

\$ 55,000.00 Longview, Texas, October 10 A. D. 1956

For Value Received, I, we, or either of us, the undersigned, promise to pay to OLIVER DANIEL or order, the sum of FIFTY FIVE THOUSAND AND NO/100- - - - - DOLLARS with interest from date at the rate of 6% per cent per annum, both principal and interest payable at Longview, Texas

~~The principal of~~ this note is payable in monthly installments of \$ 464.20 each including interest

the first installment being due and payable on or before the 10th day of November 1956, and one installment to become due and payable on or before the 10th day of each succeeding month thereafter until the whole principal sum is paid.

The interest on this note is payable monthly as it accrues

and all past due principal and interest shall bear interest from maturity at the rate of ten per cent per annum.

This note, to the extent of the amount herein mentioned, represents money this day borrowed by the undersigned from the said Oliver Daniel, and to secure the credit thus extended we have this day by a certain Deed of Trust, conveyed to W. L. Ballard Trustee, the following lot or parcel of land;

1.408 acres of land in the Hamilton McNutt Survey in Gregg County, Texas, and being a part of a tract of four acres of land, more or less, described in a deed from O. H. Methvin and wife to Richard Perry, dated October 18, 1875, recorded in Volume B, Page 479, Deed Records of Gregg County, Texas, the southwest corner of said four acre tract and of this tract being at the intersection of the west line of Court Street and the North line of Perry Street, in Longview, Texas.

Note Paid In Full This Day of October, 1971

NATIONAL INVESTORS INSURANCE COMPANY

David V. Whitt, Senior

which said land is fully described in said Deed of Trust.

It is understood and agreed that failure to pay this Note or any installment either of principal or interest hereon when due, or the failure to perform any of the agreements contained in said Deed of Trust, shall, at the election of the holder of said Note, mature the said Note, and same shall become at once due and payable and subject to foreclosure proceedings under said Deed of Trust.

And it is hereby specially agreed that if this note is placed in the hands of an attorney for collection, or if collected by suit or through the Probate Court, the undersigned agree to pay ten per cent additional on the principal and interest then due hereon as attorney's fees.

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH, LONGVIEW, TEXAS

[Handwritten signatures of trustees]

By:

[Handwritten signature]

TRUSTEES

\$55,000.00

CREDITS

DATE	PRINCIPAL	INTEREST	TOTAL	RECEIVED BY	DATE	PRINCIPAL	INTEREST	TOTAL	RECEIVED BY
11-12-56	189 20	275 00	464 20						
12-3-56	190 15	274 05	464 20						
1-10-57	191 10	273 10	464 20						
	570 45								
F/			429 55						

788

Deed of Trust Note

(Installment Payments)

FOR VALUE RECEIVED

I hereby sell, transfer and assign to
 Southwest Reserve Life
 Insurance Company

the within Note, together with the Deed of Trust
 Lien on the property securing same, without recourse

me.
Oliver Davis

For Value Received, Empire Life Insurance Company
 of America, an Alabama Corporation, hereby sells,
 assigns, transfers, conveys and sets over the
 hereinabove note, with recourse, unto Republic
 Investors Holding Co.

Dated: March 1, 1969 EMPIRE LIFE INSURANCE
 COMPANY OF AMERICA

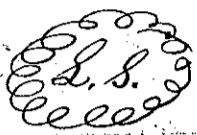
By *[Signature]*
 Vice President

For Value Received, Republic Investors Holding Co.,
 an Illinois Corporation, hereby sells, assigns,
 transfers, conveys and sets over the hereinabove
 note, with recourse, unto The National Investors
 Life Insurance Company.

Dated: March 1, 1969 REPUBLIC INVESTORS
 HOLDING CO.

By *[Signature]*
 Vice President

484



D. B. Levy, Clerk District Court
Gregg County.


The State of Texas }
County of Gregg } I do hereby certify that the above and
} foregoing is a true and correct copy
of the original Deed and Certificate of acknowledge-
ment as filed for record in my office on the 25th day
of October A.D. 1875 at half past three (3:30) O'clock P.M.
This the 5th day of November A.D. 1875

M. P. Perry Clerk & Reg. Cor.

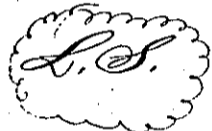
O. H. Methwin
et ux
to } Deed
} P. S
Richard
Perry for
Colored
Baptist
Church as
Church
property
(703)

State of Texas } Know all men by these Presents that
Gregg County } We O. H. Methwin sen & M. P. Methwin sen
my wife in consideration of an Exchange of two fraction-
al Lots in the town of Longview according to the Plat
of said town Lots shown as Lot (205) 4 Block 2 also Lot
2 block 4. Deeded to O. H. Methwin with all the rites &
privileges belonging thereto said Lots his heirs and assigns
by the Texas and Pacific Railway company and twenty five
dollars in cash by Richard Perry f.w.c for a certain Lot
or parcel of Land situated in Gregg County State of Texas
for Colored Baptist Church the receipt of which is hereby
acknowledged. have Granted, bargained, sold and by this act
do grant bargain sell and convey unto the said Baptist
Church as Church Property, all of its right and title in and to
that certain Land Lot and Property situated in the County
of Gregg in the state of Texas & shown and described as follows
to-wit Bounded on the East by the west Line of Longview
survey on the south by survey of Richard Perry and Levy Johnson
west by Methwin's survey and North by L. Perry & L. Johnson
The said Lot or Parcel of land containing one half of an
acre of land together with all and singular the rights members
Privileges hereditaments and appurtenances to the same
belonging or in anywise appertaining. the above named Methwin
& Wife in consideration of the foregoing Payment be made
We bind ourselves to warrant and forever defend the title
hereby conveyed against the Lawful claim of all persons
the same or any Part thereof. of force by or through
Methwin sen & wife M. P. Methwin sen. Witness our hand
& This January the 20th A. D. 1875.

O. H. Methwin sen

M. P. ^{Widow} Mottin or 

The State of Texas }
County of Gregg } Before me J. W. Lawrence an acting
Justice of the Peace and Ex-officio Notary Public in said
County personally appeared C. H. Mottin and M. P. Mottin his wife
both to me well known, and parties to a certain Deed or instrumen-
ment in writing bearing date on the 20th day of January A.D. 1878
hereto annexed and stated that they had executed the same
for the consideration and purposes therein stated, and the said
M. P. Mottin having been examined by me privately and apart
from her husband and having the same by me fully explained
to her, she, the said M. P. Mottin acknowledged the same to be
her act and deed, and declared that she had willingly signed
sealed and delivered the same and that she wished not
to retract it.



To certify, which I herunto sign my
name and affix the seal of my Office
this January 28th A.D. 1878.
J. W. Lawrence J. P. and Ex-officio
Notary Public in & for the State of Texas

The State of Texas }
County of Gregg } I do hereby certify that the
foregoing is a true and correct copy
of the original Deed and certificate of acknowledgment
as filed for record in my Office on the 25th day of October
A.D. 1878 at half past four o'clock P. M.
This the 5th day of November A.D. 1878

W. H. Perry Clerk S. C. C. Co.

✓
B. F. Phillips
to
Major Thomas
(704)

State of Texas }
County of Gregg } Know all men by these presents that I
B. F. Phillips of the county & state aforesaid
for & in consideration of the sum of two hundred eighty nine
55/100 gold Dollars to me in hand paid by Major Thomas of
the county & state aforesaid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledg-
ed, have this day bargained sold and delivered unto the said
Major Thomas his heirs & assigns all that tract or parcel
of land situated and Descended as follows to wit in Gregg
Co State of Texas lying on Sabine River being a part of
the land purchased by John Blalock of Fort Thom being a
part of the Castro Headright & bounded as follows - commencing at
a Stake on Sabine River it being the N. E. Corner of a tract
of land sold by John Blalock to the said B. F. Phillips &

COMPARED 3433

Warranty Deed

(WITH VENDOR'S LIEN)

FROM

TO

FILED FOR RECORD

The _____ day of _____, A. D. 19____

at _____ o'clock _____ M.

By _____ County Clerk.

In _____ County Records

In Book _____, on Page _____

County Clerk.

By _____ Deputy.

Recording Fee \$ 1.50

This instrument should be filed immediately with the County Clerk for Record.

PAUL PAINTER

THE M. L. BATH COMPANIES
ANNEX-PORT-LOANER-LAKE CHARLES
BATH-GRAM
REG. NO. 211,241 U. S. PAT. OFF.

750-1 (150) WARRANTY DEED (With Vendor's Lien)

APR 11 3 28 PM '66
RECORDED
BIRDS
COUNTY CLERK
DEPUTY
BY *Paul Painter*
GREGG COUNTY, TEXAS

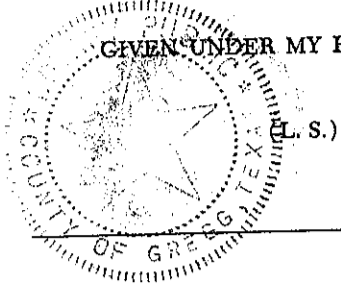
SINGLE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

THE STATE OF TEXAS, }
COUNTY OF GREGG

BEFORE ME, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, on this day personally appeared
THOMAS HENRY HOGG

known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE this the 30th day of March A. D. 1966



Paul Painter
Notary Public in and for Gregg County, Texas

WIFE'S SEPARATE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

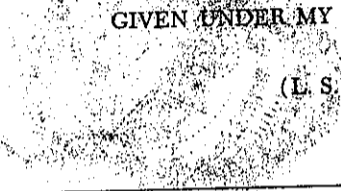
THE STATE OF TEXAS, }
COUNTY OF DALLAS

BEFORE ME, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, on this day personally appeared

KATIE M. HOGG, wife of **THOMAS HENRY HOGG**, known

to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and having been examined by me privily and apart from her husband, and having the same fully explained to her, she, the said **KATIE M. HOGG** acknowledged such instrument to be her act and deed, and she declared that she willingly signed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed, and that she did not wish to retract it.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE this the 31st day of March A. D. 1966.



