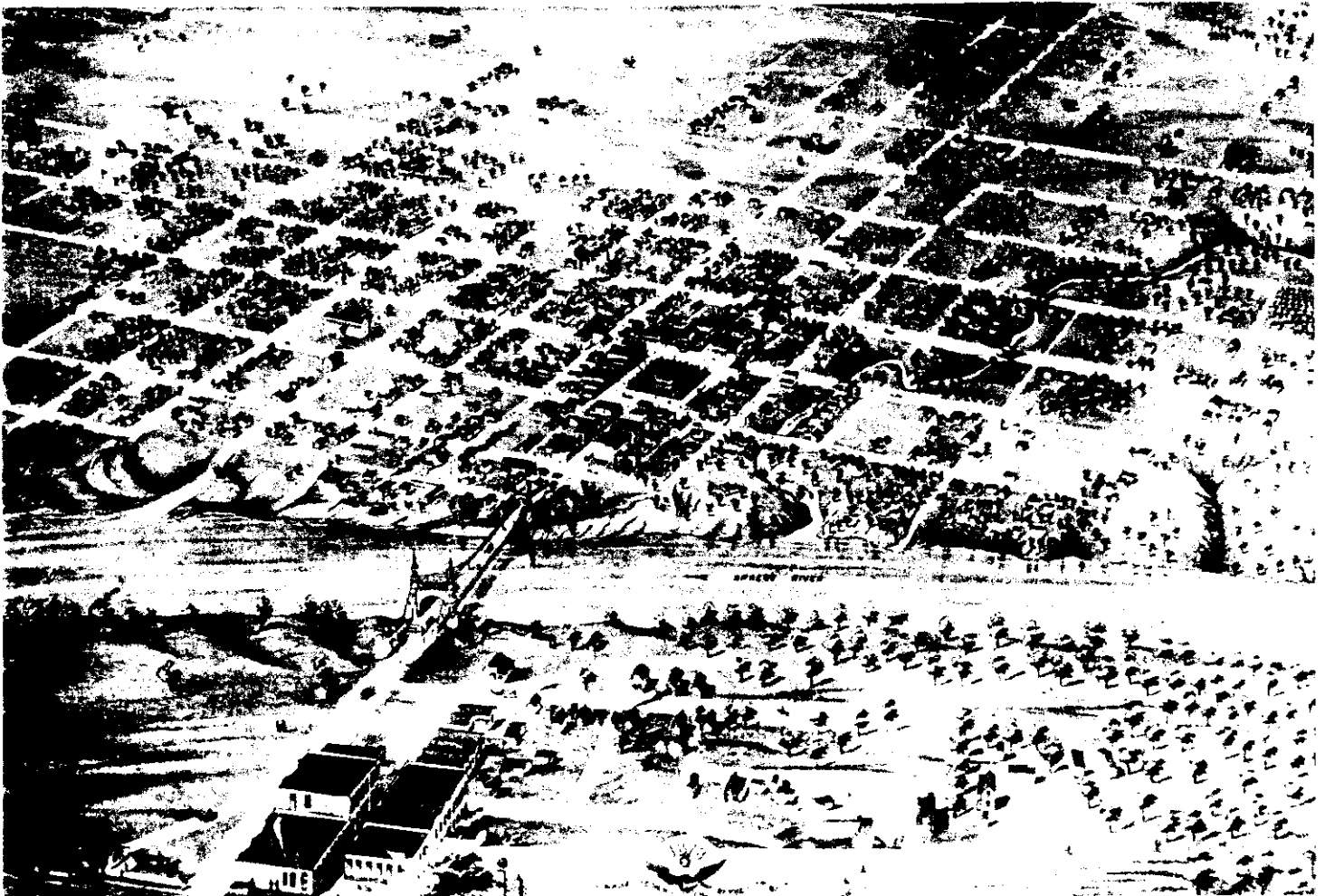
A natural relic of the elder Ross's first visit to Texas in 1839 still exists in Waco in the form of a towering oak tree under which he camped when he arrived in the old Waco village area from Iowa (not Missouri, as the plaque claims). This giant oak (about 12 or 13 feet at its gnarled base, tapering to a six-foot diameter, and approximately 30 feet tall) stands like a huge, brooding, wooden gargoyle in the back yard of a Campfire Girls' center at 613 South Ninth Street (not Nineteenth as reported in other sources).

Shapley Ross and his outstanding sons are buried in the Oakwood Cemetery, located at 2124 South Fifth.

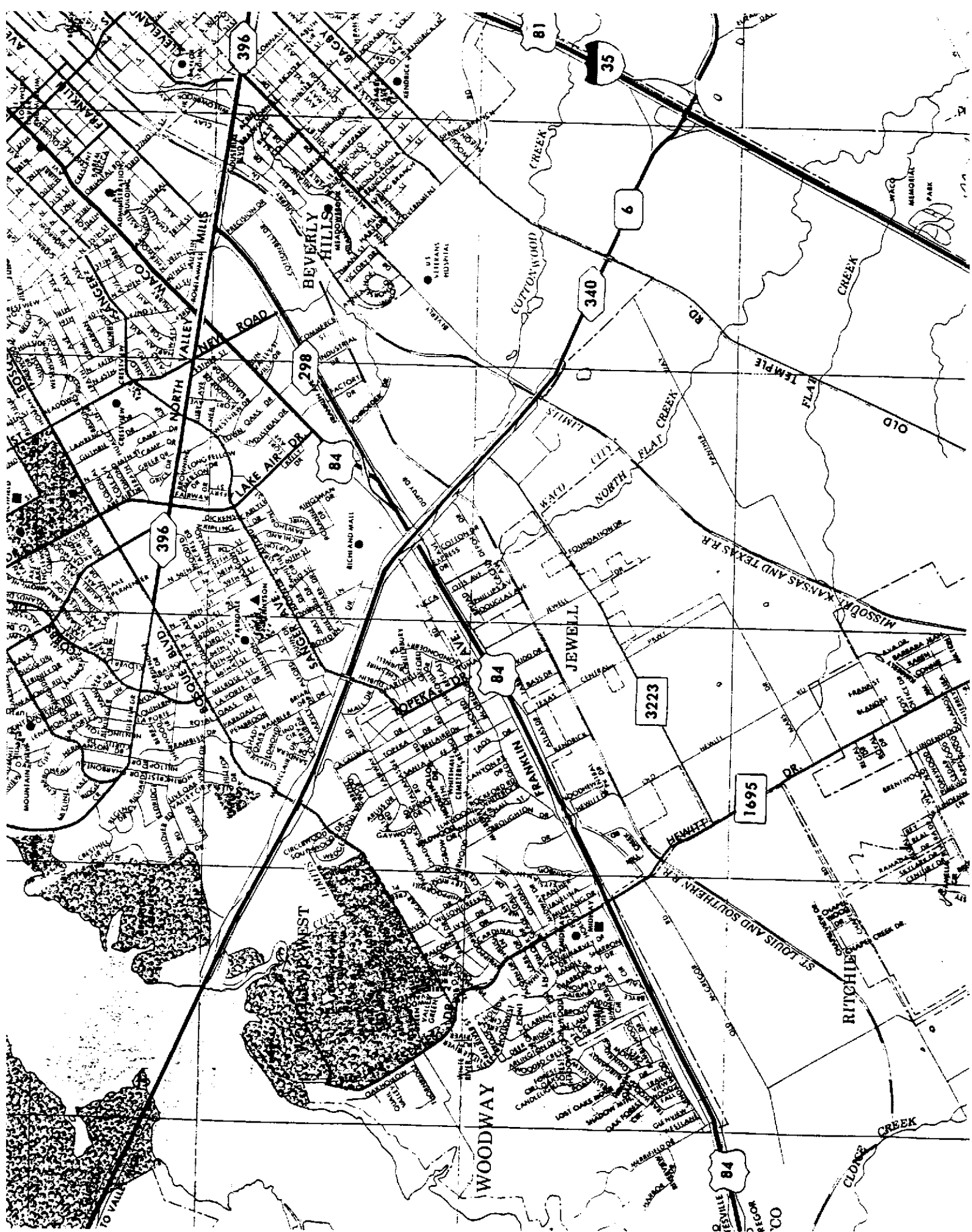


# Waco

Waco was originally the site of an ancient village of Waco Indians. The first white settlement near the site of the Indian village was established in 1837 when Fort Fisher, a Texas Ranger outpost, was located there for a few weeks. On March 1, 1849 George B. Erath laid off Block One, Number One of the new town. Although the owners wanted to name the town LaMartine, Erath persuaded them to name it Waco Village for the original inhabitants. In 1850 Waco Village was selected as the county seat of the newly created McLennan County. The historical marker is located 2.2 miles east of IH-35 on U.S. 84 (east).











## Sims Cabin

Incongruously located now in the backyard of a beautiful two-story brick home (complete with pool), Sims Cabin is a typical example of mid-19th century frontier architecture. Although only one room of the formerly two-room structure was reconstructed, the surviving portion is a faithful re-creation of the 1841 cabin constructed by slave labor in Teague, Texas. When first erected, the cabin consisted of two 20-by-20 foot rooms connected by the inevitable dog-run (or breezeway). Most of one wall is covered by a massive stone chimney, and the rough-hewn wall timbers (original) are chinked as they were at first, but now with cement rather than clay or mud.

The sturdy-looking little cabin is on the back lot of the Robert Davis residence at 1020 Sleepy Hollow in Woodway.



