

Rec'd from Mrs. Barker  
Jan 4, 1989

Copied from picture taken of medallion for 'old jail' early Gladewater -  
was placed on property of Benjamin F. Phillips, but was removed as some  
of the wording was incorrect. Ben Phillips was not a minister - etc. Typed  
By Mildred Wood Barker. 4 November 1987

In Texas frontier towns, jails were scarce. Speedy court trials  
in the Republic of Texas, 1836-1844, as a rule, had prisoners sentenced or  
released within a very short time. As counties were organized and towns  
incorporated, they were empowered to build jails. The first uniform State  
Law for use of tax money to build jails was enacted in 1874.

When the East Texas oil boom in 1931 caused influx of a new, violent  
population, Gladewater had no jail. The town was incorporated at once and  
Ben Phillips a minister was elected mayor. A log cabin he owned  
became the jail and city hall. With addition of a board-and-batten upper story,  
for offices. The first floor divided into two jail cells, one for men  
and one for women. Bolted into the logs and running along the walls beside  
the bunks were heavy chains which men prisoners were hand cuffed. Jeff  
Johnson, Gladewater's first constable, was the jailer.

Even more primitive were early jails in many West Texas towns. These  
were mesquite trees or posts to which prisoners were handcuffed or chained.  
On the frontiers, during storms, some law officers had to bring into  
privately owned buildings or their own homes dangerous criminals who were  
under arrest.

214-263-5777 (Office)  
B.F. Phillips, Jr. 214-370-2424 (Home)

B. F. Phillips, Jr. called me at 845-2493 at 2:20 p.m. on the 5 of November  
1987. I read wording that is on the marker and he agreed to let us put it  
up downtown near the oil derrick if the wording was corrected - that is,  
remove 'a minister' after Ben Phillips name.

B.F. Phillips, Jr.  
did the following week!

Mildred Barker



## Gregg County Historical Commission

NORMAN W. BLACK  
Chairman

417 Mobberly Avenue  
Longview, Texas 75602  
February 1, 1989

Phone  
214-757-2261

Mrs. Frances Rickard, Director  
State Marker Program  
Texas Historical Commission  
P. O. Box 12276  
Austin, TX 78711

RE: SITE OF OLD LOG CABIN JAIL Historical Marker

Dear Frances:

I feel that a summary of the events concerning this marker is necessary.

I returned the original 27" x 42" marker with post to the Southwell Company for destruction in late 1988.

Your records will show the inscription for a replacement marker was apparently approved by Deolece Parmalee, October 21, 1968.

I have had many communications with the Gladewater members of the Gregg County Historical Commission, notably John Ben Shepperd and Mildred Wood Barker, who helped clarify the status of the marker. When the corrected inscription was approved, the Gladewater members felt, at that time (1968), there might be adverse publicity if the replacement marker were erected. It is now the feeling of all concerned that this is an appropriate time to erect the corrected marker. Funds are available for this purpose from the Gregg County Historical Commission. Therefore, John Ben secured the property owner's, Judge David Moore's, signature on the application. He also suggested to me that since all the history is on file from the first approved application, in 1967, that it would not have to be repeated.

I trust all is in order.

Enclosed is a check for \$650.00.

Sincerely yours,

Norman W. Black, D.D.S.

Enc. - 3.

Application.

Copy of 1968 approved inscription.

Check for \$650.00.

APPLICATION FORM FOR OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

Texas Historical Commission

State Marker Program

P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711

Title of Marker (subject to revision by THC staff) ▶ SITE OF OLD LOG CABIN JAIL		County ▶ Gregg	
Marker Location (street address and town, or specific directions from nearest town on state highway map) ▶ Southeast Corner of South Center and East Sabine City of Gladewater			
Distance and direction of subject from marker site ▶ on site		If not on post, type of surface to which marker ▶ will be attached (wood, stone, etc.)	
Owner of Marker Site ▶ David Moore		Address City, Zip East Commerce, Gladewater, Texas 75647	
Sponsor of Marker ▶ Gregg County Historical Commission		Address City, Zip 417 Mobberly Ave., Longview, TX 75602	
Signature of County Chairman ▶ <i>Dr. Norman W. Black</i>		Address City, Zip Date 417 Mobberly Ave., Longview, TX 75602 (214) 757-2261	
Person to whom marker is to be shipped* ▶ Dr. Norman W. Black		Address City, Zip Telephone (required) 417 Mobberly Ave., Longview, TX 75602 (214)757-2261	

\*If marker is to be placed on highway right-of-way, it will be shipped to your district highway engineer. Feb. 1, 1989  
Please consult the back of this page for specifications of the markers available. Check the items desired below. Approval of the application and narrative must be obtained from the county historical commission, as indicated by the county chairman's signature on this form, before forwarding the material to the Texas Historical Commission. Please do not send payment if ordering subject or building markers; funds will be requested once the application has been approved by the State Marker Committee. Sales tax must be added to the price, except if purchased by a tax-exempt organization. Applicants may order a marker with a socket to attach to their own post; however, the cost is the same as a marker furnished with a foundry post.

