

The 100 Year History of Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 AF & AM

PREFACE

In the mid 1840s portions of East Texas were sparsely settled. Indians had been the predominant occupants of this land until 1839. Anglo-Americans from the Deep South began to realize the advantage of moving to this new land and making a home among the forested rolling hills. Many of these pioneers were farmers and were betting their entire lives on the inexpensive, rich, fertile land of southeast Upshur County. (This area became Gregg County in 1873.)

There were several roads scattered throughout Upshur County because of the proximity of the towns of Jefferson, Tyler and Shreveport. People as far west as Dallas traveled the Marshall-Tyler Roads (now U. S. Highway 80) to these cities to sell their cotton, wool and hides and to purchase supplies. Oxen-drawn wagons, often with as many as one hundred wagons in a train, followed this road. The drivers were jolly and rough and would pop their long cow whips so fast that the sound resembled that of rapid gun fire. Many early settlers entered this part of Texas from the east along this narrow clay road, often called the Red Rock Road in this area. Early communities were Red Rock, Bethel, Rock Springs, St. Clair and Point Pleasant. Although Stephen Austin settled in Texas in 1824 it was not until the Indians were removed in 1839 that Anglo-Americans began to move into this part of Texas. Development became quicker when the railroad came here from Shreveport on its way to Dallas and west in the early 1870s. By 1873 the Texas and Pacific Railroad came to what was to be Gladewater. The town

was platted and began to grow and as with all railroad towns schools and churches were high on the list of importance to the new citizens. However, most churches did not organize until after oil was discovered in 1930.

THE 100 YEAR HISTORY OF
GLADEWATER MASONIC LODGE
NO. 852 ANCIENT FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS

NOTES ON REFERENCES

(All additional information with references will require footnotes)

- P. 1, paragraph 1. Do you have the names of the twenty members?
para. 2. Names of the 29 members? (we need as many of the names as we can get.)
 “Unsafe building”, source of information (reference)
 “Moon Lodge”, source of information (ref.)
para. 3. Use correct form for footnote:
 ² *Gladewater 1873- 1973, Mildred Barker, Nauty Byrd Mayer and Elizabeth Osteen, editors, Gladewater, Texas 1973, p. 115.*
- p. 2, para. 1, line 3. Can the “legend” be documented?
para 2, footnote 3. Where is this in the minutes? Page number or date or both.
- p. 3, para. 1, line 2. Use correct form for footnote (see as above note except insert correct page number.
para. 3, last sentence, suggest re-writing this sentence. Also, eliminate apostrophe in date (1930s).
para. 4, lines 3 and 4, put hyphen between “two” and “story” (two-story).
- p. 4, para. 3, line 4. Eliminate apostrophes in dates.
Footnote 5, Where is this in the minutes? Page number or date or both.

You will need to make a Bibliography. (I like your footnotes instead of end notes...very professional, I think.) Again, this is a very nice historical narrative.

THE 100 YEAR HISTORY OF GLADEWATER MASONIC LODGE NO. 852 AF & AM

Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 had its earliest origins on November 15, 1900. Being desirous of starting a new Masonic Lodge closer to their homes, twenty Master Masons, many of who were members of Longview Masonic Lodge No. 404, signed and presented a petition at a Stated Meeting on November 15, 1900 requesting permission to proceed with their labors. Their petition met with success and on April 19, 1901 the Grand Master, M: W: Nat M. Washer issued a Dispensation to form a new Lodge and appointed as the first officers: Daniel Washington Wood as Worshipful Master; Ruben Ambrose Hendrix as Senior Warden and Jeff Thomas Jordan as Junior Warden.

The first meeting was held on June 27, 1901 in the James A. Ponder general store with twenty nine Chartered Members. This one story wooden structure was located on the northwest corner of North Main Street and West Pacific Avenue. Gladewater Lodge continued meeting in these quarries until 1908 when the building was deemed unsafe and demolished to make way for a more modern two story stone structure. In 1905 and for the next twenty-five years in the life of Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852, the organization was designated as a "Moon Lodge" so known due to the fact that meetings were held on the Thursday evening on or before the full moon.

The reason for meeting thusly was due to the lack of electric lighting and many members living some distance from the Lodge, travel was made more safer with the light of a full moon to direct the brothers back to their homes.¹

The second Ponder store building while serving as meeting quarters for Gladewater Masonic

¹ Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 Minutes and Lodge Returns

THE 100 YEAR HISTORY OF GLADEWATER MASONIC LODGE NO. 852 AF & AM

Lodge also rented out space to the local U. S. Post Office. One of the Charter Members of the Lodge was William Emmett Foshee, who on November 15, 1899 was appointed U. S. Postmaster by President William McKinley. Legend has it that William Foshee held the unique distinction of being one of the early settlers of Gladewater who attended a town meeting where representatives of the railroad told the citizens assembled, to choose between the name of Gladewater or St. Clair for the new town. The name of Gladewater was chosen.

During it's formative years the members of Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 were the leading citizens of the newly formed city of Gladewater. There was Alfred Mason Phillips who during 1877 developed on his property near the present Gladewater city lake, a natural mineral springs health resort. This resort was sought out by numerous visitors from all parts of the United States seeking to regain their health by bathing in the therapeutic waters. In addition to operating the health resort, Brother Phillips also opened the first hardware and furniture store in downtown Gladewater. This store was located in a two story building that was later remodeled into the Gregg movie theatre - the premier theatre in East Texas.²

Another distinguished early member was physician Earl George McLaughlin. Born on April 26, 1885 in Illinois he joined the Masonic fraternity before moving to Texas. Relocating to Gladewater in 1913 he affiliated with Gladewater Masonic Lodge and served as the Tenth Worshipful Master for 1916-1917.³ As a physician he became known throughout the United States during the 1918 flu epidemic. Inventing and perfecting a chest rub marketed nationwide under the name of NU-MA-CIDE gained him great fame and fortune. With this new found

² Gladewater, 1873-1973; a history by noted local historian Nauty Byrd Mayer

³ Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 records and minutes

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fortune he opened the first hospital in Gladewater which later leased space in the upper floor of the James A. Ponder general store.⁴

At the meeting held on February 26, 1931 the members of Gladewater Masonic Lodge decided to seek a new meeting place due to being dissatisfied over the lack of heat in the Ponder building. Securing a third meeting place in thirty years, the Lodge met from April 30, 1931 until June 16, 1932 in the local red brick schoolhouse. This schoolhouse was located on Broadway Avenue and was later built around by a newer building known as Broadway School. While the red brick building was later demolished, the newer building still stands and is utilized to the present time as a school for the children of Gladewater. While this building proved satisfactorily it was always considered a temporary meeting place and the members of the Lodge were always looking for a more permanent facility.

A fourth lodge room was finally secured on the second floor of the former Measles Hotel located at 117 East Pacific Avenue. From 1932 to 1940 the Lodge rented space and met here while the bottom floor was utilized by the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company also known as A & P Food Store. This building is still intact and located in the same location and in the same general condition as to look and form as it was during the 1930's.

Having never constructed a building of their own and desirous of becoming owners and not merely tenants, the members of Gladewater Masonic Lodge decided to seek land on which to build their fifth lodge room. Purchasing land at 215 North Dean Street the Lodge erected a two story brick building and held their first meeting in that fifth building on July 1, 1940. Since that first meeting the Lodge has continuously met in this same location with the building changed

⁴ Gladewater, 1873-1973; a history by noted local historian Nauty Byrd Mayer

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little from it's original form.

From 1940 to 1950 the bottom floor of the North Dean Street building was rented out to the local city newspaper, the Gladewater Daily Times - Tribune. When the paper was sold to local oilman investor T. W. Lee the newspaper relocated to other quarters. After that time other organizations in the community would call the bottom floor of the Masonic building home.

In addition to housing the members of Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 the fifth Lodge building is home to Chapter 831, Order of the Eastern Star located in Gladewater. This organization composed of men and women of Masonic affiliations was Chartered on October 27, 1932. Many of the influential citizens of Gladewater during the 1930's and 1940's were members of this organization. Still in existence to this day, the Gladewater Eastern Star is a vital contributor to Gladewater Lodge in both talent and monetary funds.⁵ It's present membership is committed to the support and continued success of the Lodge as well as their own organization.

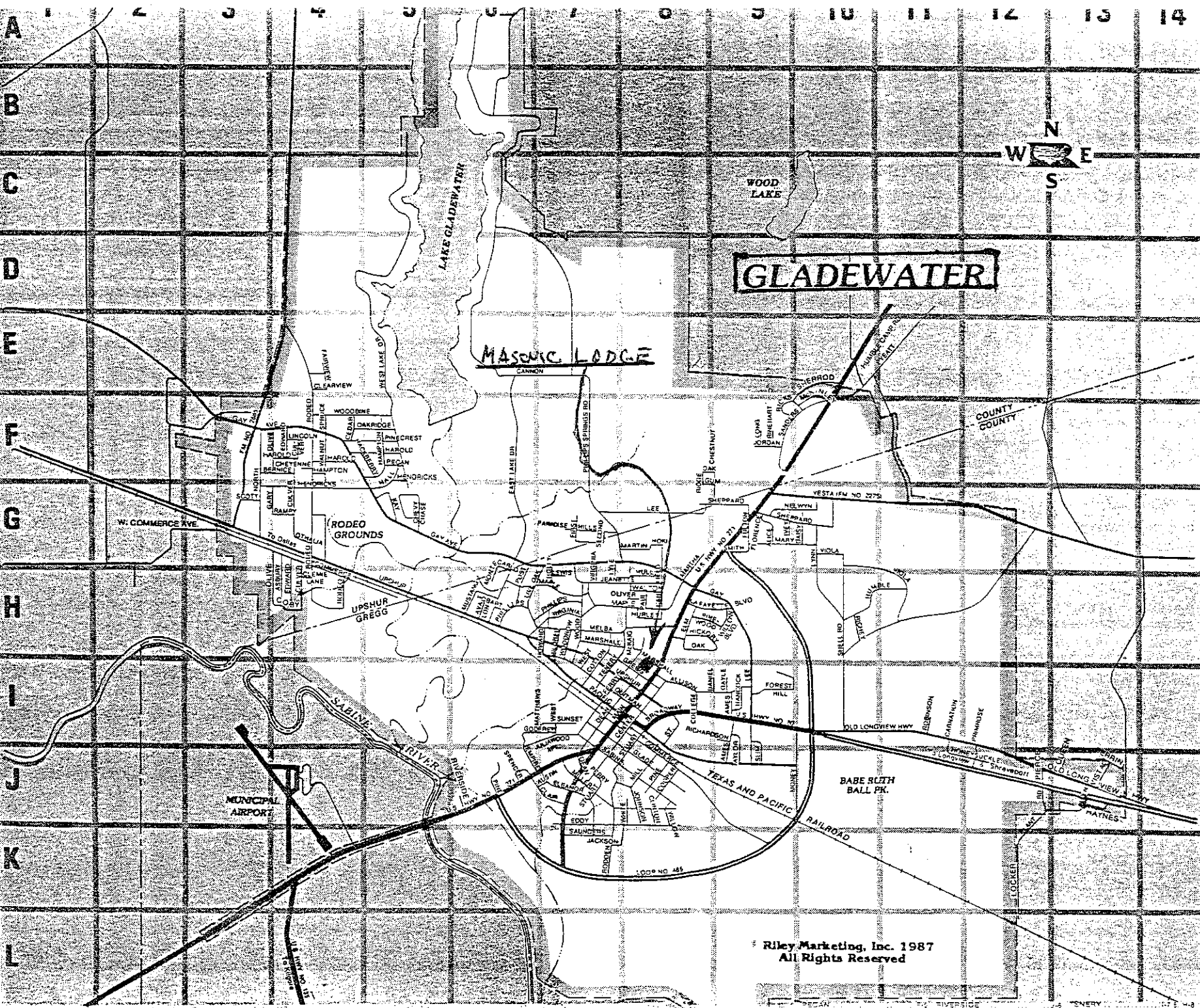
Since 1937 ten members of Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 have served the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas as District Deputy Grand Master. Other members have served their community as leaders of industry and commerce. Others have been educators and local physicians and ministers of the gospel. Whatever their chosen professions the members of Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 are dedicated to the betterment of their community and to the education of the children. In testament of this commitment, the Gladewater Masonic Lodge awards two scholarships each year to a Gladewater and Union Grove graduating high school senior.

Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 has had a history written and published in book form

⁵ Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 minutes and records held at 215 N. Dean Street, Gladewater, Texas

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which is available throughout the United States from First Books on the Internet. Being one of the oldest organizations in Gladewater the Gladewater Masonic Lodge is seeking to obtain a State Historical Subject Marker for erection on their property at 215 North Dean Street. This will acquaint the citizenry as to the accomplishments and contributions that the members of the Lodge and Eastern Star have made to the community since their inception in 1901.



GLADEWATER

MASONIC LODGE

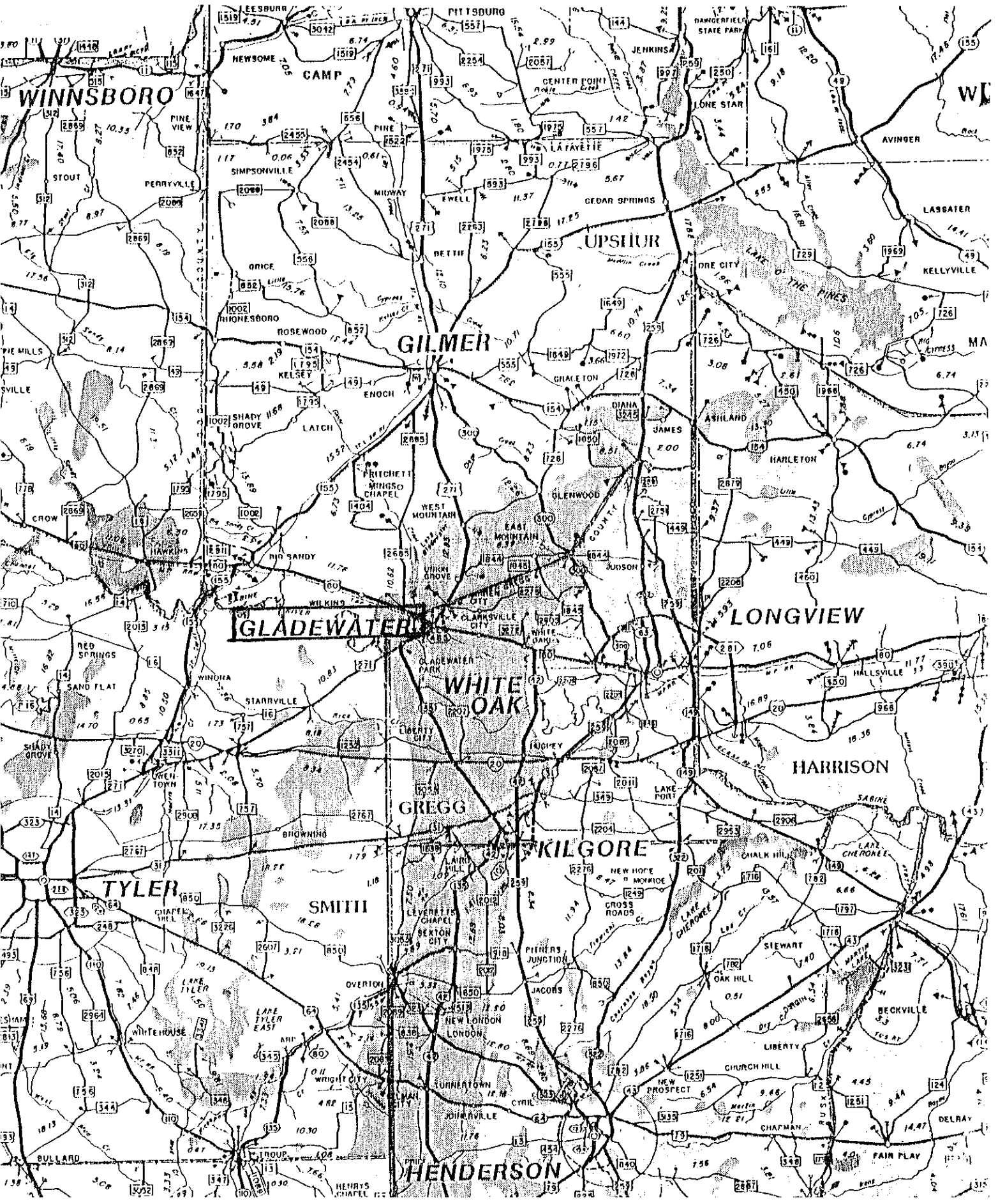
RODEO GROUNDS

MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

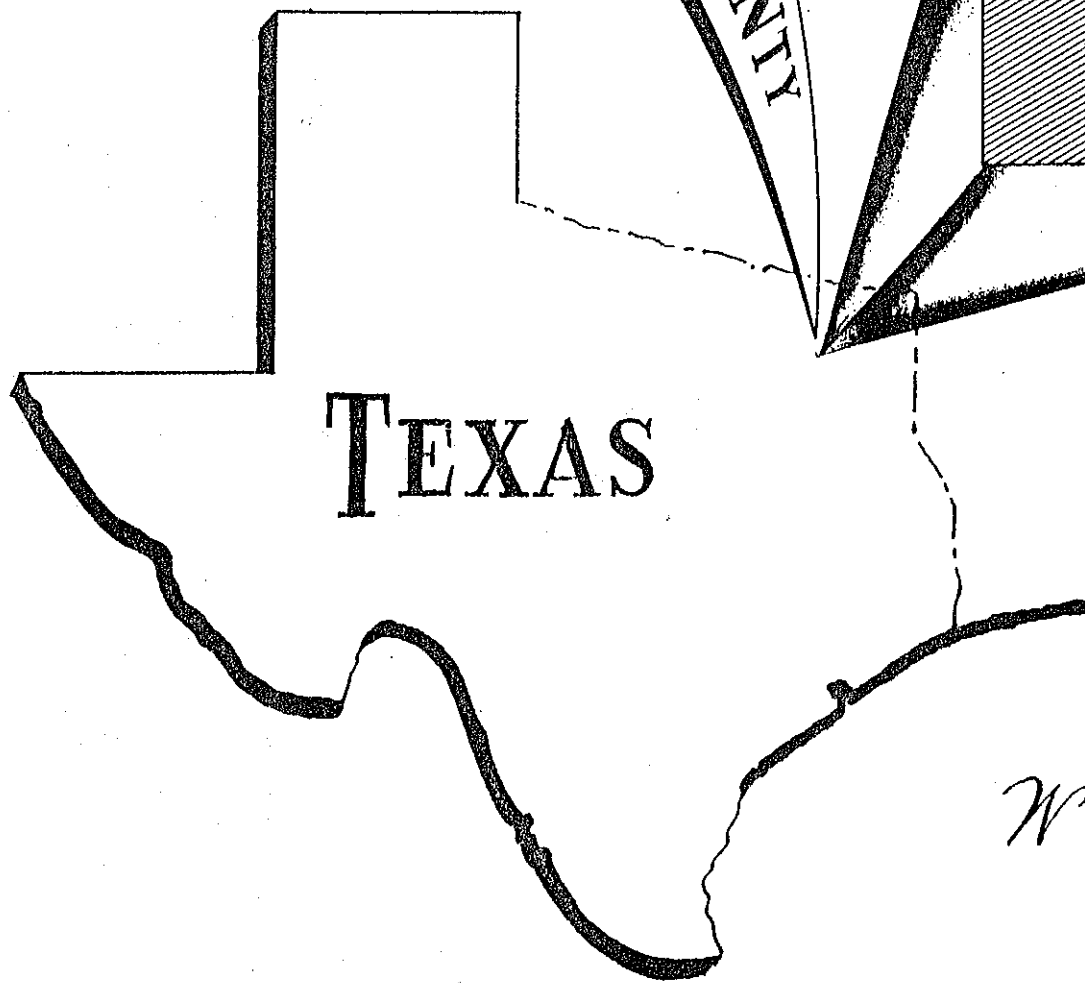
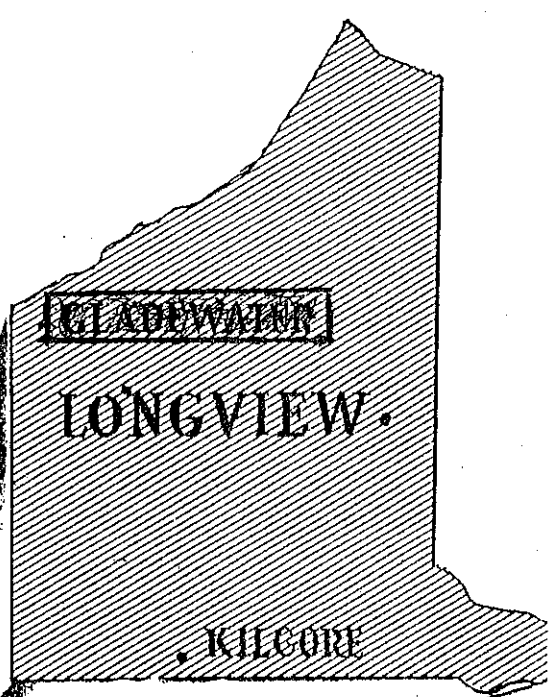
Riley Marketing, Inc. 1987
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GLADEWATER

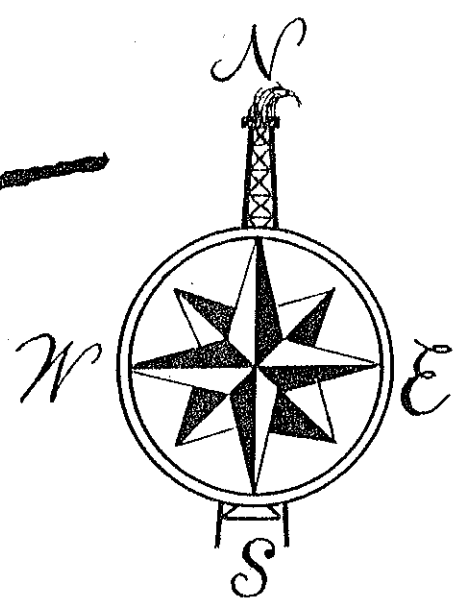
GREGG COUNTY



GREGG COUNTY



TEXAS



OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER APPLICATION FORM

THC use only

Please complete both sides of form.

Proposed marker title: GLADEWATER LODGE NO. 852, A.F. & A.M.
 (Title subject to change by Texas Historical Commission staff and/or State Marker Review Board.)

County: GREGG Nearest town (on state highway map): GLADEWATER
 Marker location (street address and city, or specific directions from nearest town on state highway map):
215 N. DEAN STREET GLADEWATER, TEXAS

Will the marker go at the actual site of the topic being marked? Yes No If the answer is no, provide the distance and directions to the actual location from the marker (i.e. 100 yards east). **Note that grave markers, Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers and Historic Texas Cemetery markers must be placed at the actual sites.**

APPROVAL OF COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The county historical commission (CHC) must approve the marker application, narrative history and documentation before they are forwarded to the THC. The signature of the representative below signifies the CHC has reviewed and approved the application in full.