Inogene Carter
Notary Public in and for ~~Gregg~~ DALLAS County, Texas

JOINT ACKNOWLEDGMENT

THE STATE OF TEXAS, }
COUNTY OF

BEFORE ME, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, on this day personally appeared

and _____, his wife, both known to me to be the persons whose names are subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that they each executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed, and the said wife of the said _____ having been examined by me privily and apart from her husband,

and having the same fully explained to her, she, the said _____ acknowledged such instrument to be her act and deed, and she declared that she willingly signed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed, and that she did not wish to retract it.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE this the _____ day of _____ A. D. 19

(L. S.)

Notary Public in and for _____ County, Texas

THE STATE OF TEXAS, }
COUNTY OF GREGG

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing instrument of writing with its certificate of authentication, was filed for record in my office on the 11 day of April, A. D. 1966 at 3:28 o'clock P. M., and was duly recorded by me on the 12 day of April, A. D. 1966 in Vol. 691, pages 91-392, of the Records of said County.

WITNESS MY HAND and Seal of the County Court of said County, at my office in LONGVIEW, TEXAS the day and year last above written.

(L. S.)

B. M. "BUCK" BIRDSONG
County Clerk GREGG County, Texas
By *Jimmie Matt*, Deputy.

3439

The State of Texas,
County of GREGG

Know All Men by These Presents:

That WE, THOMAS HENRY HOGG and wife, KATIE M. HOGG

of the County of Gregg State of Texas for and in consideration
of the sum of -----TEN AND NO/100-----

----- (\$10.00) ----- DOLLARS
and other good and valuable consideration

to us paid, and secured to be paid, by Sterling Medlock, C. P. Phillips, John H. H. Jones, Mrs. E. M. Mosley, Clifford E. Stewart, Horace Williams, Mrs. Frankie Hutchings, Sammy Williams, Dr. J. L. Brown, Johnnie Brown and Milton Woodward, Trustees of the BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH, their successors in office,

as follows:

TEN AND NO/100 (\$10.00) DOLLARS and other good and valuable consideration, cash in hand paid, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged and confessed, and the further consideration of the assumption of the balance due on one certain promissory note, dated December 6, 1962, in the original principal sum of \$14,400.00, executed by Grantors herein and payable to the order of GLENN JUSTICE MORTGAGE COMPANY as therein provided; said note set out and fully described in Deed of Trust of even date therewith executed by Thomas Henry Hogg, et ux and now of record in Vol. 256, at Page 502 of the Deed of Trust Records of Gregg County, Texas



have Granted, Sold and Conveyed, and by these presents do Grant, Sell and Convey, unto the said Sterling Medlock, C. P. Phillips, John H. Jones, Mrs. E. M. Mosley, Clifford E. Stewart, Horace Williams, Mrs. Frankie Hutching; Sammy Williams, Dr. J. L. Brown, Johnnie Brown, Milton Woodward, Trustees of the BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH, their successors in office,
of the county of Gregg State of Texas all that certain

Lot Three (3) in Block 690 of TEMPLE TERRACE
ADDITION to the City of Longview, Gregg County,
Texas, according to the revised plat of said
Addition recorded in Volume 525 at Page 112 of
the Deed Records of Gregg County, Texas.

SUBJECT to all reservations and restrictions of record.

Office File

Paul Patiser
Attorney At Law

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above described premises, together with all and singular the rights and appurtenances thereto in anywise belonging unto the said

Trustee's of The Bethel Baptist Church, their successors,
~~this~~ and assigns forever and we do hereby bind ourselves, our
executors and administrators, to Warrant and Forever Defend, all and singular the said premises unto the said

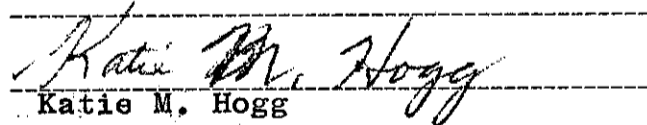
Trustee's of The Bethel Baptist Church, their successors,
~~this~~ and assigns, against every person whomsoever lawfully claiming, or to claim the same, or any part thereof.

But it is expressly agreed and stipulated that the Vendor's Lien is retained against the above described property, premises and improvements, until the above described note, and all interest thereon are fully paid according to its face and tenor, effect and reading, when this deed shall become absolute.

WITNESS our hands at Longview, Texas
this 30th day of March, 1966.


Thomas Henry Hogg

Witness at request of Grantor:


Katie M. Hogg



Gregg County Historical Commission

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.
Chairman

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone
903-757-2261

November 20, 1994

Cynthia J. Beeman, Administrator
Official Texas Historical Markers
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Application for an Official Texas Historical Marker for Bethel Baptist Church, Longview, Gregg County, Texas.

Dear Cynthia:

Enclosed is the material for a proposed historical marker for the above named church. It is one of the oldest African-American churches in Gregg County. I regret that, after a church-wide appeal for photographs of the first three buildings, the only historical photograph found is from the "Bethel Baptist Church Handbook Directory", November 22, 1981 (copy enclosed).

A personal note: when I was a boy in the early 1940s a friend and I occasionally would sit on a berm near the creek behind the church which had two wood dams about ten feet apart and watch their baptisms. Also, the young people of my church would put on short musical programs at Bethel on Sunday evenings and they would reciprocate. Thus, I remember this third structure very well.

Sincerely,

Norman

Enc.

APPLICATION FORM
OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

This marker is for (title or subject): Bethel Baptist Missionary Church

County: Gregg

Marker location (street address and city, or specific directions from nearest town on state highway map):
323 S. Court St., Longview, Texas. Marker site: in front of church, 20 feet west of S. Court St., in ground.

Distance and direction of marker topic from marker site (if applicable):



APPROVAL OF COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The application and narrative history must be approved by the county historical commission before forwarding to the Texas Historical Commission.

Chairperson's Signature: Norman D. Black, D.D.S. Date: November 14, 1994

Address: 417 Mobberly Ave., Longview, Texas 75602 Phone: 903-757-2261

The CHC chair automatically will receive all copies of correspondence regarding this marker project.

PERMISSION OF OWNER FOR MARKER PLACEMENT

Permission for placement of a marker must be obtained by the property owner. Please provide the name of a contact person if the owner is an institution, organization, or public entity. This section need not be completed if the marker is to be placed on right-of-way maintained by the Texas Department of Transportation.

Name: Clifford Stewart

Contact person (if applicable): Clifford Stewart

Mailing address: 1000 Nixon

Longview, TX 75602 Phone: 903-757-3650

Owner's Signature: Clifford Stewart

Do you wish to receive copies of all correspondence concerning this marker application? Yes No

To whom should the request for payment be addressed?

Name: Clifford Stewart

(Provide contact person if payee is an institution, organization, or public entity.)

Mailing address: above

Phone: _____

Does this person wish to receive copies of all other correspondence concerning this application? Yes No

Is there anyone else to whom all correspondence concerning this marker application should be addressed?

(One additional name and address only, please.)

Name: Beth Dodson

Mailing address: 117. W. Edgefield

Longview, Texas 75602 Phone: 903-753-1692

(over)

HISTORY OF BETHEL BAPTIST MISSIONARY CHURCH

LONGVIEW, TEXAS

"A church that is Bible based, Christ centered and Spirit led...with a caring touch."¹

Bethel Baptist Missionary Church of Longview, Texas, will celebrate its one hundred twentieth anniversary on November twentieth at three o'clock in the afternoon in 1994.

On October 25, 1874, the Reverend Richard Perry led the following brothers into the organization of Bethel Baptist Church. This group constituted the first Board of Deacons. They were: Bros. Jack Holman, John Johnson, James Robinson, Jack Smith, Tom Wilk, Alf Simon, C. B. Bradley, L. M. Moore and C. H. Gregg.²

The church stood on one-half acre of land deeded by Reverend Richard Perry and his wife Betty.³

The religious services were held under a brush arbor until a frame church was build during 1874.⁴

While the building was under construction, Saint Mark Colored Methodist Episcopal Church shared their building for services. Bethel held services two Sundays in the month and St. Mark the other two, and each group joined the other in worship.⁵

The second building was erected in 1884 under the leadership of Reverend J. F. Thompson.

A gothic brick structure was erected in 1906. Under the leadership of Reverend E. C. Hawkins the present structure was built in 1956.⁶

The old church that was built in 1906 was demolished in 1967 during the administration of T. F. Simmons. It was during Reverend Simmons administration that Bethel purchased a parsonage at 19 Wylie Street. An educational building was completed in 1972.

