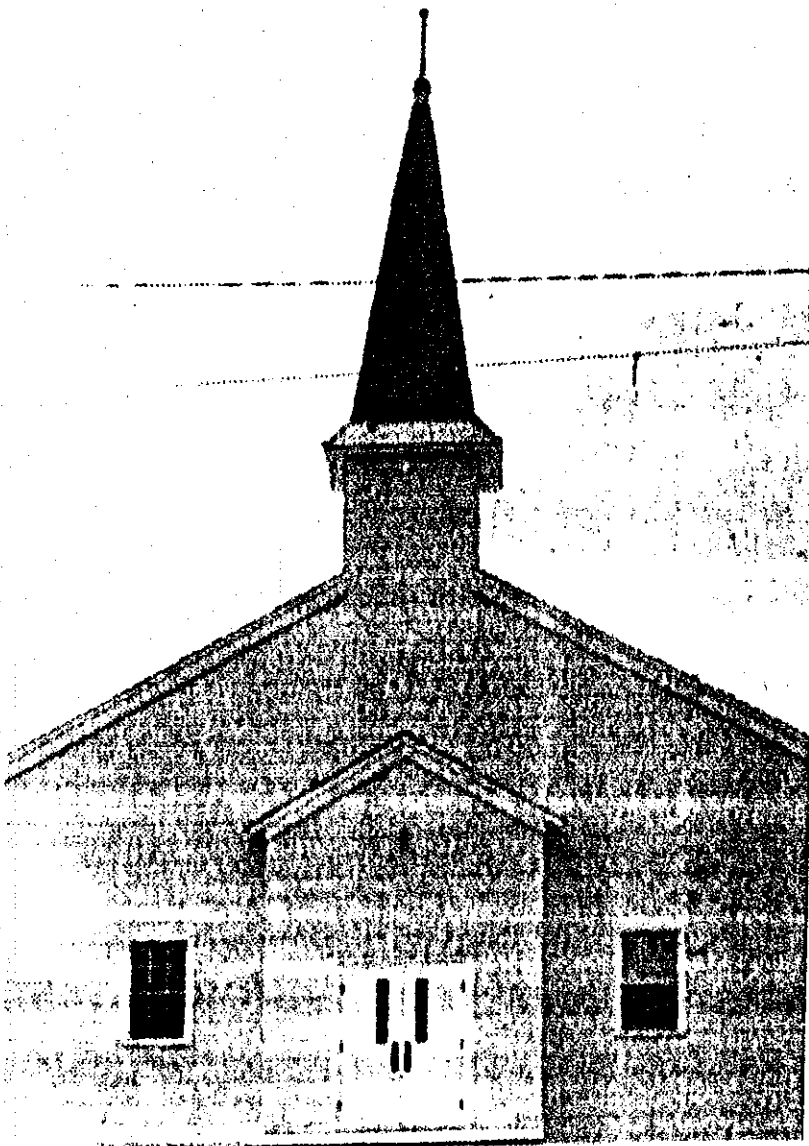


(Above) Speer Memorial Chapel interior after renovation.

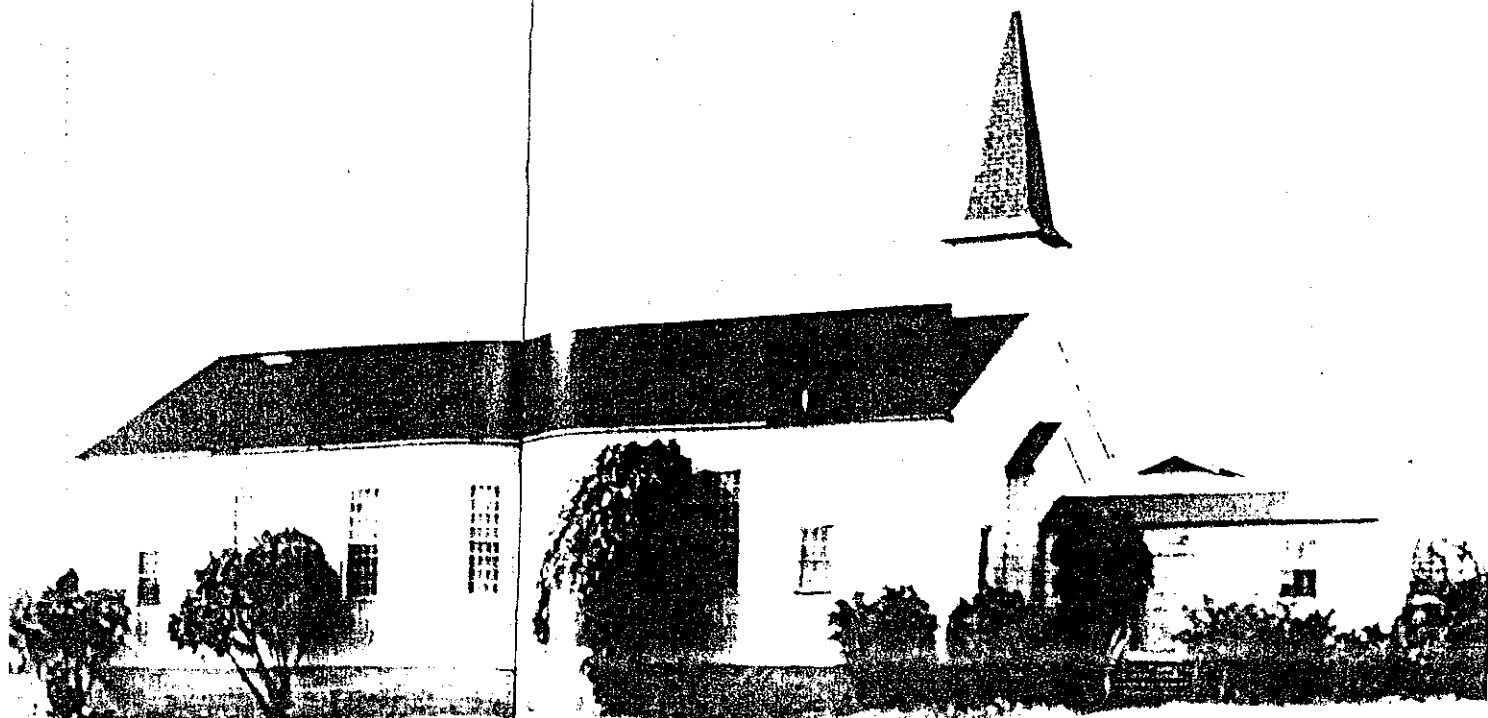
(Left and facing page) Pictures of Speer Memorial Chapel before and after its extensive renovation in 1983.



worldwide Hilton Hotel empire. For most of its existence, it was known as Hotel Longview, but in the 1950s a group of local investors purchased it and renamed it the Downtowner Hotel. Throughout its history, the hotel was the center of Longview's convention and social activity. Mr. and Mrs. Earl Hollandsworth owned the hotel during its latter years and gave it to the College in 1974.

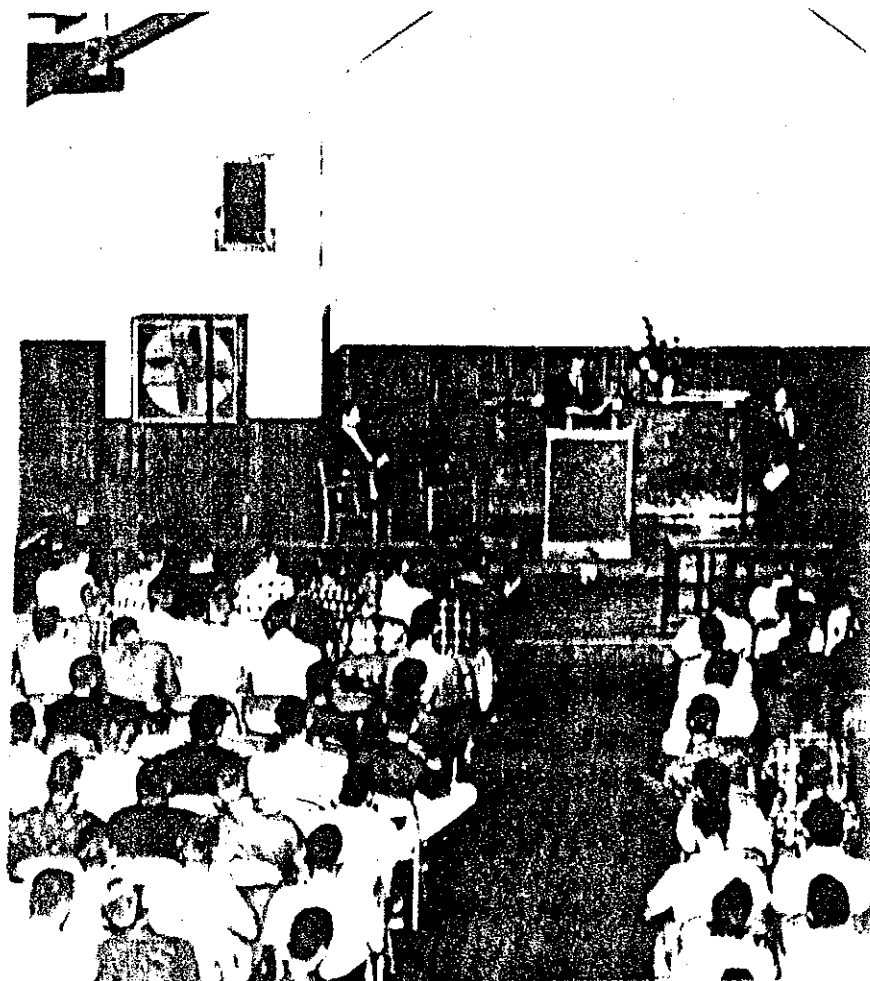
During the 1977-1978 academic year, the Downtowner served as both a hotel and as a residence hall for about one hundred single men. When the registrar predicted a fall 1978 enrollment of more than one hundred, the

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sixty. The Bible study also included singing, testimonies, and refreshments, and students found it a good place to take their dates or to meet local young ladies who attended. Shortly after Dr. Kenneth McKinley joined the faculty in 1959, he was asked to lead the Bible study, and attendance rose to 125. However, Dr. McKinley's teaching load and interim pastorate forced him to drop the study. The group disbanded shortly thereafter in 1960.

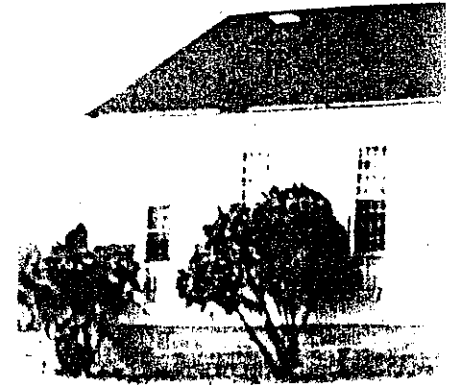
Students like Don Landis in the late 1950s sought to live a positive Christian testimony and make a difference on campus. Landis and some of his like-minded friends wanted to restore the old hospital chapel and hold services there again. When Landis arrived on campus in fall 1957, the old chapel was being used as a warehouse for dozens of crates of surplus Allison engines. A large gantry crane for lifting and moving the engines also occupied the building. The inside of the old chapel was a wreck. The stage area had been removed to make more space for the engines, the entire north wall of the building had been removed for easier access, and the other walls had been damaged by the crates.



Mann and his wife, Vivian, had a tremendous spiritual impact on students. The couple were considered a team in this ministry. Mann's primary responsibility included planning the chapel services for both the plant and the school, but he also counseled plant employees and students, and often ended up helping them out financially. He also visited employees and students when they were in the hospital. Vivian's ministry included providing special music in chapel and also counseling student wives. She organized the Student Wives' Club and also helped with the Faculty Wives' Club. The Manns lived on campus during their eight and

one-half years of ministry.

Several student leaders felt the need for more Bible study and Christian fellowship than they received in chapel, so they initiated a number of such opportunities through the years. The Friday night Bible Study was one such activity. It began in January 1954 when Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Davis hosted a group of twelve in their home. Gideons International supplied the teacher for the first several weeks, but later Chaplain Barney Walker agreed to lead it. When the group outgrew the Davis home it moved to Evelyn Hall on campus, and by 1958, average attendance had grown to



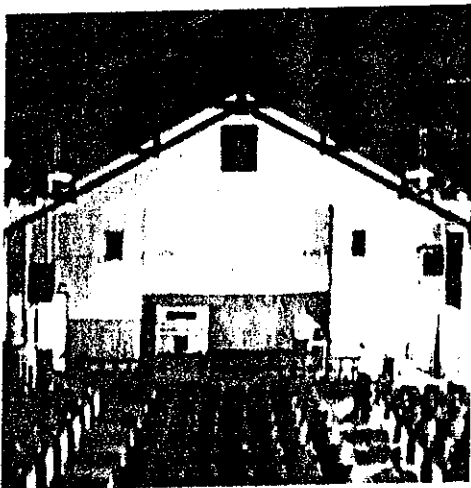
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Chaplain Barney Walker leading the Friday night Bible Study. It was an opportunity for local girls to come on campus and meet some of the Tech students.

(Below) Speer Memorial Chapel interior before renovation. During the renovation the old wooden theater seats were replaced with beautiful wooden pews.