Printed name of CHC chair or marker committee chair*: _____
 Signature: _____ Date: _____
 Mailing address: _____ City, zip: _____
 Daytime phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

*The CHC or marker committee chair will be the primary contact regarding the application. The marker committee chair's signature is valid only if notification is properly filed with the THC (call 512/463-5853 to request a form).

PERMISSION OF PROPERTY OWNER FOR MARKER PLACEMENT

Permission from the property owner for placement of a marker is required. Provide the name of a contact person if the owner is an institution, organization or public entity. **Do not complete this section if the marker is to be placed on right-of-way maintained by the Texas Department of Transportation.**

Name: GLADEWATER MASONIC LODGE NO. 852
 Contact person (if applicable): CHARLES L. STEEN City, zip: PALESTINE 75803
 Mailing address: 224 THOMAS ROAD
 Phone: 903-729-4646 Fax: _____ Email: clsteen7@earthlink.net
 Owner's signature: Charles L. Steen *Worshipful Master - Gladewater Lodge*

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

PAYMENT INFORMATION (payment form will be sent to the following):

Name: GLADEWATER MASONIC LODGE NO. 852
 Contact person (if applicable): CHARLES L. STEEN
 Mailing address: 224 THOMAS ROAD City, zip: PALESTINE 75803
 Daytime phone: 903-724-4039 Fax: _____ Email: clsteen7@earthlink.net

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

In order to facilitate delivery of the marker, neither post office box numbers nor rural route numbers can be accepted. To avoid additional shipping charges and time delays, use a business street address (Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday). If the marker is to be placed on state highway right-of-way, it will be shipped directly to the district highway engineer.

Name: DR. NORMAN BLACK - GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
 Street address: 417 MORBERLY AVE.
 City, zip: LONGVIEW, TX 75602 Daytime phone: 903-757-2261
 (M-Thurs)
 other times: 757-5272

(OVER)

TYPE AND SIZE OF MARKER DESIRED

■ SUBJECT MARKERS

Subject markers are educational in nature and convey no legal restrictions to the property. They are appropriate for topics such as church congregations, schools, towns, businesses, persons, events and institutions. These markers should not be attached to buildings; if the marker is to be attached to a surface other than the foundry-provided post, please provide the requested information in the space below.

- 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar)\$ 425
- 27" x 42" marker with post\$1,250
- 27" x 42" marker without post (for attachment to _____)\$1,150
- 18" x 28" marker with post\$ 850
- 18" x 28" marker without post (for attachment to _____)\$ 750

■ RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS

Markers conveying the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation are reserved solely for historic structures deemed worthy of recognition for their architectural integrity and historical associations. The RTHL designation carries a measure of legal protection (see Marker Policies 13 through 18), therefore a legal description (lot and block numbers) is required. The most commonly used marker for conveying the designation is the medallion and plaque (also referred to as a building marker); however, subject markers may also be used to provide more information. If the marker is to be mounted directly onto a structure, care should be taken to avoid damaging historic building material. Note that RTHL markers must go at the site for which the designation is given.

- Medallion and 16" x 12" plaque with post\$ 525
- Medallion and 16" x 12" plaque without post (for attachment to _____)\$ 425
- 27" x 42" marker with post\$1,250
- 27" x 42" marker without post (for attachment to _____)\$1,150
- 18" x 28" marker with post\$ 850
- 18" x 28" marker without post (for attachment to _____)\$ 750

Legal description of property (lot and block number; metes and bounds):

■ HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY MARKERS

The purchase and display of a historical marker is not a required component of the Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) designation, but the HTC offers options for those situations in which a marker will contribute to preservation or interpretation. Only cemeteries with the HTC designation are eligible for HTC markers, and the designation process must be complete before a marker application can be processed. Once the designation is awarded, no additional documentation is required for an HTC medallion or medallion with name and date plaque. **For medallions with interpretive plaques, however, the same type of history and documentation required for subject markers and RTHL markers is necessary.**

Medallions only and medallions with name and date plaques:

- Medallion only, without post (for attachment to _____)\$ 250
- Medallion only, with hardware to attach to existing state historical marker post\$ 300
- Medallion only, with post\$ 400
- Medallion and 12" x 6" name and date plaque, without post (for attachment to _____)\$ 500
- Medallion and 12" x 6" name and date plaque, with post\$ 600

Medallions with interpretive plaques:

- Medallion and 16" x 12" plaque, without post (for attachment to _____)\$ 650
- Medallion and 16" x 12" plaque, with post\$ 750
- Medallion and 16" x 24" plaque, without post (for attachment to _____)\$ 850
- Medallion and 16" x 24" plaque, with post\$ 950

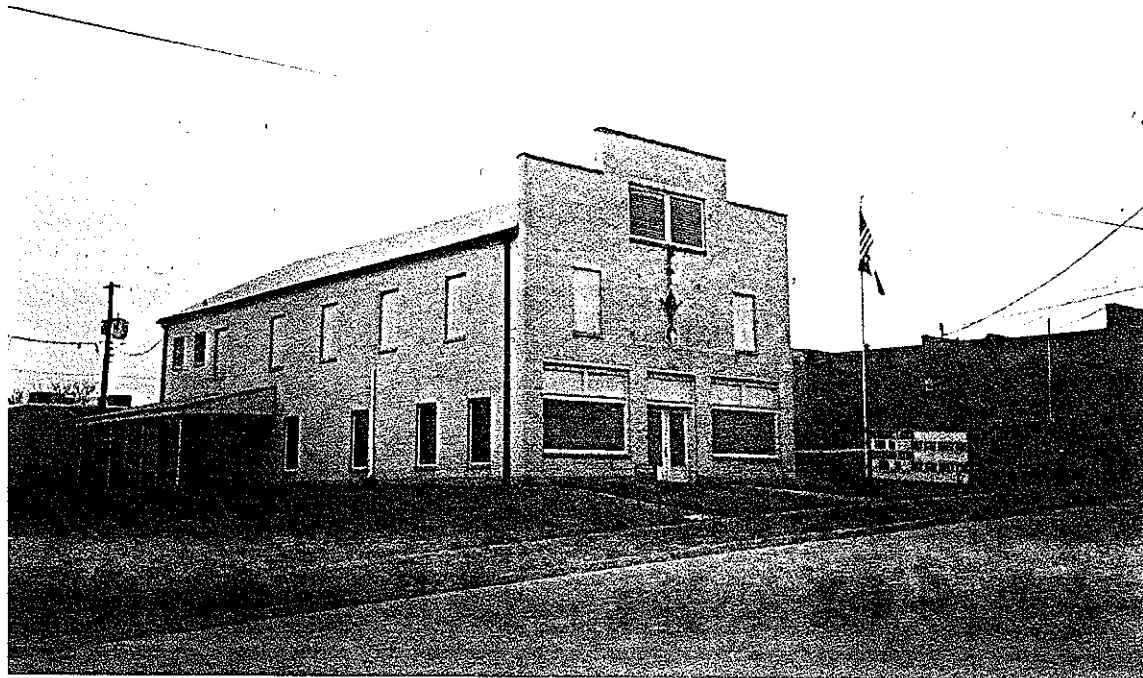
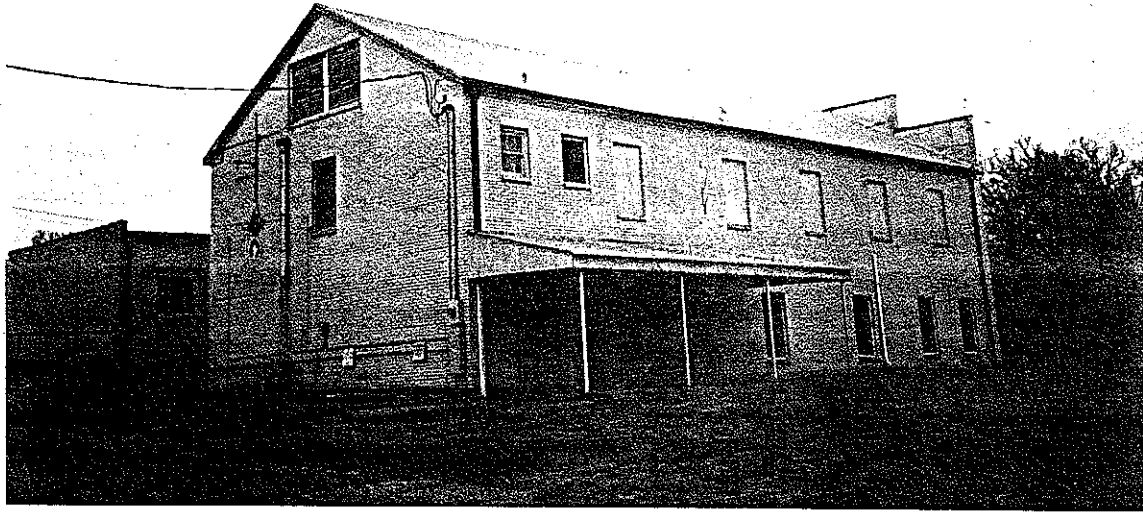
When the application packet is complete, forward the required application form, historical narrative, footnotes/endnotes, bibliography, photos and maps to the county historical commission. Once the authorized CHC representative has signed this form and reviewed the packet, mail both to: History Programs Division, Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276.

