



## Drudee Angus Ave

Wm. H. Castberry owned headright  
left property to his daughter  
- Mrs. Nixon. → sold to Dr. J. W.  
Allison in 1858. Dr. Allison  
began construction of house  
in 1859. Dr. A. died in 1884 -  
left property to wife - Joan  
Allison. Sold prop. to Sarah  
Waterman Hunter in 1885. The  
Hunter sold prop. to a family  
named Turner, in 1914. They  
sold it to the Lathrop  
Family in 1928. Lathrop  
sold prop. to the Ziegler fam.  
Zieglers sold to Dick Chick  
in 1956.

Dundee  
Ark  
2

Redd from Rebecca Gerrett  
June 25, 2001  
(written by her brother)

In July of 1839, the army of the Republic of Texas defeated a combined force of Cherokee, Delaware and Shawnee Indians at the Battle of the Neches, in what is now Van Zandt County. The Indians were driven north of the Red River into the Oklahoma Territory of the United States. Subsequently, the sporadic settlement of Northeast Texas rapidly became a flood of new settlers from the depleted regions of the older Southern states.

Jefferson was founded in 1839, Marshall in 1841, and in 1846, Gilmer was founded and became the county seat of the newly formed Upshur County. Within Upshur County was the headright of William H. Castleberry. Upon his death, he left the property to his daughter Mrs. Nixon. She sold the property in 1858 to Dr. J. N. Allison, a physician who had come to Texas from Virginia the previous year.

In 1859, Dr. Allison began construction of his residence on his newly acquired holdings. The house was constructed with walls of solid brick, hand-made by slaves on the plantation. The foundations were constructed 6' deep and four feet wide. The lower story walls were 18" thick, and the walls of the upper story were made 12" thick, as were the walls of the rear ell, and the kitchen which was separate from the main structure.

As shown on an 1871 photograph of the house, the house was built in an "L" shape with a two story front facade, and a one story ell to the rear. The architectural style was Greek Revival, with a low pitched hipped roof and a small gabled pediment above the front porch. The entablature of the pediment is unornamented, but shows a complete arrangement of cornice, frieze and architrave. The cornice of crown molding extends around the entire second story, and the separate kitchen. The original tetrastyle columns were paired on either side the front porch and were full height. Above the front door there was a small balcony, that was not engaged to the columns. The doorway was framed with a transom above, and sidelights on either side. The windows are six-over-six arrangement typical of the Greek Revival style, with slightly pedimented lintels. The house is raised above the ground level, and the lower raised sections of the walls are plastered to resemble stone.

The original room arrangement provided a central foyer containing the stairs to the second floor, with rooms on either side on both floors. The dining room and a warming kitchen were located in an ell to the rear. A long one story gallery ran along the rear of the house, and then down the length of the ell. The kitchen was detached and also has a hipped roof. Fireplaces are located in all of the original rooms. The chimneys on the ends of the house are

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exterior, and the chimney in the ell is interior between the dining room and the warming kitchen.

With the exception of the rear gallery, and the original columns, all of the original structure is still extant. However, there have been several additions, mainly to the rear, but a small wing has also been added on the north side of the front facade.

Dr. Allison became a wealthy cotton planter, owning at one time over 4,000 acres of cotton plantations in the area. He was instrumental in the organization of Gregg County from sections of Upshur and Rusk Counties in 1873. His home was in that section of Upshur County that became Gregg County. Upon his death in 1884, the plantation went to his wife Joan R. Allison, who sold the property to Sarah Waterman Hunter in 1885. The Hunters established a family cemetery on the east side of the house, which is now located across Dundee Road from the home. The cemetery has recently been awarded the Texas Historical Commission medallion. At some point during the Hunter's ownership, they removed the original two-story columns from the front facade, and constructed a much larger first floor porch. The original pediment was left in place, with one story columns resting on the upper deck of the lower porch.

The Hunters sold the home in 1914 to a family named Farmer, and they in turn sold the property to the Lathrop family in 1928. The time of the Lathrop occupancy was a second historically noteworthy period for the home. In 1930, near the town of Kilgore, the Daisy Bradford No. 3 oil well blew oil 100' up through the derrick, and began a frenzy of oil exploration which resulted in the development of the great East Texas Oil Field. Overnight tiny communities such as Kilgore, Gladewater and White Oak became boomtowns of feverish activity. Approximately 12 miles to the northeast, Mr. Lathrop leased his 300 acres as part of an 8,300 acre block to B. A. Skinner, Sr. The F. K. Lathrop A-1 well was spudded on December 3, 1930. At a depth of 3,500', Mr. Skinner persuaded the Arkansas Fuel Company to buy half-interest in the venture, and assume operations. Little did he know at that time that they were only 69' above the richest oil field in Texas! The well blew in on January 26, 1931, producing an impressive 18,000 barrels of oil per day. That one well produced 533,080 barrels of oil during it's first 35 years of production, and continues to produce.