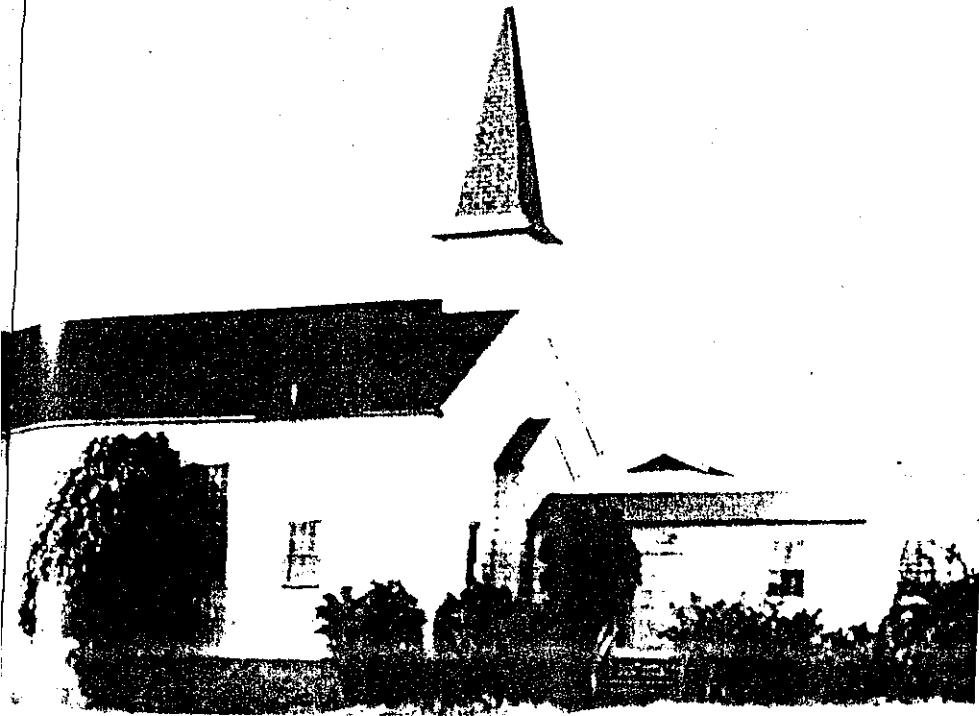
and used for storage, and its condition deteriorated rapidly.

College Trustees and administration wanted to refurbish and preserve one of the remaining barracks buildings as a memorial to Harmon General Hospital, its World War II patients, and medical personnel. School officials chose to preserve the old Hospital chapel, which had not been used for chapel services since spring 1965. It had old wooden theater-type seats in it and was used for small group meetings. The administration agreed in 1982 to spend approximately \$40,000 remodeling the structure, but about halfway through the project, College

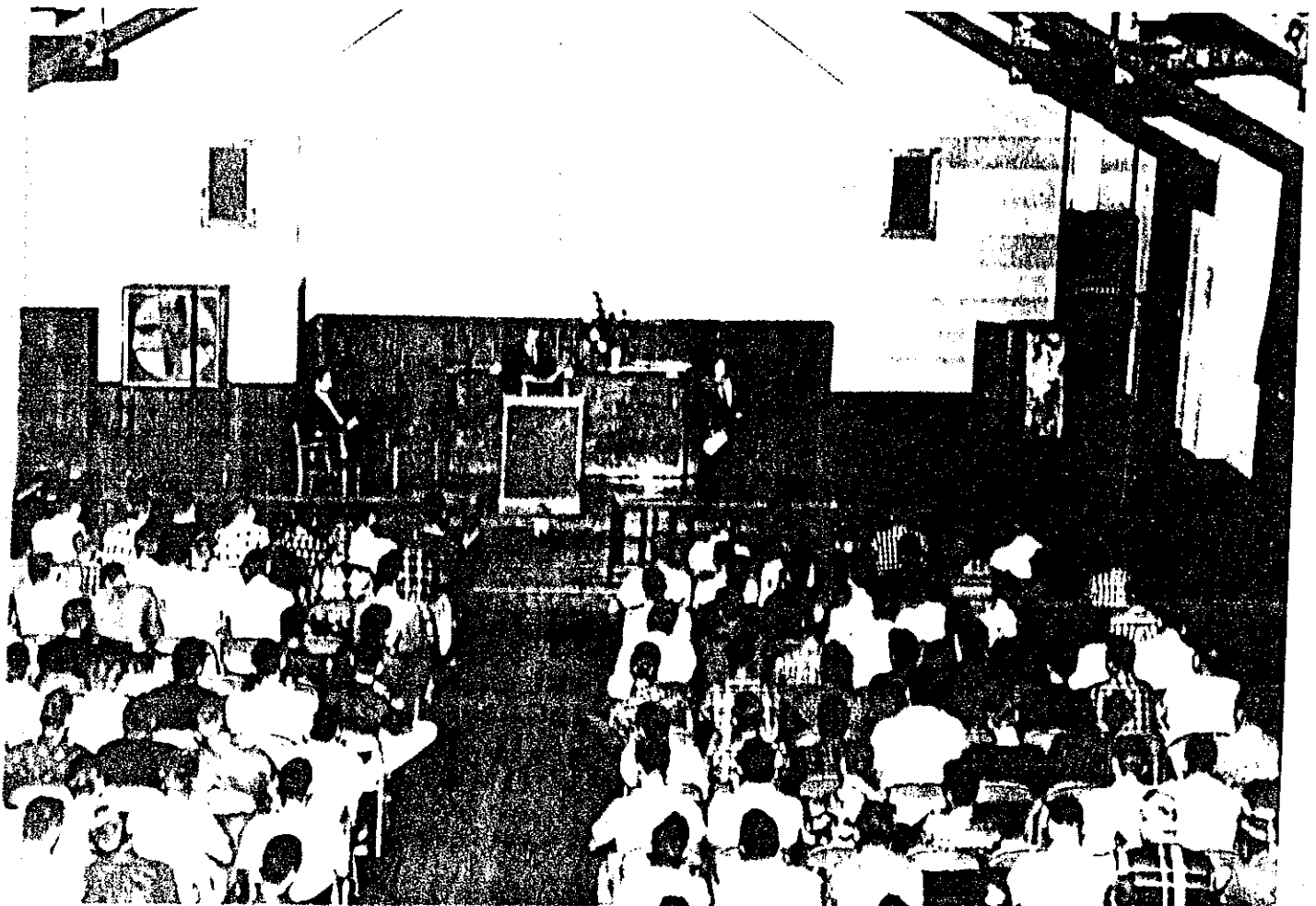
personnel who were supervising the work discovered that the chapel was a structural treasure that deserved more extensive refurbishing. The administration decided to completely refurbish the inside and replace the squeaky theater seats with padded church pews to match the beautiful wooden roof support beams. The estimated cost of the desired renovation was about \$70,000. When Dr. Dorothy Speer, a retired college professor and former missionary from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, read about the chapel project, she sent a gift sufficient to cover the renovation and to provide an endowment for the chapel's upkeep and

maintenance. The Board decided to name the building Speer Memorial Chapel. Nels and Bernice Sternstrom gave the beautiful Hammond console organ for the chapel. Speer Memorial Chapel could accommodate two hundred people, and was a popular place for student weddings.

One off-campus building that the College used for student housing during the early 1980s was the Downtowner Hotel, at the northwest corner of Green and Methvin Streets in Longview. This Longview landmark had been built in 1932, and purchased in 1935 by Conrad Hilton, who doubled its size. It was the second hotel in the famous



(Left) The exterior of the present Speer Chapel as it appeared in 1961 when still connected to the covered ramps.



Don Hanson, of a group of students, is seen in the left foreground during a service in the chapel in 1961.

HARMON GENERAL HOSPITAL



Water tower

H' quarters

Chapel

Closed psychotherapy wards

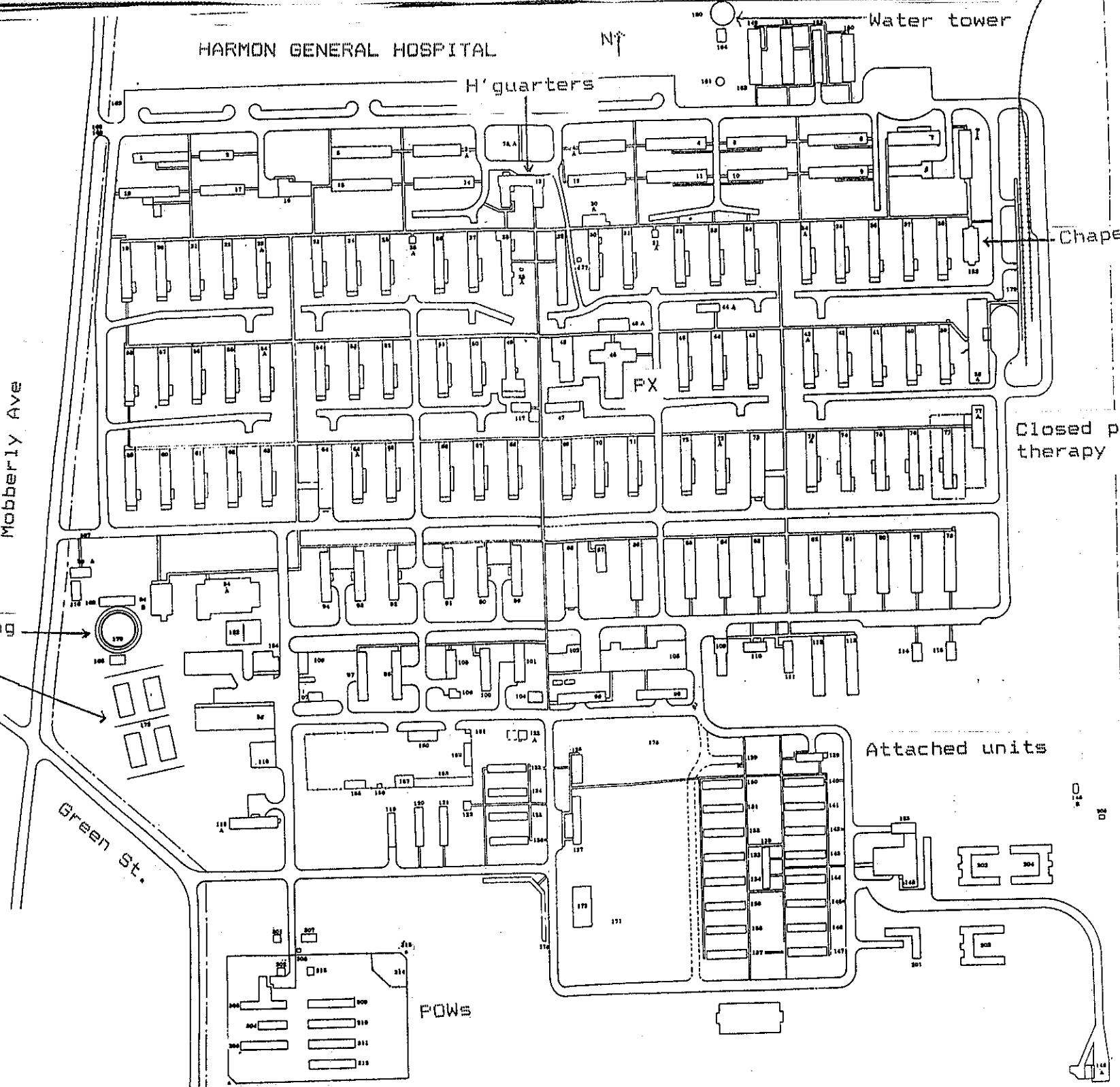
Attached units

POWs

Mobberly Ave

Swimming
tennis

Green St.



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PREPARED BY

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June 11, 1997

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The Army selected 156 acres from the James A. Holloway farm, just south of Longview as the site for the hospital,³ and construction began in April 1942.⁴ The hospital was activated on November 24, 1942 by Col. Gouverneur V. Emerson, commander.⁵ Construction of hospital buildings and support facilities continued throughout the life of the hospital which ultimately consisted of 232 buildings connected by three and one-half miles of enclosed ramps.⁶

Recognizing that the spiritual needs of the patients was of vital importance to their recovery, the Army saw to it that the hospital chapel was one of the first support facilities to be constructed. It was dedicated on January 31, 1943, slightly over two months after the hospital was activated.⁷ (Ar '43, p. 36) Protestant and Catholic Army chaplains and the Jewish Rabbi from Marshall, Texas conducted regular services at the chapel⁸ for

the 23,405 patients treated there⁹ during the three years of the Hospital's operation until it was deactivated on December 6, 1945.¹⁰ During this time the chapel was also a popular location for weddings involving hospital patients and/or staff members. The chapel seated 250 people in its two sections of wooden benches, separated by a center aisle, and in its small balcony.¹¹

On January 20, 1946 the Hospital buildings and property were purchased by the R. G. LeTourneau Foundation¹² which opened LeTourneau Technical Institute in the abandoned facilities on April 2, 1946.¹³ The eighty-two by thirty-six foot structure, with asbestos shingle siding, was used by the Institute for its regular chapel services for the first few months. However, as chapel attendance increased under Chaplain Kenneth Mann the services were moved to a larger building.¹⁴ The abandoned chapel was then used for storage of surplus war engines.¹⁵ The platform and the entire north wall were removed to create more storage space and to facilitate the movement of engines in and out of the building. The interior was extensively damaged by a gantry crane used to move the engines around.¹⁶

Under these conditions the building would undoubtedly have deteriorated beyond repair and would have been eventually demolished had it not been for Don Landis. In 1958 Landis, with the approval of the administration, enlisted other student volunteers, many from Mr. Swain Phillips' Building Trades classes, who shared his desire to restore the old chapel to its former condition in order that chapel services could once again

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REFERENCES

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Gregg County Historical Commission

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

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Phone 903-757-2261
Fax # 903-753-5337

July 30, 1997

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

RE: Historical Marker Application for Speer Memorial Chapel.