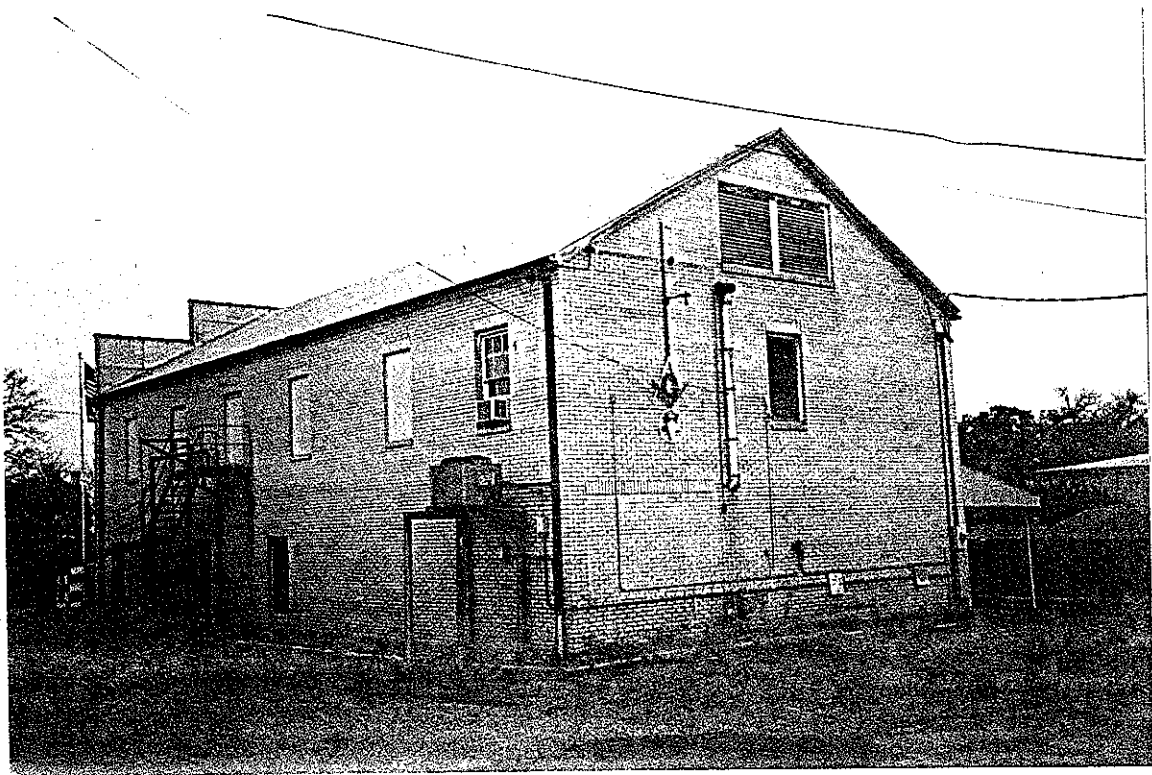
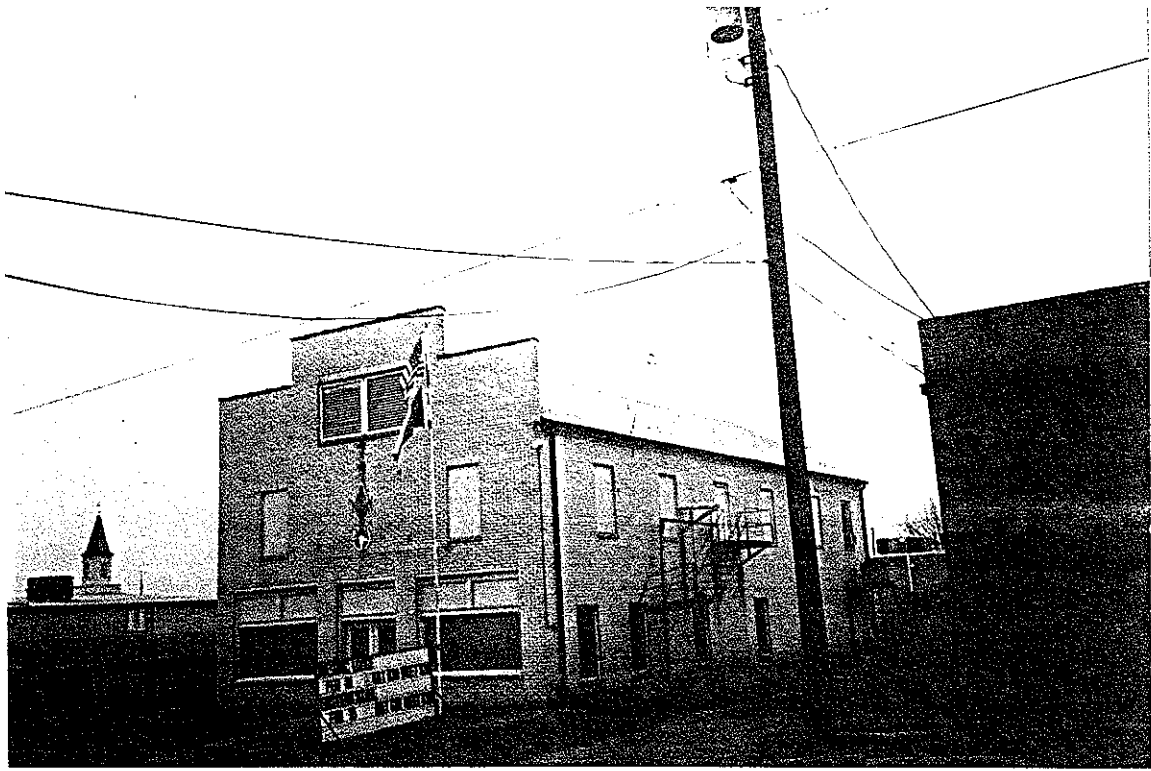
For more information contact:
 Texas Historical Commission, History Programs Division
 P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276
 512/463-5853, Fax 512/475-3122
www.thc.state.tx.us
 Rev. 3/2003



**TEXAS
 HISTORICAL
 COMMISSION**

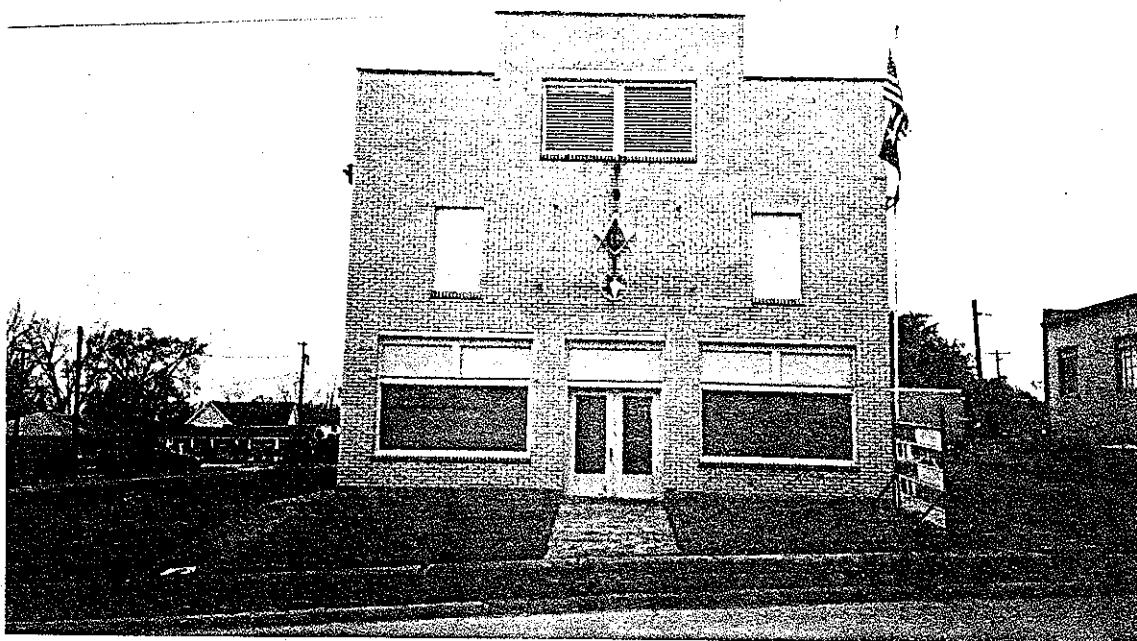
The State Agency for Historic Preservation







Gladewater Mesumic^{P.1}
Lodge. 215 N. Dean St.
Gladewater, Texas
photographs - Jan. 29, 2005



FRONT (EAST) SIDE

THE 100 YEAR HISTORY OF GLADEWATER MASONIC LODGE NO. 852 AF & AM

**THE 100 YEAR HISTORY OF
GLADEWATER MASONIC LODGE
NO. 852 ANCIENT FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS
BY
CHARLES LEE STEEN**

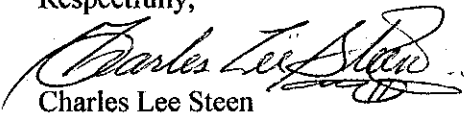
Published by 1st Books Library, ISBN 1-4107-6090-1 U.S.A.
Copyright 2003 by Charles Lee Steen

For over two years I researched the history of the Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. At the conclusion of my research donations were received and upon acquiring sufficient funds the manuscript was printed by 1ST Books. The resulting 523 page publication is available for sale on the internet as well as through the Secretary of the Gladewater Lodge.

Desirous of giving back to the community further evidence of the history of the Gladewater Masonic Lodge upon the town of Gladewater and the contributions made by it's members from 1901 to the present, the brethren of the Lodge have undertaken to apply for and erect a State of Texas Historical Marker.

This accompanying documentation is therefore submitted through the Chairman of the Gregg County Historical Society with the hope that the prayers of the petitioners be granted and a marker so approved.

Respectfully,



Charles Lee Steen

Enclosures:

- Exhibit A: Photograph of Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 circa 1953
- Exhibit B: Map of Gladewater Masonic Lodge and proposed marker location
- Exhibit C: Copy of Petition for Dispensation to M: W: Grand Master
- Exhibit D: Proposed wording on Historical Marker

THE 100 YEAR HISTORY OF GLADEWATER MASONIC LODGE NO. 852 AF & AM

Freemasonry had its earliest origins in the Middle Ages in Europe when the great Cathedrals were being constructed. At that time guilds of stone workers called Freemasons were organized to pass down the secrets of their craft in the building of various buildings. Later other men were admitted into the guilds that were not masonry workers by trade. These speculative masons soon outnumber the operative masons in the guilds.

With the settling of the colonies of America in the Eighteenth Century many of the men who arrived in the new land brought with them the secrets and skills of the trade of Freemasons. As each of the thirteen colonies were formed and organized so were various lodges of Freemasons. Again, these Freemasons were both speculative and operative. Those who knew and practiced the skills of cutting and squaring stones called operative masons and those who had other occupations and skills unrelated to masonry but were members of the lodges and were known as speculative masons.

Many of the founding fathers of our country were speculative Freemasons, men like George Washington, Benjamin Franklin and Paul Revere to name a few. In March 1835 the first Masonic meeting was held in Texas for the purpose of establishing a lodge in Texas. Six Masons met under an oak tree near the town of Brazoria. They applied to the Grand Lodge of Louisiana for a dispensation to form and open a Lodge. A dispensation was issued and later a charter.

This first Texas lodge was called Holland Lodge No. 36 F. & A. M. of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Louisiana. It was named after then Grand Master of Masons in Louisiana, John Henry Holland. Anson Jones was the first Worshipful Master of Holland Lodge No. 36, now Holland Lodge No. 1. The charter was brought by John M. Allen and given to Anson Jones just

THE 100 YEAR HISTORY OF GLADEWATER MASONIC LODGE NO. 852 AF & AM

prior to the battle of San Jacinto. It was carried in Jones' saddlebags during the battle.

Two more Texas lodges were formed, also given dispensation and charter by the Grand Lodge of Louisiana. They were: Milam Lodge No. 40 in Nacogdoches and McFarland Lodge No. 41 in San Augustine. Both were formed in 1837. These two lodges, together with Holland Lodge No. 36, sent representatives to meet in Houston and establish the Grand Lodge of the Republic of Texas. The convention elected Anson Jones the first Grand Master of Masons in Texas. It should be noted that Anson Jones was the fourth and final President of the Republic of Texas, prior to becoming a state.¹

From 1837 until 1900 more lodges were organized and chartered in Texas. By the time the Masons of Longview Lodge No. 404 applied for a dispensation and charter, there had been 851 Masonic Lodge formed during the preceding years. With the approval of their request, the next consecutive number of 852 was assigned to the craft that would be meeting in Gladewater. This is their story from inception to the present time. There have been many mountains and valleys since the Gladewater Lodge was formed but through it all, the brethren have met with kindness and friendship towards all and applied Masonic principles of "*who can best work and best agree*" to all their labors, thus ensuring the continued growth and harmony in each lodge.

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¹ Information derived from the M: W: Grand Lodge of Texas archives

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Stated Meeting on November 15, 1900 requesting permission to proceed with their labors. They were: Daniel Washington Wood; Ruben Ambrose Hendrix; Jeffs Thomas Jordan; Oliver J. Bruce; Eaits Bell Daniel; Edgar Ezekiel Martin; James A. Ponder; George W. Reynolds; Jacob C. Howard; Thomas Bluford Stinchcomb; William F. Nelson; Robert G. Brown; Rufus M. Gay; William M. Bruton; Taylor E. Kennard; Alfred Mason Phillips; Albert S. Poindexter; G. Monro Smith; John Henry Simmons and Joseph M. Hoskins

Their petition met with success and on April 19, 1901 the Grand Master, M: W: Nat M. Washer issued a Dispensation to form a new Lodge and appointed as the first officers: Daniel Washington Wood as Worshipful Master; Ruben Ambrose Hendrix as Senior Warden and Jeff Thomas Jordan as Junior Warden.