**SUBJECT MARKERS**

- 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar) .....\$225
- 27" x 42" subject marker with post .....\$650
- 27" x 42" subject marker without post .....\$600
- 18" x 28" subject marker with post .....\$375
- 18" x 28" subject marker without post .....\$300

I(We) request that RTHL designation be considered for this structure.  
(Please see signature line below.)

**BUILDING MARKERS**

- 16" x 12" building marker with post .....\$350
- 16" x 12" building marker without post .....\$300

Applications for building markers will automatically be considered for the RTHL designation. Please read carefully Texas Marker Policies 13 through 18, and indicate that you have done so by signing below.

*David Moore*  
Signature of owner

**PAPERWEIGHTS**

Please indicate quantity desired.

- ..... 3" x 4" plastic paperweight  
mounted with replica of marker .....\$90  
*Allow two months from completion of marker  
for receipt of paperweight.*
- ..... Medallion paperweight .....\$40  
*Allows four lines of engraving; please indicate desired wording.*

**DIRECTIONAL SIGNS**

Please indicate quantity desired and give location(s) on form above:

- 24" x 24" Historical Markers In City sign .....\$80  
*These will be shipped to and placed on your town's city  
limits signs by the District Highway Engineer.*

- \_\_\_ Black and White (for farm-to-market roads, state and U.S. highways)
- \_\_\_ Green and White (for interstate highways)

- 18" x 22" Historical Marker directional sign .....\$80  
*In black and white only. For city and county roads.  
Applicant must supply post and be responsible for placement.*

- \_\_\_ With arrow pointing straight ahead
- \_\_\_ With arrow pointing left
- \_\_\_ With arrow pointing right

**OTHER**

- National Register plaque .....\$ 50
- 12" x 6" supplemental plate .....\$110
- 16" x 12" building marker plate only  
(see policy #15) .....\$190
- Replacement medallion (see policy #15) .....\$110
- Bronze stars (for replacement on 1936  
granite markers) .....\$ 25
- Bronze wreaths (for replacement on  
1936 granite markers) .....\$ 25
- Bronze seals (for replacement on  
1936 granite markers) .....\$ 65
- Bronze plates (for replacement on  
1936 granite markers) .....\$185
- Certificates of appreciation ..... 50¢ each

Gregg County (Replacement for SMF of Aug. 1967, which had to be discarded for error)

Location: 303 S. Center Street, Gladewater

SITE OF\*\*\*

OLD LOG CABIN JAIL\*

LOCATED HERE IN 1930'S WHEN GLADEWATER OVERNIGHT EXPLODED INTO A CITY, AFTER OIL WAS DISCOVERED.

AN OLD LOG CABIN OWNED BY MAYOR B.F. PHILLIPS, A PROMINENT MERCHANT, WAS CONVERTED INTO TOWN'S FIRST CITY HALL AND JAIL. LOWER STORY WAS PARTITIONED INTO CELLS FOR MEN AND WOMEN. HANDCUFFS ON CHAINS BOLTED INTO THE LOG WALLS KEPT PRISONERS FROM ESCAPING.

AS IN ALL BOOMS, THE EAST TEXAS OIL DEVELOPMENT CREATED HIGH DEMANDS ON THE LOCAL ECONOMY. WORKERS FOUGHT ONE ANOTHER FOR HOUSING, GOODS AND SERVICES. SOMETIMES VICTIMIZED BY THE FORCES OF VICE THAT CAME IN ALONG WITH LEGITIMATE BUSINESSES, THEY WERE PROVOKED INTO BRAWLS. A TOWN FOUND IT NECESSARY TO CURB DISORDER, WHETHER OR NOT IT HAD A STANDARD JAIL. ABANDONED CHURCHES AND CHICKENHOUSES WERE "JAILS" IN SOME COMMUNITIES. PRISONERS WERE EVEN CHAINED TO POSTS OR TREES. THERE ARE MANY TALL TALES AND LEGENDS ABOUT HOW LAW AND ORDER WERE PRESERVED.