## White Hall Cemetery

White Hall Cemetery is located about one block from the intersection of Santa Fe and Fresno Streets in Woodway, a community bordering upon the southwest of Waco, Texas. It is surrounded, incongruously enough, by a city park on two sides and the backyards of modern homes on the other two. As with other nineteenth century graveyards, sometimes markers deteriorated or were destroyed over the years, but the oldest properly marked gravesites in the little cemetery date from 1879.

White Hall Cemetery covers about half of a 2½ acre grant originally deeded in 1877 to White Hall Baptist Church by Civil War veteran Burl J. Kendrick. The graveyard was formally organized in 1899; in 1978, land formerly deeded to the Cemetery over a half-century before by a defunct community school was sold, and the funds obtained have been used since then for cemetery maintenance. Today, the handsomely-appointed little front gate (normally locked) faces out toward Woodway Park.









## Madison Cooper House

One of the more recognizable family names in Waco, the Coopers rose to heights of financial success and philanthropic works from modest beginnings. Madison Alexander Cooper, Sr., a native of North Carolina, came to Waco, Texas, in 1875. He found employment as a night clerk in a local hotel, but within 15 years he had accumulated enough capital to buy a wholesale grocery company. Before his business career ended, he also played a major role in the management of the Citizens National Bank, Behrens Drug Company, and the Cotton Belt Railway.

In 1907, when he was already successful in the grocery business, Cooper impressed Wacoans by constructing a beautiful mansion at 1801 Austin for the "staggering" sum of \$25,000. The home is distinguished by gracefully curving porches on both floors, tall, elegant windows, and a steeple that towers over the home like a sentinel.

A son, Madison Alexander Cooper, Jr., served in France during World War I and returned to Waco to work with his father in the Cooper Grocery Company. In 1941, the family home of Austin Avenue served as the working quarters for the younger Cooper when he wrote the popular two-volume best seller, *Sironia, Texas*. A successful author, Cooper died on September 8, 1956.







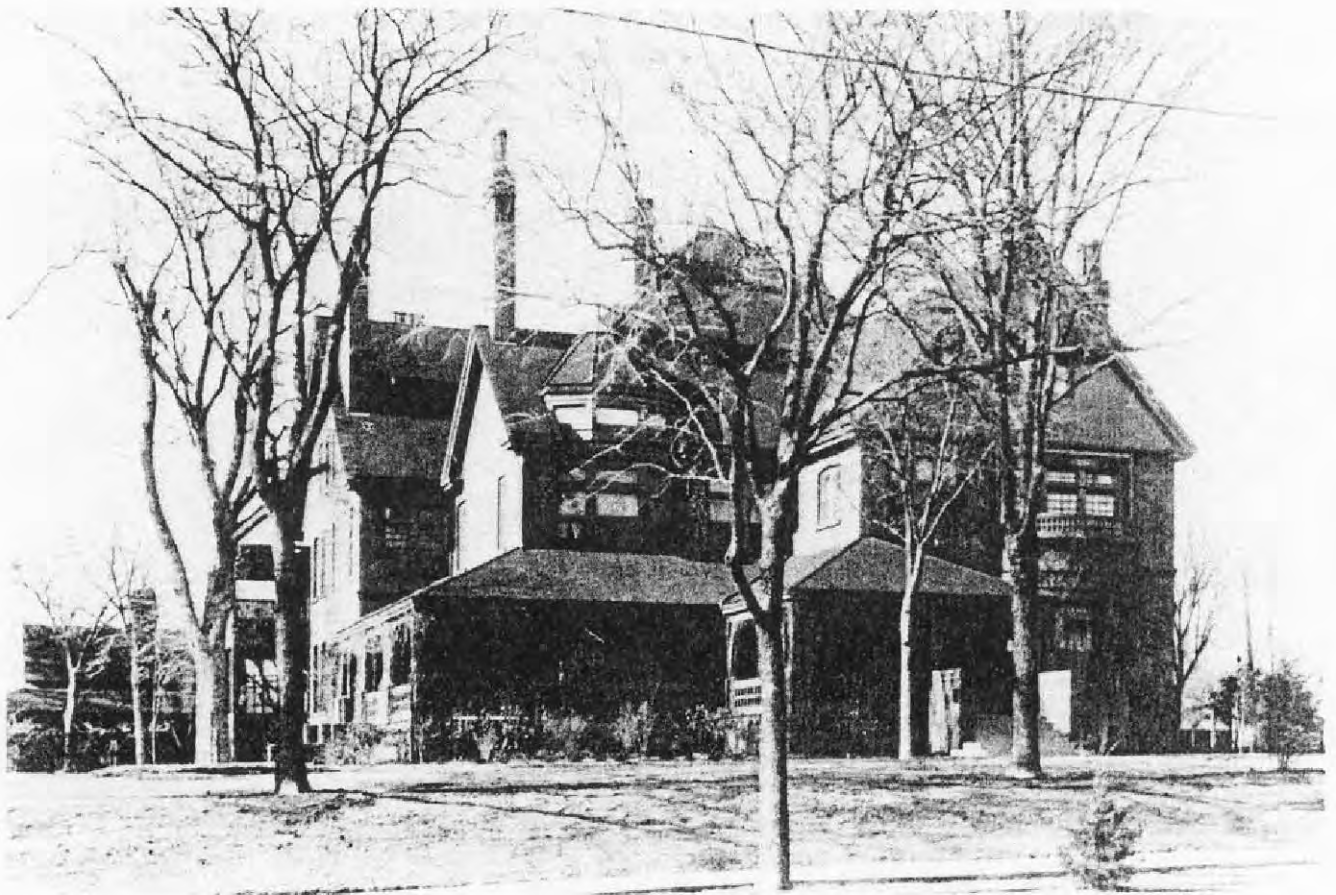
## Cottonland Castle

Waco is fortunate to be the home of one of the most unique private dwellings in the State of Texas. From a distance, it appears that a portion of medieval England or France has been carefully taken up and transplanted to a new location in the 3300 block of Austin Avenue. The "Castle," as the structure is familiarly known to local inhabitants, is a huge structure several times the size of the usual family residence of today (it has about 6,600 feet of usable space) enclosed by a mammoth 6 million pounds of stone and other building materials. Constructed at a less than feverish pace, the hulking structure was completed after 24 years in 1913 by Alfred Abeel. Mr. Abeel came to Waco in 1872, and established the first hardware store in the city with his brother, Thomas. Alfred Abeel was a versatile and energetic man. He was an officer in the 4th Michigan Cavalry Regiment during the Civil War, a merchant, and a leading force in the organization of both the First National Bank and Citizens National Bank.

# Edward Rotan House

Edward Rotan, a man of diverse talents, came to Waco, Texas, in 1867. A native of Tennessee, he served with distinction in major campaigns in Tennessee, Mississippi, and Georgia in the 16th Tennessee Infantry (Confederate) during the Civil War. After coming to the City, he taught at several area public schools, helped to found the Rotan Grocery Company, and for 28 years was president of the First National Bank. Not only an educator and successful financier, he also was active in the development of independent telephone service for the local area, and he was responsible for bringing the first street cars (horse-drawn) to Waco.

The home he built at 1503 Columbus is still one of the most enormous private dwellings in the entire city. This huge, sprawling structure, located on an extensive, tree-covered corner lot, is reminiscent of 19th century summer homes built by wealthier Americans on Long Island, New York, after the Civil War. Built of reddish brick with green painted wood trim, it boasts three floors, a perfect forest of chimneys for strategically located fireplaces in the interior, and a semi-circular driveway on the east side of the structure.