The first meeting was held on June 27, 1901 in the James A. Ponder general store with the following twenty nine Chartered Members. Daniel Washington Wood; Ruben Ambrose Hendrix; Oliver J. Bruce; Alfred Mason Phillips; James B. Rowe; Albert S. Poindexter; Eaits Bell Daniel; Edgar Ezekiel Martin; Henry Clay Walker; James Daniel Wood; G. Monro Smith; Jeff Thomas Jordan; George W. Reynolds; Jacob C. Howard; Robert G. Brown; William M. Bruton; Rufus M. Gay; Joseph M. Hoskins; Thomas Bluford Stinchcomb; James A. Ponder; William F. Nelson; John Henry Simmons; Taylor E. Kennard; John H. Victory; Robert A. Topp; Gilbert L. Purdy; Howard M. Lawrence; Jackson D. Gatlin and William Emmett Foshee.

Their first meeting was held in a one story wooden structure that was located on the northwest corner of North Main Street and West Pacific Avenue.² Gladewater Lodge continued meeting in

² Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 Minutes - maintained in the vault of the Gladewater Lodge at 215 N. Dean Street, Gladewater, Texas.

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The reason for meeting thusly was due to the lack of electric lighting and many members living some distance from the Lodge, travel was made more safer with the light of a full moon to direct the brothers back to their homes.⁴

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³ Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 Returns - maintained in the archives of the M: W: Grand Lodge of Texas, Waco, Texas.

⁴ Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 Minutes - 215 N. Dean Street, Gladewater, Texas.

⁵ Gladewater 1873-1973, Mildred Barker, Nauty Byrd Mayer and Elizabeth Osteen, editors, Gladewater, Texas 1973, p. 14.

⁶ Gladewater 1873-1973, Mildred Barker, Nauty Byrd Mayer and Elizabeth Osteen, editors, Gladewater, Texas 1973, p. 136.

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⁷ Gladewater 1873-1973, Mildred Barker, Nauty Byrd Mayer and Elizabeth Osteen, editors, Gladewater, Texas 1973, p. 133

⁸ Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 records, 215 N. Dean Street, Gladewater, Texas.

⁹ Gladewater 1873-1973, Mildred Barker, Nauty Byrd Mayer and Elizabeth Osteen, editors, Gladewater, Texas 1973, p. 115.

THE 100 YEAR HISTORY OF GLADEWATER MASONIC LODGE NO. 852 AF & AM

as a school for the children of Gladewater. While this building proved satisfactory it was always considered a temporary meeting place and the members of the Lodge were always looking for a more permanent facility.

A fourth lodge room was finally secured on the second floor of the former Measles Hotel located at 117 East Pacific Avenue. From 1932 to 1940 the Lodge rented space and met here while the bottom floor was utilized by the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company also known as A & P Food Store. This building is still standing and looks as it did during the time that the Lodge met there during the 1930s.

Having never constructed a building of their own and desirous of becoming owners and not merely tenants, the members of Gladewater Masonic Lodge decided to seek land on which to build their fifth lodge room. Purchasing land at 215 North Dean Street the Lodge erected a two-story brick building and held their first meeting in that fifth building on July 1, 1940. Since that first meeting the Lodge has continuously met in this same location with the building changed little from it's original form.

From 1940 to 1950 the bottom floor of the North Dean Street building was rented out to the local city newspaper, the Gladewater Daily Times - Tribune. When the paper was sold to local oilman investor T. W. Lee the newspaper relocated to other quarters. After that time other organizations in the community would call the bottom floor of the Masonic building home.¹⁰

In addition to housing the members of Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 the fifth Lodge building is home to Chapter 831, Order of the Eastern Star located in Gladewater. This organization composed of men and women of Masonic affiliations was Chartered on October 27,

¹⁰ Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 minutes from 1950 - maintained at 215 N. Dean St., Gladewater, Texas.

THE 100 YEAR HISTORY OF GLADEWATER MASONIC LODGE NO. 852 AF & AM

1932. Many of the influential citizens of Gladewater during the 1930s and 1940s were members of this organization. Still in existence to this day, the Gladewater Eastern Star is a vital contributor to Gladewater Lodge in both talent and monetary funds. It's present membership is committed to the support and continued success of the Lodge as well as their own organization.¹¹

Since 1937 ten members of Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 have served the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas as District Deputy Grand Master. Other members have served their community as leaders of industry and commerce. Others have been educators and local physicians and ministers of the gospel. Whatever their chosen professions the members of Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 are dedicated to the betterment of their community and to the education of the children. In testament of this commitment, the Gladewater Masonic Lodge awards two scholarships each year to a Gladewater and Union Grove graduating high school senior.

Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 has had a history written and published in book form which is available throughout the United States from First Books on the Internet. Being one of the oldest organizations in Gladewater the Gladewater Masonic Lodge is seeking to obtain a State Historical Subject Marker for erection on their property at 215 North Dean Street. This will acquaint the citizenry as to the accomplishments and contributions that the members of the Lodge and Eastern Star have made to the community since their inception in 1901.

¹¹ Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 minutes from 1932 - maintained at 215 N. Dean St., Gladewater, Texas.

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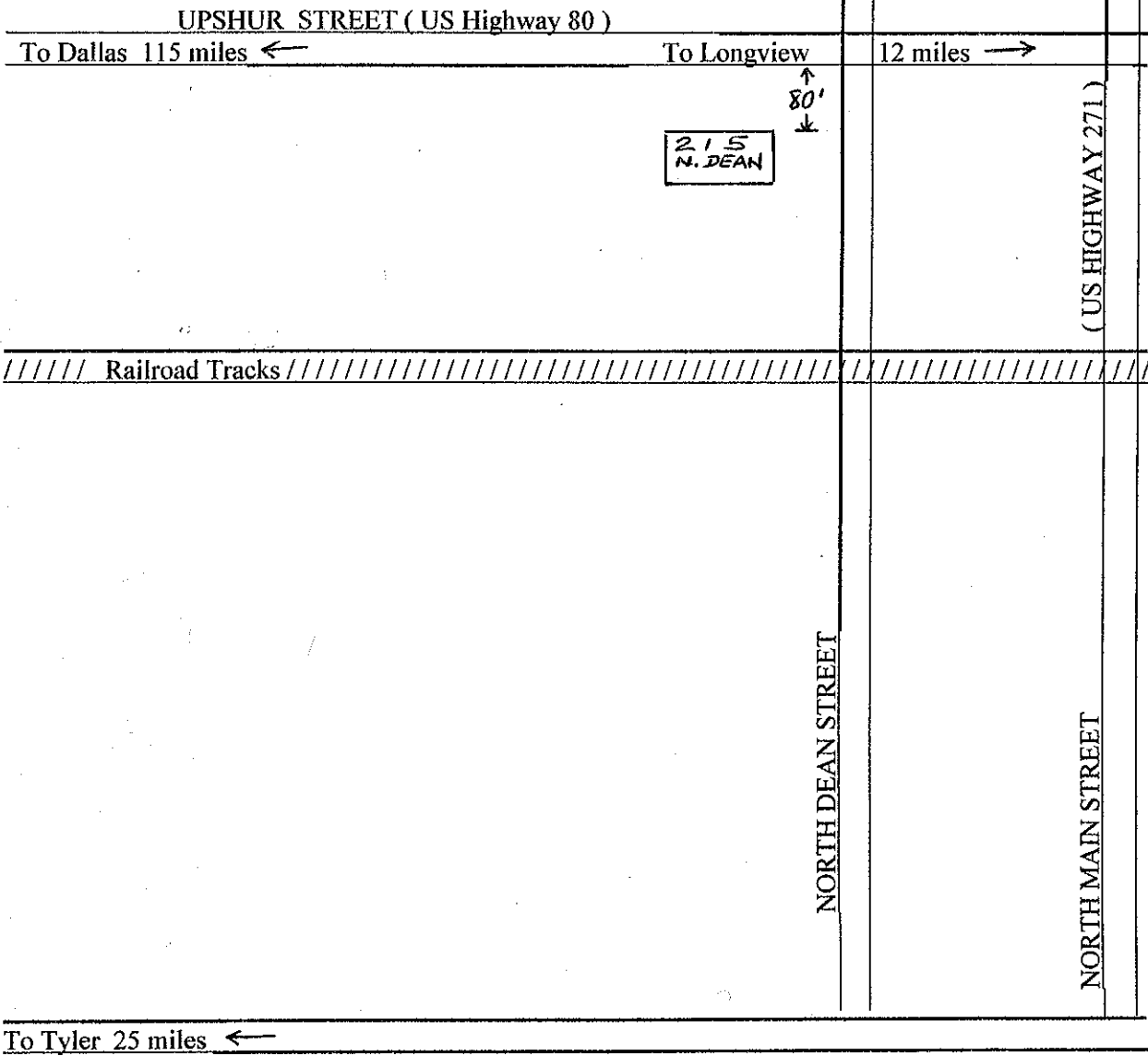
Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas. (1900-2003). "Lodge
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MAP OF MARKER LOCATION

North



R E A R	Gladewater Masonic	F R O N T	*Flag-Pole	NORTH DEAN STREET
	Lodge No. 852		Walkway	
	A. F. & A. M.		*Marker	
	215 N. Dean Street		← 10 Ft. →	



Photograph of Gladewater Masonic Lodge

No. 852

Ancient Free & Accepted Masons

Circa 1953

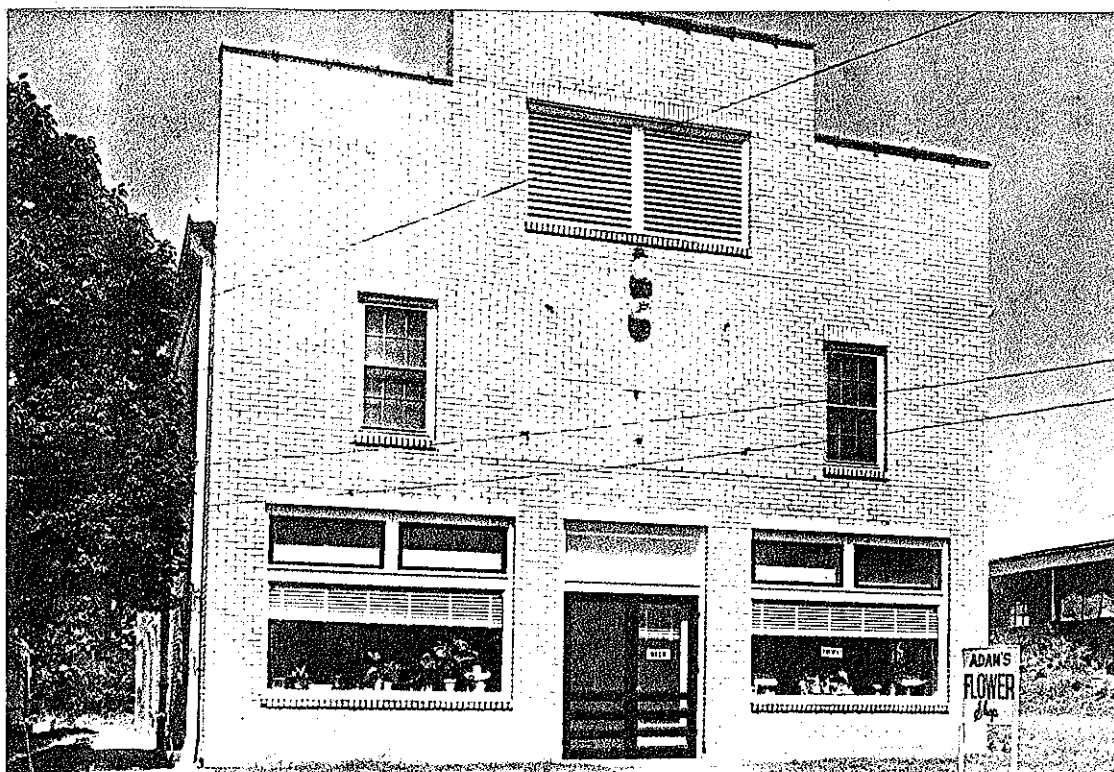


Exhibit A

(To the Most worshipful Grand Master, of the Grand Lodge of Texas)

----- (Petition for dispensation) -----

We the undersigned being Master Masons in good standing, and having the prosperity of the Craft at heart, are anxious to exert our best endeavors to promote and diffuse the genuine principals of Free Masonry, and for the convenience of our respective dwellings. We residing more than ten miles from any regular Lodge and for other good reason We are desirous of forming a new Lodge to be named Gladewater Lodge at Gladewater, county of Gregg, post office Gladewater. We the undersigned respectfully pray for a dispensation empowering us to meet at Gladewater, Texas on the fourth ^{Thursday} in each month and there discharge the duties of ancient craft, in a constitutional manner according to the forms and laws of the grand Lodge. And we have nominated and do recommend Prother *L. M. Wood* to be the our first worshipful Master Prother *R. A. Hendrix* to be the first senior warden, and Prother *Thomas Jordan* to be the first Junior warden of the said Lodge. The prayer of this petition being granted We promise obedience to the Commands of the Grand Lodge and to the laws and regulations of the Grand Lodge.

- L. M. Wood*
- R. A. Hendrix*
- J. T. Jordan*
- E. B. Daniel*
- O. E. Martin*
- J. L. Conder*
- J. M. Hoskins P. Du.*
- J. H. S. ...*
- E. C. ...*
- A. D. ...*
- A. M. Phillips*
- J. E. ...*
- W. M. Britton*
- Pool ...*
- M. F. ...*
- J. ...*
- J. ...*
- M. ...*
- M. F. Nelson*

GLADEWATER LODGE NO. 852, A. F. & A. M.

GLADEWATER MASONIC LODGE HAD ITS EARLIEST ORIGINS ON NOVEMBER 15, 1900 WHEN 20 MASONS SIGNED A PETITION. MEETING UNDER A DISPENSATION FROM THE GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS, THE FIRST MEETING WAS HELD ON JUNE 27, 1901 IN JAMES A. PONDER'S GENERAL STORE. THE ORGANIZATION WAS OFFICIALLY CHARTERED AS LODGE NO. 852 ON DECEMBER 5, 1901 WITH 29 MEMBERS.

FROM 1901 TO 1931 THE MEMBERS MET AT PONDER'S STORE ON THE NW CORNER OF MAIN AND PACIFIC STREETS. THIS BUILDING ALSO HOUSED THE U.S. POST OFFICE. AMONG THE LODGE'S MANY EARLY PROMINENT MEMBERS WAS DR. EARL GEORGE MCLAUGHLIN. DURING THE 1918 U. S. FLU EPIDEMIC, DR. MCLAUGHLIN INVENTED A CHEST RUB NAMED NU-MA-CIDE WHICH GAINED HIM NATIONWIDE FAME. HE ALSO OPENED THE FIRST HOSPITAL IN GLADEWATER WHICH HE RAN UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1932. ALSO DURING 1932 O. E. S. CHAPTER 831 WAS CHARTERED.

THE LODGE MET BRIEFLY FROM 1931 TO 1932 IN THE RED BRICK GLADEWATER SCHOOL BUILDING. THIS BUILDING WAS LATER BUILT AROUND BY THE BROADWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. A FOURTH MEETING ROOM UTILIZED FROM 1932 TO 1940 WAS UPSTAIRS IN THE MEASLES BUILDING AT 117 E. PACIFIC AVENUE. THAT BUILDING STILL STANDS TODAY IN ITS ORIGINAL FORM AND LOCATION.

THIS FIFTH BUILDING WAS BUILT BY THE LODGE AND DEDICATED ON SEPTEMBER 23, 1940. FROM 1940 TO 1950 THE BOTTOM FLOOR WAS RENTED OUT TO THE GLADEWATER DAILY TIMES-TRIBUNE NEWSPAPER. THE MASONIC LODGE CONTINUES TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY BY AWARDING TWO SCHOLARSHIPS EACH YEAR TO A GLADEWATER AND UNION GROVE GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR.

T.R. FEHRENBACH BOOK AWARD 2004 NOMINATION GUIDELINES

The Texas Historical Commission's (THC) T.R. Fehrenbach Book Award encourages original research and publication of material that preserves, records and recounts the prehistory and history of Texas. The program is named in honor of T.R. Fehrenbach, THC commissioner emeritus and noted Texas history author.

Eligibility

- The competition is open to any publication on Texas history that is a scholarly work based on original research and study of historic documents, interviews and other related sources.
- All entries must reflect serious efforts to add to the knowledge of Texas history.
- The publication must have been published in an edition of no fewer than 200 copies.
- The entry must have been published during the calendar year, between Jan. 1 and Dec. 31, 2004.

Submission Requirements

Three copies of the entry publication must be submitted with the nomination form. Submissions can be mailed to the THC Marketing Communications Division, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX, 78711-2276; or delivered to the THC administrative offices at 1511 Colorado Street in Austin. Shortly after an entry is submitted, the nominator will receive a letter from the THC acknowledging receipt of the publication. **Books will not be returned.**

Entry Deadline

All entries must be either postmarked or delivered to the THC offices no later than 5 p.m. Dec. 31, 2004.

Disqualification

Nominations that do not meet the eligibility, submission or deadline requirements will be disqualified and returned. Cookbooks, coloring books and other non-scholarly publications are not appropriate.

Judging

Judging decisions will be made by a panel of Texas scholars. Judges reserve the right to select fewer than three winners. The decision of the judges is final. All entrants will be notified of the judges' decision prior to the awards presentation.

Awards

Up to three awards will be presented to the winners at an awards luncheon at the THC's Annual Historic Preservation Conference, to be held in Austin April 14-16, 2004. Awards consist of a cash prize and a commemorative plaque.

For more information

Direct inquiries about the book award to Barbara Putrino, THC Marketing Communications Division, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX, 78711-2276, phone 512/475-2260, email thc@thc.state.tx.us.

Marketing Communications Division
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711
512/463-6255
www.thc.state.tx.us



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

**T.R. FEHRENBACH BOOK AWARD
2004 NOMINATION FORM**

This form must be submitted with three copies of the nominated publication. Please type or print neatly. Do not include attachments — they will not be forwarded to the judges. Books will not be returned. Judges reserve the right to select fewer than three winners. Nomination forms must be postmarked (P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX, 78711) or delivered to the Texas Historical Commission offices (1511 Colorado St.) no later than **5 p.m. Friday, December 31, 2004.**

Publication title _____

Date published (month/year) _____ Number printed _____

Author _____ Phone _____

Author's address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

Publisher _____

Contact person _____ Phone _____

Publisher's address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

Name of person making nomination _____
(If different than above)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Email _____

Brief biographical information about the author _____

Marketing Communications Division
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711
512/463-6255
www.thc.state.tx.us



**TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

The State Agency for Historic Preservation



**TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: Dr. Norman Black, Charles Steen
FROM: Dan K. Utley, Chief Historian
 (dan.utley@thc.state.tx.us)
RE: Gladewater Lodge No. 852, AF & AM, Gregg County
DATE: February 10, 2005

We received your application for an Official Texas Historical Marker, and we look forward to working with you on the project. Please refer to your guidelines and application booklet, or check our web site (www.thc.state.tx.us) under "markers and designations," for information on the application process.

We checked the application to be sure it includes all required components. If items are missing, they will be noted below and should be submitted as soon as possible so we can proceed with our full evaluation once the application comes up for review in approximately **60** days. Please note that in order to be fair to all marker applicants, we review applications in the order in which they are received, but we will notify you as the application progresses through each major stage of the process. **Because of the many variables and the length of time involved in the marker process, we are unable to estimate or promise delivery dates. Please do not set a dedication date until the marker is received.**

Items needed:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None; packet is complete. Thanks! | <input type="checkbox"/> Site plan showing all property features |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signature of authorized CHC member | <input type="checkbox"/> Floor plan delineating any changes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signature of marker site property owner | <input type="checkbox"/> Current photos of all exterior sides* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Type and size of marker requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Historic photos |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Photograph of marker site* | <input type="checkbox"/> Street address or directions to marker site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Documented narrative history | <input type="checkbox"/> City/county map (8.5" x 11") showing marker location# |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bibliography of sources cited | <input type="checkbox"/> Name, address, phone of marker recipient |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Endnotes or footnotes | <input type="checkbox"/> Name and address of person who will pay for the marker |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Legal description of property | <input type="checkbox"/> Application form outdated; current form required |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Narrative should be double-spaced | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (see additional notes below) |

**Black and white photographs preferred; digital images, photocopies and instant camera pictures are not acceptable for our review purposes.*

#If a city/county map is not readily available, you might try an online map service. Historic Texas Cemetery maps are not acceptable for marker review purposes, as we need a broader context to determine GPS coordinates.

Additional notes: None



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RIK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NALL, III, CHAIRMAN

L. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 17, 2005

Charles Steen
Gladewater Masonic Lodge #852
224 Thomas Road
Palestine, TX 75803

RE: GLADEWATER MASONIC LODGE NO. 852 A.F. & A.M.
27" x 42" Subject Marker w/ post
Job # 08205; Gregg County

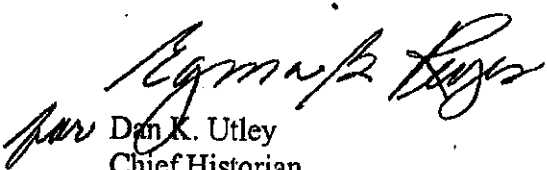
Dear Mr. Steen:

I am pleased to notify you that the Texas Historical Commission has approved the above-referenced topic for an Official Texas Historical Marker.

Payment for the marker, in the amount of \$1,250.00, is now due. Please complete and return the enclosed payment form at your earliest convenience. Once payment for the marker is received, your 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,


Dan K. Utley
Chief Historian
History Programs Division
dan.utley@thc.state.tx.us

pc: Dr. Norman Black, Gregg CHC

Texas Historical Commission staff (DKU), 4/8/2005
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Gregg County (Job #08205) Codes: FO (Atlas) UTM: 15 317587E 3601761N
Location: 215 N. Dean Street, Gladewater

GLADEWATER LODGE NO. 852, A.F. & A.M.

ON NOVEMBER 15, 1900, TWENTY MASTER MASONS, MANY FROM LONGVIEW MASONIC LODGE NO. 404, PRESENTED A PETITION TO FORM A SEPARATE LODGE. ON APRIL 19, 1901, GRAND MASTER NAT M. WASHER ISSUED THE DISPENSATION, AND DANIEL WASHINGTON WOOD SERVED AS FIRST WORSHIPFUL MASTER OF THE NEW LODGE. IT FORMALLY CHARTERED IN DECEMBER 1901 WITH 29 MEMBERS.