The well (located only about 1,500' to the southwest of the house) made Mr. Lathrop an overnight oil millionaire. He added new bathrooms with parquet flooring on both floors of the house, taking in the southern end of the gallery to accommodate these additions.

In 1941, the Lathrop family sold the property (but not the mineral rights) to the Zeigler family. The Zieglers replaced the wooden columns and banisters on the front porch with wrought iron to reflect the Spanish Renaissance influence which was popular at the time. In 1956 the Zieglers sold the property to the Chick family. The Chicks added the small wing on the north side of the front facade which houses an additional bedroom and bath. They called this the "Holly Room" in honor of an enormous American Holly tree which stood immediately in front of the room. They also took in the remaining sections of the rear gallery to make a large family room. The Chicks established an Angus cattle ranch on the property, which they named "Dundee" after the Scottish birthplace of that cattle breed. In 1965, the home was awarded the Texas Historical Commission medallion. In her application to the State Historical Commission, Mrs. Chick provided the names as "the Allison-Chick House" and the "Dundee Angus Ranch House" (which is the name recorded on the State Historical Medallion on the front of the house).

# Longview Sunday News-Journal

TEA FEATURE SERVICE LONGVIEW, TEXAS, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1963 FULL NEWS SERVICE OF AP AND UPI

## Two Historic Homes To Get Awards Friday

Two Gregg County residences of historic interest will be given medallions in public ceremonies at 3 and 4 p.m. next Friday.

The residences are the Rucker-Campbell home at 433 South Center Street and the Allison-Chick home on Dundee Drive.

The award ceremonies will begin at 3 p.m. at the Rucker-Campbell home, with County Judge R. E. Peppy Blount as master of ceremonies, and the program at the Allison-Chick home will be at 4 p.m., followed by an informal reception there.

In both instances, the medallions will be presented by George W. Hill of Austin, executive director (See HOMES, Page 2-C)

## HOMES-

(Continued From Page One)

of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee.

Histories of the two dwellings will be given by H. L. Foster Sr., the Rev. Warrin Fry, rector of Trinity Episcopal Church, will give the invocation and Dr. W. Morris Ford, pastor of First Baptist Church, will give the benediction.

Others scheduled to participate are members of the Gregg County Historical Survey Committee, including Mrs. Paul Belding, chairman; Dr. Norman Black, vice chairman; Miss Dolly Northcutt, secretary; Mrs. Rogers Lacy, Mrs. Gaston Howard, Edward Woods, Mrs. T. W. Swiley, Dale McDaniel, H. L. Foster Sr., all of Longview; Mrs. Otto Staerker of Gladewater; and Mrs. Bob Pederson of Kilgore.

The Rucker-Campbell home was built in 1885 by Asa Rucker and was bought by Judge Jim Campbell 10 years later. The Allison-Chick home, 104 years old, was built by Dr. Jonathan Allison and, in 1957, was purchased by the Dick Chick family.