# First United Methodist Church of Waco

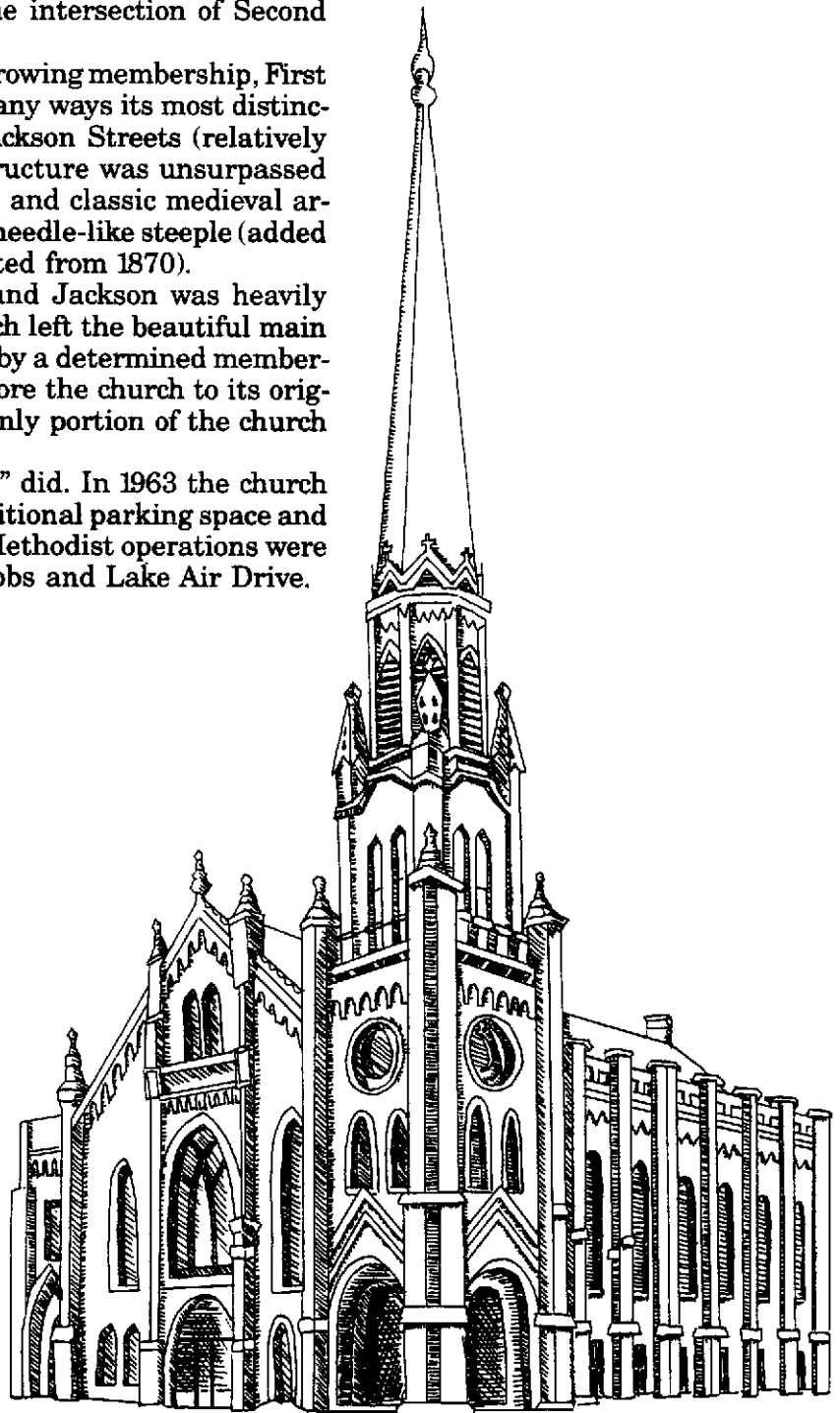
First Methodist Church of Waco, Texas has the distinction of being the oldest continuing religious organization of any type in this part of the State. The roots of this highly successful congregation may be traced back to 1848, when regular services commenced at the Brazos River terminus of Jackson Street under the leadership of a traveling minister named Joseph P. Sneed.

The congregation was formally organized as a church in 1850, and they began at that time to meet in a rustic-looking log cabin (about 30 feet  $\times$  12 feet in size) near the intersection of Second and Franklin Streets.

After another move to accomodate a growing membership, First Methodist moved into what remains in many ways its most distinctive home, located at South Fifth and Jackson Streets (relatively close to the original church site). This structure was unsurpassed for its starkly beautiful mixture of gothic and classic medieval architecture, with the central feature a tall, needle-like steeple (added in 1876 to the original building which dated from 1870).

On May 11, 1953, the site at Fifth and Jackson was heavily damaged by the tornado of that year, which left the beautiful main complex only a shell. A magnificent effort by a determined membership quickly raised enough money to restore the church to its original form, utilizing the outer walls (the only portion of the church left standing after the storm).

What nature could not do, "progress" did. In 1963 the church that would not die was demolished for additional parking space and commercial properties, and First United Methodist operations were transferred to the present location at Cobbs and Lake Air Drive.



# Rich Field

Rich Field was the first military airfield in the Waco area. Named for Lieutenant Perry C. Rich (a Philippines Scout killed in U.S. service in 1912), the complex came into being on August 24, 1917, and after a massive effort was completed on November 14, 1917.

Located to the west of the Camp MacArthur Infantry Officers' Training School, Rich Field and its 81 permanent buildings (including 16 hangers) occupied 690 acres, in an area most of which is covered today by the Heart of Texas Coliseum-Fairgrounds and the campus of Richfield High School. The \$2.5 million investment by the government paid off handsomely; by the end of 1919, 382 aircraft had been assembled and made combat-ready. In addition, some 339 army cadets had been trained to fly.

When Rich Field came into being, its facilities were one mile from the city limits of Waco, and about three and one-half miles from the center of the downtown area. Between 1919 and 1940, the city used Rich Field for commercial purposes, but it was then closed due to the difficulty of expanding existing runway space.

## Waco Lodge No. 92, A.F. & A.M.

Waco Lodge No. 92 today occupies a stylishly modern, single-story facility at 4324 Cobbs Drive. It is in a flat, relatively isolated area to the north of Richfield High School campus, in a neighborhood of mostly affluent middle-class homes and small businesses. The present structure, however, gives little indication of a long history in which Waco and Freemasonry have become intimately acquainted.

While Indians still roamed the Brazos Valley in close proximity to the struggling little community of Waco, what was first called Bosque Lodge No. 92 was organized on January 23, 1852. One of the earliest Lodge headquarters was located on the town square, a focal point of community life during much of the early life of the city. Joined over the years by 14 other Masonic Lodges in Waco and McLennan County (not counting the Grand Lodge, or state governing body, which moved to Waco in 1901), the former Bosque Lodge (renamed Waco Lodge in 1856) is the oldest organization of any kind in continuous existence in the city of Waco, Texas.



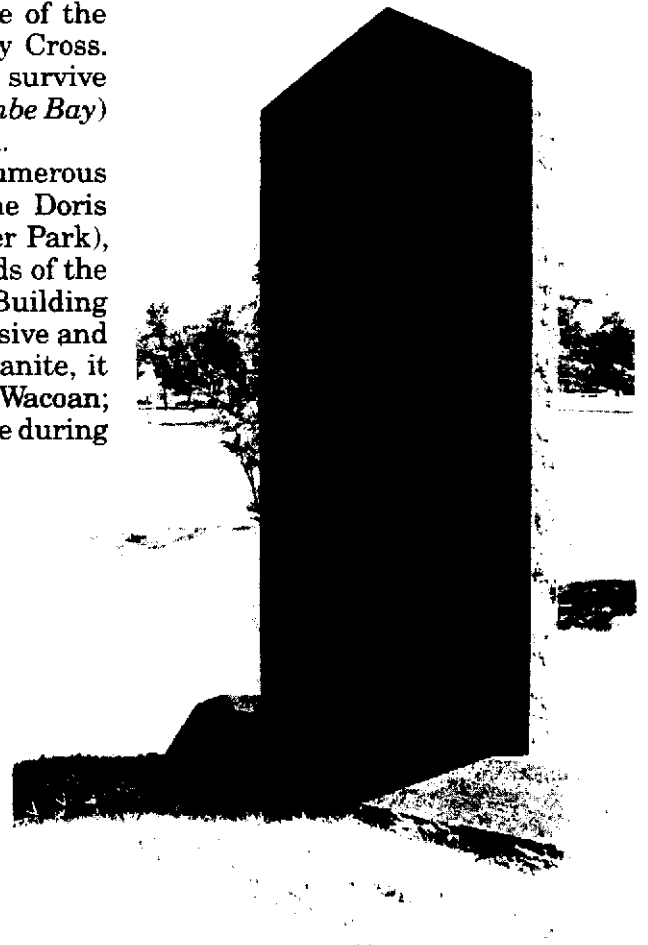
# Doris Miller

Until shortly after World War II, blacks were largely discouraged from joining the smaller branches (Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard) of the United States Armed Forces, and often they were placed in segregated units even in the Army.

In 1939, with the War already in progress in Europe, 20-year-old Doris Miller left Moore High School in Waco to join the Army, only to be rejected. Undeterred, he tried the Navy and was accepted (though only as a steward or mess attendant, positions where the Navy tended to concentrate minorities).

When war was thrust upon the United States by the Japanese assault on Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941, Doris Miller was there aboard one of the ships in the anchorage. With a cool disregard for his own life, he leaped to man an anti-aircraft weapon when murderous Japanese fire had caused it to be abandoned. With deadly accuracy he traced the low-flying Japanese planes across the Pearl Harbor sky, and before the battle ended, he had destroyed or damaged at least four enemy aircraft. For this superb achievement, he received a deserved promotion to First Class Petty Officer, but perhaps his proudest moment came when he became one of the first members of his race to be awarded the coveted Navy Cross. Sadly, like so many other brave men, he was not fated to survive the war. On November 25, 1943, his ship (the carrier, *Liscombe Bay*) was torpedoed, and Miller was among those who perished.

Although the name Doris Miller is perpetuated by numerous memorials in at least three states (including, locally, the Doris Miller Y.M.C.A., Doris Miller Cemetery, and Bledsoe-Miller Park), certainly one of the most arresting is located on the grounds of the Veterans Administration Hospital to the left rear of Building Number One. Like the man it commemorates, it is unobtrusive and quietly powerful. Rendered in attractively polished red granite, it reads with affectionate pride, "Doris Miller; Dorie; Native Wacoan; War Hero; Awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary courage during the attack on Pear Harbor, December 7, 1941."



# Cobbs-Walker Cemetery

One of a number of private family cemeteries established in the area during the 19th century, the Cobbs-Walker Cemetery is located along what is now Hillcrest Drive, in the 3700 block. Today, it is on what appears to be a vacant lot, about 50 to 60 yards per side. The graves are confined to a relatively small area on the southeastern side, approximately 30 feet square. There appear to be no well-defined boundaries, and there is no sign identifying the cemetery. Twelve head stones have survived the ravages of time and the cruel thoughtlessness of vandals, but several have not, and there appear to be six plots that are unmarked. The average age at death was 62.5 years, with the oldest 81 and the youngest, Dr. T. C. Walker, a tragically young 25 at the time of his death on May 8, 1902.