From 1874 until 1973 our church has been honored with ministers with grace and pride. It was through the combined forces of membership and the ministers who came as pilgrims to Bethel, each adding his contribution, which led to Bethel's becoming a great church. The ministers were: Reverends Richard Perry, C. B. Martin, John H. Baptist, H. R. Wilson, J. F. Thompson, S. E. J. Watson, T. W. Dailey, A. P. Cooksey, Joe E. Campbell, Joseph H. Harrington, T. T. Newman, W. A. I. McDonald and E. C. Hawkins.⁷

Some of the ministers listed went on to do greater works after leaving Bethel. Reverend H. R. Wilson is credited with having built the first brick church for Negroes in the Louisiana District Association. This was in 1918. Reverend A. P. Cooksey was the first full-time pastor of Bethel.⁸

Ministers who have taken the leadership of Bethel since 1973 are: T. F. Simmons, Jasper W. Scott and presently Dexter B. Upshaw, Sr. Bethel is proud of the new ministries that have been added. They are: church lib-

rary, bus ministry, youth field trips, YES ministry, newsletter and a video and tape ministry.⁹

On October 13, 1993, Bethel purchased from Gerald Bottoms and his wife, Linda Bottoms, the following described property lying and situated in the County of Gregg, State of Texas. All that certain lot, tract and parcel of land known and described as Lot No. 62, in Block 220 as shown on the New City Block Map of Longview, Gregg County, Texas. The purchase price was \$15,000.00.¹⁰

On September 14, 1993, Marion L. Johnson, 1027 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria, Virginia 22302, donated Lot 7A (being the south $\frac{1}{2}$ of Lot 7), in New City Block 220 of Longview Original Town, City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas, according to map or plat of record in the Deed Records of Gregg County, Texas.¹¹ This land was given in memory of his father, Zack Johnson, whose father was John Johnson, one of the early deacons of Bethel Baptist Church.

The acquisition of these two pieces of property will be used for further expansion of Bethel. In the near future, Bethel will use the present parking lot to erect a Family Center and the newly acquired land will serve as a parking lot.

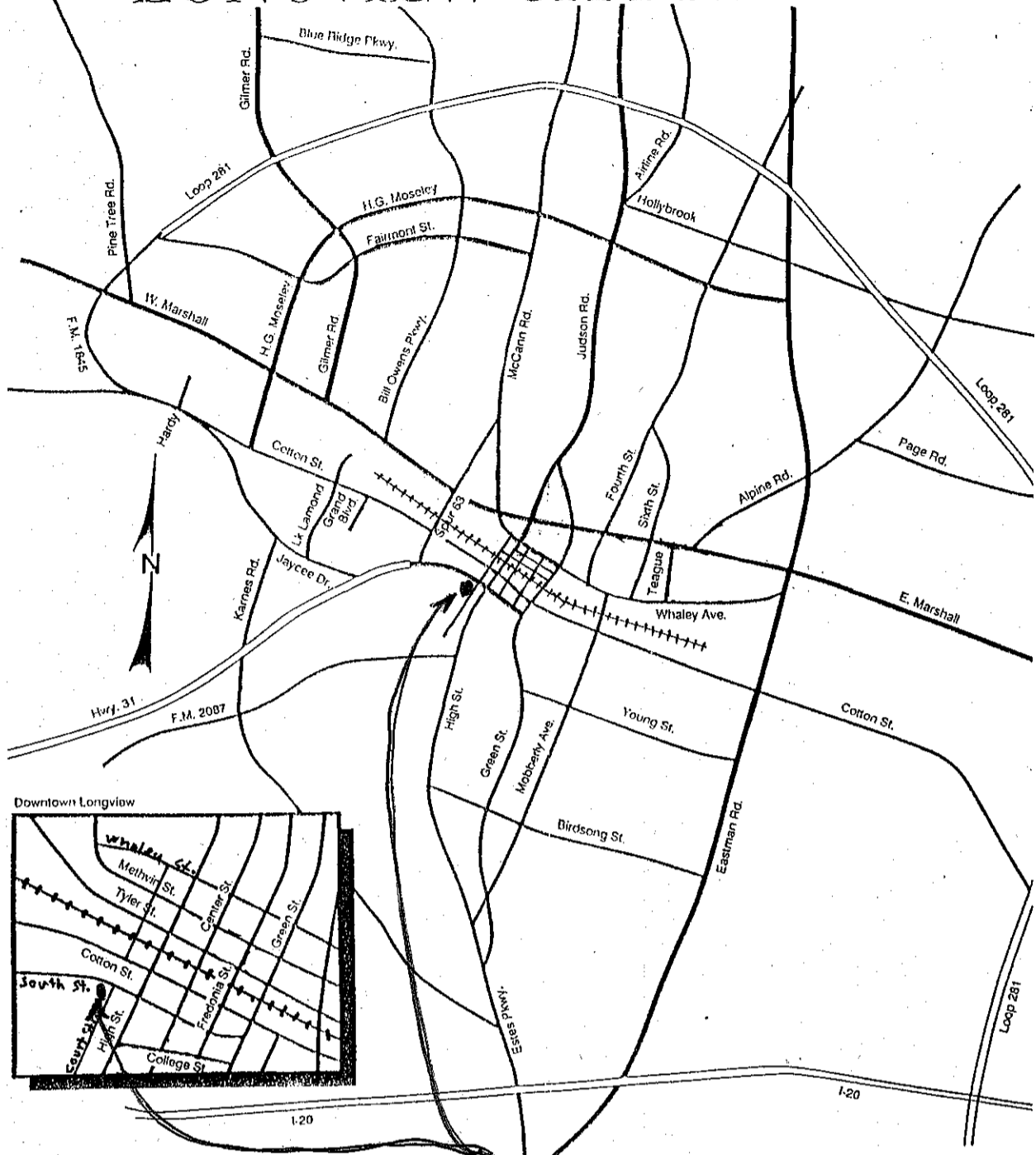
Bethel Missionary Baptist Church thanks God for His blessings, and to the members who came before us. To show our appreciation to Him and to earlier generations, we seek to have erected an Official Texas Historical Marker.

Clifford W. Stewart

4
ENDNOTES

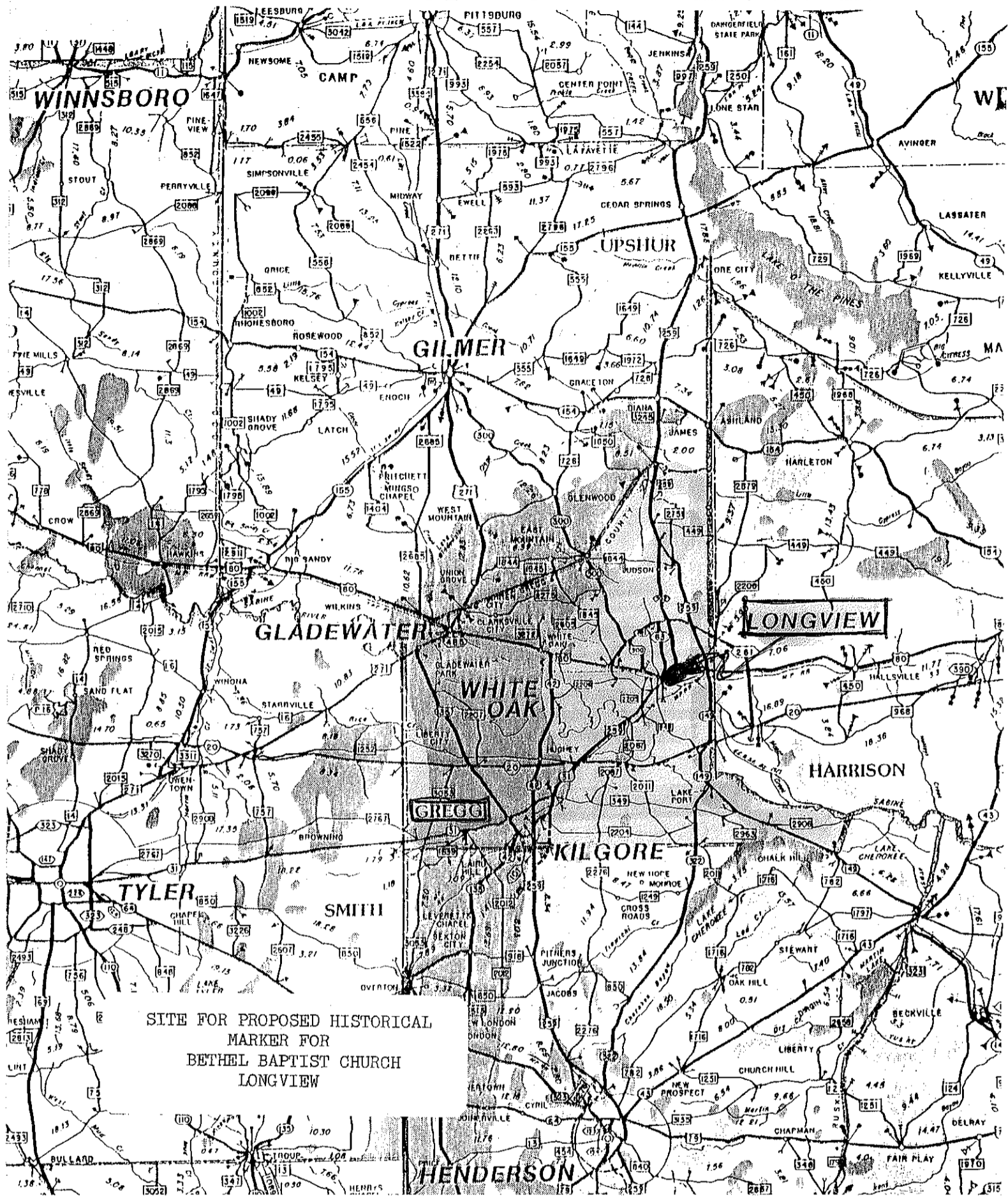
- 1 Church Bulletin, November 22, 1981.
- 2 Education Building Souvenir Brochure, February 4, 1973.
- 3 Bethel Baptist Church Handbook, November 22, 1981.
- 4 Ibid., p. 7.
- 5 St. Mark C.M.E. Church Brochure, February 10, 1988.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 The History of Bethel, unpub., n.d.
- 8 Church Handbook, 1991.
- 9 Church Anniversary Program, 1992.
- 10 Deed Records of Gregg County, Texas.
- 11 Ibid.