Dear Cynthia:

Enclosed is the application packet for the above marker. If approved it would have to be in the RTHL category since it was built in 1942. This well-maintained structure was built in 1942 as the chapel for Harmon General Hospital in Longview. As a war surplus facility it was sold to R. G. LeTourneau for \$1.00. The late Carl L. Estes and R. G. LeTourneau each paid for the property with a fifty cent piece.

I would think there are very few of these chapels remaining in the country and it might well qualify for the RTHL designation. LeTourneau University continues to use the chapel for services.

Sincerely,

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.

Enc.

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

In order to facilitate delivery of the marker, neither post office box numbers nor rural route numbers can be accepted. If the marker is to be placed on the highway right-of-way, it will be shipped directly to the district highway engineer.

Name: Dr. Norman W. Black

Street address: 417 Mobberly Ave., Longview, Texas 75602

Phone: 903-757-2261

TYPE AND SIZE OF MARKER DESIRED (Please check one only.)

Subject Markers

This type of marker is solely educational in nature and conveys no legal restrictions to the property. Subject markers are appropriate for topics such as cemeteries, church congregations, 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.

- | | |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar) | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" marker with post | \$850 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" marker without post (see below) | \$800 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" marker with post | \$550 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" marker without post (see below) | \$500 |

If not on post, to what (block of granite, gatepost, etc.) will the marker be attached? _____

Type of material? (wood, stone, etc.) _____

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Markers

Markers conveying the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation are reserved solely for historic structures deemed worthy of preservation for their architectural integrity and historical associations. The RTHL designation does carry a measure of legal protection for the structure (see Marker Policies 13 through 18) and for that reason we must have a legal description (lot and block numbers) for the property to be designated. The most commonly used marker for conveying this designation is the medallion and plate (also referred to as a building marker); however, the 18" x 28" or 27" x 42" size marker may be ordered for those who wish a greater amount of historical information to appear in the marker text. Careful attention should be paid so as not to damage historic building material if the marker is to be mounted directly onto the structure. The THC staff can provide alternate ideas for mounting upon request.

- | | |
|---|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medallion and 16" x 12" plate with post | \$400 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medallion and 16" x 12" plate without post (see below) | \$350 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" marker with post | \$850 |
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If not on post, to what (building, gate, etc.) will the marker be attached? _____

Type of material? (wood, stone, etc.) _____

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

On the campus of LeTourneau University occupying 123.694 acres in the center of the Avla (Alvey) R. Johnson Survey of Gregg County, now within the city limits of Longview.

Before forwarding your material to the Texas Historical Commission, please check to make sure you've included the following items. Incomplete applications cannot be considered and may be returned to the applicant.

- ✓ completed application form signed by the county historical commission chair or marker committee chair
- ✓ narrative history with reference notes and bibliography
- ✓ photograph of the proposed marker location (do not use instant/Polaroid photos)
- ✓ map indicating marker location and other sites related to the marker topic
- ✓ historic photo of property and current photographs of all elevations (RTHL markers only)
- ✓ legal description of property (RTHL markers only)
- ✓ floor plans (RTHL markers only)
- ✓ site plan (RTHL markers only)

Mail completed applications to:

Local History Programs, Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711-2276 512/463-5853

Additional items, including directional signs and replacement parts for 1936 markers, are available. Please contact the Local History Programs office for a separate order form.

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Government Document

Annual Reports of Harmon General Hospital 1942-1945, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. (copies in the Citizens' Resource Center, LeTourneau University, Longview).

Unpublished Manuscript

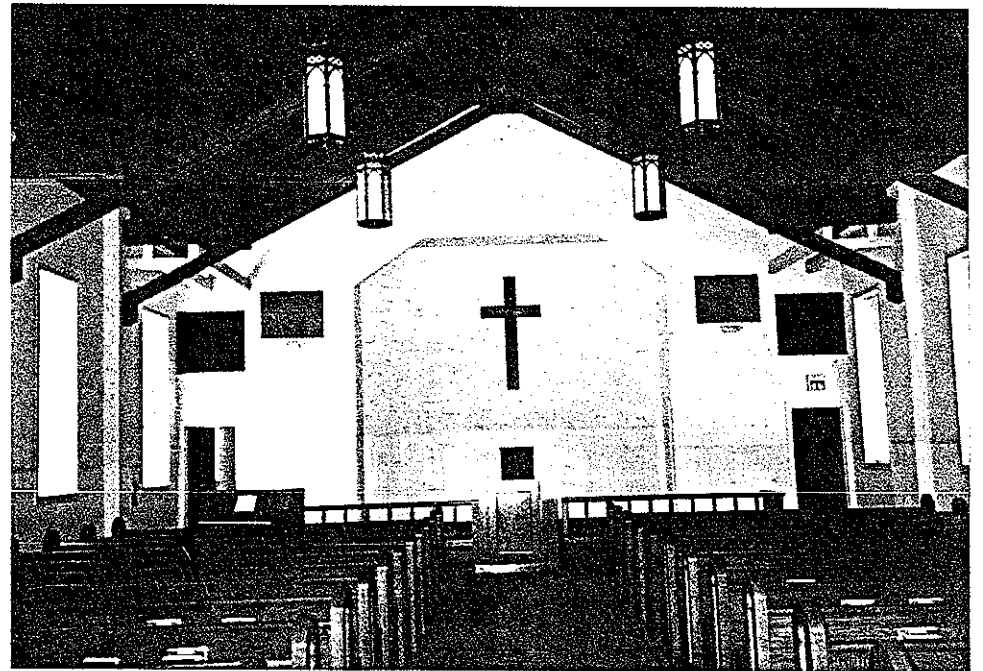
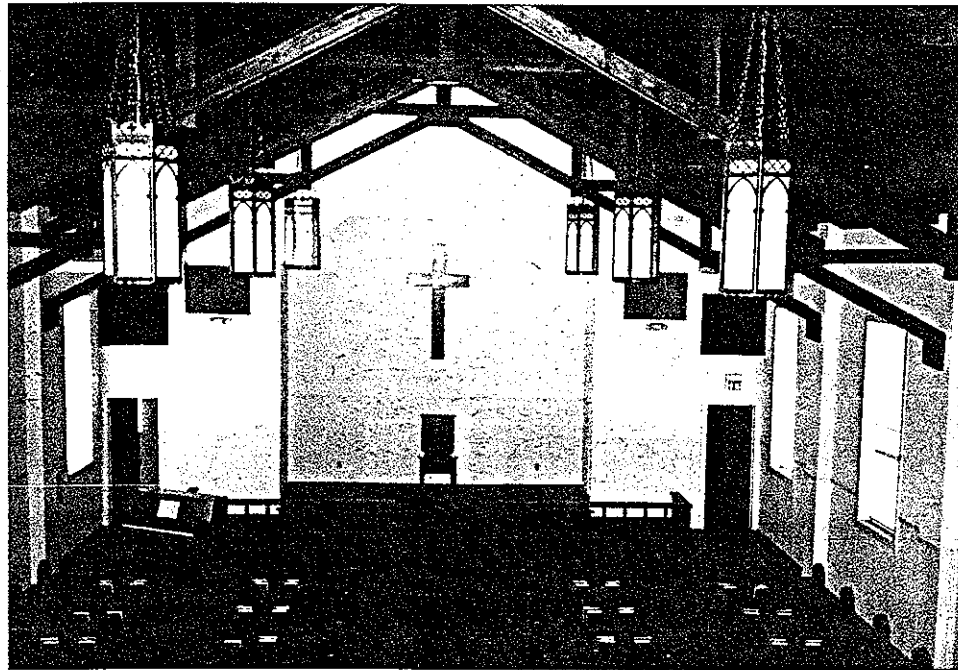
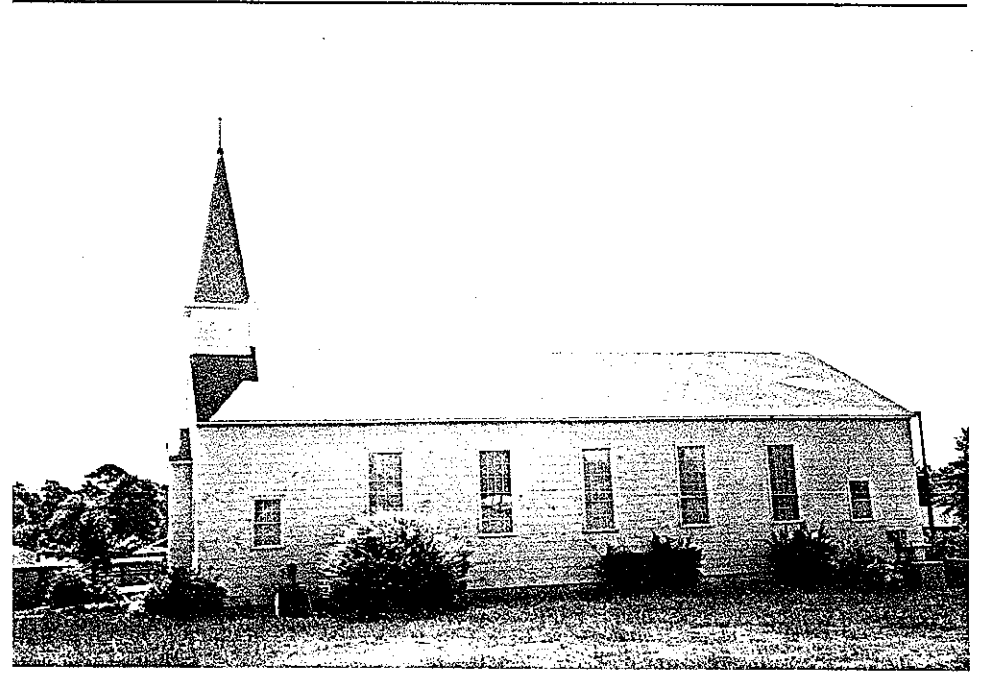
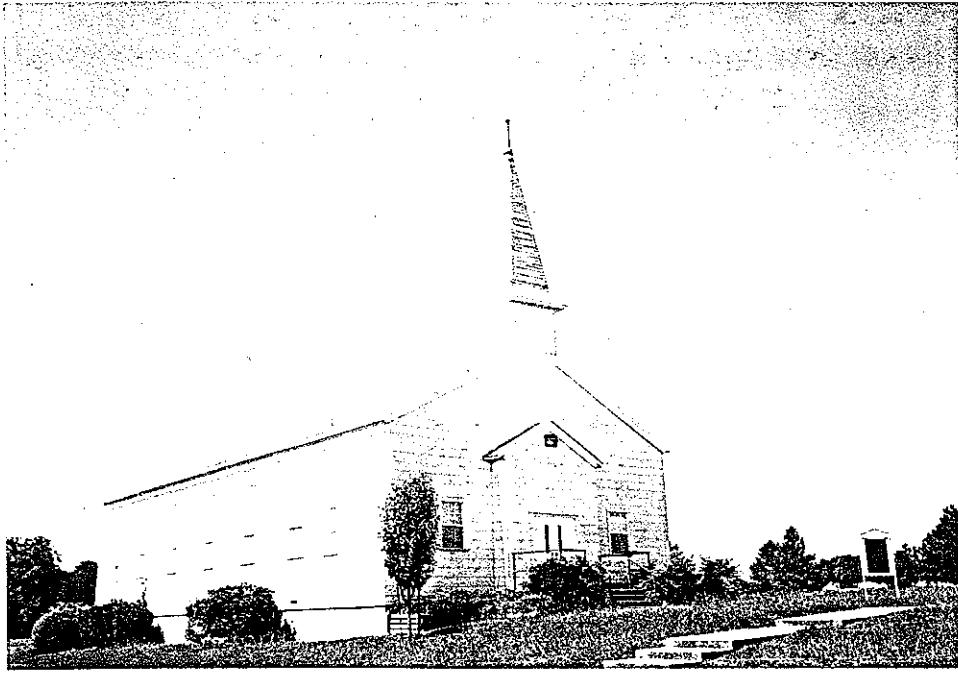
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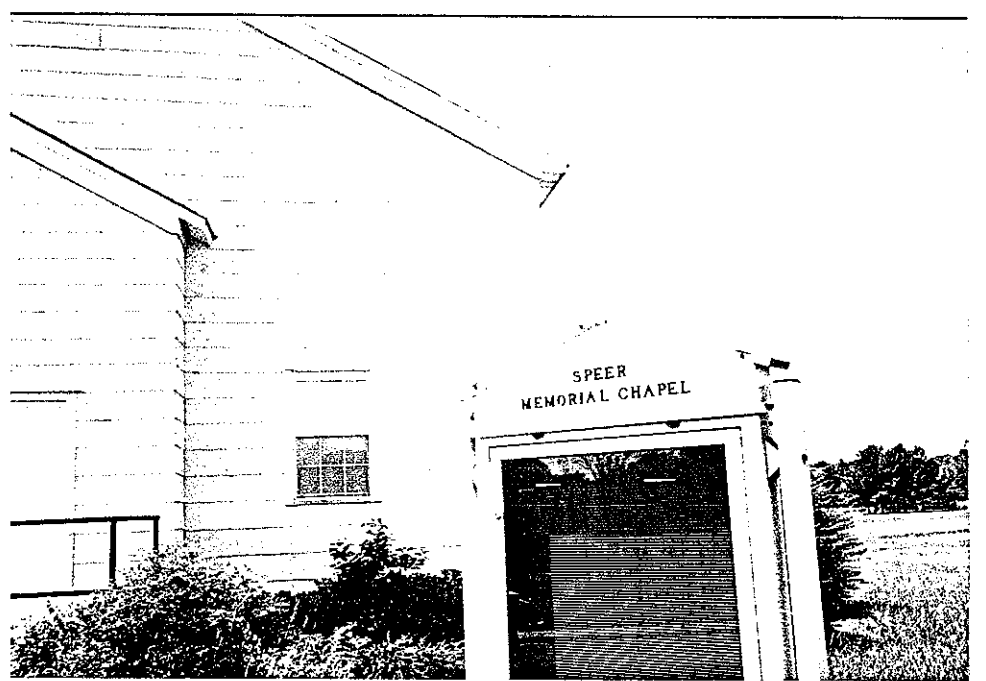
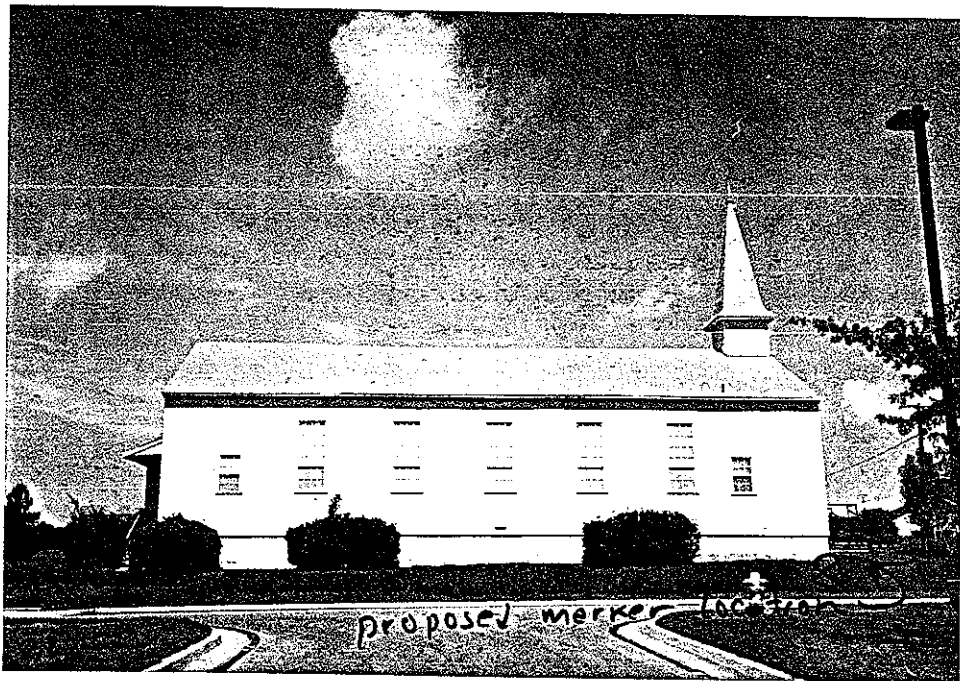
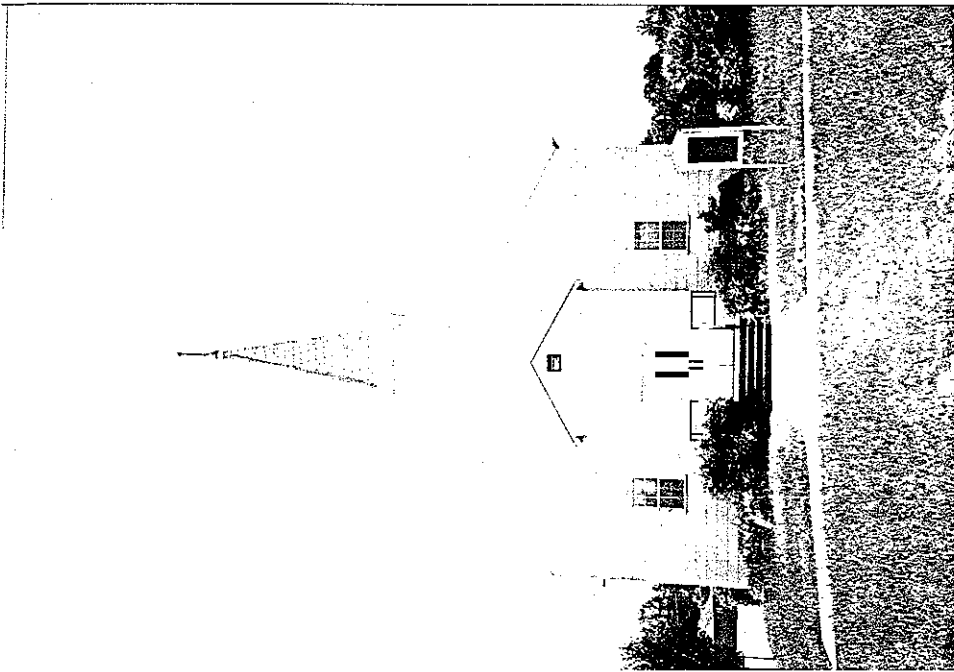
Personal Interviews