FROM 1901 TO 1931, MEMBERS MET IN JAMES A. PONDER'S GENERAL STORE, WHICH ALSO HOUSED THE POST OFFICE, ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF MAIN AND PACIFIC. DURING THE LODGE'S FORMATIVE YEARS, MEMBERS INCLUDED PROMINENT EARLY BUSINESSMEN, CLERGYMEN, PROFESSIONALS AND CIVIC LEADERS OF GLADEWATER. AMONG THEM WAS DR. EARL GEORGE McLAUGHLIN, WHO OPENED THE CITY'S FIRST HOSPITAL AND INVENTED A MEDICATION DURING THE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC OF 1918 THAT EARNED HIM NATIONAL ACCLAIM.

SHARING A COMMON EARLY HISTORY WITH THE LODGE IS CHAPTER 831, ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR. CHARTERED IN 1932, THE GROUP HAS LONG BEEN ACTIVE IN ITS SUPPORT OF LODGE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES.

THE LODGE MET FOR A TIME IN A SCHOOLHOUSE AND IN THE MEASLES HOTEL BEFORE BUILDING ITS OWN HALL AT THIS SITE. IT FIRST MET HERE ON JULY 1, 1940, AND MEMBERS FORMALLY DEDICATED THE BUILDING IN SEPTEMBER OF THAT YEAR. THEY HELD MEETINGS UPSTAIRS AND LEASED FIRST FLOOR SPACE TO A NUMBER OF ENTERPRISES, INCLUDING THE GLADEWATER *DAILY TIMES-TRIBUNE*.

LODGE MEMBERS HAVE SERVED THE GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS AS DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS AND ACTIVELY SUPPORTED MASONIC PROJECTS. LOCALLY, THEY CONTRIBUTE TO MANY WORTHWHILE COMMUNITY AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, INCLUDING ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS. TODAY, GLADEWATER LODGE NO. 852 SERVES AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE CITY'S FUTURE, AS WELL AS A REMINDER OF ITS RICH HISTORY.

(2005)

Check one and sign:

- I approve text as written. Proceed with order.
 I approve text with minor revisions as noted. Proceed with order.
 I request these revisions and a new copy of text.

Signed:

D. Harmon Glock

5-19-05

Norman Black

From: "Egina Reyes" <Egina.Reyes@thc.state.tx.us>
To: <chc-l@lists.thc.state.tx.us>
Cc: <ginny15@wt.net>; "Susanne Waller"
Sent: Saturday, July 02, 2005 1:28 PM
Subject: CHC List Serv [Marker Dedication Calendar]
 MARKER DEDICATION CALENDAR

DATE	TITLE OF MARKER
7/9/05 2:00 p.m.	MARVIN E. AND RETTA ANN BLACKBURN HOUSE Junction, Kimble County Frederica Wyatt 325/446-4219
7/16/05 4:00 p.m.	FAIRVIEW CEMETERY Lipscomb, Lipscomb County Dorothy Schoenhals Wolf Creek Heritage Museum P O Box 5 Lipscomb, 79056 806/852- 2123 wolfcrk@amaonline.com
7/17/05 2:00 p.m.	MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH Black Jack Community, Henderson County Carolyn Hamilton P O Box 567 Murchison, 75778 903/469-4323 jercarham@dctexas.net
7/18/05 5:00 p.m.	GLADEWATER LODGE NO. 852, A.F. & A.M. Gladewater, Gregg County Dr. Norman Black 417 Mobberly Avenue Longview, 75602 903/757-2261 norman.black@co.gregg.tx.us
7/24/05 11:00 a.m.	MT. HOMER BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY Milano, Milam County Connie Seelke P O Box 1124

7/2/2005

DR. BLACK'S PROGRAM 22pt.

Welcome to the dedication of an Official Texas Historical Marker, The Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 A.F. & A.M. This marker is authorized by the State of Texas and sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission, the Gregg County Historical Commission and the Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 A.F. & A.M. The Gregg County Historical Commission is part of the Gregg County government and is appointed by the County Judge and Commissioners Court

INVOCATION

We will now have the invocation by Past Master Marvin L. Camp.....Thank you, Mr. Camp.

WELCOME. Worshipful Master Charles L. Steen will come to the podium.....Mr. Steen...Thank you Mr. Steen.

GUESTS

We have some guests I would like to recognize: **(only if elected officials present)**

OTHER GUESTS

Past Master Jimmy L. Davis will introduce our distinguished guests....Mr. Davis....Thank you, Mr. Davis.

MAYORAL PROCLAMATION

Will Mayor John Paul Tallent please come to the podium....Ladies and gentlemen, **The Honorable John Paul Tallent, Mayor of the City of Gladewater.....** Thank you, Mayor Tallent.

DEDICATION OF MARKER.

I now dedicate this Official Texas Historical Marker to the pioneer masons who organized this lodge, the masons who diligently persevered in its continuation for more than one-hundred years, the masonic membership here today and to those masons yet to be.

UNVEILING OF MARKER

~~R. W. William L. Walker, D.D.G.M. Elza Lee Steen~~, a 57 year Master Mason will unveil the marker. ..Thank all of you.

READING OF TEXT OF MARKER:

Past Master Thomas G. Taylor will read the text of the marker, followed by some dedicatory remarks by Mr. Charles Steen and then PAST MASTER WILLIAM A.

MANLEY will pronounce the BENEDICTIONMr. Taylor

DEDICATORY REMARKS by Mr. Charles Steen.

BENEDICTION

Only guest: Mayor John Paul Tallent and short talk before proclamation. CHANGE. Jimmy Davis introduced Mayor.

'Moon Lodge' not as mysterious as it sounds

An interesting note to the Gladewater Masonic Lodge's dedication of its Texas Historical Marker, which commemorates the lodge's formation more than 100 years ago, is its designation for many years as a "Moon Lodge."

According to Charles Lee Steen's books "The 100 Year History of Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 A.F. & A.M." and "A Historical Sketch of Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 A.F. & A.M.," for 25 years local Masons, beginning in 1906, met on Thursday evenings on or before the full moon.

It's not as mysterious as it sounds, according to Mr. Lee's book.

"Ages ago in a world before the invention of the 'horseless carriage,'" the primary means of transportation to Lodge meetings was the horse — and if wealthy enough, a buggy. Many Masons lived some distance from the Lodge and, after meetings, traveling home at night was often dangerous for both man and horse.

"Horses are by nature made to be fearful and shadows can often unnerve even the most gentle ones causing them to do unexpected things. Also, traveling at night and finding one's way home, even to an experienced traveler who might easily ride the well trod path during the day, proved to be more challenging when landmarks were not so well recognizable in the dark.

"To solve these problems...many lodges chose to meet near or on a full moon, thus the light of the moon would show the way home."

Minutes from the lodge reveal the Masons did not have an electric-lighted meeting room until 1924. Gladewater remained a Moon Lodge until December 1932, when it changed its meeting times to the first and third Thursdays of each month. Today, the Masons meet on the third Monday of each month — with all the benefits of electricity and the "horseless carriage."

orney said.

Masonic marker dedication set Saturday at local lodge

**By Brenda Brown
Mirror Staff Writer**

Gladewater's Masonic Lodge members have been meeting for more than 100 years and the organization will celebrate the milestone with the dedication of a Texas Historical Marker in a ceremony on Saturday.

The members of Masonic Lodge #852 encourage everyone to come out for the event, which begins at 5 p.m. Dr. Norman Black of Longview, chairman of the Gregg County Historical Commission, will be the guest speaker.

The historical marker is the culmination of almost a year's work as lodge Master Charles Steen applied for the honor last August. Mr. Steen published a history of the local lodge on its 100th birthday in 2002.

Masons—also known as Freemasons—belong to the oldest and largest fraternal organization in the world. Today, there are more than two million Freemasons in North America representing virtually every occupation and profession. Masons come from varied religious beliefs and creeds, yet all believe in one God.

Back in 1900, 20 area men who were members of a Longview Masonic Lodge petitioned to start their own lodge closer to home. On April 19, 1901, the local lodge was approved at the state level and Daniel Washington Wood, Ruben Ambrose Hendrix and J.T. Jordan were named as the first officers.

According to "The 100 Year History of Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852. A.F. & A.F.," written by Mr. Steen, the local Masons originally met inside the James A. Ponder General Store, located at the northwest corner of Pacific and Main streets, the present

site of Cottage Collectiques. The original one-story frame store was replaced with a two-story brick building in 1908, and the Masons met there for 20 more years, until fire destroyed the lodge's records and furniture. Later, the site was home to a Texaco station.

The building was damaged but not destroyed, so the men worked for seven months to restore the lodge on the second floor of the building and have been meeting ever since.

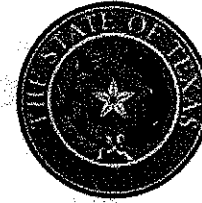
But not at Ponder's store.

In January 1931, the Masons' rolls were dwindling and Mr. Ponder declined to heat the upstairs meeting room. The town, like the nation, was in the throes of the Great Depression and between the heat situation and the monthly rent, the Masons decided to meet at a school building located at the present site of Broadway Elementary.

They met at the red brick school for little more than a year before moving the lodge to 117 E. Pacific Ave., a two-story brick building, formerly known as the Measles Hotel. While the Masons met upstairs, the downstairs was operated by the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, also known as the A&P grocery store. Today it is the home of Cook's Books.

In June 1938, the Masons voted to construct their own lodge building and three lots on South Dean Street were purchased in 1938. Construction on the present two-story lodge began in May 1940. The bottom floor was rented for \$30 a month to Barnes H. Broiles, publisher of the Gladewater Daily Times-Tribune. The new building's estimated cost was \$7,158.

(See related story on Page 3)



Dedication

of One Official

Texas Historical Marker

Composed and Designed
By
Charles Lee Steen

**GLADEWATER MASONIC LODGE
NO. 852 A.F. & A.M.**

5:00 P.M.

Saturday, July 16, 2005

215 N. Dean

OFFICERS
2004-2005

Charles Lee Steen Worshipful Master
Carl Elijah Auvil Senior Warden
John Patrick Fields Junior Warden
Thomas Glenn Taylor Treasurer
William Asa Manley Secretary
Marvin Lee Camp Jr. Chaplain
William Allen Clampitt Senior Deacon
Kyle Henry Moore Junior Deacon
Jon Michael Doonan Senior Steward
James Alexander Moore Junior Steward
Jimmy Lynn Davis Marshall
Lloyd Afton Berry Master of Ceremonies
Joseph Daniel McGee Tiler

Dedication Program

Master of Ceremonies: Dr. Norman W. Black, Chairman
Gregg County Historical Commission

Invocation: Marvin L. Camp, Past Master

Welcome: Charles L. Steen, Worshipful Master

Introduction of Guests: Jimmy L. Davis, Past Master

Mayoral Proclamation: Honorable John Paul Tallent

Dedication of Marker: Dr. Norman W. Black

Unveiling of Marker: R: W: William L. Walker, D. D. G. M.
Elza Lee Steen, 57 yr. Master Mason

Reading of Text of Marker: Thomas G. Taylor, Past Master

Dedicatory Remarks: Charles L. Steen

Benediction: William A. Manley, Past Master



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ON NOVEMBER 15, 1900, TWENTY MASTER MASONS, MANY FROM LONGVIEW MASONIC LODGE NO. 404, PRESENTED A PETITION TO FORM A SEPARATE LODGE. ON APRIL 19, 1901, GRAND MASTER NAT M. WASHER ISSUED THE DISPENSATION, AND DANIEL WASHINGTON WOOD SERVED AS FIRST WORSHIPFUL MASTER OF THE NEW LODGE. IT FORMALLY CHARTERED IN DECEMBER 1901 WITH 29 MEMBERS.

FROM 1901 TO 1931, MEMBERS MET IN JAMES A. PONDER'S GENERAL STORE, WHICH ALSO HOUSED THE POST OFFICE, ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF MAIN AND PACIFIC. DURING THE LODGE'S FORMATIVE YEARS, MEMBERS INCLUDED PROMINENT EARLY BUSINESSMEN, CLERGYMEN, PROFESSIONALS AND CIVIC LEADERS OF GLADEWATER. AMONG THEM WAS DR. EARL GEORGE McLAUGHLIN, WHO OPENED THE CITY'S FIRST HOSPITAL AND INVENTED A MEDICATION DURING THE INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC OF 1918 THAT EARNED HIM NATIONAL ACCLAIM.

SHARING A COMMON EARLY HISTORY WITH THE LODGE IS CHAPTER 831, ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR. CHARTERED IN 1932, THE GROUP HAS LONG BEEN ACTIVE IN ITS SUPPORT OF LODGE PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES.

THE LODGE MET FOR A TIME IN A SCHOOLHOUSE AND IN THE MEASLES HOTEL BEFORE BUILDING ITS OWN HALL AT THIS SITE. IT FIRST MET HERE ON JULY 1, 1940, AND MEMBERS FORMALLY DEDICATED THE BUILDING IN SEPTEMBER OF THAT YEAR. THEY HELD MEETINGS UPSTAIRS AND LEASED FIRST FLOOR SPACE TO A NUMBER OF ENTERPRISES, INCLUDING THE GLADEWATER *DAILY TIME-TRIBUNE*.

LODGE MEMBERS HAVE SERVED THE GRAND LODGE OF TEXAS AS DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS AND ACTIVELY SUPPORTED MASONIC PROJECTS. LOCALLY, THEY CONTRIBUTE TO MANY WORTHWHILE COMMUNITY AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, INCLUDING ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS. TODAY, GLADEWATER LODGE NO. 852 SERVES AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE CITY'S FUTURE AS WELL AS A REMINDER OF ITS RICH HISTORY.

(2005)



Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 had its earliest origins on November 15, 1900. Being desirous of starting a new Masonic Lodge closer to their homes, twenty Master Masons, many of who were members of Longview Masonic Lodge No. 404, signed and presented a petition at a Stated Meeting on November 15, 1900 requesting permission to proceed with their labors.

They were: Daniel Washington Wood, Ruben Ambrose Hendrix, Jeff Thomas Jordan, Oliver J. Bruce, Eaits Bell Daniel, Edgar Ezekiel Martin, James A. Ponder, George W. Reynolds, Jacob C. Howard, Thomas Bluford Stinchcomb, William F. Nelson, Robert G. Brown, Rufus M. Gay, William M. Bruton, Taylor E. Kennard, Alfred Mason Phillips, Albert S. Poindexter, G. Monro Smith, John Henry Simmons and Joseph M. Hoskins.

Their petition met with success and on April 19, 1901 the Grand Master, M: W: Nat M. Washer issued a Dispensation to form a new Lodge and appointed as the first officers: Daniel Washington Wood as Worshipful Master; Ruben Ambrose Hendrix as Senior Warden and Jeff Thomas Jordan as Junior Warden.

The first meeting was held on June 27, 1901 in the James A. Ponder general store with the following twenty nine Chartered Members:

Daniel Washington Wood, Ruben Ambrose Hendrix, Oliver J. Bruce, Alfred Mason Phillips, James B. Rowe, Albert S. Poindexter, Eaits Bell Daniel, Edgar Ezekiel Martin, Henry Clay Walker, James Daniel Wood, G. Monro Smith, Jeff Thomas Jordan, George W. Reynolds, Jacob C. Howard, Robert G. Brown, William M. Bruton, Rufus M. Gay, Joseph M.

Hoskins, Thomas Bluford Stinchcomb, James A. Ponder, William F. Nelson, John Henry Simmons, Taylor E. Kennard, John H. Victory, Robert A. Topp, Gilbert L. Purdy, Howard M. Lawrence, Jackson D. Gatlin and William Emmett Foshee.

Their first meeting was held in a one story wooden structure that was located on the northwest corner of North Main Street and West Pacific Avenue. Gladewater Lodge continued meeting in these quarries until 1908 when the building was deemed unsafe and demolished to make way for a more modern two story stone structure.

In 1905 and for the next twenty-five years in the life of Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852, the organization was designated as a "*Moon Lodge*" so known due to the fact that meetings were held on the Thursday evening on or before the full moon.

The reason for meeting thusly was due to the lack of electric lighting and many members, living some distance from the Lodge, travel was made more safer with the light of a full moon to direct the brothers back to their homes. The second Ponder store building while serving as meeting quarters for Gladewater Masonic Lodge, also rented out space to the local U. S. Post Office. One of the Charter Members of the Lodge was William Emmett Foshee, who on November 15, 1899 was appointed U. S. Postmaster by President William McKinley. Brother William Foshee held the unique distinction of being one of the early settlers of Gladewater who attended a town meeting where representatives of the railroad told the citizens assembled, to choose between the name of Gladewater or St. Clair for the new town. The name of Gladewater was chosen.

During it's formative years the members of Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 were the leading citizens of the newly formed city of Gladewater. There was Alfred Mason Phillips who during 1877 developed on his property, near the present Gladewater city lake, a natural mineral springs health resort. This resort was sought out by numerous visitors from all parts of the United States seeking to regain their health by bathing in the therapeutic waters. In addition to operating the health resort, Brother Phillips also opened the first hardware and furniture store in downtown Gladewater. This store was located in a two story building that was later

remodeled into the Gregg movie theatre - the premier theatre in East Texas.

Another distinguished early member was physician Earl George McLaughlin. Born on April 26, 1885 in Illinois, he joined the Masonic fraternity before moving to Texas. Relocating to Gladewater in 1913 he affiliated with Gladewater Masonic Lodge and served as the Tenth Worshipful Master for 1916-1917. As a physician, he became known throughout the United States during the 1918 flu epidemic. Inventing and perfecting a chest rub marketed nationwide under the name of NU-MA-CIDE, he gained great fame and fortune. With this new found wealth, he opened the first hospital in Gladewater which later leased space in the upper floor of the James A. Ponder general store.

At the meeting held on February 26, 1931 the members of Gladewater Masonic Lodge decided to seek a new meeting place due to being dissatisfied over the lack of heat in the Ponder building. Securing their third meeting place, in thirty years, the Lodge met from April 30, 1931 until June 16, 1932 in the local red brick schoolhouse. This schoolhouse was located on Broadway Avenue and was later built around by a newer building known as Broadway School. While the red brick building was later demolished, the newer building still stands and is utilized to the present time as a school for the children of Gladewater. While this building proved satisfactory, it was always considered a temporary meeting place and the members of the Lodge were always looking for a more permanent facility.

A fourth lodge room was finally secured on the second floor of the former Measles Hotel located at 117 East Pacific Avenue. From 1932 to 1940 the Lodge rented space and met here while the bottom floor was utilized by the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company also known as A & P Food Store. This building is still standing and looks as it did during the time that the Lodge met there during the 1930's. Today it houses the Cook Book Store owned by Barry and Cindy Cook.

Having never constructed a building of their own and desirous of becoming owners and not merely tenants, the members of Gladewater Masonic Lodge decided to seek land on which to build their fifth lodge room. Purchasing land at 215 North Dean Street, the Lodge erected a two-

story brick building and held their first meeting in that fifth building on July 1, 1940. Since that first meeting, the Lodge has continuously met in this same location with the building changed little from it's original form.

From 1940 to 1950 the bottom floor of the North Dean Street building was rented out to the local city newspaper, the *Gladewater Daily Times-Tribune*. When the paper was sold to local oilman investor, T. W. Lee, the newspaper relocated to other quarters. After that time other organizations in the community would call the bottom floor of the Masonic building - home.

In addition to housing the members of Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852, the fifth Lodge building is home to Chapter 831, Order of the Eastern Star located in Gladewater. This organization composed of men and women of Masonic affiliations, was chartered on October 27, 1932. Many of the influential citizens of Gladewater during the 1930's and 1940's, were members of this organization. Still in existence to this day, the Gladewater Eastern Star is a vital contributor to Gladewater Lodge in both talent and monetary funds. Its present membership is committed to the support and continued success of the Lodge as well as their own organization.

Since 1937 eleven members of Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 have served the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas as District Deputy Grand Master. Helping in the Lodge's Historical Marker Dedication Ceremony is the latest member to that select and honored club - the Right Worshipful William L. Walker.

Other members of Gladewater Lodge have served their community as leaders of industry and commerce. Others have been educators and local physicians and ministers of the Gospel. Whatever their chosen professions, the members of Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 are dedicated to the betterment of their community and to the education of the children in East Texas.

In testament to this commitment, the Gladewater Masonic Lodge awards two scholarships each year to a Gladewater and Union Grove graduating high school senior.

Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 has had a history written and published in book form which is available throughout the United States from First Books on the Internet. Being one of the oldest organizations in Gladewater, the Gladewater Masonic Lodge is proud to be able to give to the citizens of East Texas and specifically - Gladewater, another State of Texas Historical Marker.

From the Worshipful Master

The officers and members of Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 sincerely thank you for your attendance at our ceremonies this evening. It is our hope that you have enjoyed yourselves as much as we have enjoyed hosting you. It is quite an honor to preside over the Lodge at a time in its history when something as noteworthy as a State Historical Marker can be erected and dedicated to the community and Lodge.

Masonry is always striving to improve the quality of life in the various communities in which lodges are erected. Historical Markers are just another avenue of expression of how much pride the members of various organizations have in their clubs and community. Of this, Gladewater Masonic Lodge No. 852 is blessed with an abundance of members proud to be members of this Lodge and citizens of this community.

So Mote It Be

GLADEWATER MASONIC LODGE #852

- Contributors to Historical Marker -

Bro. Carl & Mrs. Auvil
PM Billy & Mrs. Bales
PM L. A. & Mrs. Berry
Bro. Norwood Brenneke
PM Marvin & Mrs. Camp
Bro. Bill & Mrs. Clampitt
PM Jimmy & Mrs. Davis
Bro. Les & Mrs. Dolbow
Bro. Jonathan Doonan
PM Rudolph & Mrs. Dorrrough
PM John & Mrs. Fields
Bro. Gordon & Mrs. Godfrey
Bro. Wilson & Mrs. Godfrey
Bro. Richard & Mrs. Grayum
PM Douglas & Mrs. Green
Bro. Jason Hawkins & Nancy Kelsey
Ms. Lora Dee Lindley
PM C. W. & Mrs. Lovett
PM William & Mrs. Manley
Bro. Joe & Mrs. McGee
PM Jimmy & Mrs. McKinley
Bro. Kyle & Mrs. Moore
Bro. Chad & Mrs. Murphy
Bro. Jack & Mrs. Phillips
WM Charles & Mrs. Steen
Bro. David A. Steen
Bro. E. Lee & Mrs. Steen
PM Tom & Mrs. Taylor
PM Robert & Mrs. Ulrich
PM William & Mrs. Walker
PM Jimmy & Mrs. Williams
PM Smokey & Mrs. Williams
Gladewater OES Chapter #831
Y Knot Massage



Pledge of Allegiance

*I pledge allegiance to the flag
Of the United States of America,
And to the Republic for which it stands;
One nation, under God,
Indivisible with liberty and justice for all.*



Pledge of Allegiance to the Texas Flag

*Honor the Texas Flag.
I pledge allegiance to thee Texas,
One and indivisible.*