LONGVIEW CITY MAP



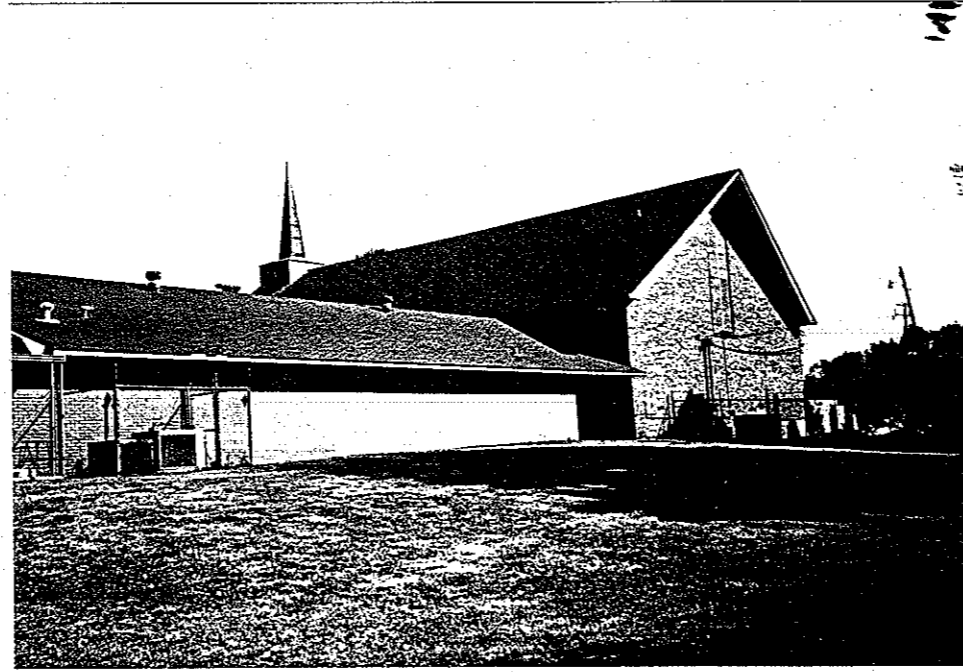
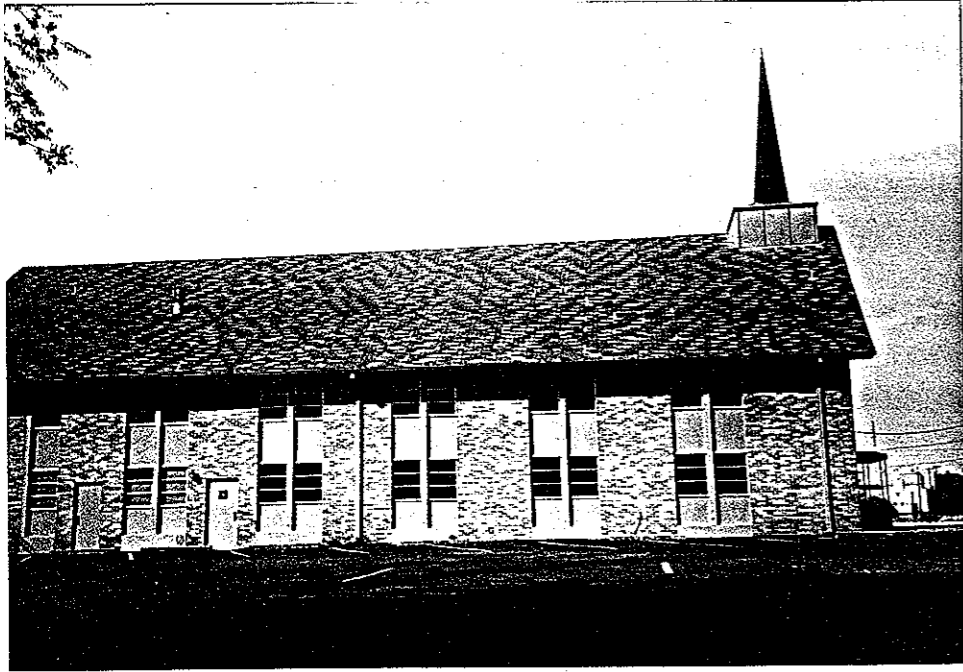
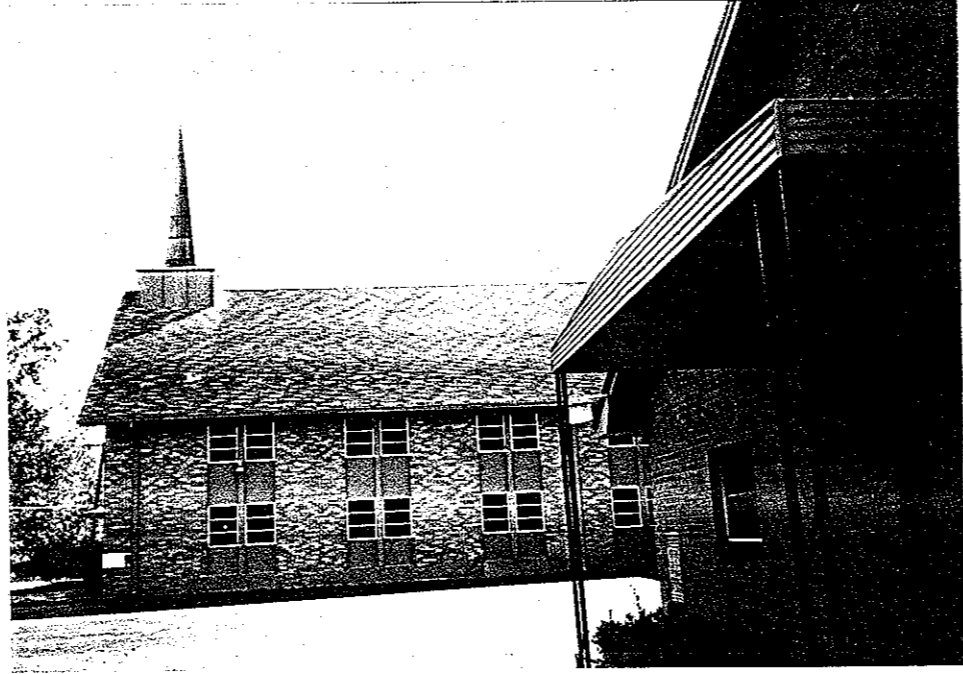
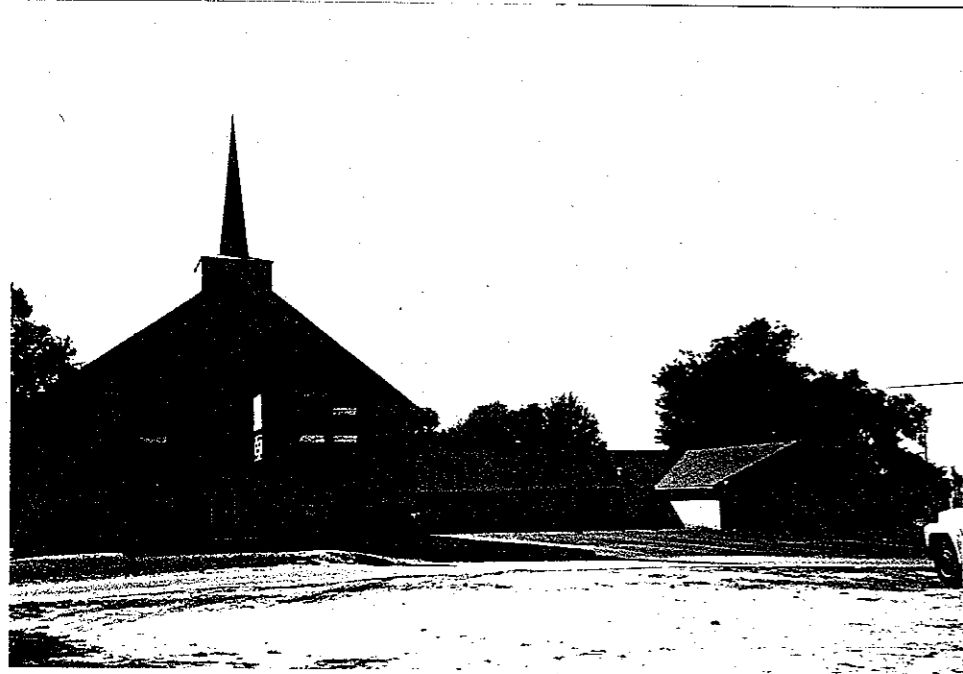
Site for Proposed
Historical Marker for
Bethel Baptist Church
323 S. Court Street
(in red letters)

GREGG COUNTY



SITE FOR PROPOSED HISTORICAL
MARKER FOR
BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
LONGVIEW



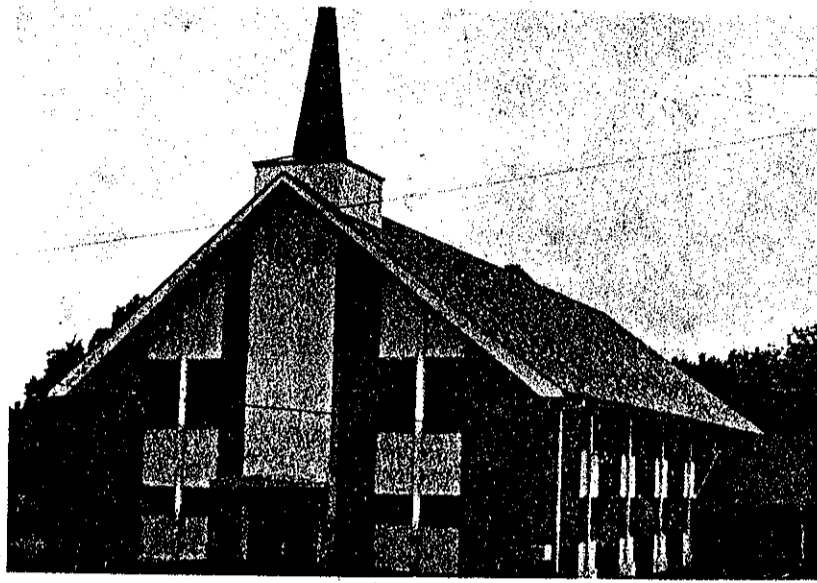




BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH — 1906

Bethel Baptist Church, Longview, Gregg County. Third building.

