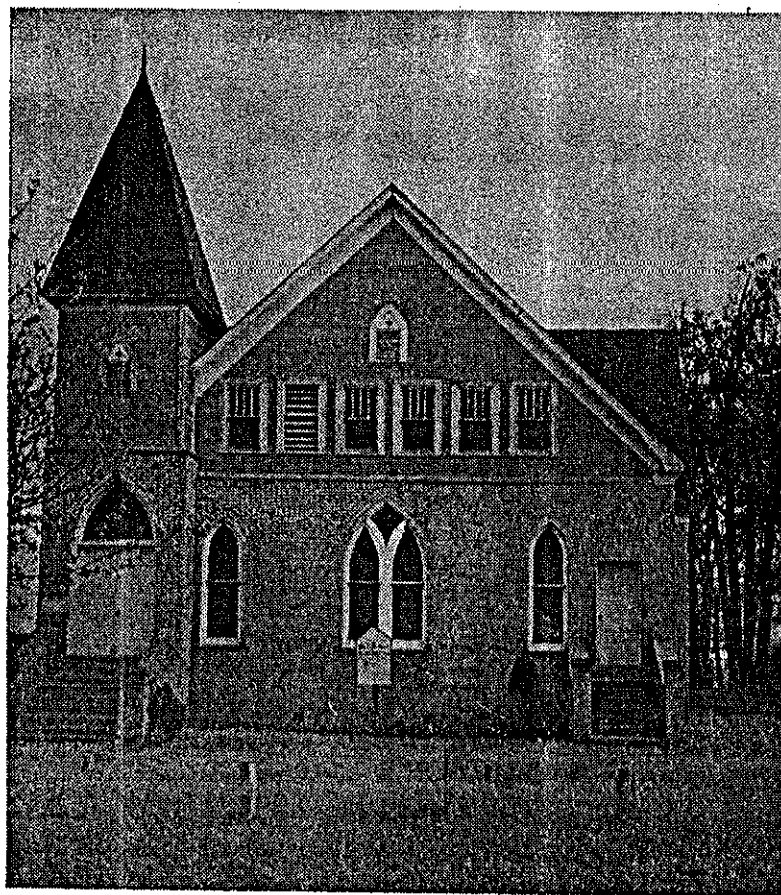


#3

Program
EIGHTY-SECOND ANNIVERSARY



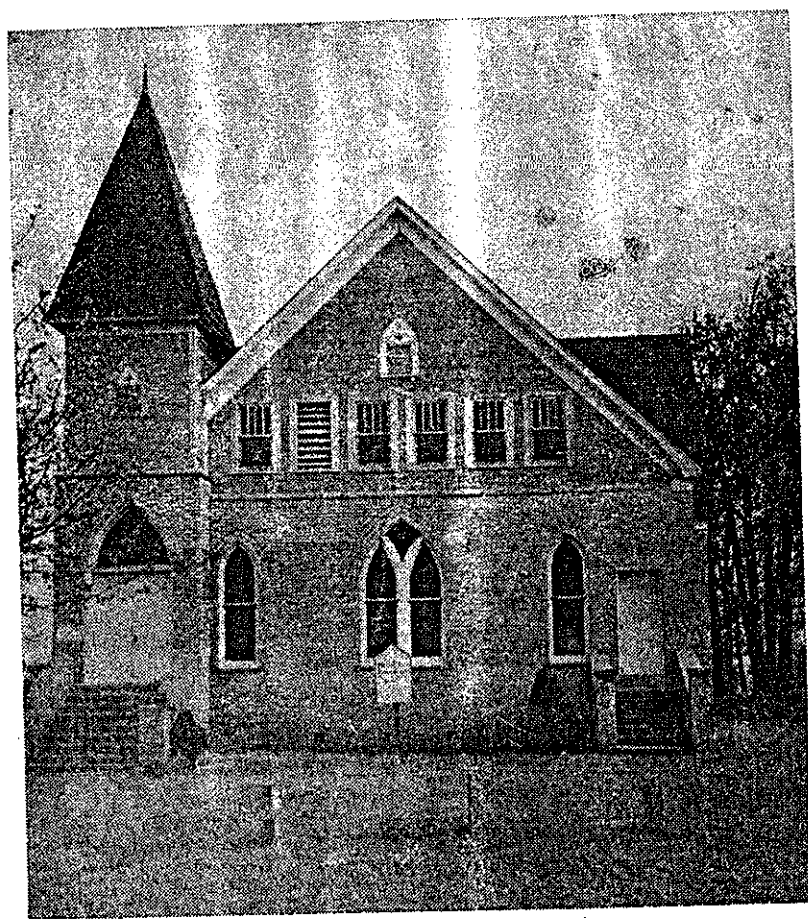
PLEASANT GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Longview, Texas