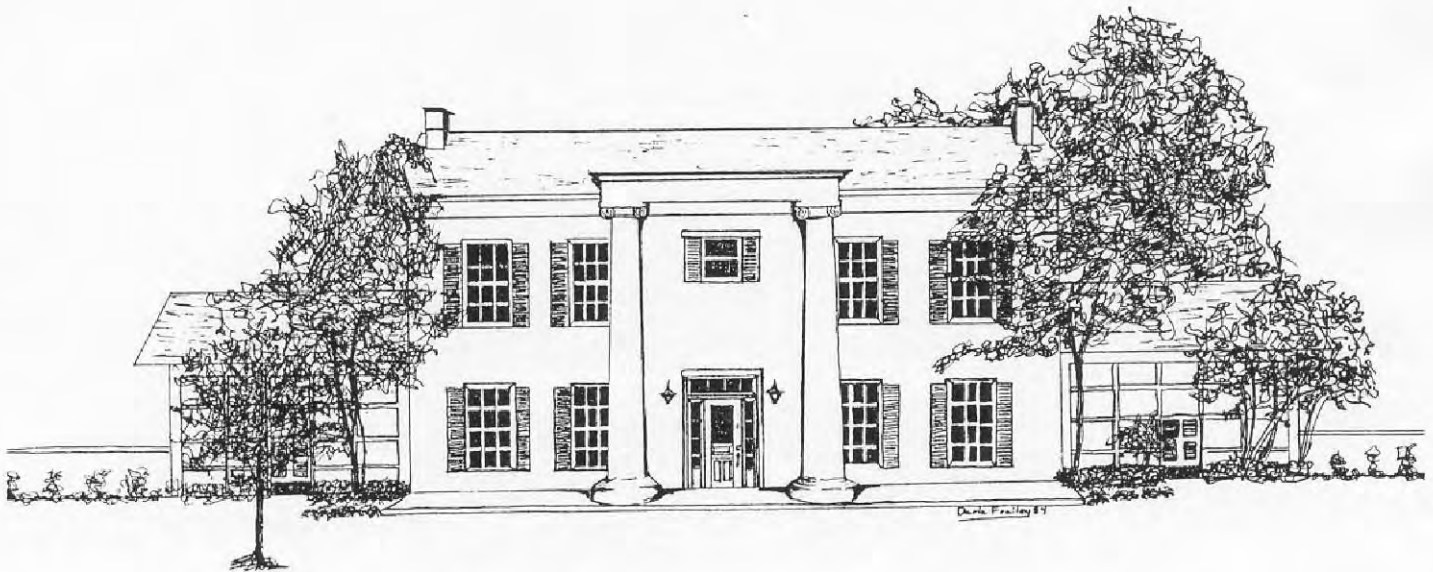
The most interesting stones are those of father and son, James and William Walker, who moved to Texas from Kentucky. There is a slight discrepancy concerning the time of their arrival (the reputable Kelley Handbook says 1835, and the heavily damaged Walker stone gives the year as 1834), but both did enlist in the Army of the Republic of Texas and took part in the hostilities for the Revolution. For meritorious service, both James and William received land grants. The grant of William Collette Walker was originally in Milam County. This particular area became part of McLennan County in 1850. A heavily traveled crossing on the Bosque River near the property of the younger Walker was named Walker's Crossing, in honor of James Walker. The ford was covered up by the creation of Lake Waco in the 1930's.

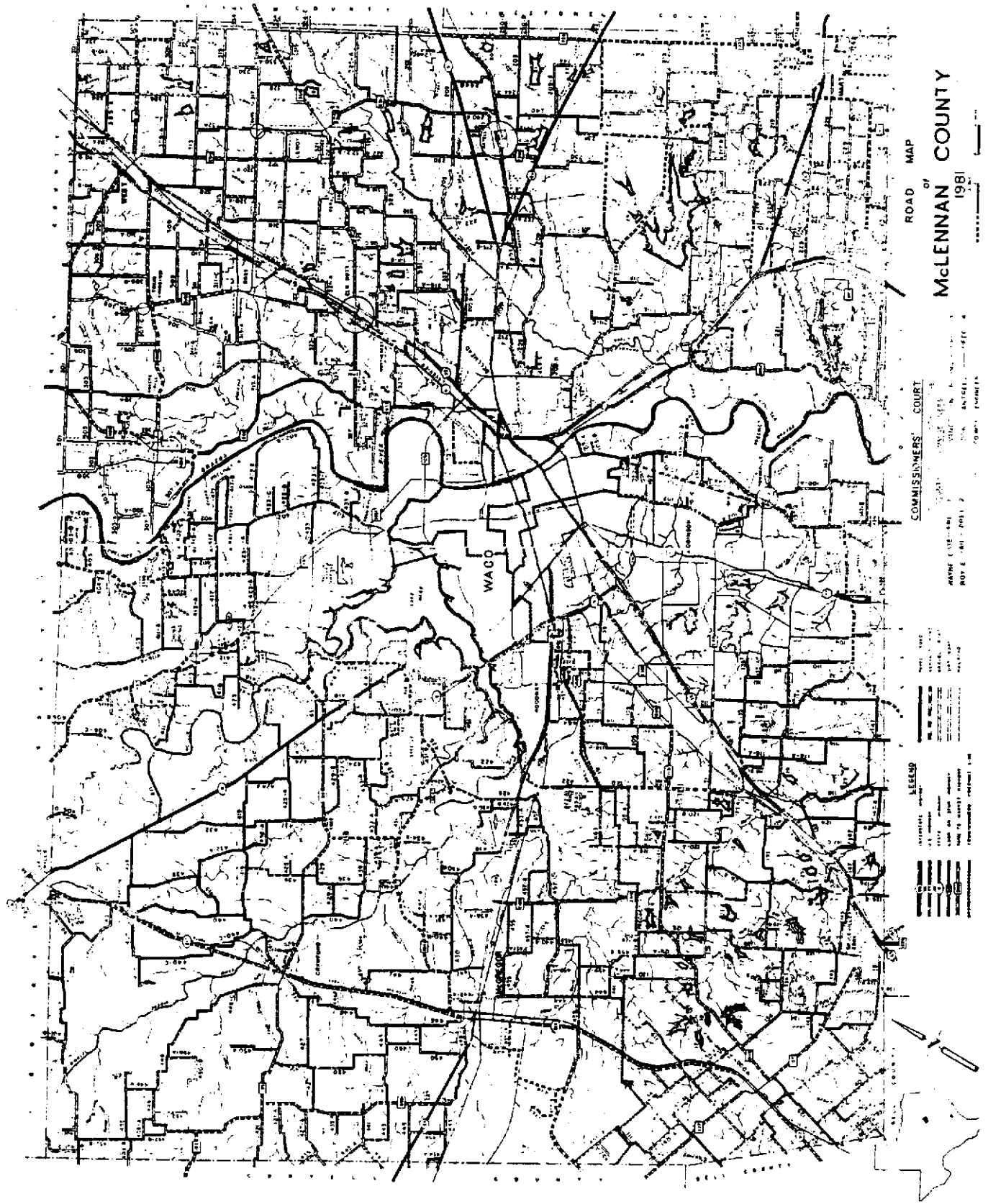


# William Colette Walker Home

In 1835 (according to the James Walker tombstone, a year earlier), James Walker, his son William, and three daughters moved to Texas from Kentucky. Both father and son readily joined the Colors to defend their newly adopted homeland from Mexican invaders. After the Revolution ended, the father received a land grant in Wichita County for his military service, and son William received a grant in what was to be organized in 1850 as part of McLennan County.

In 1851, James and William began construction on the younger Walker's property of what represents the first brick home ever built in McLennan County. Located at what is now 3407 Dever Drive, the Walker home is the oldest private residence in Waco. It is a beautifully maintained house with two fluted pillars in front, painted white, with a green roof and green wood trim providing a pleasing contrast. A wall added later encloses the back yard, and several very large old trees adorn the large front lawn.







# Bosqueville Cemetery

Bosqueville Cemetery, located about one mile off of North 19th on Rock Creek Road, is one of the oldest cemeteries in the Waco area. Even before the neighboring Bosqueville Methodist Church was established, the first interments had occurred (about 1850).

Covering 11.5 acres, the cemetery is the resting place of several notables, including David Kornegay and Alexander McKinza, both of whom fought for the Texan cause at the Battle of San Jacinto in April, 1836. In addition, 31 soldiers who served in the armies of the Confederacy are buried there, together with a considerable number of unmarked (or cryptically so) monuments, which probably mark the graves of especially esteemed slaves. One of the most interesting of these markers states with eloquence and simplicity, "Our Mammy — Born in Virginia; Died in Waco, Texas. Aged about 105 years."

An imposing granite marker, surrounded by a brick walkway, occupies a central location in the cemetery near the entrance. It looms over an area about 40-50 feet, where early burials were made. Because the markers which located these graves (some of them of wood) either deteriorated or were destroyed, they can no longer be precisely located. No new graves are allowed to be located in the area enclosed by the walkway.

# Alexander McKinza

From the time that Mexico began to advertise in foreign newspapers for willing immigrants, the largest number of respondents came from the southeastern United States. One of the many hardy trailblazers to migrate to Texas in the early days was Alexander McKinza. McKinza came to Texas in 1834, and settled in the Nacogdoches area. When war with Mexico began, he quickly sprang to the colors of Texas as a member of Captain Benjamin Bryant's Sabine Volunteers, and with this unit he participated in the sweeping Texan victory over Santa Anna at San Jacinto on April 21, 1836.