Bethel Baptist Church



HANDBOOK DIRECTORY

NOVEMBER 22, 1981

COMMEMORATING ONE HUNDRED AND SEVEN YEARS OF SERVICE

REVEREND J. W. SCOTT, PASTOR
Longview, Texas

Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

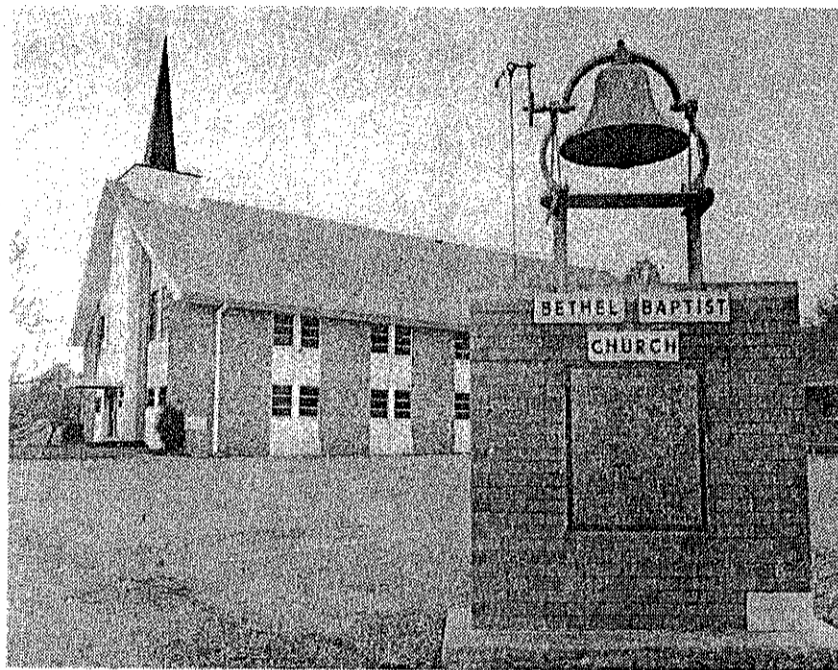
323 South Court Street
Longview, Texas 75605

Reverend J.W. Scott
Minister

Mrs. Ruth G. Stewart
Clerk

Sister Louise R. Brown
Program Chairman

107th Anniversary Celebration



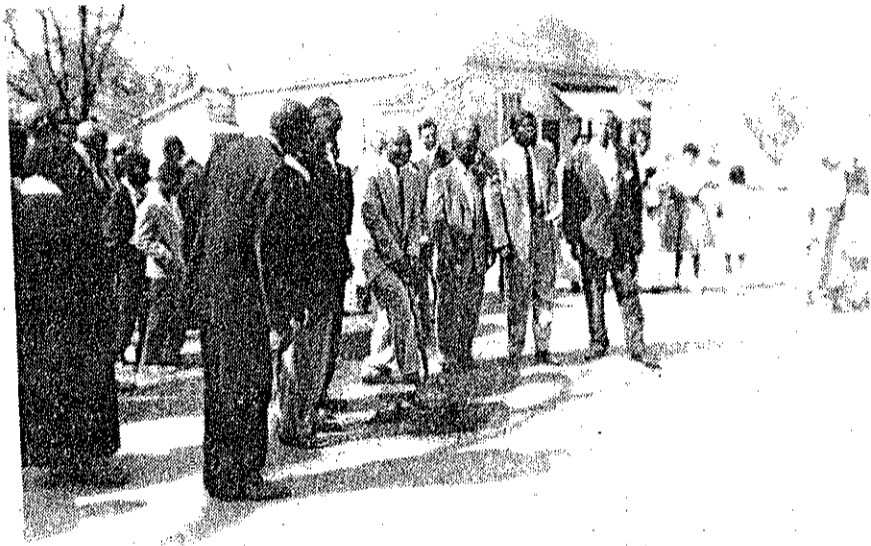
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1981 — 2:30-O'CLOCK P.M.

"The church where Everybody is Somebody"

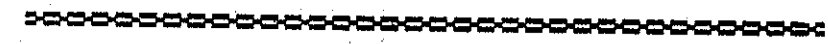
GUEST CHURCH
Hopewell Baptist Church No. 1
Tyler, Texas
Rev. Z.M. Robertson, Pastor



BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH — 1906

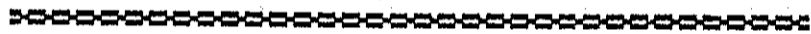


GROUND BREAKING CEREMONIES



History
of
Bethel Baptist Church

Compiled By
MRS. G. R. PETTY
1964



Christian friends I will work from this preface, the words of the writer; Goethe, "The best thing which we derive from history is the enthusiasm that it raises in us."

Bethel has a most beautiful and colorful history and we are the recipients of the bountiful blessings handed to us from the brave patriots of yesteryears. We take a look at these stalwart and courageous Christians and their contributions to their ages.

In 1874, ninety years ago, the Reverend Richard Perry organized Bethel Baptist Church. We shall always see him here for he gave the first property upon which the Church was erected. It was rebuilt in 1884, again in 1906 under the pastorage of Reverend H. R. Wilson. This is the structure next door, a 58 year old edifice, the remnants of one of the most beautiful pieces of architecture in all of Texas. During the beginning years it was reported to be the only brick church in the Louisiana Association, to which it belonged at that time. It was again rebuilt by our own beloved Reverend E. C. Hawkins in 1956, fifty years later.

In all of these 90 years, the destiny of Bethel has been guided by such dynamic individuals as: Reverends: Richard Perry, J. H. Baptist, C. B. Martin, J. F. Thompson 12 years, H. R. Wilson, Dr. S. E. J. Watson, W. Daily, A. P. Cooksey, (17 years), J. E. Campbell, Joseph Harrington, Taft Talmage Newman, W. A. J. McDonald and now the Reverend Everton Cato Hawkins is at the helm, humbly but firmly he leads on.

A Pastor's worth lies not only in what he knows to do but in the support of his closest followers. To Christ they were the disciples, to Baptist believers, they are the deacons. Bethel's glowing past is characterized by Brothers James Robinson, Nathan Stewart, Jack Smith, Jack Holman, Calvin Morgan, John Johnson, Tom Wilks, Alfred Simon, L. M. Moore, C. B. Bradley, Joe Mayes, C. H. Gregg, Theo Grant, (I name deacon Grant here, not

because this is his age group, but because he was a very young deacon who was ordained at this time), then there were others, Wesley Grant, Will Jackson, Aron Mayes, Henry Lawrence, M. L. Muckleroy, J. H. McCullough and G. T. Robinson, and perhaps others. The present deacon board when added to this group will bring us up to date.

One writer has so eloquently said that, next to God we are indebted to women, first for life itself, and then for making it worth living. Standing by the side of the men were these deaconesses, Sisters Lettie Gregg, Jane Johnson, M. Moore, Lizzie Stewart, Nancy Grant, Sophia Perry, Willie Grant, Lula Lawrence, Alma McCullough, Georgia Robinson.

Deaconess now serving are: Sisters Grace Armstrong, Nancy Grant, Maggie Hoyt, Frankie Hutchings, Johnnie Kinebrew, Thelma Moore, Etalcah Petty, Alma White and Elmer Wilkerson.

The names of all the Custodian's of the Church's properties could not be found but these trustees came forth with little thought: Abe Quick, J. O. Adams, Nay Stewart, Truly Mitchell and more currently: J. S. White, Bob Lloyd, Dr. O. J. Moore, Dr. J. L. Brown, Ed Nunn, Judge Hutchings, Milton Woodard, Sammie Williams and others.

The Woman's Home Missionary Society as it was first named was organized by Rev. J. F. Thompson in 1890. These women stand out as early presidents, Sisters: Jessie Holman, Mattie Billups, who was the first to organize the circles; Rena Medlock, Daisy Whetstone, Daisy Johnson, Narvell Dixson, Alma McCullough White, Bell Grant, Haggar Bivins, Henrietta Fuller, Delphine Helm, Sis. Leola K. Davis and at present Sis. Alma White.

The first "Junior" Missionary Society was organized in 1958 under the leadership of Rev. E. C. Hawkins, with Sisters: A. R. Duncan and Beulah Taylor as co-directress and Sis. G. R. Petty, the first president. Others have been Sisters Lizzie Lewis and currently Gussie Holmes.

The Sunday School was organized in 1875 by Rev. Richard Perry with C. H. Gregg as the first superintendent, others have been: C. B. Bradley, J. H. McCullough, Henry Lawrence, G. T. Robinson, Louis Armstrong, and at present Deacon Clifford Stewart.

The first B.Y.P.U. was organized in 1890 by Rev. Thompson with Sister Alice Love as the first president. Others were Aaron Mayes, George Mays, Sterling Medlock, Henry Lawrence, Harrison Gregg, Jr., Irene Johnson, Louis Armstrong and currently Horace Williams is president of what is now known as the B.T.U.