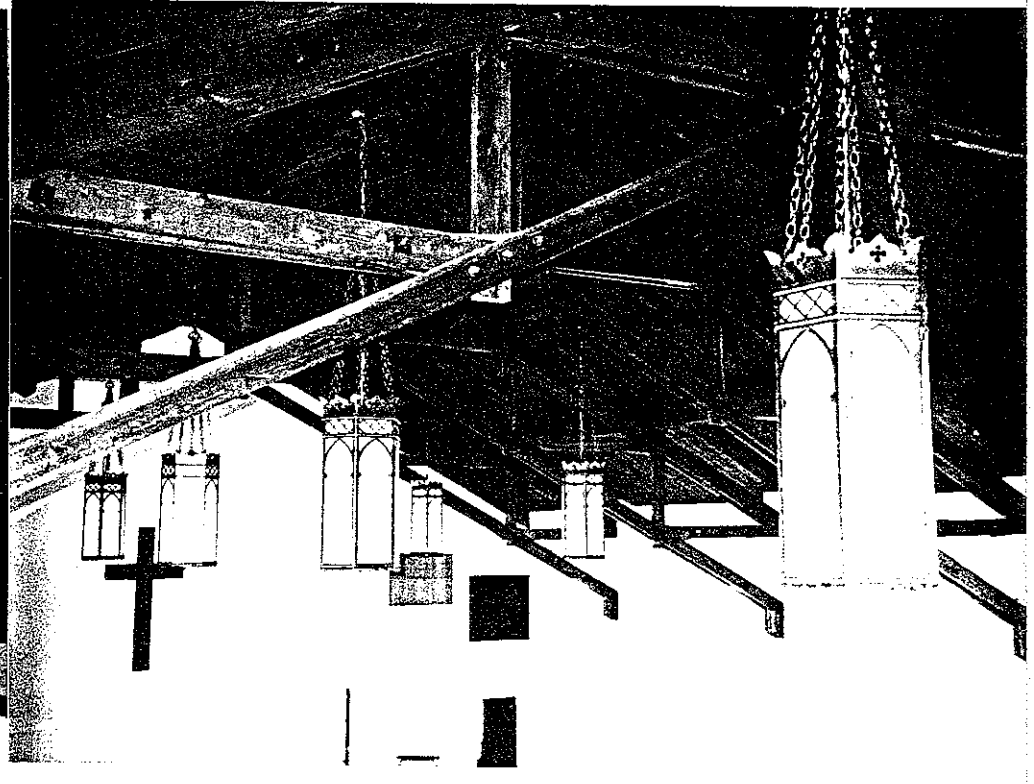
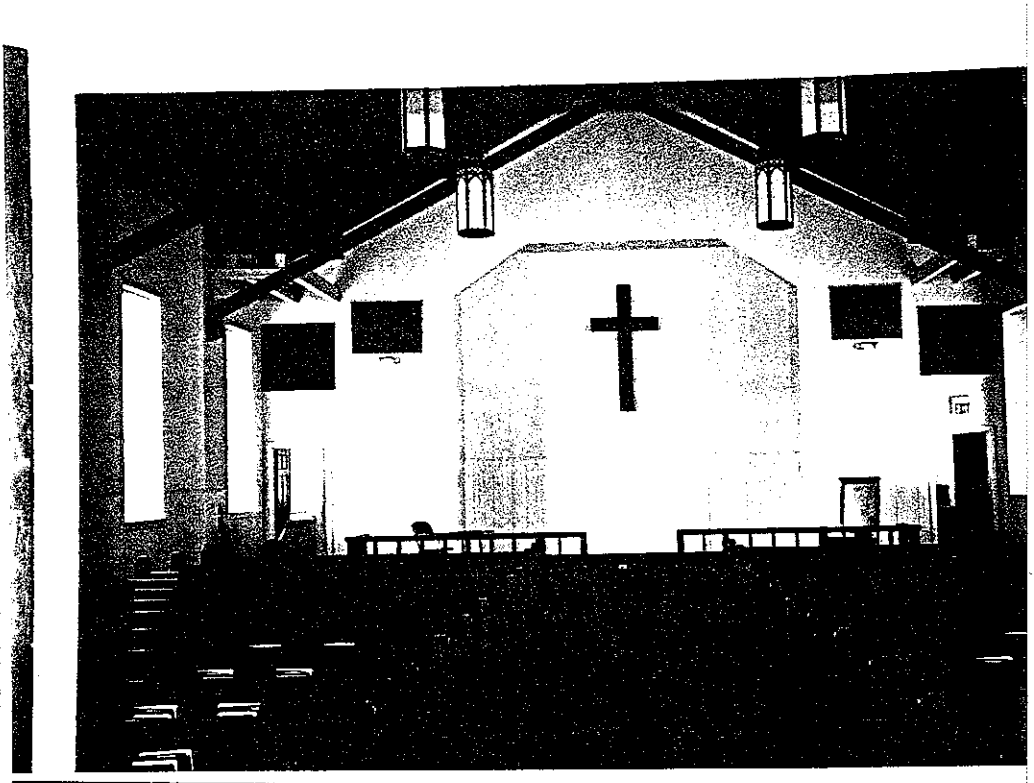
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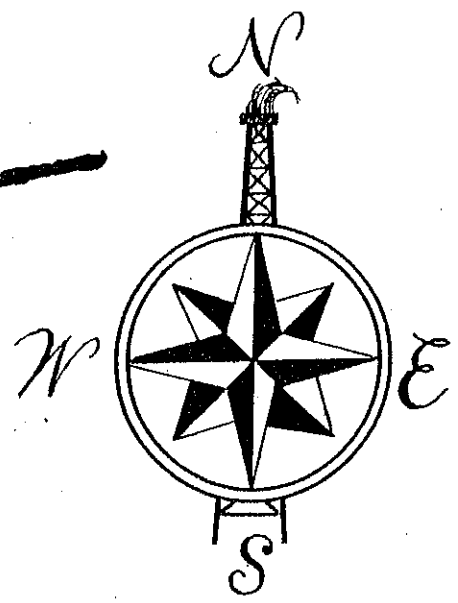
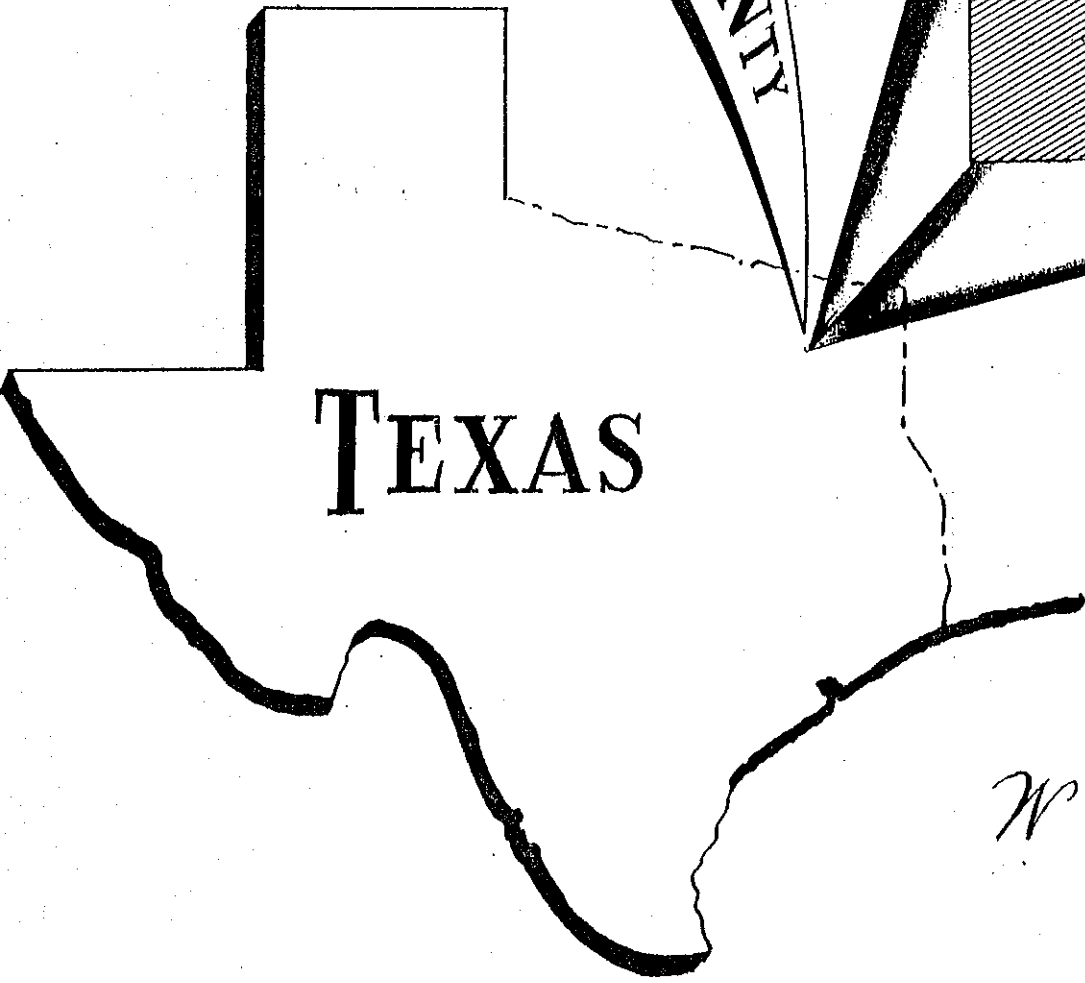
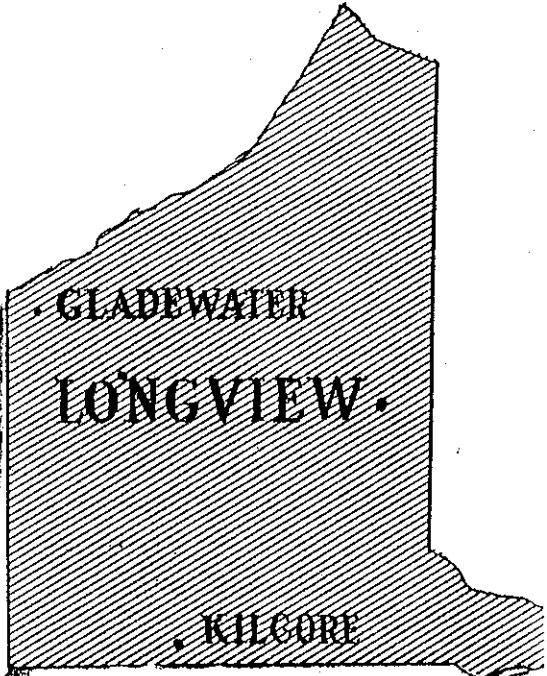
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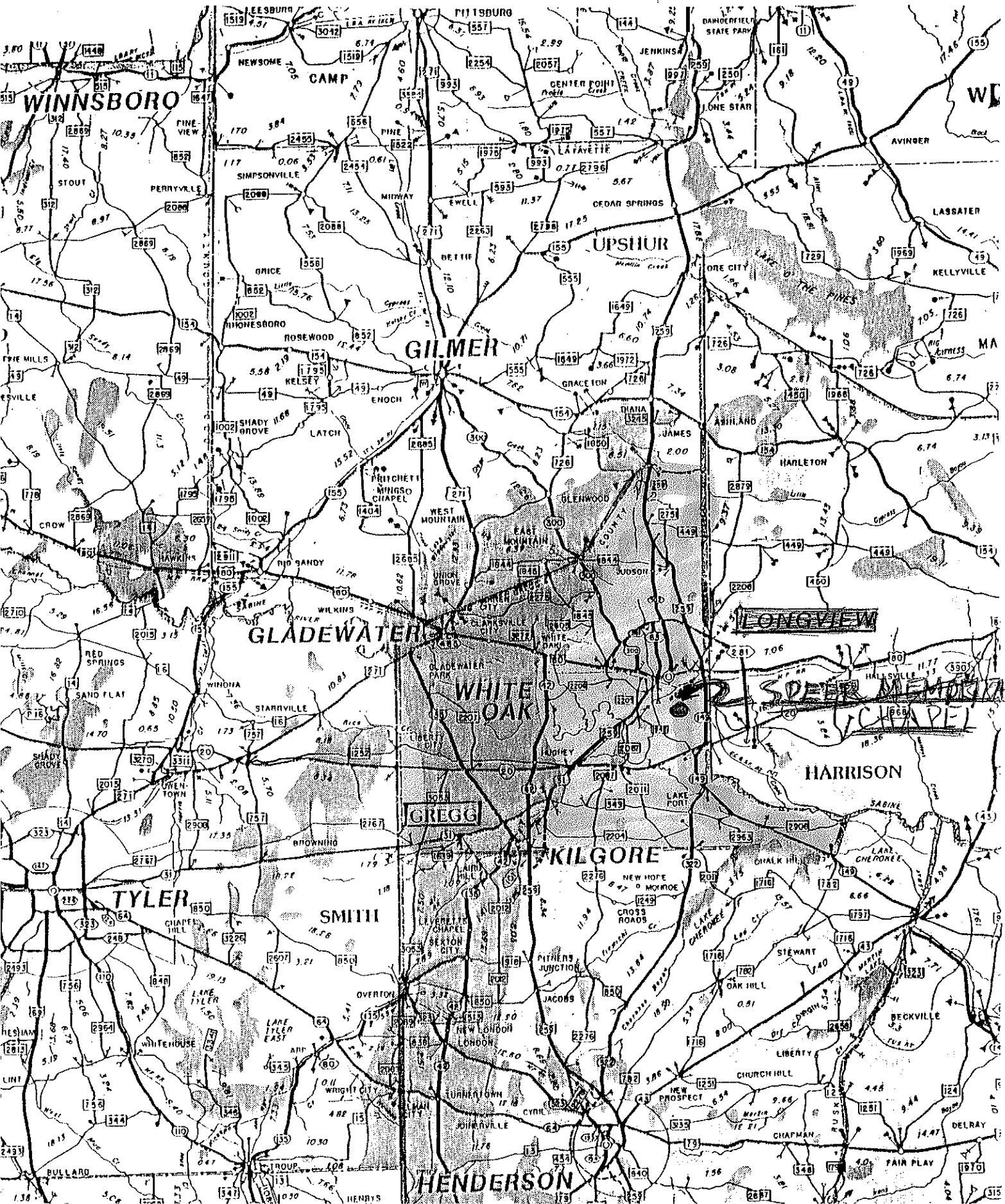




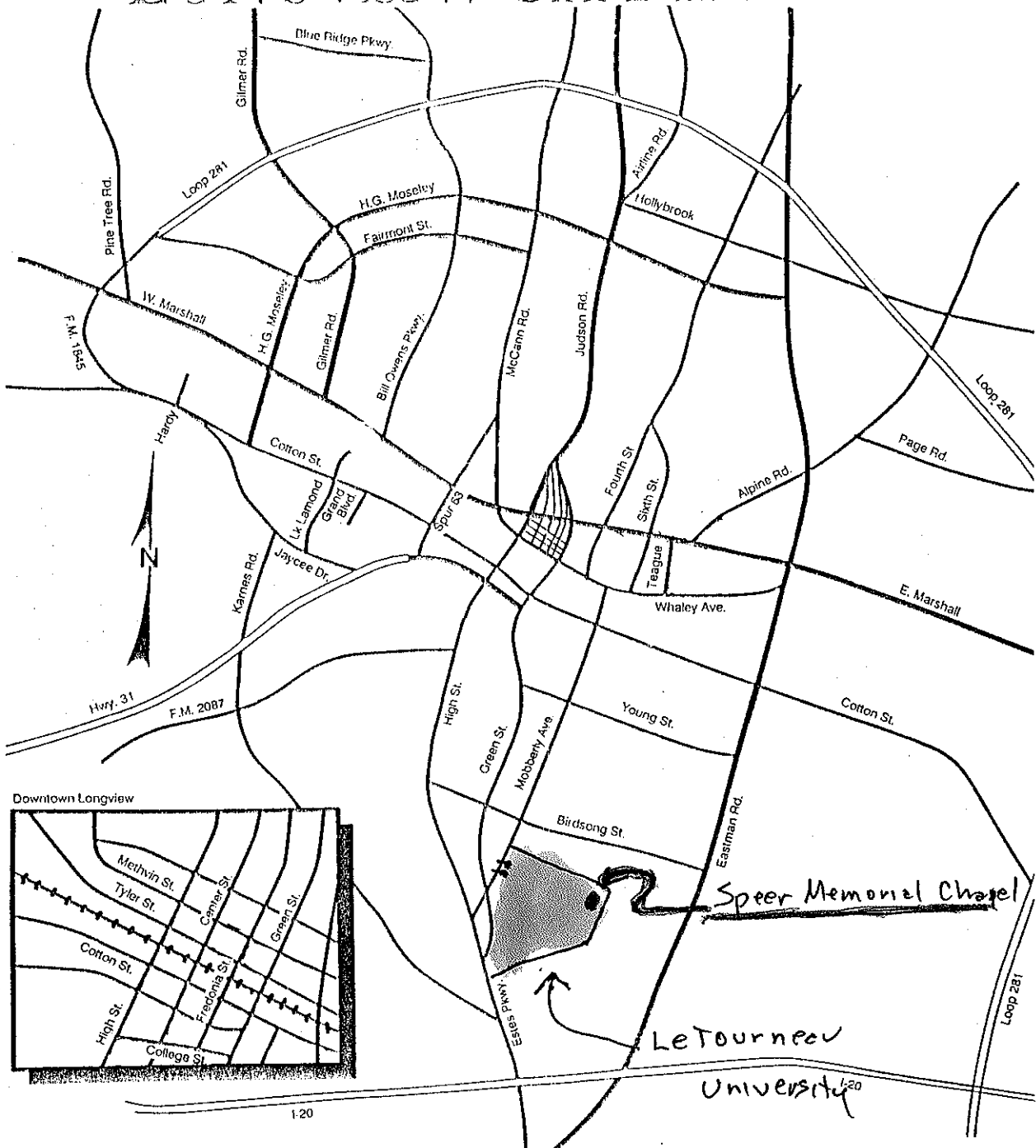
GREGG COUNTY



GREGG COUNTY



LONGVIEW CITY MAP



1:20

HARMON GENERAL HOSPITAL



Water tower

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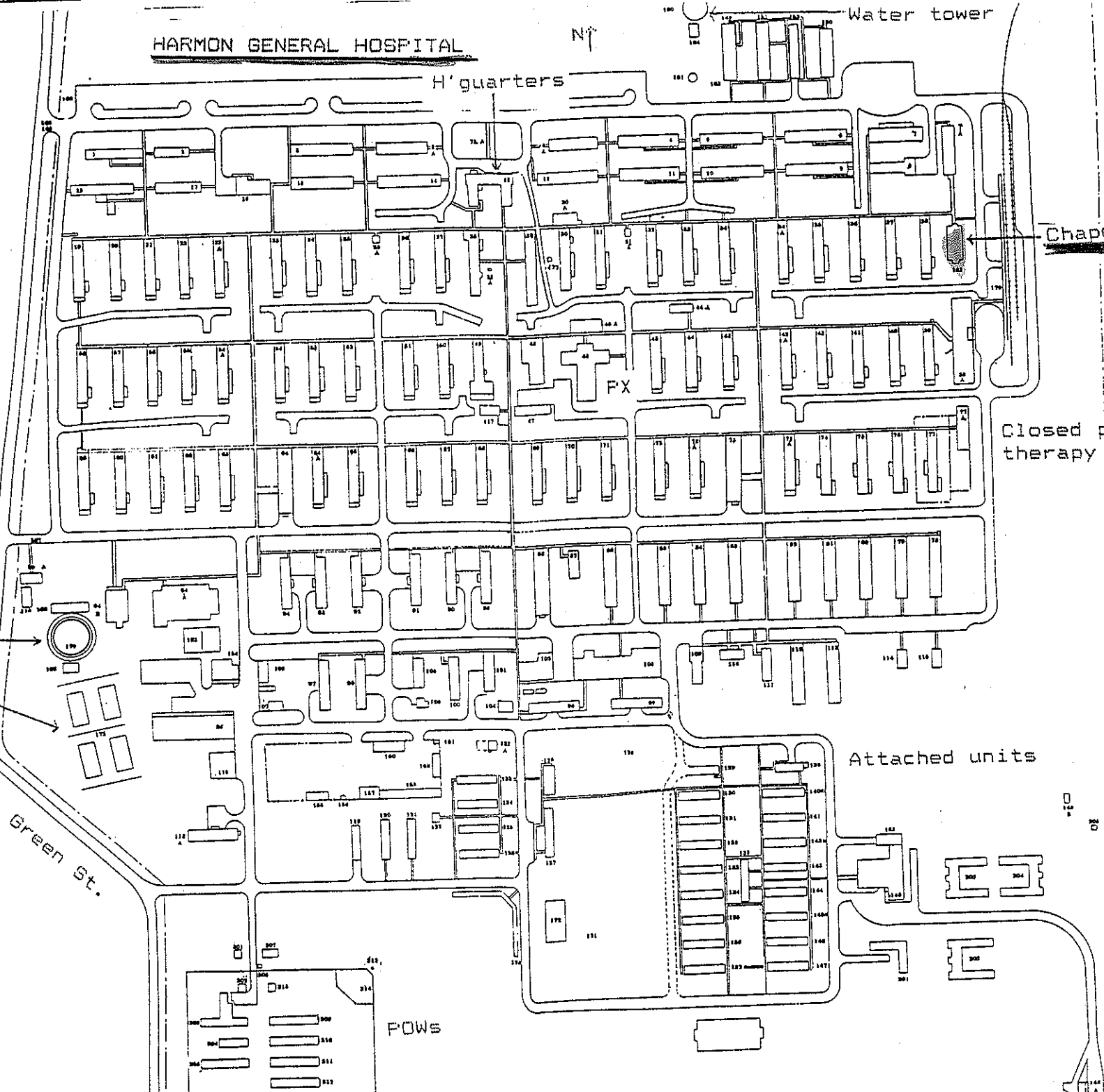
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 W.M. Application
 Vol 279