After the victorious conclusion of the Revolution, Mr. McKinza settled once again in Nacogdoches, where he was Justice-of-the-Peace for Nacogdoches County from 1853 to 1857. He moved to the Waco area shortly before the Civil War, and died about 1874. He is buried in the Bosqueville Cemetery (see Bosqueville Cemetery article).

# David Kornegay

One of the most fascinating historical personages buried in the Waco area (interred in the Bosqueville Cemetery — see item on Bosqueville Cemetery for location) is David Smith Kornegay. His life after coming to Texas reads like an adventure novel.

At 20 years of age, the young North Carolinian came to Texas in 1830. Already a veteran of the grueling 1835 campaigns against the Waco and Tehuacana Indians, he joined the Army of the Republic of Texas soon after hostilities commenced at the end of the year. Kornegay was at the brilliant Texan victory in 1836 at San Jacinto as a member of Hill's Infantry Company, and he also served later when the Mexican army of General Adrian Woll attempted to reinvade Texas in 1842. As a member of the volunteer company of Captain Nicholas Dawson, he narrowly escaped the terrible massacre of the little detachment that followed its capture by the Mexicans.

Imprisoned by the merciless foe at Castle Perote some distance from Vera Cruz, Mexico, he escaped, made his way to the coast and managed to board a ship in New Orleans. Mr. Kornegay returned to Texas and settled in the Bosqueville area. He died in 1856.

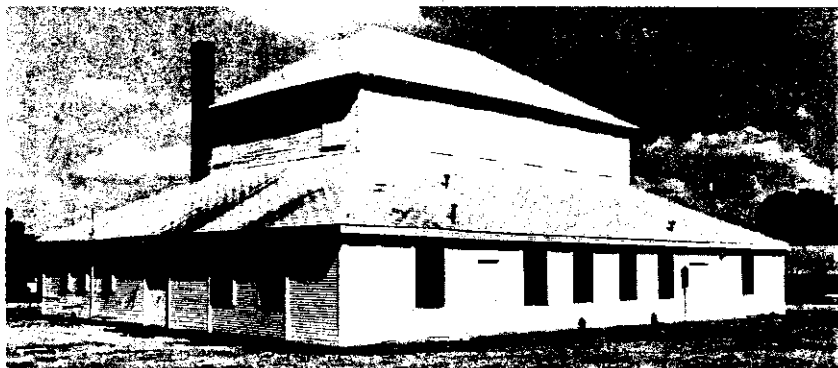


## Bosqueville Methodist Church



The town of Bosqueville, Texas, located along the Bosque River about six miles north of Waco, was founded around the year 1850. One of the earlier denominations to establish itself in the area were the Methodists. Early Methodist gatherings in Bosqueville were held in a variety of private homes, but as the congregation began to grow, it met (after formal creation as a church in 1853) first in the local Oakwood School, and then for some years in the facilities of Bosqueville College (established in 1856 by Presbyterian minister, John Collier).

The present site was occupied by Bosqueville Methodist Church in 1875, and the first church was completed on property donated by Dr. William Wortham. The first building, however, was replaced by the current white, frame structure in 1912. Although the Church survived to celebrate its centennial in the summer of 1953, since 1982 it has not been an active organization. The building is located just out of Bosqueville, about a mile off of North 19th on Rock Creek Road.



## China Spring Tabernacle

The China Spring Tabernacle is a turn-of-the-century community events center. It was constructed in the small farm community of China Spring about 1903, originally consisting only of the box-like first story. A second floor, crowned with a distinctive roof, which tapers inward almost to a central point, was added later. This white frame structure is characterized by a plain exterior and large ceiling-to-floor windows. An outside staircase was removed during the early New Deal days as part of a renovation project carried out by the ubiquitous Works Progress Administration.

Throughout the years, China Spring Tabernacle has been used for a wide variety of purposes, including fraternal gatherings, popular entertainment productions, political rallies, and religious functions. It is located on F.M. 1637.

# Joel Burdett Crain Gravesite

Nine miles southwest of Waco, and one mile south of U.S. 84, is the Harris Creek Cemetery. One of the more significant personages buried there is Joel Burdett Crain. A native Tennessean, Crain came to Texas in 1834, and he joined the army of the Republic of Texas when war broke out with Mexico. When Texans gained a measure of revenge at San Jacinto for the Alamo massacre, Joel Crain was there with the San Augustine Company. To protect the life of Texan commander Sam Houston, Crain exchanged his horse for the dangerously conspicuous mount of the commander-in-chief.

At the victorious conclusion of the savage engagement at San Jacinto, Joel Burdett Crain proudly accepted the sword of surrender from the Mexican officer who performed that act in the place of the disgracefully absent Santa Anna. A short time later, Crain carried the good news to eastern Texas.

In 1855 he came to McLennan County and constructed a saw-mill some seven miles south of Waco (it was one of the first such installations in the area), and during the Civil War he supplied Confederate States forces with vital beef.

## Watt Caufield Ranch

Even before the great cattle trails (the Chisholm, Shawnee and others) were laid out through Central Texas crossing the Brazos, the raising of cattle was a significant industry in McLennan County. Several members of the prominent Ross family (Shapley and his son, Peter) had driven herds to northern markets before the Civil War, and profitable little ranches had sprung up over much of the land around Waco, Texas.

A notable example of one of these local enterprises is the Caufield (at one time possibly spelled Caulfield) Ranch. It was established around 1851 by Alabama native Henry John Caufield about 6 or 7 miles east of McGregor. The ranch extends to the confluence of Baylor Creek and the South Bosque River; the main entry point is from County Road 457. Mr. Caufield volunteered for service in the State militia during the Civil War and was stationed in the Galveston region. The Confederates, however, decided to utilize his expertise as a cattleman, and he performed valuable service to the South, securing cattle for the Commissary Department of the Richmond government.

After the war ended, the holdings of Henry Caufield were expanded into Mexico and New Mexico. In 1880, his eldest son Watt (Wiley Watson) married Catherine McLennan, the granddaughter of Neil McLennan, Sr., and carried on successful ranching operations at The South Bosque River Ranch until his death in December, 1935. He was buried in the Harris Creek Cemetery near McGregor, where his father, Henry, had been interred in 1915.



## Moody Cemetery

Moody, Texas, located a little more than 20 miles to the southwest of Waco, is one of many interesting little towns spawned along the right of way of early Texas railroads. From a small beginning, Moody became a thriving community. The year after its creation by the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad, Payne's Drugstore was established there, soon to be followed by a small newspaper, general merchandise store, and other businesses. Public education came into being there on a somewhat modest basis (one teacher and one pupil) in 1882, as well.

In 1887, Moody citizens raised a little more than \$500 and purchased the original acres that comprised the area of the Moody Cemetery (in later years, slightly more than six acres were added). Today, the well-maintained facility, located near the city limits on the east side of Highway 317, is surrounded by a rock fence and entrance. The enclosing structure was generously donated by Mrs. Forrest McCauley Maxwell, in honor of her father, James McCauley, who drove cattle along the old Chisholm Trail.

One of the numerous and highly interesting family graveyards in McLennan County is the Naler Family Cemetery, located on the western outskirts of Moody, Texas. It was established by Tennessee native Joseph Naler, who came to Texas in 1855 and obtained 620 acres of State land three years later. His plans for the establishment of his family on property went tragically awry in 1863, when his wife Polly died. The interment of Mrs. Naler represented the first burial in what was to become the family cemetery (Mr. Naler had set aside two acres for this purpose).

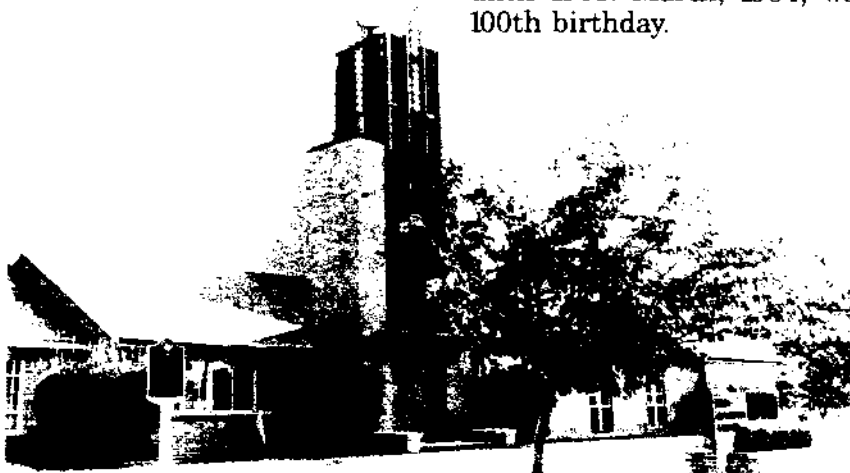
Joseph Naler largely abandoned his plans for land development and sold his holdings to a nephew, William Naler. William donated a considerable portion of the land, upon which Moody was established, to the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad.

## Naler Family Cemetery

## Moody United Methodist Church

Only three years after the town of Perry was founded in 1852, the Moody United Methodist Church was created. After a transitional period in which the membership met in a number of interim locations, Methodist church members put up a frame building on Fourth Street in Moody in the Spring of 1884, and the church had its first real home.

The second in a series of church houses was erected on a second site (Sixth Street) in 1903. It, in turn, was supplanted by the present structure in 1956, although the entire facility was not completed until 1963. March, 1984, was Moody United Methodist Church's 100th birthday.





## **The Howard House**

Howard House, located at 1100 South Avenue E., in Moody, Texas, was built in 1900 by Charles Howard, a Kentucky native who came to Texas in 1879. Considerable time and effort were expended in the construction of the home. St. Louis, Missouri, architects provided the plans, and local builders, Roth and Jones, erected the superb Victorian structure, which is conspicuous for its turret and elaborate siding. Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Vandiver, who purchased Howard House from the family estate in 1973, are responsible for the careful restoration that has once again made this old residence something worth seeing.





## Bostick Home

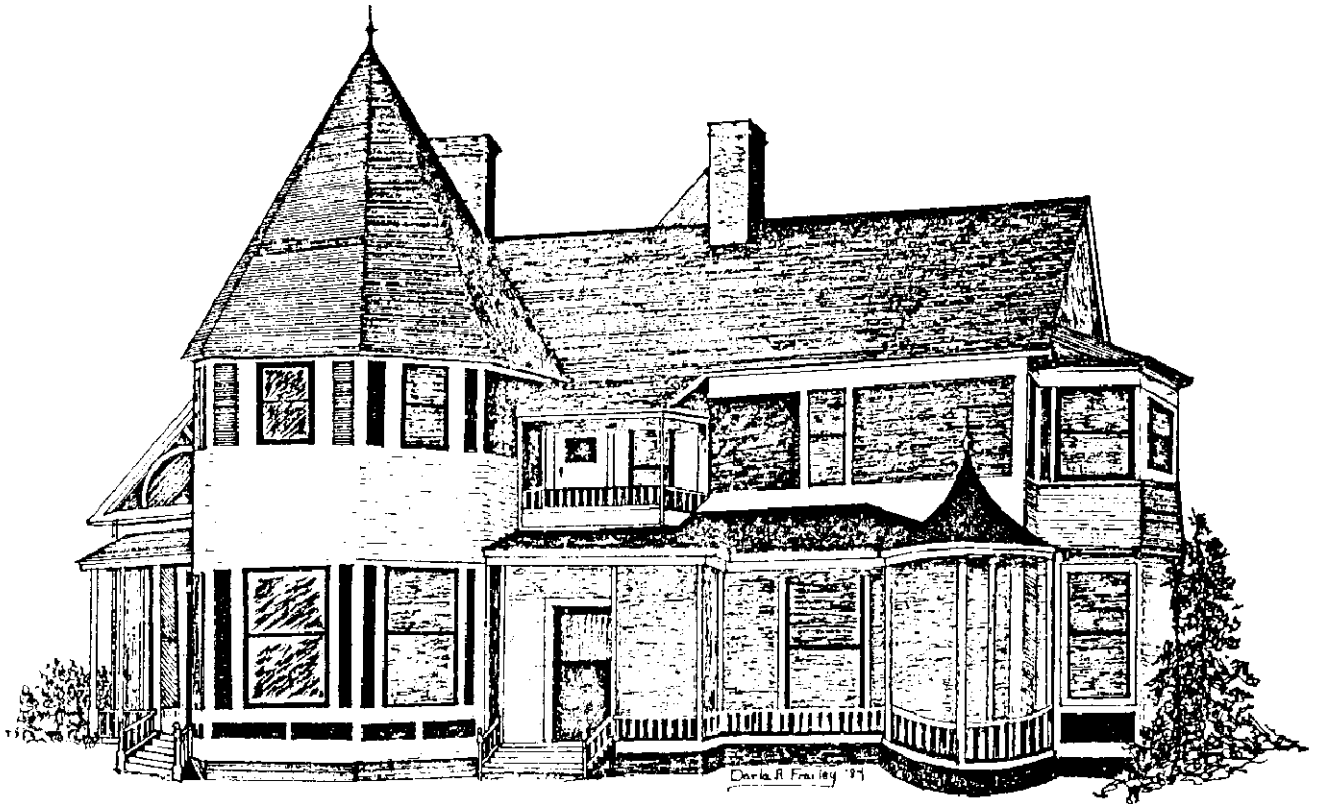
In 1860, only a few months before the Civil War, Georgian James I. Welbourn made the first series of land purchases in the general area of what later was incorporated (1881) into the town of Moody, Texas. A man of affluence, he also was concerned with the orderly growth of the area, and after buying additional lots surrounding his original property, he proceeded to sell them to the kind of solid, respectable citizens who could be counted upon to build for the future.

Shortly after Mr. Welbourn's arrival, he began construction of a large, rambling two-story home for his family (something of a necessity, since there were 13 children in the little clan). A daughter, Vada Welbourn Bostick, inherited the house, and from the time of its construction to the present day, a family member always has owned the property. It is located in the vicinity of Avenue A and Goodwin Lane in Moody.

## Isaac Jackson Teague Home



The Isaac Jackson Teague Home, located one mile south of Moody on Highway 317, is an interesting example of typical Victorian architecture. Built in 1899 by local contractors Sullins and Johnson, the structure is replete with the delightful and ornate "gingerbread" trim so typical of the period. For 85 years (as of 1984), successive



## Kuykendall House

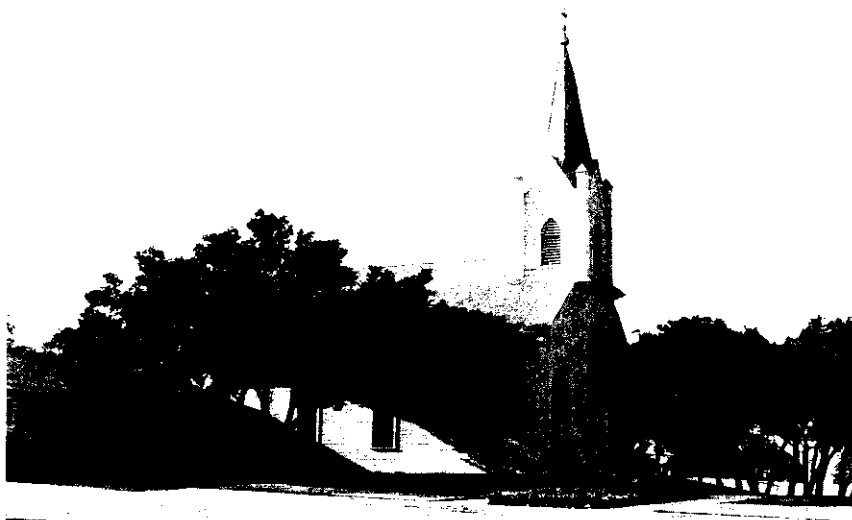
Native Texan Pere Moran Kuykendall was a man of distinguished academic background. In pursuit of an education in the field of medicine, he attended Trinity University (Texas), Vanderbilt University (Tennessee), and Tulane University (Louisiana). After the end of his collegiate experience he returned to Texas in 1881, and later had the distinction of becoming the first doctor in the town of Moody, Texas.

On August 24, 1881, a newly minted Doctor P. M. Kuykendall made arrangements for the construction of what still remains a fine Victorian-style residence, characterized by a classical interior Queen Anne stairway. Fortunately for the cause of historical preservation, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hundley purchased the home and proceeded with a careful restoration of the Kuykendall House. It is located at the intersection of Eleventh and E Streets in Moody.



# Old Perry Cemetery

In 1852, a small group of settlers from Illinois and Missouri led by William Hancock arrived in an area in southwestern McLennan County and founded the little community of Perry (located about two miles north of the present city of Moody, Texas). Within less than 30 years, Perry could boast of two thriving general stores, a blacksmith shop, cotton gin, and a utilitarian community center, which served as both school and church. When the Santa Fe Railroad was built through the area of what is now Moody in 1881, the little village bowed to the inevitable and its citizens moved into the corporate limits of Moody. At that time, Old Perry Cemetery was established about two miles north of the new city on territory carved out of the local Hatter-McGinnes holdings.



## Grove Lutheran Church

Although European immigration into McLennan County (i.e., especially German and Norwegian) began earlier, the first organization of these 19th century arrivals into Lutheran congregations began in the early 1880s. Soon after the formation of the first Lutheran church in the area of Riesel, a Lutheran congregation was formed at a site some six miles southwest of Moody. Two of the earliest members of this fledgling group were German nationals William and Charles Winkler, who formed the nucleus of a 12-member congregation. This congregation has developed over the past century into an impressive group of 300 members, now occupying a more comfortable and modern building on a spacious seven-acre lot.



The Groppe Building, located at 130 North Main Street in West, Texas, has an interesting history. It enjoys the distinction of being the first brick building erected in the business district of the city; the structure has been in continuous use since its completion in 1893.

The property upon which the Groppe Building is located was purchased in 1892 for \$1,000 by August Groppe, Sr. Mr. Groppe, a native of Hanover, Germany, came to the Waco area in 1872 and rapidly became a substantial property owner and successful businessman. In addition, he and brother-in-law Dietrich Blume were instrumental in the founding of the St. Peter's Evangelical Church, formerly located two miles south of West. Later, the membership became part of what is known today as First Presbyterian Church of West.

August Groppe saw to it that the little structure was ruggedly constructed of good local brick, even though this added a princely \$1,747.50 to construction costs. Each wall was composed of three solid layers of brick. The flat-roofed building sported galvanized metal awnings, and for years after its completion was the only business facility in town with its own water supply (a 40-foot deep well had been dug years earlier, and it provided a constant 25 feet of clear spring water).

Part of the charm of the Groppe Building stems from the considerable care taken by West citizens (beginning in 1982) to restore the structure to a nearly original condition. Paint covering the outside walls has been removed, revealing quaint and original signs and advertisements. To protect against the ravages of time, a clear sealant was carefully applied to the newly exposed brick.

Similar restorative work was done on the interior, and with the exceptions of concrete sidewalks (to replace original wooden ones) and the installation of central heat and air, the building, now occupied by Old Czech Corner Antiques, is very much as it was when brickmason Frank Soukup laid the last brick in place in 1893.

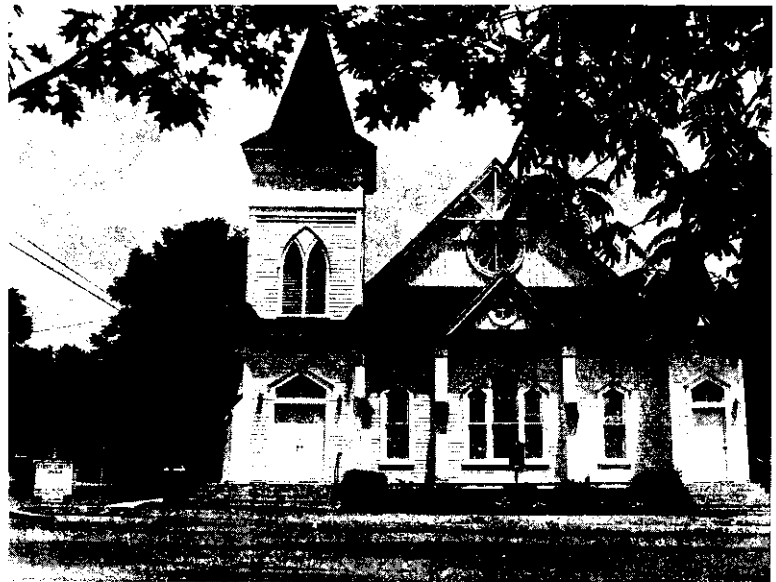
## **Groppe Building of West, Texas**



The First Baptist Church of West, Texas, was brought into being in 1858. It was originally known as the Bold Springs Church, and was located about one mile south of West, on a farm owned by Mr. W. C. Hurlock. The moving force behind the organization of the Church was a Mr. A. Vaughn. Bold Springs was only the fifth Baptist church to be established in McLennan County.

In 1882, Pastor J. P. Speakman supervised the movement of his burgeoning congregation (it had more than doubled in membership since 1858 to a healthy figure of 74) into the city of West, where the group eventually moved into the original church at Spruce and Davis Streets. In the mid-1890's, the church adopted the current name of First Baptist Church of West. In 1939, First Baptist moved into its present quarters after a ruinous fire nearly leveled the second sanctuary (built in 1899), destroying valuable church records in the process.

## First Baptist Church of West, Texas



The First United Presbyterian Church of West, Texas, came into being in 1966, a product of the union of two other much older congregations.

The senior of these was the First Presbyterian Church of West, organized as Cumberland Presbyterian in 1875 by former Confederate chaplain David Cannon Kinnard, with the first permanent building opened in 1883. A relatively small Czech Presbyterian group joined with them in 1953.

In 1966, the second of the two older churches, St. Peter's, combined with First Church to create the present organization. St. Peter's Church was first located about two miles off F.M. 320, very close to West. In 1882, at this location, a small meeting house was built on land owned by Jacob Closner, a Swiss immigrant and Confederate veteran. The Church was brought into being in 1884. The first minister was Reverend Christian Schaer.

## First United Presbyterian Church of West, Texas

# Lone Oak Cemetery

The Lone Oak Cemetery is located about 5 miles southeast of the city of Mart, Texas. It is laid out upon land sold in February, 1880, by A. C. Neill and L. M. Cravens to local school trustees for either educational or religious purposes. The cemetery was laid out in the southern corner of the four-acre tract.

It is uncertain, according to available records, exactly when the first burial occurred or precisely how many individuals are interred there; at least 26 unmarked graves have been noted, and in addition, excavation of more recent gravesites has occasionally turned up human remains, indicating yet other unrecorded burials.

As with many other area cemeteries, many of those buried at Lone Oak are from the southeast (including Missouri, Kentucky, Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Louisiana), and there are at least 10 who served under the colors of the Confederate States of America. A lone representative of the Union, John Marley, also rests there.

Until 1949, upkeep of Lone Oak Cemetery was undertaken in a somewhat casual and haphazardly manner; occasionally, livestock were even pastured on a portion of the grounds. However, with the formation of the Lone Oak Cemetery Association in 1949, and the establishment of a trust fund managed by Citizen's National Bank, maintenance has been carried out on a more regular basis.

# Gholson Cemetery

The sandy land upon which the Gholson Cemetery is located is part of a grant given to the city in 1885 by Mississippi immigrant W. T. Umberson (a nephew of Waco wholesale grocery magnate William R. Kellum). Actually, the area had been used as a burial ground as early as 1871, when an infant daughter of Thomas and Charlotte Rozell was interred.

For approximately 75 years after its establishment, the management and maintenance of Gholson Cemetery was accomplished largely by community volunteers. Simple wooden coffins were produced locally at the home of Lon Ashley, and they were transported to the cemetery aboard a low-wheel wagon drawn by big bay horses; burial was done by friends and relatives of the deceased.

Gholson Cemetery is situated on territory that originally was part of a land grant deeded to Juan Moreno by the government of Mexico. In 1970, the city of Waco, Texas, asserted extraterritorial jurisdiction over a portion of the City of Gholson, including the cemetery.



# Sarah Ann Vauchere Walker Grave

On the morning of March 6, 1836, at San Antonio, Texas, the final act of a supreme tragedy occurred. For nearly two weeks a tiny group of Texans inside the Alamo mission had stood immovably against a veteran Mexican army which outnumbered them by better than 20-to-1. Finally, worn down by continual battering from heavy artillery, and harried by hordes of fresh Mexican troopers, the Texans were overwhelmed after the walls were breached in several places.

Even after the enemy began to pour into the mission grounds from every side, isolated pockets of defenders continued a desperate defense in the proud tradition of the ancient Spartans, and they took a deadly toll. The end, however, was inevitable. At length, only a small handful fought on, and probably the last to die was Jacob Walker, an emigrant from Tennessee. His wife, the former Sarah Vauchere of Louisiana, was an equally passionate patriot. In the dark days when General Sam Houston and a rag-tag band of volunteers were being hounded northward by the forces of Santa Anna, it seemed that any additional difficulty might finish the revolution altogether. When Sarah Walker learned that Mexican agents were inciting the Cherokees to join in finishing off the rebels, she made an incredible trip in 1836 of 300 miles to warn the Texan commander of this dangerous development.

Gallantry seemed commonplace in the Walker family. For the valiant sacrifice made by her husband, a grateful Republic of Texas issued to her Headright Certificate Number One, deeding to her "a league and a labor" (about 4,416 acres). The Walker grant was east of the Brazos River, beginning at a point slightly north of the mouth of the Bosque River and extending past White Rock Creek. The property also stretched east beyond Tehuacana Creek. A cabin, complete with well, was constructed approximately four miles north of Waco. When a military road was constructed after Texas annexation, connecting Fort Smith, Arkansas, with the Rio Grande border, it ran close to the front door on the home. The interstate highway follows the same route today, as did their old road.

Sarah Walker died in December, 1899, and was buried in the Walker-Stanfield Cemetery in Lacy-Lakeview close to the junction of Loop 340 and Highway 84 east.

# Evergreen Cemetery

Evergreen Cemetery is located a little less than one mile off of F.M. Road 3047, through the Oliver Farm Gate turnoff. In 1860, early settlers William and Margaret Oliver donated part of their land holdings for a church, school, and the cemetery. From 1866 to 1907, area families regularly met here for religious services. In 1957 Evergreen was organized formally as a private cemetery. Major Fred Oliver, a grandson of the donors, was responsible for creating a trust fund that provides for continuing care of the grounds. Memorial services are held regularly here to honor local pioneers.

Facilities include an open-air meeting hall furnished with simple wooden benches, and an attractive, octagonal-roofed rest area. The cemetery is surrounded by a solidly built stone fence with an arched, iron gate. An interesting feature of the grounds is a large granite marker on a concrete slab, located about 50 feet to the right of the gate. It is inscribed as follows:

"Here Rev. W. H. Edwards (masonic emblem after name) and family tented from 1866 to 1907, 10 days, 45th Sunday July or Aug. for 40 years. He being the first and last camper. There being 20 in family. Church stood 10 feet east where he preached and shouted freely with the many other campers. In Heaven then and now, while the centuries of eternity roll. His residence was two miles west. Honor thy father and thy mother. Annual (sic) reunion started 4th Sunday, June, 1941. Cemetery 100 yds. east. First grave being Tommie Edwards 1869. Outstanding Edwards children religiously are Rev. Willis (masonic symbol inserted), Clarence, evangelist singer, Laura, missionary to Korea, Lena, wife of Rev. Connor and Lula the beloved. This monument erected May 1, 1945 by Rev. Enoch Marvin Edwards (masonic symbol) youngest son age 67."





St. John United Church of Christ is located at 100 West Shamrock in Robinson, Texas. The United Churches of Christ are a product of the 1957 merger of Evangelical-Reformed Churches with their Congregational Christian companions.

As a separate congregation, St. John came into being in 1884 under the guidance of Reverend Christian Schaer. This dedicated individual served as the first pastor, dividing his time between Zion Church of Waco, and St. John. For the first six years, services were held frequently in the homes of members, and occasionally in facilities graciously loaned them by the Presbyterian Church. In 1890, St. John moved into its own building for the first time (with later structures subsequently built in 1906 and 1952).

Since the roots of the United Churches of Christ were largely Germanic, it followed that church services and publications were rendered in the German language. As a reflection of changing times, German, as the church language, was gradually phased out beginning in 1920, with the last service in German performed in 1959.

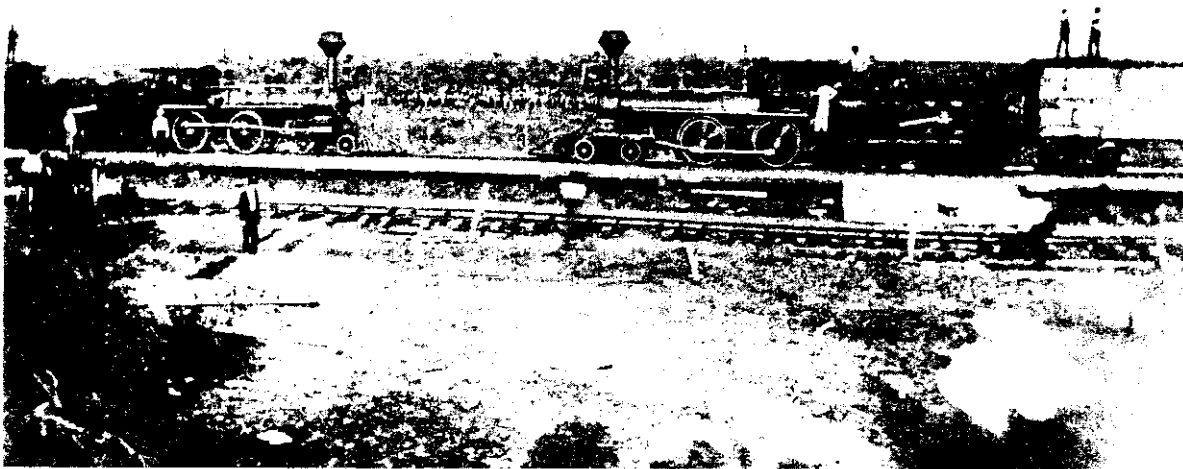
## **St. John United Church of Christ Robinson, Texas**

St. Paul's Church (now called St. Paul's United Church of Christ) was organized in October, 1900, by the Germanic residents of Gerald, Texas. At that time, the tiny village could already boast such amenities as a post office, general store, and a drug store. The first church building was constructed on the present site near the end of 1902. Construction costs were about \$1,400 — raised by a combination of member offerings, private contributions, and aid from another area church.

The original structure was a classic little white building with seven large windows along each side and a bell tower incorporated into the front portion of the church. The sanctuary, which serves the present congregation, was completed in 1937. Periodically, until the present time, additional facilities were added, including a new parsonage erected in 1948. St. Paul's is located on F.M. 308, one mile south of Leroy, to the northeast of Waco.



## **St. Paul's Church of Gerald**



## Crush, Texas

Americans tend to regard bizarre publicity stunts as a modern phenomenon. We look at them as a contemporary byproduct of the pursuit of profit unique to the United States of today. Perhaps the most absurd promotional spectacle ever concocted, however, was generated by the fertile minds of railroad publicity hounds late in the 19th century. For sheer, towering lunacy and cheerfully suicidal disregard for public safety, the "Crush Happening" stands alone.

Crush, Texas, was as momentary and fleeting as is the spectacle of a shooting star. Located 16 miles north of Waco in the vicinity of I.H. 35, this strange "metropolis" rose and fell within the space of barely more than a day. It was named for William George Crush, from whose fevered imagination sprang the idea for the stunt, which involved the intentional collision of two speeding locomotives, all for the sake of publicity for the Missouri-Kansas-Texas Railway. Crush, a passenger agent for M-K-T, scheduled the incident for September 15, 1896, after an advertising blitz that attracted more than 30,000 curious spectators on the appointed date.

A flat, straight stretch of track about three miles long, crowned at either end by a slight incline in the rail line was carefully selected. On the afternoon of the fifteenth, the two steel-plated antagonists nosed up to each other for the sake of appreciative picture-takers, backed off one mile from center stage, and after an appropriate pause roared forward. The resultant crash was a spectacular melange of dust, flame, and steam, together with a lethal hail of sundered steel that rained down upon tightly packed spectators. Several onlookers were killed, and one of the professional photographers covering the event lost an eye.

By nightfall, with most of the carnage cleared away, the one-day life of the town of Crush, Texas, was over, in keeping with plans made by railroad management.



# Old Harrison

Harrison, in southeastern McLennan County, developed from the activities of the James E. Harrison plantation. After the Civil War, the plantation became a settlement with former slaves remaining as sharecroppers. The settlement had a sawmill, brick kiln, carpentry shop, flour mill, and a schoolhouse. In 1872 a cotton gin was in operation, and the town became a station on the Houston and Texas Central Railroad. By 1880 the town had two churches, a school, lodge hall, general store, railroad station, and a population of about 150. The community ceased to exist after 1940 when the cotton market declined. The site of Old Harrison is located seven miles east of State Highway 6 on FM 1860.

## Torrey's Trading Post

In 1838, John T. Torrey came to Texas from his native Connecticut and founded a merchandising firm based at Houston for the purpose of carrying on commerce along the edges of the Indian Frontier. His first establishment was built at New Braunfels, but a more profitable center was established close to the Brazos Valley on a branch of Tehuacana Creek. The location selected in 1844 was about seven miles southwest of the present city limits of Waco, Texas, and it was intended to be managed under the watchful eye of his younger brother, Thomas. Unfortunately, on his first trip to the area of Waco Village with fellow Connecticut native George Barnard, Thomas Torrey was struck down by a fatal fever. But Barnard persisted in his original mission. He brought in a plentiful stock — everything from gunpowder and lead to colored beads, cloth, and dress combs — and opened up what was called “post number two” (a smaller operation had been started earlier on the Navasota River). For four years, Barnard ran the trading center for Torrey Brothers, and then in 1848 he bought out their interest and became the sole proprietor. Between 1844 and 1853, George Barnard traded for an unbelievable 75,000 animal skins, including buffalo, bear, beaver, panther, and deer. The deer hides were the “hottest items,” bringing from 12 to 17 cents each.

When the original portion of the soon-to-be-organized city of Waco was surveyed around Waco Indian Spring, Barnard purchased the first lot in Block Number 1 and transferred his holdings to the local area. At least one of the old trading post buildings survived until 1929 when it was destroyed by fire.

# Tours, Texas

German immigrants, drawn to Texas by the lure of bountiful farmland, have played an important role in the development of the state, although many experienced some difficulties during the Civil War due to their reluctance to support the Confederate cause. However, after the conflict ended, the lot of German Texans soon improved, including the diminutive little community of Tours, Texas. Tours is located on F.M. 231, about 17 miles northeast of Waco between Elm and Rice Creeks. It was settled near the end of 1873 by Illinois Germans. The religious life of Tours was largely a Catholic one, and in 1874, St. Martin's Catholic Church was created. This was followed in 1890 by an even more significant event, when what was probably the first free parochial school in the state was established.

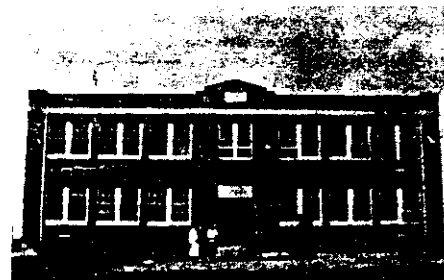
Between 1891 and 1905, Tours, Texas, could boast of its own tiny post office, but since 1905, mail for Tours residents has been routed to West, Texas, about 7 miles to the northwest. In spite of this minor setback, the population "mushroomed" to about 100 by 1947.





# Hewitt High School

Hewitt, Texas, was founded in 1884 and named for Thomas Hewitt, an official of the Katy Railroad. For many years students in all grades met in one school building. However, in 1921 a two-story brick high school was constructed. This building served Hewitt until 1950. In 1947 Hewitt and South Bosque school districts consolidated to form the Midway Independent School District. In 1950 high school students from South Bosque and Hewitt moved into the first Midway High School located on Highway 84, this site is now used as the junior high school.



In 1982 the old Hewitt High School building was razed. Due to the efforts of the Hewitt Historical Association, Greater Hewitt Chamber of Commerce, Hewitt Lions Club, and the owner of the property, Mr. Gordon Erkfitz, a marker was built from the brick of the old high school and the original stone above the front door. The marker is located at First and Wall of "Old" Hewitt.



# First Baptist Church of Moody

The First Baptist Church of Moody was organized in 1855 in the community of Perry with Elder S. G. O'Bryan serving as first pastor. Another early minister, the Rev. John McClain, had been present at the church's organization and served the congregation for many years. In 1883, two years after the Santa Fe Railroad bypassed the town of Perry, the Baptist church moved to its present site in the new railroad town of Moody. The church has ordained several pastors from its membership and has contributed much to the heritage of the surrounding area.





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