One writer has put it "Music is the fourth great material want of our nature, first food, then raiment, then shelter, then music." An early historian wrote that Bethel had one of the best singing choirs in the bounds of the State of Texas. Since music is said to be the universal language of mankind it is so important that music be prepared to strengthen the ministers message. Bethel's musicians who served in this capacity are legion. The first remembered was Sis. Lettie Gregg who played the hand organ so beautifully, I'm told then came Sis. Emma Billups, the aunt of Sister T. L. Moore, Mrs. Beulah Taylor followed giving some 27 odd years of service as organist, others were Sister Eleanor Mitchell, Christine Wilkerson, Irene Gentry, Ethel Green Bauchum, Myrtis Pritchett, Etalcah Petty, Gwendolyn Cooksey and now the organist Sister Velma White and pianist Goldest Hawkins. Our young musicians were: Filla Jean Jeffery, Shirley Birdsong, Bettye Gregg, Gloria Hawkins and perhaps others.

There are some who had rather be a door keeper in the house of God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked. They chose to usher. They include: Anderson Welton, Sterling Medlock, T. C. Medlock, Oscar Sanders, R. G. Bouchum, Emmit Long, Robert Harris, William Jeffery and on the most illustrious characters in ushering, L. B. (Swifty) Davis. The fair sex include: Sisters Christine Boyd, Myrtle Hubbard, Ila Hilliard, Elizabeth Armstrong, Onie Bouchum,

Bernice Shelly, Evie Williams, Zackada Johnson, and Jessie Stinson.

The first keeper of records was the clerk, Joe Mayes. Others have been Sister Lacy McCalister, Brother's G. T. Robinson, George Mayes, Sisters Jewel Earl, Marcelline Stewart, Dana Tigner and now Sister Ruth Garrett.

The first sexton perhaps was Bro. John Johnson, others have been Sisters Mattie Billups, Harriet Neal, Bro. Will Miller, Sis. Ila Hilliard, Bro. Sam Whetstone, Bro. Sterling Medlock and currently Bro. C. P. Phillips.

With so sure a foundation, what are we passing on to our future generations? Under the present leadership, this new beautiful edifice has been built with all of the conveniences for comfortable worship. Rev. Hawkins saw the need for additional followers close up, so 8 new deacons were ordained: Deacons Louis Armstrong, Harrison Gregg, Wendell Moore, Grayson R. Petty, Charlie Wixx, Harvey Johnson, Clifford Stewart and Judge Hutchings. Other deacons now serving are Alexander Duncan, Elbert Hoyt, W. T. Kennebrew, C. P. Phillips, R. B. White, L. Wilkerson, Frank Williams and Sammie Williams.

The W.M.U. was fortified and additional women put to greater service in the formation of the Junior Missionary Society. The choirs were integrated. Committees were formulated to bring the churches function up to the demands of a new era. Among these are the Community Service, Sis. Harret Moore; Christian Education, Bro. Napoleon Birdsong; Comforting, Sis. Frankie Hutchings, Chm.; Benevolent, Deacon Theo Grant, Chm.; Floral, Sis. Roberta Lucas, Chm.; Memorial, Deacon G. R. Petty, Chm.; Social and Entertainment, Sis. Malissa Smith, Chm.; Program, Sis. Lacy McCalister, Chm.; Announcement and Publicity, Deacon G. R. Petty, Chm.; Church Anniversary and Home Coming, Deacon Frank Williams, Chm.; Installation Committee, Sis. G. R. Petty, Consecration Committee; Deacon A. R. Duncan, Chm.; Worship Committee, Deacon C. P. Phillips.

Not only this the early writer stated that Bethel Baptist Church was void of intelligent membership and named such teachers as Prof. R. T. Taylor, Lizzie Long, S. E. Perry, Mary Holman, Ella Taylor, and others. It might interest you to know that Bethel today has in it's membership some 45 teachers of all description, among them are two principles, 4 special service teachers, 6 musicians, 3 home economist, 2 agriculture teachers, 1 boy scout executive and I could go on and on breaking them down into specifics. Of what significance is this bit of statistics, you may ask? It is merely to say that God has blessed this membership. Conversely, we are blessing God? The power is truly within us.

I want to greatly acknowledge the aid and assistance of the persons who helped to supply most of this information: Deacon Theo Grant, Rev. and Sis. L. R. Taylor, Sis. T. L. Moore, Sis. Henrietta Fuller and Sis. Parlee Garland. We wish to acknowledge the presence of the following persons at our 90th Anniversary celebration; Bro. William Jeffery a member for 75 years. Bro Theo Grant, Sis. Myrtie Jeffery and Sis Henrietta Fuller members for over 50 years.

"How firm a foundation ye saints of the Lord,
Is laid for your faith in His excellent word.
What more can He say than to you He hath said,
You who unto Jesus for refuge have fled,
The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose
I will not, I will not desert to his foes.
That soul, though all hell should endeavor
To shake, I'll never, no never, no never forsake."



A Christmas Gift to the Members of Our Church

From

Deacon and Mrs. G. R. Petty

Bethel Baptist Church

323 South Court Street Longview, Texas 75601

Reverend J. W. Scott
Minister



1874 — 1979

Original Church Site Shown Above

Above Is Our Present Church and Annex That
Was Added in 1973...

“Enter To Worship — Depart To Serve”

(Sunday)

Sunday School 9:30 A.M.
Worship Service 10:40 A.M.

Baptist Training Union 5:00 P.M.
Evening Worship 6:00 P.M.

(Wednesday)

Prayer Meeting 6:30 P.M.

(Bible Study) 7:00 P.M.)

We Invite You To Visit With Us...

In 1978, the Church
Celebrated the
Pastor's First Year
Anniversary...

Shown at Right Is
the Pastor, His Wife,
His Sons, Philip, at Left,
and Jasper, at Right.



Bethel Baptist founded in 1874; property donated on 'Baptist Hill'

Bethel Baptist Church, 323 S. Court, has experienced constant growth since its founding in 1874 on what is known as "Baptist Hill."

The church was organized by the Rev. Richard Perry, who also donated the property on which the church was built. It was rebuilt in 1884 and in 1906. The present structure was rebuilt under the pastorage of the Rev. E.C. Hawkins in 1956.

The church annex was removed and an educational building built in 1965 under the leadership of the Rev. R. F. Simmons.

The church has had 15 ministers in its 106-year history. The present minister is the Rev. J. W. Scott, who began his ministry at Bethel in 1977.

The deacons are chaired by Thea Grant with C. E. Stewart as vice chairman. Trustees are chaired by J. W. Anderson with Prince Cummings as vice-chairman.

Deaconesses are now serving under the chairmanship of Ola Gregg with Thelma Moore as cochairman. Heading the Women's Missionary Society is Jimmie Davis, assisted by Etalcah C. Petty as vice-president. The Brotherhood is chaired by Comoses Davis.

Other church officers are Clifford Stewart, superintendent of the Sunday school and J. W. Whitaker, director of the Sunday school.

The music department is under the direction of James Davenport and Mrs. Marion Wall, with Gussie Holmes serving as president of the choir. Mattie Wright is chairman of the Usher Board.

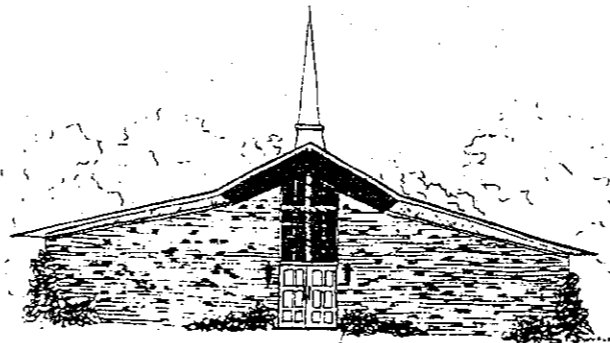
Ruth Garrett is church clerk and does the church publicity. Maintaining the church facilities are Mae Della Robinson and J. W. Whittaker.

A mid-week prayer service is held under the direction of Robert Harrison and Daisy Whetstone. Following the service, Clifford Stewart conducts the mid-week Bible class.

Annual church observances include Installation Services in January, Usher's Day in February, Sunday School Appreciation Banquet, Choir Musical in April, Brotherhood Pancake Breakfast, Scholarship and Memorial Days in May, Vacation Bible School and Pastor's Anniversary in June and July, W.M.U. Women's Day in September and Church Anniversary in November.

Revivals conducted by visiting pastors are held in the spring and fall.

Church committee chairmen include Louise Brown, program committee; Barbara Hutchins, Christian education; Valerie Reddy, social; Gussie Holmes, decoration; G. R. Petty, ordinances; and Mrs. G. R. Petty, church historian.



9:45—Sunday School
11:00—Morning Worship
—Church Training
7:00—Evening Worship
WEDNESDAYS
7:00—Mid-Week Worship

KENNETH MILLS,
PASTOR

BETHEL'S ANNIVERSARY SERVICE
October 1963





TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 12276 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-2276 512/463-6100

December 13, 1994

Dr. Norman Black, Chair
Gregg CHC
417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, TX 75602

RE: BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
18" x 28" marker w/ post
Job # 09595 Received: 11/23/94

Dear Dr. Black:

We have received the above-referenced marker application. The application will be reviewed and evaluated by the Texas Historical Commission staff in the order in which it was received. Currently, there is a three to four month wait between the time subject marker applications are received and evaluated. Should additional information be needed for the review, we will contact you and any parties listed below at that time. After any deficiencies have been corrected, we will send copies of the application to the members of the State Marker Review Board, who will make the final determination of the topic's acceptability for marking.