BOOM TOWNS LIKE GLADEWATER IN DUE TIME MET CIVIC RESPONSIBILITIES. WITH THE EXPANDED ECONOMY AND STRONG LAW ENFORCEMENT, SUCH COMMUNITIES WERE ABLE TO ESTABLISH HIGH STANDARDS IN PUBLIC SERVICES AND CULTURE. THE OLD BOOM TOWNS HAVE BECOME SOME OF THE FINEST CITIES IN TEXAS. \*\*

(1968)\*\*\*

\*3/4" lettering  
\*\*1/2" lettering  
\*\*\*1/4" lettering

Deolece Parmelee, 10/21/68

CLAREX

**MBank** Longview

P.O. Box 2432  
Longview, Texas 75606

**DR. NORMAN W. BLACK** 10-70  
OFFICE ACCOUNT  
417 MOBBERLY AVENUE  
LONGVIEW, TX 75602-1297

17888

PAY  
TO THE  
ORDER OF

*State Historical Commission*

*Feb. 2, 1989*

\$ 650.00

*Six Hundred fifty and 00/100*

DOLLARS

THIS CHECK IS DELIVERED IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT


DR. NORMAN W. BLACK  
OFFICE ACCOUNT

*Dr. Norman W. Black*

⑈017888⑈ ⑆111901881⑆

⑈0116009⑈



CURTIS TUNNELL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512)463-6100

May 10, 1989

Dr. Norman W. Black  
417 Mobberly Avenue  
Longview, Texas 75602

Dear Dr. Black:

I regret to inform you that the State Marker Committee has unanimously voted not to approve a replacement marker for the Site of the Old Log Cabin Jail in Gladewater. Each committee member expressed the feeling that we should abide by our policies not to award replacement markers unless the topic met current criteria. Without proper documentation for the jail's existence and its significance in Gladewater/Gregg County's history (i.e., without a documented narrative history), the committee was not willing to approve the casting of a new marker text for the topic.

Should you wish, at some point in the future, to reapply and submit a narrative history, complete with footnotes and bibliography, we would be happy to take a second look at your request. Until that time, however, the decision of the committee is final.

We will need your social security number in order to process the refund of \$650.00 for payment already submitted. As soon as you can provide us with that information, we will start the refund process through our accounting office.

It was good to see you in Dallas. Thanks for all your support and for the good work you do to preserve the heritage of Texas.

Sincerely,

*Frances*  
Frances Rickard, Director  
State Marker Program

/fr

# PAYMENT INFORMATION

Vendor number 24533030573000

TRUST AND SUSPENSE FUND

Payment from TEXAS AGENCY TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION	Number 808	Telephone (512) 463-6100
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No. Y157567

Agency control no. 0V92043	Comptroller control no. 151213	Date JUNE 20, 1989	TOTAL AMOUNT \$650.00
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INVOICE NO.

INVOICE AMOUNT

INVOICE NO.

INVOICE AMOUNT

Not Negotiable

Detach here before depositing

STATE OF TEXAS PURCHASE VOUCHER

a. Trans Code 090	b. Batch No. 090	c. Agency No. 808	d.	e. Agency Voucher No. <b>V92043</b>	
f. Comptroller's Voucher No.		g. Agency Name <b>Texas Historical Commission</b>		h. Order Date	i. Requisition No.
j. Invoice Date		k. Voucher Amount <b>650.00</b>		l. Payee Reference No.	m. Purchasing Comm. No.

o. Comptroller's Vendor I.D. No.	p. Agency Voucher No.	q. Fund No.	r. FY	s. Cost Center	t. Comp. Object	u. Agency Object	v. Amount	w. Vendor Invoice No.
245 330 3057 3000	V92043	900	89	08013	4790	3790	650.00	
x. Pay To: (Name, Address, City, State, ZIP)								
Dr. Norman W. Black 417 Moberly Avenue Longview, Texas 75602								
(Agency Use)								
y. TOTAL							650.00	

z. DELIVERY DATE	aa. DESCRIPTION OF ARTICLES OR SERVICES	bb. QUANTITY	cc. UNIT PRICE	dd. AMOUNT
5/18/89	<p>Refund of payment for Official Texas Historical Marker (marker was rejected by committee): Job #16489, Gregg County</p> <p>Deposited to Fund 900 on State Treasury Deposit Voucher #D34536, dated Feb. 10, 1989, Register #907137.</p> <p>Payment received at THC 2/7/89; THC #007137</p>			650.00

ee. AGENCY CERTIFICATION— I certify that the above services were rendered, or goods received, and that they correspond in every particular with the contract under which they were procured and that the invoice is true and unpaid.		ff. Date Approved for payment <b>June 14, 1989</b>	
Name	Title	Name	Title
		<i>[Signature]</i>	
Name	Title	PRICES ABOVE ARE APPROVED State Purchasing and General Services Commission.	
<i>[Signature]</i>	<b>Purchaser</b>	BY	