paid by SOUTHWESTERN GAS & ELECTRIC CO., a Corporation, duly incorporated, have granted, sold and conveyed and by these presents do grant, sell and convey unto the said Company an easement or right-of-way for an electric transmission and distributing line, consisting of variable numbers of wires, and all necessary or desirable appurtenances (including towers or poles made of wood, metal or other materials, telephone and telegraph wires, props and guys) at or near the location and along the general course now located and staked out by the said Company, over, across and upon the following described lands located in Gregg County, Texas, to-wit:

A 170 acre tract in the L. J. Rigby survey.

A 11 KV extension to serve the Humble Oil & Refining Co. as shown by Southwestern Gas & Electric Company blue print. Job # LJ 55

Together with the right of ingress and egress over my (our) adjacent lands to or from said right-of-way, for the purpose of constructing, reconstructing, inspecting, patrolling, hanging new wires on, maintaining and removing said line and appurtenances; the right to remove from said lands all trees (fruit trees excepted) and parts thereof, or other obstructions, which endanger or may interfere with the efficiency of said line or its appurtenances; and the right of exercising all other rights hereby granted;

It is further understood and agreed that, any timber cut and cleared from the aforesaid Right-of-way is and will be the property of the land owner, company to pay for all damages to crops, fences, fruit trees and other property during the construction and maintenance of said transmission line.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above described easement and rights unto said Company, its successors and assigns until said line shall be abandoned.

Not more than ***** towers Four (4) poles and Two (2) anchors shall be placed along the course of said line unless the said Company, its successors or assigns, shall pay to me (us), my (our) heirs and legal representatives, at the rate of ***** for each tower, Five Dollars (\$5.00) for each pole and Five Dollars (\$5.00) for each anchor erected in excess of said number, and upon payment the said Company, its successors or assigns, shall have the right, and the right is hereby granted, to erect towers, poles and anchors along said course of said number.

And I (we) do hereby bind myself (ourselves), my (our) heirs and legal representatives, to warrant and forever defend all and singular the above described easement and rights unto the said Company, its successors and assigns, against every person whomsoever lawfully claiming or to claim the same or any part thereof.

This easement covers four poles and two anchors.

WITNESS our hand this 1 day of Apr. 1944.

Mrs. Mattie Everett Trust Est.
 Dell J. Everett
 Lyle Jeter
 Trustees.
 Dell J. Everett
 Atty. in fact for L. J. Everett Est.

THE STATE OF TEXAS |
 COUNTY OF GREGG |

BEFORE ME, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State on this day personally appeared Dell J. Everett and Lyle Jeter known to me to be the persons whose names subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he they executed the same for the purposes and consideration therein expressed.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL OF OFFICE this the 10 day of Apr. A. D. 1944.

(L. S.) Charles F. Wellborn Charles F. Wellborn
 Notary Public in and for Gregg County, Texas.

FILED FOR RECORD: APRIL 12, 1944 at 11:01 A. M.
 RECORDED: APRIL 12, 1944 at 8:55 A. M.

David Shaw
 COUNTY CLERK, GREGG COUNTY, TEXAS.

0-0

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DEED AND RESOLUTION.

THE STATE OF TEXAS |
 COUNTY OF GREGG |

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

That GREGG COUNTY, TEXAS, a municipal corporation, acting herein by and through its duly elected, authorized and acting County Judge, under order duly made and entered on the Minutes of the Commissioners' Court of said County on the 10 day of April, 1944, directing the execution of this conveyance, and acting pursuant to the provisions of Article 635c of the Revised Civil Statutes of the State of Texas, enacted by the 46th Legislature, 1939, and pursuant to the authority of all applicable laws of the State of Texas, for and in consideration of the agreement of the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA to erect and maintain a hospital on the lands hereinafter described, which agreement is evidenced by the UNITED STATES OF A M E R I C A having taken possession of and now being engaged in the construction of numerous buildings on the lands hereby conveyed, and its acceptance and filing of this deed for record in the Deed records of Gregg County, Texas, does by these presents donate, grant and convey unto the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, for hospital purposes, all that certain lot, parcel or tract of land situated in Gregg County, Texas, and being a part of the Alva R. Johnson Survey, and more particularly described by metes and bounds, as follows:

All that certain lot, tract or parcel of land, a part of the Alva R. Johnson Survey, situated approximately 2 miles Southeast of the courthouse in Gregg County, Texas.

Beginning at a stake on the approximate division line between the east and west halves of said Alva R. Johnson sitio of land, 40 feet east of center-line on east right-of-way line of Moberly Avenue (purposed Texas State Highway No. 149, now under construction) 5692 feet S. 5 deg. 15' W. of centerline of Young Street (said centerline of Young Street being approximate north line of the Alva R. Johnson Survey), 3 inch iron pipe stake and bottle in rock pile under each right of way fence same being the N. W. corner of Tract No. 2 in the Holloway Subdivision:

THENCE: N. 89 deg. 50' E. 1750 feet to the NE corner of the Holloway land, 12 in. black jack marked X on south and west, same being also the N. W. corner of the Chas. C. Williams, .023 acre tract at 1762 feet to the N. W. corner of G. B. Lawrence 13.55 acre tract, continuing S. 89 deg. 41' E. along a fence row on the south line of the T. G. Eubanks tract of land at 2461 feet a 3 inch iron pipe for corner, from which an iron pin set in concrete bears S. 283.33 feet and west ten feet;

THENCE S. 848 feet to a stake in fence, the N. E. corner of a tract of 11.88 acres out of the Chas. C. Williams tract of land, this corner being 549 feet west of a stake that is north 80 east 5 vrs. from a 20 inch sweet gum marked X on the N. E. continuing S. at 1572 feet a stake at the S. E. corner of Chas. C. Williams 11.88 acre tract and being on the N. line of the Allen Kilgors tract of land, continuing South at 2137 feet a 3 inch iron pipe for stake;

THENCE West 718 feet to a stake in old fence and being the east line of Lot No. 6 of the Holloway subdivision and the S. W. corner of a 9.13 acre tract cut out of the Allen Kilgore estate, continuing West at 2321 feet a 2 inch iron pipe under right-of-way fence 50 feet N. and 34.7 feet W. from the N. W. corner of J. C. Bostick's tract of land, said point being in the North and East line of old State Highway No. 149;

THENCE N. 43 deg. 16' W. along the cord of the North right-of-way fence of S. Green Street or old State Highway No. 149, 487.5 feet to concrete right-of-way marker from which a half inch galvanized iron pipe bears S. 81 deg. 34' E. 3.2 feet, an X on a 24 inch b. j. brs. S. 71 deg. 30' E. 5 feet on the east right-of-way line of state Highway No. 149, same also being the SW corner of Tract No. 5 of the subdivision of the Holloway tract of land;

THENCE N. 16 deg. 55' W. 48.9 feet to a stake in the E. line of Moberly Avenue and being 40 feet from the center of said Moberly Avenue and being also on the N. line of the extension of S. Green Street, a stake;

THENCE N. 7 deg. 5' E. with the east line of Moberly Avenue 447.8 feet, stake at the S. W. Corner of Tract No. 4 of the Holloway Subdivision, continuing at 866.2 feet to stake at S. W. corner of Tract No. 3 of the Holloway subdivision, continuing at 1290.2 feet a stake in the S. W. corner of Tract No. 2 of the Holloway Subdivision, continuing at 1616.1 feet to a point of intersection of a 2 deg. curve to the right, continuing North 4 deg. 28' E. 1747 feet to the place of beginning, containing 123.694 acres of land; and being the same land conveyed by C. A. Loftis, Trustee, to Gregg County, Texas, by deed dated May 21st, 1942, and recorded in Vol. 268 at page 441 of the Deed Records of Gregg County, Texas.

Together with all the improvements thereon, and also all the right, title and interest of the grantor in and to any alleys, streets, ways, strips or gores abutting or adjoining the above described tract of land.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above described premises, together with all and singular the rights and appurtenances thereto in anywise belonging unto the said UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, and its assigns, for hospital purposes.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, GREGG COUNTY, TEXAS, has caused these presents to be executed, this the 10 day of April, A. D. 1944.

GREGG COUNTY, TEXAS
By Matt Dawson County Judge.



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

George W. Bush • Governor
John L. Nau, III • Chairman
Curtis Tunnell • Executive Director

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

August 13, 1997

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

RE: HARMON GENERAL HOSPITAL CHAPEL
18" x 28" marker w/ post
Job # 30297; Received: 08/04/97

Dear Dr. Black:

We have received the above-referenced marker application. The application will be reviewed and evaluated by the Texas Historical Commission staff in the order in which it was received. Currently, there is about a 30-45 day wait between the time subject marker applications are received and evaluated. Should additional information be needed for the review, we will contact you and any parties listed below at that time. After any deficiencies have been corrected, we will send copies of the application to the members of the State Marker Review Board, who will make the final determination of the topic's acceptability for marking.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Egina G. Reyes".

Egina G. Reyes
Office Manager
Local History Programs

pc: Dr. Alvin O. Austin
Dr. Ken Durham



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

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The State Agency for Historic Preservation

LOCAL HISTORY PROGRAMS

Your application for an Official Texas Historical Marker for:

HARMON GENERAL HOSPITAL CHAPEL, Gregg County, Job #30297

lacks the following required component(s). Please submit as soon as possible:

- street address of proposed marker location, or specific distance and direction to the site from the nearest town on the state highway map
- signature of county historical commission chair or marker chair
- signature of property owner giving permission for marker placement
- name and address of person to whom the request for payment should be sent
- name, street address, and telephone number of person to whom the completed marker should be shipped
- type and size of marker requested
- photograph of proposed marker location
- historic photograph (from at least 50 years ago) of structure under consideration
- current photographs of all sides of the structure's exterior
- city or county map showing marker location and other related sites
- floor plan of building, delineating any changes/additions
- site plan
- documentation: reference notes
- documentation: bibliography of sources
- Comments: In order to evaluate this property for the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark designation, we must have historic (pre-1947) photographs. Also, in keeping with established THC policy, we will need to use the historic name, rather than "Speer Memorial Chapel."

Cynthia J. Beeman

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*General
Hospital*



LONGVIEW, TEXAS



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About HARMON GENERAL HOSPITAL



AMID the stately East Texas pine trees, just south of Longview, Texas, is Harmon General Hospital, one of the Army's newest and most completely equipped General Hospitals.

Here many an American boy who stormed the beaches of the islands of the Pacific or faced Nazi fire at Bizerte, Salerno, or at the Siegfried Line . . . is recuperating from battle wounds.

Capacity of the hospital is 1,718 beds. Harmon consists of 178 buildings, nearly all of which are connected by enclosed ramps. An efficient staff of officers, nurses, aides, enlisted men, and civilian personnel is on duty at all times.

Harmon General Hospital dates back to April, 1942, when the Army officially announced that a General Hospital would be built on a tract of land just south of Longview, in Gregg County, Texas. Contract for



An oil painting of Col. Gouverneur V. Emerson, Commanding Officer of Harmon General Hospital.

construction of the hospital was awarded the following month and clearing of the site began. At this time, the hospital was called Longview General Hospital.

On June 24, 1942, the name of the hospital was changed to Harmon General Hospital, and construction of the hospital began in July, 1942. Col. Gouverneur V. Emerson, Medical Corps, arrived and assumed command on October 3, 1942, and is the present commanding officer. The hospital was activated on November 24, 1942, and dedicated on December 15, 1942.

Col. Daniel W. Harmon, for whom the hospital was named, was a distinguished Medical Officer of the Regular Army, who at his death on November 8, 1940, was commanding officer of the Army and Navy

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USO CLUBS—USO Clubs are in Longview and nearby cities. They offer recreation, relaxation, and entertainment to soldiers in the form of dances and other planned entertainment. Writing rooms, lounges, and other facilities bring "home" a bit closer to the soldiers.

AMERICAN RED CROSS—The American Red Cross maintains a large staff headed by the Field Director. They work in close cooperation with the military units and provide much entertainment and recreation for the patients. The work of the Red Cross staff is supplemented by volunteer workers from the Red Cross Motor Corps, Canteen Workers, Nurses Aides, and the Gray Ladies. All kinds of entertainment, including motion pictures, are taken to the wards to the bed patients.



At Retreat ceremonies, a Harmon patient decorated for bravery in action on a far-quiet battle front

Two of Harmon's well-trained highly efficient Army nurses.

RED CROSS AUDITORIUM—USO shows, Red Cross movies, visiting bands and orchestras and other features are presented in the Auditorium. Indoor recreation of all kinds is provided.

RETREAT CEREMONIES—Retreat ceremony is held each Friday. Awards of citations and decorations are usually made at Retreat ceremony. The Post Band plays for Retreat daily, as well as for ceremonies on Fridays.

RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES—The Chapel is within easy walking distance of all parts of the Post. It is equipped with a Hammond electric organ. Chaplains are at the service of the men at all times and help iron out any difficulties. All denominations are represented and religious services are held regularly for men of all faiths.

POST EXCHANGE—The main Post Exchange is centrally located in the hospital. There is a sub-Post Exchange convenient to the Detachment barracks and another for the training unit. The Exchanges carry a full stock of all items needed by soldiers at greatly reduced prices. The Exchanges are modern, attractive stores, operated on a non-profit basis for the benefit of military personnel.

MAIL SERVICE—The post office is located conveniently in the central part of the hospital, near the Post Exchange. A sub-post office is operated in the Headquarters building. Postal money orders may be purchased and cashed at the post office and a locator system functions with the highest degree of accuracy.



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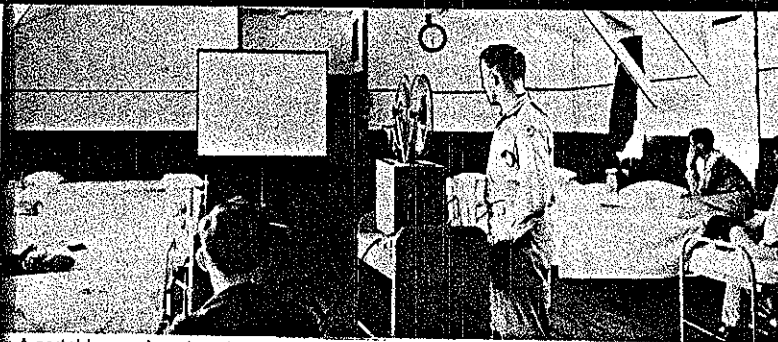
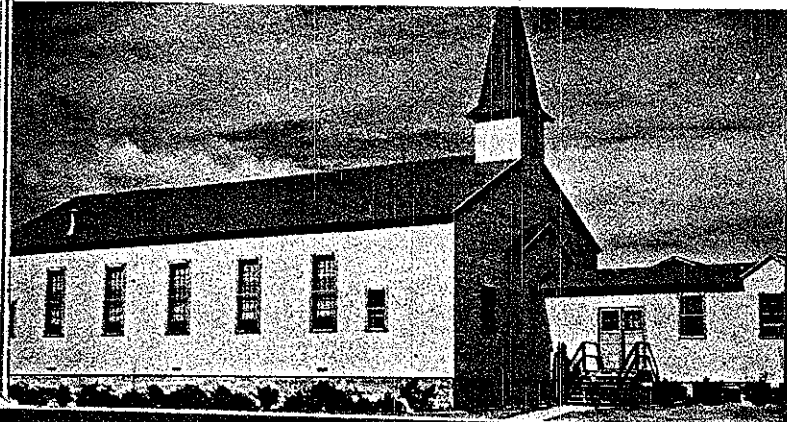
CAMP NEWSPAPER—The "Harmonizer," the official Post publication, is printed weekly by the hospital staff. It goes to press each Wednesday and is distributed free to all personnel Thursday morning. It is very popular with both the patients and detachments and is a paper strictly for soldiers—written and edited by and for soldiers under the general supervision of the Public Relations Office and in cooperation with the Special Service Office.

MILITARY POLICE—The military police execute their duties under orders of the Commanding Officer. They work in close cooperation with the civilian police in nearby communities. They help keep men out of trouble and assist in every effort toward the smooth functioning of the organization.

TRANSPORTATION—Transportation between the Post and the neighboring towns is provided by a local bus company. Passengers are admitted at both gates, and busses run on regular schedules.

FIRE PROTECTION—A civilian fire department is on 24-hour duty and has a highly trained staff and the latest in fire fighting equipment.

This is Harmon General Hospital's Chapel, where regular religious services for men of every faith and creed are held.



A portable sound motion picture projector, which is carted from ward to ward, shows entertaining films and latest newsreels for patients who cannot go to the theater.

TRAFFIC REGULATIONS—Military police handle all traffic duties in much the same manner as civilian policemen perform their duties. Speed limit on the hospital grounds is 15 miles an hour. Ample parking lots are available. Pedestrians are required to walk facing traffic.

LAUNDRY—The laundry is one of the most important installations on the hospital grounds. It handles the laundering of all the hospital linens as well as personal work. Rates are reasonable. A soldier pays the standard rates prevailing in all army camps and may have his personal laundry done here.

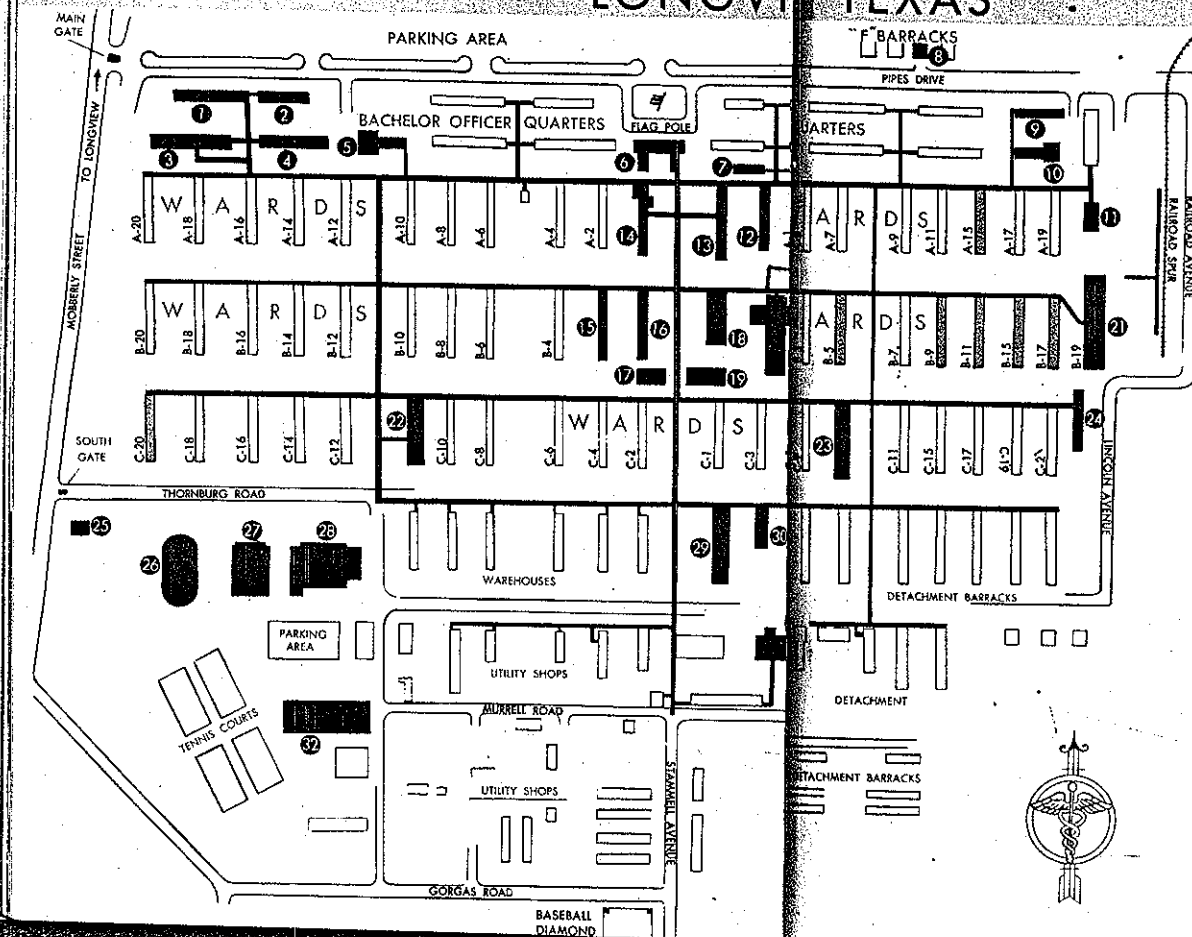
LEGAL ASSISTANCE—Legal assistance is provided soldiers without charge by the Legal Assistance Officer at Post Headquarters. Information given by a soldier seeking legal advice is treated confidentially.

BANK—A Branch Bank is located in the Post Office building for the convenience of hospital personnel. The usual banking facilities are provided.

TELEGRAMS—Telegrams may be sent or received through the Post Signal Office. All messages are delivered promptly.

HARMON GENERAL HOSPITAL

LONGVIEW, TEXAS



LEGEND

1. Dental Clinic
2. Infirmary
3. Laboratory
4. Urology
5. Mess Hall No. 3
6. Headquarters
7. Library
8. Mess Hall No. 5
9. Officers' Club
10. Mess Hall No. 4
11. Chapel
12. X-Ray
13. Surgery
14. Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic
15. Occupational Therapy
16. Physiotherapy
17. TELEPHONE CENTER and Telegraph
18. Post Exchange
19. Bank and Post Office
20. Red Cross Building
21. Receiving Office
22. Mess Hall No. 2
23. Mess Hall No. 1
24. Occupational Therapy
25. Non-Commissioned Officers' Club
26. Swimming Pool
27. Theater
28. Gymnasium
29. Mess Hall No. 6
30. Finance Office
31. Hospital Laundry
32. Quartermaster Warehouse

Indicates Wards equipped with Portable Telephones for Convenience of bed patients

PUBLIC TELEPHONE SERVICE



Wherever you see this sign, you'll find a public telephone to serve you. For the convenience of patients of Harmon General Hospital there is a modern Telephone Center, described below, and portable telephone service for those who cannot go to the Telephone Center. Also, there is a public telephone located in the Post Exchange No. 2, and also one in the B.O.Q. No. 5.

TELEPHONE CENTER—In the center of the hospital, just west of the post office and bank, is Harmon's Telephone Center, where operators are on duty during the busy hours each day and all day on Sundays to help you with your calls.

Skilled telephone operators are on duty each afternoon and evening at Harmon's Telephone Center to help patients with their calls.



"Curb service" on telephone calls for patients confined to their beds.



At the Telephone Center, calls are placed with the operators at the counter. When there is an unavoidable war-time delay on your calls you may "take it easy" around the Telephone Center, as there are plenty of chairs and tables, and latest magazines, stationery and post cards.

THERE are five regular booths at the Telephone Center, and one "special equipment" booth. The special equipment booth is large enough to give privacy to a patient in a wheel chair. Also in the special equipment booth is a special amplifying telephone for patients with impaired hearing, and a chest transmitter and head set receiver, similar to those used by telephone operators, for the convenience of patients who do not have use of their arms.

The attendants will gladly assist patients in the use of the telephone equipment in the special equipment booth.

The Telephone Center is open 24 hours each day and calls may be placed from all booths, including the special equipment booth, when attendants are not on duty.



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

George W. Bush • Governor

John L. Nau, III • Chairman

Curtis Tunnell • Executive Director

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

November 21, 1997

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

RE: HARMON GENERAL HOSPITAL CHAPEL
18" x 28" marker w/ post

2200 S. Mobberly Avenue, Longview
Job # 30297, Gregg County

Dear Dr. Black:

I am pleased to notify you that the State Marker Review Board has reviewed and approved the above-referenced structure for the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation. This special status, awarded to properties deemed worthy of preservation for their architectural integrity and historical associations, conveys a measure of legal protection to the building. Notification of any modifications to the exterior of this structure should be made to the Texas Historical Commission at least 60 days prior to the commencement of work. Please refer to the enclosed brochure for further information on the RTHL designation.

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

The Texas Historical Commission congratulates you on the preservation of this fine structure and appreciates your effort to record Texas history in this manner.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Beeman, Administrator
Official Texas Historical Markers

pc: Dr. Alvin O. Austin
Dr. Ken Durham

MEMORANDUM

Date: January 5, 1998
From: Ken Durham, University Historian
To: Faculty & Staff
Subject: Historical Marker

The Texas Historical Commission has recently approved a request submitted by Dr. Austin along with Ken Durham, a member of the Gregg County Historical Commission, and Dr. Norman Black, D.D.S., the Chairman of the G.C.H.C. for a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL). Speer Chapel, originally the Harmon General Hospital Chapel, has long been valued by our LeTourneau family; now, it will be given recognition by the state. This special status is only awarded to properties which are "deemed worthy of preservation for their architectural integrity and historical associations."

History of Speer Chapel: Built in 1942 and dedicated in 1943, the chapel was used for weekly Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish services for the more than 23,000 servicemen and women during World War II. In the LeTourneau Company's beginning years, it knocked out the south wall of the chapel and used it for storage, causing extensive damage to the interior of the building. In the late 1950's, student Don Landis recognized the potential long-term damage and loss to the chapel and committed himself to save it. Gaining the Administration's approval, he coordinated a volunteer student project for restoration, making it possible to be used for chapel services until the spring of 1965. In the early 1980's, the College Administration decided to permanently preserve the Harmon General Hospital Chapel as a memorial to the men and women of World War II. Plans were made to refurbish the chapel, and Dr. Dorothy Speer, a retired professor and former missionary, contributed to its renovation and future maintenance. Renamed Speer Chapel at that time, it will soon be the only structure from Harmon General Hospital remaining as a part of LeTourneau University.

Payment for the casting of the marker is \$550.00, but some money has been raised already, leaving a balance due of \$350.00. We want to give you the opportunity to contribute to this marker and have a part in this historical recognition. If you would like to contribute, please make a check payable to LeTourneau University, designate it for "Chapel Historical Marker," and send it to the Business Office. All donations of any size will be appreciated.

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TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

George W. Bush • Governor
John L. Nau, III • Chairman
Curtis Tunnell • Executive Director

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

January 11, 1999

Dr. Alvin O. Austin
P O Box 7001
Longview, TX 75607

RE: HARMON GENERAL HOSPITAL CHAPEL
18" x 28" marker w/ post
Job # 30297 - Inscription Revision

Dear Dr. Austin:

Enclosed is the revised inscription for the above-referenced historical marker. I have tried to incorporate most of the changes that you suggested, but various style and spacing requirements may have required some compromising.

If you approve the inscription, please sign and return the enclosed copy of the text. If not, please let me know and I will work on it further with you. To avoid any unnecessary delays, please consult with all parties listed below before returning your approval or submitting any suggested revisions.

As mentioned in earlier correspondence, the marker will not be ordered for casting until a final inscription is approved by all parties, as documented by the return of each person's signed copy of the inscription.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Emily Cole Bell".

Emily Cole Bell, Historian
Official Texas Historical Markers
History Programs Division

pc: Dr. Norman Black, Gregg CHC
Dr. ken Durham

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Gregg County (Job #30297)

Location: 2200 S. Mobberly Ave, Longview

HARMON GENERAL HOSPITAL CHAPEL

AUTHORIZED BY THE U.S. ARMY IN 1942
AND NAMED FOR COL. DANIEL WARRICK
HARMON, HARMON GENERAL HOSPITAL WAS
IN OPERATION FROM NOVEMBER 1942 TO
DECEMBER 1945. THIS ECUMENICAL CHAPEL
OPENED IN JANUARY 1943. PROTESTANT,
CATHOLIC AND JEWISH CLERGY SERVED HERE.
THE HOSPITAL PROPERTY WAS ACQUIRED BY
THE LE TOURNEAU FOUNDATION IN 1946 FOR
USE AS A COLLEGE. DESPITE SEVERAL YEARS
AS A STORAGE FACILITY, THE CHAPEL RETAINED
ENOUGH OF ITS ORIGINAL FABRIC FOR
RENOVATION IN THE LATE 1950s AND AGAIN
IN 1983 WHEN IT WAS FORMALLY NAMED SPEER
CHAPEL. THE STRUCTURE REMAINS A WELL-
PRESERVED VERNACULAR CHAPEL. ITS NOTABLE
FEATURES INCLUDE A FRONT-FACING GABLED
ROOF, CENTER PROJECTING ENTRANCE WITH
THE ROOF BELOW A CENTRAL STEEPLE, AND
WOOD SASH WINDOWS.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK-1997

PLEASE CHECK ONE AND SIGN:

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

Dr. Norman K. Haack
(signature) 1-18-99

Dear Program Participants: On the next page is a working, timed version of our historical marker dedication. This will be a memorable day as we remember our past, honor our veterans and commemorate our heritage. Thanks so much for your participation!

DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 1999

LOCATION: IN FRONT OF SPEER MEMORIAL CHAPEL
(RAIN OR SHINE), LETOURNEAU UNIVERSITY

PLEASE FOLLOW THESE TIMES CLOSELY--we have a full agenda, and a reception following the program, so it is vital that all portions of the program track on time. I appreciate your help in this matter. Please call me at (903) 233-3675 if you have questions.

--Bill Gibbs, Director of University Relations.

HARMON GENERAL HOSPITAL CHAPEL
OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION

Good morning. Welcome to the dedication of an Official Texas Historical Marker: Harmon General Hospital Chapel. This marker is authorized by the State of Texas and sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission, the Gregg County Historical Commission and LeTourneau University.

In order to facilitate these proceedings I would like each participant to follow the program and proceed with his or her part on the program as soon as the person ahead of him completes his part of the program.

We will now have the invocation by Dr. Paul Kubricht.

TIMED PROGRAM FOR SPEER MEMORIAL CHAPEL HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION
Actual program does not have the times

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

10:30 **Invocation**

Dr. Paul Kubricht, Chair of the Division of Liberal Arts, LeTourneau University

10:32 **Welcome and Introduction of Guests**

Dr. Tom Nisbett, Vice President for Advancement, LeTourneau University

10:35 **A Brief History of Speer Memorial Chapel and Harmon General Hospital**

Dr. Ken Durham, Professor of History, LeTourneau University

10:39 **Remarks**

Dr. Alvin O. Austin, President, LeTourneau University

10:44 **Honor Ceremony**

Recognition of representatives of our Armed Forces

Flag Presentation by members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 4002

Matthew Olson, LeTourneau University Student, Trumpet

10:46 **Reading of the Marker**

Dr. Ken Durham

10:48 **Unveiling of the Marker**

Mr. Barry Sarver, President, Walter Prescott Webb Historical Society, L.U. Chapter

Mrs. Nancy McWhorter, Director, Gregg County Historical Museum

10:49 **Benediction**

Dr. Fred Carlson, Professor of Business Administration / Lt. Col., U.S. Air Force, (ret.)

(10:51 Program Concludes)

A HISTORY OF SPEER MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Speer Memorial Chapel was built in 1942 as part of the Harmon General Hospital, a U.S. Army medical facility for military personnel injured in World War II. Nearly 30,000 patients were treated in the hospital during its three years of operation.

Following the War, Harmon General Hospital, including the chapel, was donated to the LeTourneau Technical Institute, now LeTourneau University.

The Chapel is one of the few remaining structures left from the 232 original hospital buildings, and the only one which is designated as a permanent memorial to Harmon General Hospital.

LeTourneau University is especially grateful to alumnus Don Landis, a 1962 graduate. It was through his efforts that the Chapel was preserved for future generations. When Landis arrived at LeTourneau in 1957, he found the chapel in disrepair, and being used as a warehouse for surplus engines. He secured permission to move the engines, repair the damage and renovate the building for use as a chapel once more. From 1958 to 1965 it was used for student chapel services.

In 1982, LeTourneau began a major renovation of the Chapel. At that time, Dr. Dorothy Speer, a retired college professor and former missionary from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, gave a gift to cover the cost of the renovations and provide an endowment for its upkeep and maintenance. The Board of Trustees decided to name the building Speer Memorial Chapel in her honor.

Today the Speer Memorial Chapel is used for special events, weddings and worship services. Each fall the faculty and staff gather in the Chapel for an opening convocation and campus communion service.

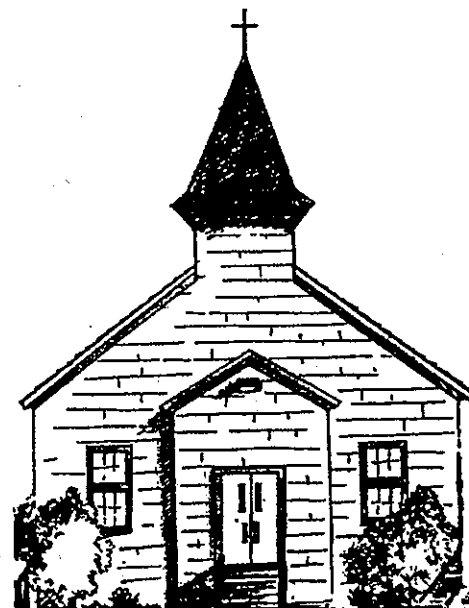
Since 1942, Speer Memorial Chapel has played a significant part in the history of Longview. It served as a place of worship for servicemen of all faiths and was a source of encouragement to thousands of G.I.'s. It is very fitting that it should be commemorated with a historical marker.

LeTourneau University thanks Dr. Kenneth Durham, Professor of History, and the Gregg County Historical Society, Dr. Norman Black, Chairman, for spearheading the efforts to obtain a state marker for the chapel.

*Historical information for this sketch is drawn from
LeTourneau University's First Fifty Years, by Dr. Kenneth Durham.
(The Donning Company, Virginia Beach, Virginia, 1995)*

SPEER MEMORIAL CHAPEL

HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION



**APRIL 27, 1999
10:30 A.M.**



GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Norman W. Black, D.D.S., Chairman
Sue Martin Brown
Jack Buchanan
Pauline Cox
Mrs. B. W. Crain, Jr.
Beth Holloway Dodson
Mrs. Helen McHaney Griffin
Carol Morris Little
Virginia Long
Anne P. Mackenzie
Nauty Byrd Mayer
Amanda Pratt Nobles
Dr. W. D. Northcutt, III
Mrs. John W. Osteen
Harold P. Wells
Joe White
W. A. Williams

**A RECEPTION WILL FOLLOW
THE DEDICATION PROGRAM.**

~PROGRAM OF DEDICATION~

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

Invocation

Dr. Paul Kubricht, Chair of the Division of Liberal Arts

Welcome and Introduction of Guests

Dr. Tom Nisbett, Vice President for Advancement

A Brief History of Speer Memorial Chapel and Harmon General Hospital

Dr. Ken Durham, Professor of History

Remarks

Dr. Alvin O. Austin, President

Honor Ceremony

Recognition of Representatives of our Armed Forces
Flag Presentation by members of the V.F.W., Post 4002
Matthew Olson, LeTourneau University Student, Trumpet

Reading of the Marker

Dr. Ken Durham

Unveiling of the Marker

Mr. Barry Sarver, President, Webb Historical Society, L.U. Chapter
Mrs. Nancy McWhorter, Director, Gregg County Historical Museum

Benediction

Dr. Fred Carlson, Prof. of Business/Lt. Col., U.S. Air Force, (ret.)



Kevin Green/Staff Photographer

Nancy McWhorter, left, Gregg County Historical Museum director, and Webb Historical Society LU Chapter President Barry Shaver, middle, unveil a Gregg County historical marker Tuesday morning at LeTourneau University in Longview.

Mark of History

Third Gregg County marker put up at LeTourneau University

Marker From 1B

be preserved," Gibbs said. "At a very technological and far advanced (university), it's easy to forget our past all together. This is strong statement that we are proud of our past and proud of the U.S. government."

Chairman of the Gregg County Historical Commission Dr. Nor-

man Black said he was pleased with the help from the university staff to provide the necessary history needed to get the marker placed at LeTourneau.

The Speer Chapel is the only marker on LeTourneau campus located at the back of the campus, Gibbs said.

Speer Chapel gets preservation honor

The East Texas Historical Society and Texas Forestry Museum have honored the Dorothy Speer Memorial Chapel, on LeTourneau University's campus, with the 2001 Lucille Terry Preservation Award.

The award honors individuals and groups within the East Texas area for their contribution to the preservation of historic properties and structures that are at least 50 years old, a university press release said.

The Dorothy Speer Memorial Chapel was built in 1942 as part of the 155-acre Harmon General Hospital, a 1,700-bed facility for soldiers injured during World War II, the release said.

The hospital was decommissioned in 1946 and given to LeTourneau for use as a college. The university has since demolished most of the 232 original wooden barracks buildings, but preserved the chapel as a permanent memorial to the hospital and to the men and women of the armed forces who spent time there, the release said.

Used for a variety of purposes over the years, the chapel was completely renovated in 1983 and brought back to its original condition and use. The chapel is named in honor of Dorothy Speer, who donated the majority of the funds for the renovation.

The Lucille Terry Award, named for a founding member of the ETHS who was a noted preservationist, is a bronze sculpture of an actual East Texas dog-trot cabin by artist Buck Cheavens of Diboll.

The Speer Chapel is the second structure in Longview to be honored. In 1996, the award went to the Everett Building, which was formerly a bank and now houses the Gregg County Historical Museum.

The chapel also was recognized in 1999 when the Texas State Historical Commission, in conjunction with the Gregg County Historical Society, authorized a commemorative marker to be placed in front of the chapel.