We will notify all parties as soon as the Board makes its decision. If the topic is approved for marking, payment will be requested at that time. If not approved, the application will be returned along with a letter of explanation.

Because of the variables involved in the marker process, and because we must coordinate our orders with the schedule of the contracting foundry, we suggest that the date of the marker dedication not be set until the completed marker is received.

We appreciate the effort made to record this topic. Should there be any questions about the status of this marker application, please contact me at 512/463-5853.

Sincerely,

Egina G. Kaase
Office Manager
Local History Programs

pc: Clifford Stewart
Beth Dodson

The State Agency for Historic Preservation



CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711-2276

(TELEPHONE) 512-463-6100

(FAX) 512-463-6095

(RELAY TX) 1-800-735-2989 (TDD)

February 15, 1995

Clifford Stewart
1000 Nixon
Longview, TX 75602

RE: BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
18" x 28" marker w/ post
Job # 09595, Gregg County

Dear Mr. Stewart:

I am pleased to notify you that the State Marker Review Board has reviewed and approved the above-referenced topic for an Official Texas Historical Marker.

Payment for the marker, in the amount of \$550.00, is now due. Please complete and return the enclosed payment form at your earliest convenience. Once payment for the marker is received, the application will be placed in line to have the marker inscription written. The inscription will not be written until after funds have been received. When the text is prepared, a copy will be sent to you and any parties listed below for review and approval.

The Texas Historical Commission congratulates you on your efforts to record and preserve Texas history.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Beeman, Administrator
Official Texas Historical Markers
Local History Programs

pc: Dr. Norman Black, Gregg CHC
Beth Dodson

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

Texas Historical Commission Staff (RMO), 5/27/95

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Gregg County (Job #09595)
Location: 323 S. Court St., Longview

BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH*

THE REV. RICHARD PERRY AND NINE
DEACONS ORGANIZED THIS CHURCH IN
1874. SERVICES WERE HELD UNDER A
BRUSH ARBOR ON LAND DONATED BY
THE REV. PERRY AND HIS WIFE BETTY
UNTIL A SANCTUARY WAS ERECTED
LATER THAT YEAR. A SUNDAY SCHOOL
WAS FORMED IN 1875. A NEW CHURCH
BUILDING WAS ERECTED IN 1884 AND
IN 1890 A WOMEN'S MISSIONARY
SOCIETY AND A YOUTH ASSOCIATION
WERE FORMED. A NEW SANCTUARY,
BUILT IN 1906, WAS REPLACED BY A
FOURTH SANCTUARY ERECTED HERE IN
1956. A JUNIOR MISSIONARY SOCIETY
WAS ORGANIZED IN 1958. THE CHURCH
CONTINUES TO SERVE THE AREA'S
AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY. **

SESQUICENTENNIAL OF TEXAS STATEHOOD 1845-1995***

*3/4 inch lettering
**1/2 inch lettering
***1/4 inch lettering

PLEASE CHECK ONE AND SIGN:

- I approve this text as written.
 Please consider the revisions as
noted on this copy.

Beth Dodson

(signature)



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

George W. Bush • Governor

John L. Nau, III • Chairman

Curtis Tunnell • Executive Director

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

July 26, 1995

Dr. Norman Black, Chair
Gregg CHC
417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, TX 75602

RE: BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
18" x 28" marker w/ post
Job #: 09595; Shipment to: ~~Clifford Stewart, 1000 Nixon, Longview, 75602~~

*Telephoned Frances Rickard, 8-2-95, to change
this to: 417 Mobberly.*

Dear Dr. Black:

We have ordered the above-referenced marker for casting. The completed marker should be ready for shipment within 12 weeks. A copy of the final inscription as it was sent to the foundry is enclosed for your files. According to our records, the marker should be shipped to the address above. If these instructions have changed during the marker process, please let me know as soon as possible so that I may notify the foundry.

If you have not already done so, this would be a good time to begin planning the marker dedication ceremony. However, please avoid setting the dedication date until the marker is received. The estimated shipping date above does not take into account potential shipping problems or other unforeseen delays, and the best laid dedication plans could be upset if planned around this time estimate. We will notify you and all parties listed below once the marker has been shipped from the foundry. A guide to planning a dedication ceremony is available from our office upon request. Since this is a state program, we suggest that your state senator and/or representative be included in the program, as well as your county judge and commissioners who have appointed your county historical commission.

Enclosed is a form for announcing the dedication in the THC's bi-monthly newsletter, The Medallion; in the marker dedication calendar, which is distributed to agency commissioners and staff; and in the monthly News for County Historical Commissions, once details have been finalized.

Again, please let me know if there has been a change in the shipping address, or if you would like a marker dedication guide.

Sincerely,

Egina G. Kaase
Office Manager
Local History Programs

pc: Clifford Stewart
Beth Dodson



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

George W. Bush • Governor

John L. Nau, III • Chairman

Curtis Tunnell • Executive Director

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

June 5, 1995

Dr. Norman Black, Chair
Gregg CHC
417 Mobberly Ave.
Longview, TX 75602

RE: BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
18" x 28" subject marker with post
Job #09595

Dear Dr. Black:

Enclosed is the proposed inscription for the above-referenced marker. (Please note that this is a working copy, including filing and foundry instructions. The right-hand margin, which is uneven in this copy, will be justified on the finished marker.)

Please review and verify the information contained in the inscription. In particular, be sure to check all names and dates, and make certain we have noted the correct marker location. Please contact other sponsors of this application to discuss the wording of this marker. If you approve the inscription, sign where indicated and return it to me. You also may want to make a copy of the inscription for your files.

If you have corrections to make or changes to suggest, please do so on the enclosed copy of the inscription and return it to me with the marked corrections. To ensure that I catch all your suggested changes, I ask that you not type a new version of the inscription. The revised wording will need to meet style and spacing requirements; suggestions for new information not documented in your narrative history must be sent with appropriate reference notes.

The marker will not be ordered for casting until the county historical commission and other persons or groups listed below have approved the inscription. Again, to avoid any unnecessary delays, please consult with all parties to decide that all are in accord before returning your approval or submitting any suggested changes.

Enclosed for your information is a form for ordering other marker-related items. Any order you may wish to place with this form may be made at this time or whenever in the future.

Sincerely,

Ruben Moreland-Ochoa

Ruben Moreland-Ochoa, Historian
Official Texas Historical Markers
Local History Programs

c: Clifford Stewart
Beth Dodson

SI NN-211 L NN C.I. VYN 29
 TRAILER NUMBER



CUSTOMER COPY
 GENERAL OFFICES
 P. O. BOX 2638
 WACO, TEXAS 76702-2638
 ALPHA CODE CENF

6600
 FREIGHT BILL NUMBER
 58066356-5

ORIG. JCT. POINT	C/L F/B NUMBER AND DATE	INTERSTATE NO	SHIPPER'S OR GBL NO. 09595	DATE 11/27/95
DEST. JCT. POINT	ROUTE	PAY OUT / ADV.	CFL NET	BYD. PAY OUT
R NORMAN BLACK 17 MOBBERLY ONGUTEU TX 75602			SOUTHWELL CO 928 N ALAMO SAN ANTONIO TX 78215	
0000000000			4800	0 BT 6600 0520250001

D. PCS.	HM	COMM. CODE	DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLES AND MARKS	WEIGHT	RATE	CHARGES
1			HISTORICAL MARKERS "BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH" (GREGG) 5 SHIPMENTS PICKED UP CENF 25 TEX 00340 @@@SYN	46	M	
1			*PREPAID CHARGES ON INVOICE COPY ONLY* THANK YOU FOR YOUR BUSINESS	46		

Dr. Norman A. Black

*CPLO
7414416
11-29-95*

REGULATIONS REQUIRE PAYMENT OF FREIGHT
 CHARGES WITHIN 15 DAYS

Bethel Baptist to dedicate historical marker Sunday

Bethel Baptist Church, which is nearly 122 years old, will culminate two years of research with the dedication of a historical marker Sunday.

The unveiling and dedication ceremony will begin at about noon, following the 10:40 a.m. service, outside the front entrance of the church at 323 S. Court St.

The Texas Historical Commission and the Gregg County Historical Commission are bestowing the marker.

Bethel Baptist Church, founded in November 1874, has had a committee research the history of the congregation, the land and the property, according to the Rev. Lonnie Williams, pastor.

The existing structure, built in 1957, is on the original site of the church. The church added an educational building in the mid-1970s.

"A lot of history is here," Williams said. "A lot of dedicated people have worked many years here at Bethel Church. Some of the great leaders in the Longview community and all over America have come out of Bethel."

The congregation, which is a member of the National Baptist Convention of America Inc., has about 400 members.

**Bethel Baptist sets
marker dedication**

The Bethel Baptist Church, along with the Texas Historical Commission and the Gregg County Historical Commission, will dedicate a Texas historical marker at 323 S. Court St. Sunday following the 10:40 church service.

The ceremony will be conducted by Dr. Norman Black of the Gregg County Historical Commission.



Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

323 South Court Street • P.O. Box 8548 • Longview, Texas 75607

Church Telephone
(903) 758-2685

Church Study
(903) 758-2202

Pastor's Home Telephone
(903) 234-1401

The Rev. Lonnie L'Tim Williams
Pastor

OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION

MAY 26, 1996

Welcome and Introduction of Guest

Invocation

Reading of Marker

Unveiling of Marker

Dedication of Marker

Prayer

Choral Benediction - "The Lord Bless You and Keep You"

Benediction

Dr. Norman Black

Rev. Lonnie L. Williams

Dr. Napoleon G. Byrdsong

Clifford E. Stewart

The Rev. Lonnie L. Williams

The Rev. Lonnie L. Williams

Ronald Gentry

The Rev. Lonnie L. Williams

A Church That Is Bible Based, Christ Centered and Spirit Led ... With A Caring Touch

Welcome to the dedication of an Official Texas Historical Marker: Bethel Baptist Church. These proceedings are authorized by the State of Texas and sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission and the Gregg County Historical Commission. Bethel Baptist Church is a solid an institution as there is in the City of Longview and Gregg County. From the beginning, under the leadership of the Rev. Richard Perry continuously through 122 years to the leadership of the Rev. Lonnie L. Williams this church has been a paragon in the Service to God and in this community. Your Research Committee has done its work well and Bethel Baptist Church certainly qualifies and deserves to be honored today by the awarding of an Official Texas Historical Marker.

GUESTS: From G.C.H.C: Beth Dodson, W.A. Williams & wife, Trula.

Dr. Ellie Gaston, Director of the Gregg County Historical Museum is present with her ubiquitous camcord documenting these proceedings as she does all these dedications.

The INVOCATION will be given by your pastor, the Rev. Lonnie L. Williams
.....Thank you Rev. Williams.

Dr. Napoleon Byrdsong will now READ the TEXT of the marker followed by the UNVEILING by Mr. Clifford Stewart. *Mr. Stewart thanked Dr. B., Beth Dodson & Carolyn Hudock (& introduced husband, Jim.)*

Rev. Williams will DEDICATE the marker and proceed with the ceremony.

HISTORY OF BETHEL BAPTIST MISSIONARY CHURCH

LONGVIEW, TEXAS

"A church that is Bible based, Christ centered and Spirit led....with a
¹
caring touch."

Bethel Baptist Missionary Church of Longview, Texas, will celebrate its
one hundred twentieth anniversary on November twentieth at three o'clock
in the afternoon in 1994.

On October 25, 1874, the Reverend Richard Perry led the following brothers
into the organization of Bethel Baptist Church. This group constituted the
first Board of Deacons. They were: Bros. Jack Holman, John Johnson, James
Robinson, Jack Smith, Tom Wilk, Alf Simon, C. B. Bradley, L. M. Moore,
²
and C. H. Gregg.

The church stood on one-half acre of land deeded by Reverend Richard
³
Perry and his wife Betty.

The religious services were held under a brush arbor until a frame church
⁴
was built during 1874.

While the building was under construction, Saint Mark Colored Methodist
Episcopal Church shared their building for services. Bethel held services
two Sundays in the month and St. Mark the other two, and each group joined
⁵
the other in worship.

The second building was erected in 1884 under the leadership of Reverend
J. F. Thompson.

A Gothic brick structure was erected in 1906. Under the leadership of
⁶
Reverend E. C. Hawkins, the present structure was built in 1956.

The old church that was built in 1906 was demolished during the administration
of T. F. Simmons in 1967. It was during Reverend Simmons administration
that Bethel purchased a parsonage at 19 Wylie Street and an educational
building was completed in 1972.

From 1874 until 1973, our church has been honored with ministers with grace and pride. It was through the combined forces of membership and the ministers who came as pilgrims to Bethel, each adding his contribution, ~~to~~ a greater church. ~~They~~ ^{the ministers} were: Reverends Richard Perry, C. B. Martin,

Incomplete sentence
add this which led to Bethel becoming

John H. Baptist, H. R. Wilson, J. F. Thompson, S. E. J. Watson, T. W. Dailey, A. P. Cooksey, Joe E. Campbell, Joseph H. Harrington, T. T. Newman, W. A. I. McDonald, and E. C. Hawkins.

Some of the ministers listed went on to do greater works after leaving Bethel. Reverend H. R. Wilson is credited with having built the first brick church for Negroes in the Louisiana District Association. This was in 1918. Reverend A. P. Cooksey was the first full-time pastor of Bethel.

Ministers that have taken the leadership of Bethel since 1973 are:

T. F. Simmons, Jasper W. Scott and presently Dexter B. Upshaw, Sr. Bethel ~~is~~ ^{is} proud of the new ministries that have been added. They are: church library, bus ministry, youth field trips, YES ministry, news letter, and video and tape ministry.

On October 13, 1993, Bethel purchased from Gerald Bottoms and his wife, Linda Bottoms, the following described property lying and situated in the County of Gregg, State of Texas. All that certain lot, tract and parcel of land known and described as Lot No. 62, in Block 220 as shown on the New City Block Map of Longview, Gregg County, Texas. The purchase price was \$15,000.00.

September 14, 1993, Marion I. Johnson, 1027 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria, Virginia 22302, donated Lot 7A (being the south 1/2 of Lot 7), in New City Block 220 of Longview Original Town, City of Longview, Gregg County, Texas, according to map or plat of record in the Deed Records of Gregg County, Texas. This land was given in memory of his father,

Zack Johnson, whose father was John Johnson, one of the early deacons of Bethel Baptist Church.

The acquisition of these two pieces of property will be used for further expansion of Bethel. In the near future, Bethel will use the present parking lot to erect a Family Center and the newly acquired land will serve as a parking lot.

Bethel Missionary Baptist Church thanks God for His blessings, and to the members that came before us. To show our appreciation to Him and earlier generations, we seek to have erected an Official Texas Historical Marker.

Clifford W. Stewart

ENDNOTES

1. Church Bulletin, November 22, ~~1981~~¹⁹⁸¹.
2. Education Building Souvenir Brochure, February 4, 1973.
3. Bethel Baptist Church Handbook, November 22, 1981.
4. Ibid. (Page 7)
5. St. Mark C. M. E. Church Brochure, February 10, 1988.
6. Ibid.
7. The History of Bethel. (A paper)
8. Church Handbook, 1991.
9. Church Anniversary Program, 1992.
10. Deed Records of Gregg County.
11. Ibid.

Mike
Huezdos'

ANSWER LINE

Got a
question?
Call the
Longview
News-
Journal's
Answer Line
at 758-4527. And watch for
Answer Line Thursdays on
KETK-TV Region 56.



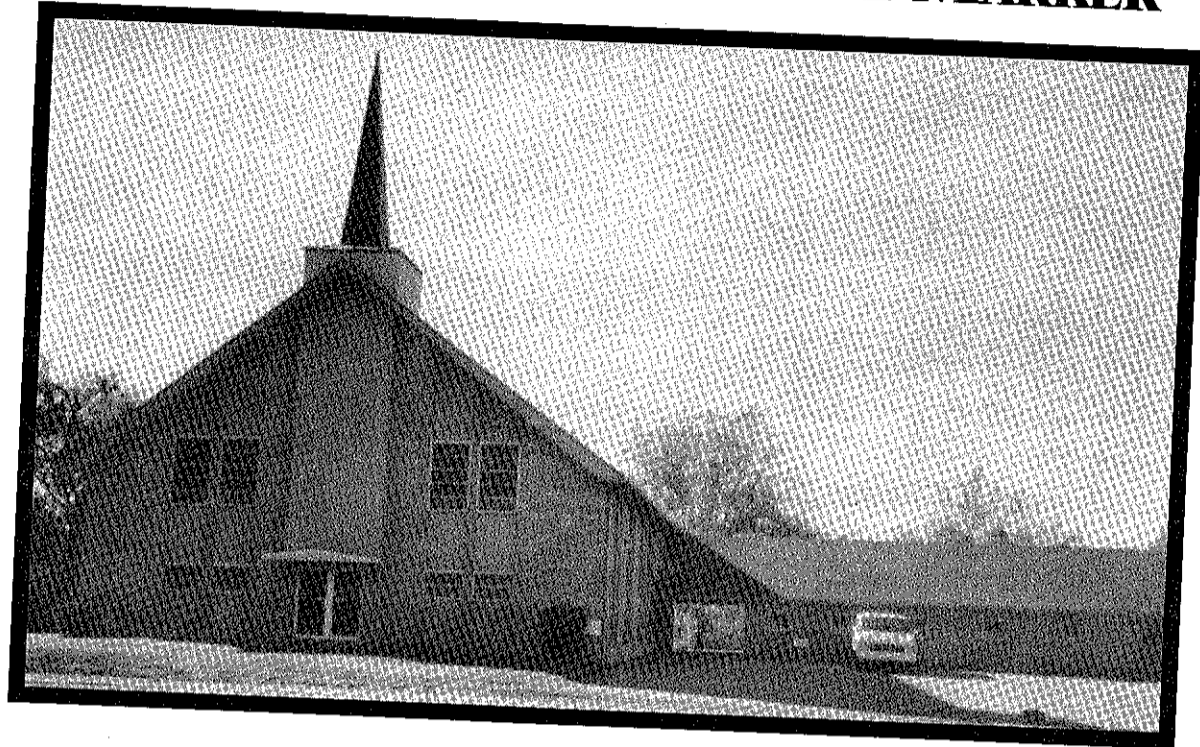
Couple provides public service

Q Do you recall Mr. and Mrs. Johnson on Martin Luther King Boulevard who keep the area surrounding the historical marker, the little garden surrounding it. Mr. Johnson requested that the city provide water at this gardening site and they've offered to run a hydrant over there at a cost of \$300. He is willing, so I've been told, to run it off his meter if the city will put in the line. Can't the city help since this provides a direct service for them?

A You have a point. The city appreciates its volunteers and wants to help assist volunteer efforts where possible. Consequently, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson will be contacted and water will be provided to assist in their volunteer efforts.



DEDICATION
of an
OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER



BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Longview, Texas

May 26, 1996

The Reverend Lonnie L'Tim Williams, Pastor

Sponsored by

THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
THE GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
BETHEL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH