

Elaine Bostic
5/26/67

12" x 6" medallion plate
Gregg County

1020

FINCH FAMILY HOME*

EARLY VICTORIAN COTTAGE

BUILT 1898 BY JOHN FINCH

ON SITE OF FAMILY'S LOG

CABIN. DESCENDANTS ACTIVE

IN COMMUNITY LIFE.**

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 1967***

*1/2" lettering

**3/8" lettering

***1/4" lettering

RECEIVED
READY FOR

JUN 8 1967

SOUTHWELL JARDER
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

FILE COPY - DO NOT REMOVE

APPROVED
6-7-67
J.L.

JOHN LANDRUM FINCH, b. July 18, 1839, Spartanburg, S.C.
mar. Eugenia Althea Poole, Jan. 17, 1884, Longview, Tex.
Eugenia Althea Poole, b. Aug. 2, 1849, New Boston, Tex.
d. Sept. 17, 1937, Longview, Texas.

John Landrum Finch d. Aug. 23, 1911, Longview, Tex.
He was named for the Rev. John Landrum who united in marriage Matilda Durham and Andrew Coan Hoy. He removed to Hallville, Tex. where he (John L. Finch) had a harness and saddle shop. He brought with him a Melodeon which is now owned by his granddaughter, Elaine Markham (now wife of Dr. Reid Clanton). In 1872 he came to Longview where he united with the recently organized First Baptist Church, continuing his membership there throughout his life. He became a Mason when a resident of Spartanburg, S.C. He served in the Confederate Army during the War Between the States.

John L. Finch was the son Mary Ann Coan, b. Aug. 28, 1806, Spartanburg, S.C. and John Smith Finch, b. Oct. 22, 1804, Spartanburg. They mar. Jan. 26, 1826, Spartanburg. Her mother was born in Ireland and he of English descent.

From: Northcutt and Allied Families, Northcutt-Castleberry,
Pgs. 26-27.

John L. Finch was a very stable citizen of early Longview. He first lived in a log house on the site or on same tract of land as present Finch Home which we are marking. He had a large family all outstanding in business and cultural fields. One a well known teacher for many years, one married a leading physician and a last surviving son John Finch lives in home with wife today. He land developer and community developer. A granddaughter Eva Jean Finch mar. to our former County Judge, R.E. "Peppy" Blount, former football star Univ. of Texas. Descendants of original still quite prominent in area.

House: Early Victorian cottage (one story) type. Gingerbread trim, many chimneys still standing. Most unique design has two front rooms opening on to front porch and not directly into main body of house. These used for guests and office room for owner.

First In Texas Series

Dedication Aug. 6 For Hays Marker

The first of a series of state markers honoring Texas law officers will be dedicated Aug. 6 in Longview, honoring the late Longview peace officer Martin Hays.

F. Lee Lawrence of Tyler, president of the Texas Historical Foundation, will be the keynote speaker at ceremonies at Grace Hill Cemetery.

The marker notes that Hays was among the first Texas sheriffs to organize junior deputies.

Also scheduled to speak are Charles R. Woodburn of Amarillo, president of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee, and John Ben Shepperd of Odessa, member of the historical foundation.

Meanwhile, a Texas Historical Building Medallion has been approved for the old Finch home at 2010 East Cotton Street.

According to Amelia Belding, Gregg County chairman of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee, the marker has been reserved for the house which was built by John Landrum Finch, father of the present occupant, John Markham Finch, in 1898.

John L. Finch came to Texas, a Civil War veteran, from Spartanburg, S.C., in 1869. Among his

possessions brought from South Carolina which have survived him, is a unique melodeon, now owned by a granddaughter, Elaine Markham Clanton. The Finches from South Carolina first settled in Hallsville, but moved west as the railroad did. They came to Longview in 1872, the year that the city was incorporated.

John L. Finch was active in the newly organized First Baptist Church and remained a member all of his life.

The old Finch home was built to replace a log cabin in which John Markham Finch was born. (See DEDICATION, Page 2-C)

Sunday, July 30, 1967

DEDICATION--

(Continued From Page 1)

He has lived on the old home place "on an off" all of his life and now occupies the house with his wife, Myradel Howard Finch. He is the father of Eva Jean Finch Blount, wife of former Gregg County Judge R. E. Peppy Blount.

The medallion marker will be inscribed: "FINCH FAMILY HOME, EARLY VICTORIAN COTTAGE, BUILT 1898 BY JOHN FINCH ON SITE OF FAMILY'S LOG CABIN. DESCENDANTS ACTIVE IN COMMUNITY LIFE."

The Dalai Lama of Tibet is the only ruler in the world who is regarded as a god by his people.

Norman Black

From: "Norman Black" <norman.black@co.gregg.tx.us>
To: <Aroara2010@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 01, 2002 12:43 PM
Subject: Re: Finch House

Dear Mr. Audet:

I am pleased that you are now living in the Finch House. It is one of my favorite historic structures in Gregg County, also, it means a lot to me personally as Eva Jean and I were in the Longview schools since the fourth grade (for me) in 1936. Mr. and Mrs. Finch were very fine and likeable people.

As you probably know, the house is an Early Victorian cottage with gingerbread trim and has many chimneys. The most unique features of the design are the two front rooms that open onto the front porch and not directly into the house. One was used for travelers for overnight visits and the other as an office. Either Mr. John Finch or Eva Jean told me Mr. Finch, as a boy, sort of dreaded the times when the visiting preacher came by because his father always had him (John) unhitch the horses from the buggy and tend to them in the back yard.

I hesitate to drive up to inspect the historical marker, which cannot be seen from the road, but I believe someone would inform me if it needed attention. Several years ago the marker was attached to a previous wood picket fence and was about to fall off. I sent it back to the foundry to have it mounted on the post and it is sunk, not very deeply, onto solid rock. We could not get through the hard rock to set it the 33 inches normally done. It's pretty strong as it has concrete around the post for a couple of feet, as I remember. Of course, I know a few more personal events about the place and have some information on the Finch genealogy but Eva Jean is a much better source.

----- Original Message -----

From: Aroara2010@aol.com
To: norman.black@co.gregg.tx.us
Sent: Saturday, June 01, 2002 8:34 AM
Subject: Finch House

Dear Dr. Black,

I recently started renting the Finch House from Mrs. Eva Jean Blount. I also love to read anything about History and get a big kick out of being in historical places. When I first saw this house I was so awestruck that I think I still have bruises from my jaw hitting the floor. What I am writing about is to see if you had any more information on the house and the history surrounding it. And to see if you know of any grants I could find to help restore the house to a much more fitting condition-- since it is a Historically Registered Home. Any help you can offer is very appreciated.

Thanks much
J. M. Audet

6/1/02

Norman Black

From: "Norman Black" <norman.black@co.gregg.tx.us>
To: <Aroara2010@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, June 01, 2002 1:27 PM
Subject: Re: Finch House

Dear Mr. Audet:

I failed to answer your question about grants in my first replay to your e-mail (which I hope you received). Yes, there certainly is a grant available for a structure such as yours, having an Official Texas Historical Landmark designation. The application form should come to me this month. I must tell you; however, the Texas Historical Commission unfortunately places these applications, those for old historic homes, at the bottom of the list for recommendation. Never the less, if I were you I would apply for a grant and as soon as the forms come to me I will get in touch with you and assist you in some manner.

Sincerely,

Norman Black

----- Original Message -----

From: Aroara2010@aol.com
To: norman.black@co.gregg.tx.us
Sent: Saturday, June 01, 2002 8:34 AM
Subject: Finch House

Dear Dr. Black,

I recently started renting the Finch House from Mrs. Eva Jean Blount. I also love to read anything about History and get a big kick out of being in historical places. When I first saw this house I was so awestruck that I think I still have bruises from my jaw hitting the floor. What I am writing about is to see if you had any more information on the house and the history surrounding it. And to see if you know of any grants I could find to help restore the house to a much more fitting condition-- since it is a Historically Registered Home. Any help you can offer is very appreciated.

Thanks much
J. M. Audet

6/1/02