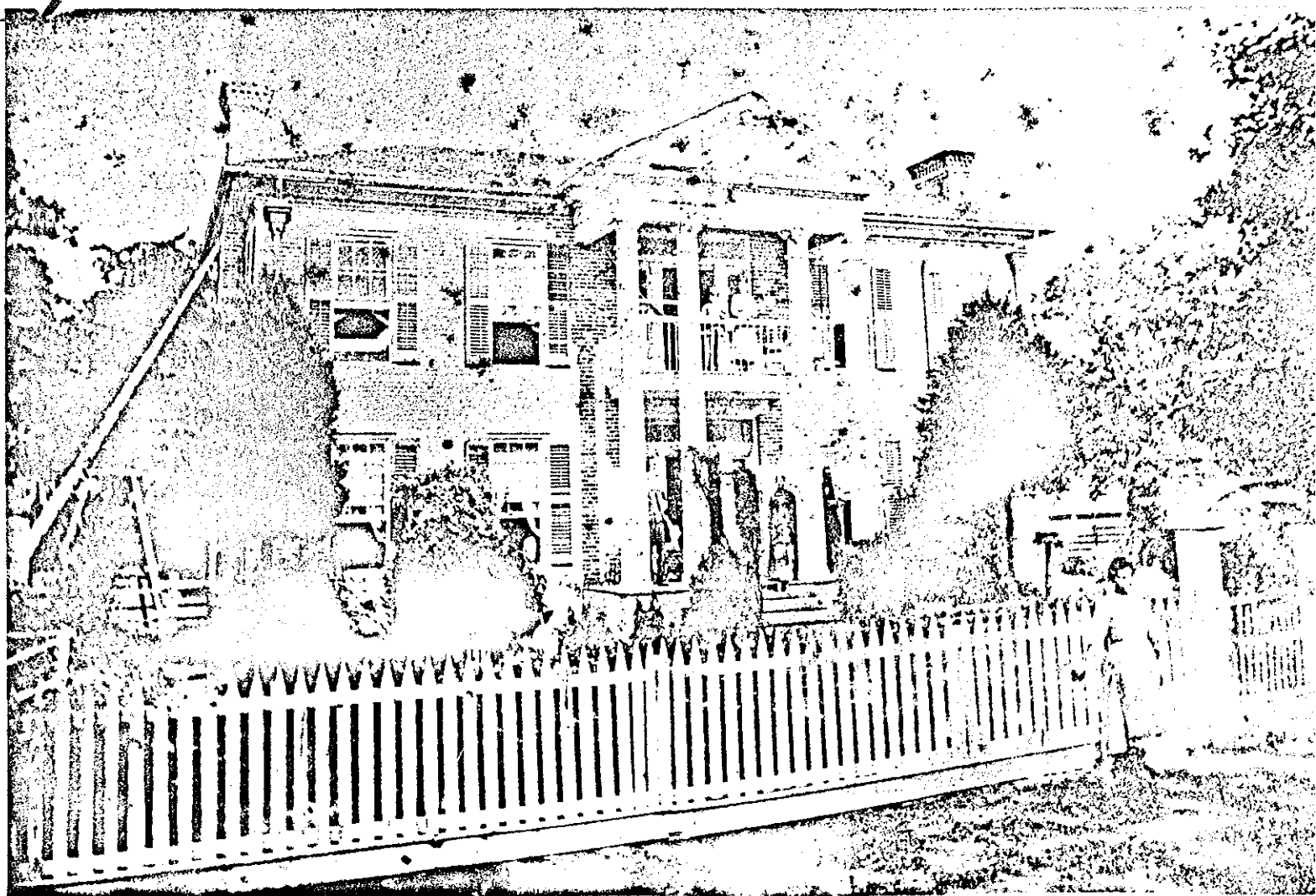
14" x 9" Medallion Plate  
inscription  
Gregg County

DUNDEE ANGUS RANCH\*  
HOME\*\*,1859.\*\*\*BUILT\*\*BY A  
PIONEER PHYSICIAN,DR.J.N.  
ALLISON,WHO BROUGHT SOME  
MATERIALS FROM VIRGINIA.  
BRICKS MADE BY SLAVE LABOR  
FROM CLAY ON BUILDING SITE.  
LOCATED NEARBY IS LATHROP  
DISCOVERY OILWELL,EXTENDING  
FAMOUS EAST TEXAS FIELD.\*\*

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK,1964.\*\*\*

\*1/2" lettering  
\*\*3/8" lettering this word and  
all the text  
\*\*\*1/4" lettering

FILE COPY-DO NOT REMOVE



## BUILT TO STAND

The above picture, taken in 1870, shows one of the oldest houses in Gregg County. Built by Dr. J. N. Allison, a Virginian who, tradition says, brought some of the furnishings and materials with him. Construction was started in 1859 and was finished in 1863. The house was built of bricks made by slave labor from clay found on the building site. It is located off the

Spring Hill road on the Robinson survey.

The discovery well of the Lathrop Field is on the property. The house was modernized by the Lathrops and until recently was the home of the Le Roy Zeiglers. The place is now known as the Dundee Angus Ranch and is owned by the Dick L. Chick Jr. family.

JOHN BEN SHEPPERD  
P. O. BOX 3908  
ODESSA, TEXAS

RECEIVED  
NOV 21 1962

TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY  
COMMITTEE

November 17, 1962

TO: Mrs. Betty Keefe

RE: Chick House, Longview, Gregg County, Texas

The attached information should be appended to this Medallion application. Dr. J. N. Allison, the builder, was a distinguished physician, ~~author, poet, (he had several novels and volumes of poetry printed),~~ and was of the finest Southern tradition.

8/11/64  
I'm not sure  
this is same  
Dr Allison  
who

The Lathrops who later owned the home were also an old East Texas family and the discovery well in Gregg County was brought in on this place. This was approximately a 25-mile "step out" from the Joiner well in Rusk County and is of great significance to the area. Since I have acquired this information I have changed the inscription. I am placing on the Highway 80 Medallion list this inscription: "Built in 1859 by pioneer doctor who brought some of the material and furnishings from Virginia. Bricks made by slave labor from clay on building site. First oil in ~~state~~ <sup>Country</sup> discovered here."

I am also listing it as the Dundee Angus Ranch instead of the Chick Residence.

JBS:ml

8/7/64  
I'm not sure  
this was same  
Dr Allison who  
was poet & later  
lived - Gladwin  
JBS



Staff photo

A Houston lawyer, who owns the Dundee Angus Ranch in Longview, has asked the Gregg County

commissioners court for tax exempt status for the property, claiming it is a historical landmark.

## Request for tax exemption catches officials by surprise

### From 1-D

ed through the appraisal district, but Carroll said the historical exemption is the only one which can be granted or denied by the governing bodies of the taxing units.

When the request was presented to the commissioners court last week, commissioners wanted to know whether the house and land produced income, and they asked Black to communicate with Bro for more details.

Construction on the house began in 1859, and it was completed in 1863. Dr. J. N. Allison built the house, which features bricks made from clay found at the building site.

Black said the house is not currently occupied, and is kept up by a caretaker. He said it has been preserved in excellent condition.

The law provides tax exemptions for all or part of the value of property if it has been designated as a historical landmark by the Texas Historical Commission, or if it has been designated as "a historically significant site in need of tax relief to encourage its preservation."

County Judge Henry Atkinson said he did not think granting historical exemptions would have a significant impact on the tax rolls, but he said the county needs to establish criteria before granting the applications.

"I don't know what we will do, but some standard needs to be set," he said.

He said there should be an effort to preserve a structure if it points out to the public a place which has historical value.

It is also a compliment to the owner to receive a landmark designation, and anyone who receives it should undertake the responsibility to preserve the landmark, he said.

And he said the commissioners court, when reviewing applications, should consider the extent of owner's preservation efforts.



TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 13, 2001

Gerald B. Bratz  
Stuckey Drive  
Longview, TX 75601

Re: *Recorded Texas Historic Landmark project review  
Dundee Angus Ranch House, Longview, Gregg County (RTHL)*

Dear Mr. Bratz:

Thank you for sending information regarding proposed project work on your Recorded Texas Historic Landmark. This letter presents the comments of the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission.

The review staff, led by Chase Robertson, has reviewed the project documentation provided, and has the following comments and suggestions:

- We agree that site drainage improvements should include removing segments of concrete edging and raising bed levels for increased drainage. Because the edging does not appear in the 1965 photograph of the building, it may be the cause of a significant amount of the water retention during the recent years.
- Please describe in detail how you will avoid water infiltration at the metal flashings and other roof locations. The structural examination states that "roof flashing does not extend into the masonry joints" and that some water infiltration occurs at uncovered chimneys. These specifically identified issues should be addressed in your detailed rehabilitation plan.
- Water infiltration may be arrested once drainage improvements and exterior repairs are made. The use of clear masonry sealant does not appear to be warranted at this time.
- We do not recommend the installation of underground drainage piping at this time. The other methods of improving drainage should be attempted first to avoid creating an unnecessary system that requires maintenance.
- The structural examination determined that foundation settlement has occurred at the corners of the structure. If this settlement is still active, these foundation problems may need to be resolved before the building can be weatherproofed.

Thank you for your interest in the cultural heritage of Texas, and for the opportunity to comment on this proposed project in accordance with Recorded Texas Historic Landmark legislation. We look forward to further consultation with your office and hope to maintain a partnership that will foster effective historic preservation. **If you have any**

questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Chase Robertson at 512/463-6183.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chase Robertson".

Chase Robertson, Preservation Specialist  
for: F. Lawrence Oaks, State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: ✓ Dr. Norman Black, Gregg County Historical Commission  
FLO/CR



TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 4th, 2001

Gerald B. Bratz  
Stuckey Drive  
Longview, TX 75601

Re: *Recorded Texas Historic Landmark project review  
Dundee Angus Ranch House, Longview, Gregg County (RTHL)*

Dear Mr. Bratz:

Once again, thank you for sending information regarding proposed project work on your Recorded Texas Historic Landmark. This letter presents the final comments of the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission.

After consultation with staff, we have determined that the project as currently proposed is sympathetic to the historic structure. We appreciate your consideration of our written suggestions.

As you know, it is standard procedure before any paint removal to do a small test patch in a inconspicuous location in order to choose an effective process that won't damage the building. After the paint removal, our only remaining concern regards the use of a clear masonry sealant. We understand the application of the sealant is not currently planned. However, should the owner consider applying a masonry sealant in the future we would appreciate an opportunity to comment.

Thank you for your interest in the cultural heritage of Texas, and for the opportunity to comment on this proposed project in accordance with Recorded Texas Historic Landmark legislation. We look forward to further consultation with your office and hope to maintain a partnership that will foster effective historic preservation. **If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Chase Robertson at 512/463-6183.**

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chase Robertson".

Chase Robertson, Preservation Specialist  
for: F. Lawrence Oaks, State Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Dr. Norman Black, Gregg County Historical Commission  
FLO/CR