MAY 3, 1953

3

Eighty-Fifth
Anniversary •
• Program



Pleasant Green Baptist Church

Longview, Texas

MAY 6, 1956

#5
Pleasant Green Baptist Church

1871 - 2001

"Christian Education is the Hope of our Nation"



130th Church Anniversary
Reverend Robert L. Davis, Pastor

Hwy 349
Longview, Texas

Pleasant Green
1871-1982 - Pleasant



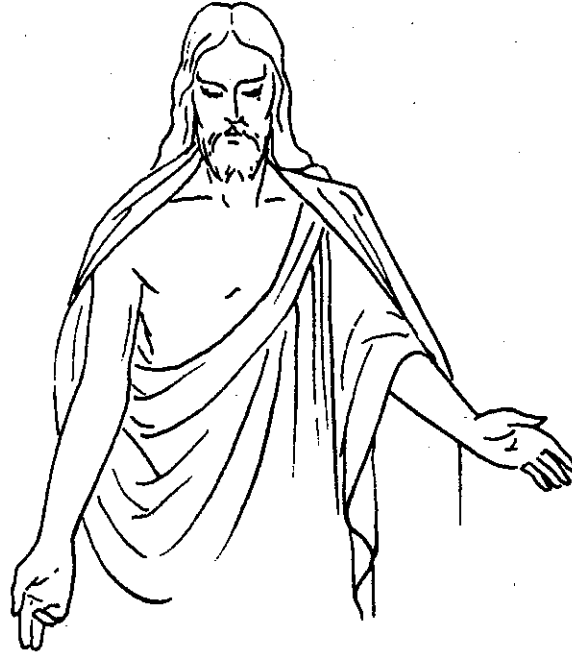
1909

FOREWORD

This book is designed to be a historic memory of Pleasant Green Baptist Church which will be shared with families, friends, neighbors, and Christian brothers and sisters for years to come. The Souvenir Book Committee is indebted to the many members and friends who have shared with the Committee historical information, old pictures, and just plain general advice.

So, on this our 110th anniversary, let us all thank God for giving our forerunners and us the faith to come this far, rejoice with jubilation, and pray that God will continue to bless Pleasant Green Baptist Church as it moves through its next 110 years of Christian service.

Clayborn Edwards
Alice Edwards - Land
2.35
ACRES



HISTORY OF PLEASANT GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH

The Pleasant Green Baptist Church was organized December 30, 1871 by the Reverends Henry Moss and Charles Anderson, ordained ministers.

The first members were: Daniel Pittman, Richard Jones, Ned Johnson, Billy Flag, Richard Rollins, William Bradley, Lucy Woodward, Thebby Pittman, Viney Alston, Sarah Hutchenson, Ella White, Nola Thomas and Comelia Carter. Rev. Henry Moss became the first pastor.

The location of the church was on a farm which then was in Rusk County, this portion of Rusk County was later added to Gregg County. It was one mile west of the present site. In 1884 it was moved to the present site and a frame structure was built. In 1909 the Church was rebuilt. Under the leadership of Pastor R. B. Francis the church was brick veneered in 1928. Further improvements were made under Rev. J. C. Delly by the addition of a pastor's study and modern restrooms.

Simon
Clairborn

As a start services were held only once a month, but as the church grew services were held every other Sunday. In the sixties the members had a strong desire to have services every Sunday, thus becoming a full time service church under Rev. J. C. Delly.

In November 1979 Rev. Rufus O'Neal was called to serve the church and the church community. He is leading the church forward in the services of the Lord. Twenty members have been added, seven by baptism. The church has been blessed by the addition of one hundred "THE NEW NATIONAL BAPTIST HYMNALS" and one hundred "pew Bibles", for the convenience of the congregation. New equipment has been purchased for the cafeteria.

The history of the Pleasant Green Baptist Church is a tiny fragment in the history of all Christianity. In years to come it is hoped that Pleasant Green Baptist Church members will continue to be a channel through which members will try to find together what they cannot find individually: love, peace, harmony, and mutually rewarding Christian service.

Dorothy lot. Watkins

**PASTORS OF PLEASANT GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH
TO PRESENT TIME**

PASTORS 1871-1981

The church has moved steadily forward in soul winning and necessary building improvements under each of these fine Christian pastors.

*Rev. Henry Moss	1871-1872
*Rev. Jesse Rowe	
*Rev. Chatman	
*Rev. G. W. Hill	
*Rev. R. B. Francis	1898-1935
*Rev. A. P. Cooksey	1935-1954
Rev. Jon D. Cooksey	1955-1960
*Rev. Millard Smith	1960-1962
Rev. W. A. Moses	1964 (4 months)
Rev. J. C. Delley	1964-1973
Rev. T. J. Ingram	1974-1978
Rev. W. E. Pipkins	1979 (4 months)
Rev. Rufus O'Neal	1979-Present Pastor

*Deceased



3.
IN LOVING MEMORY
of



REV. R. B. FRANCIS
Pastor, 1898-1935

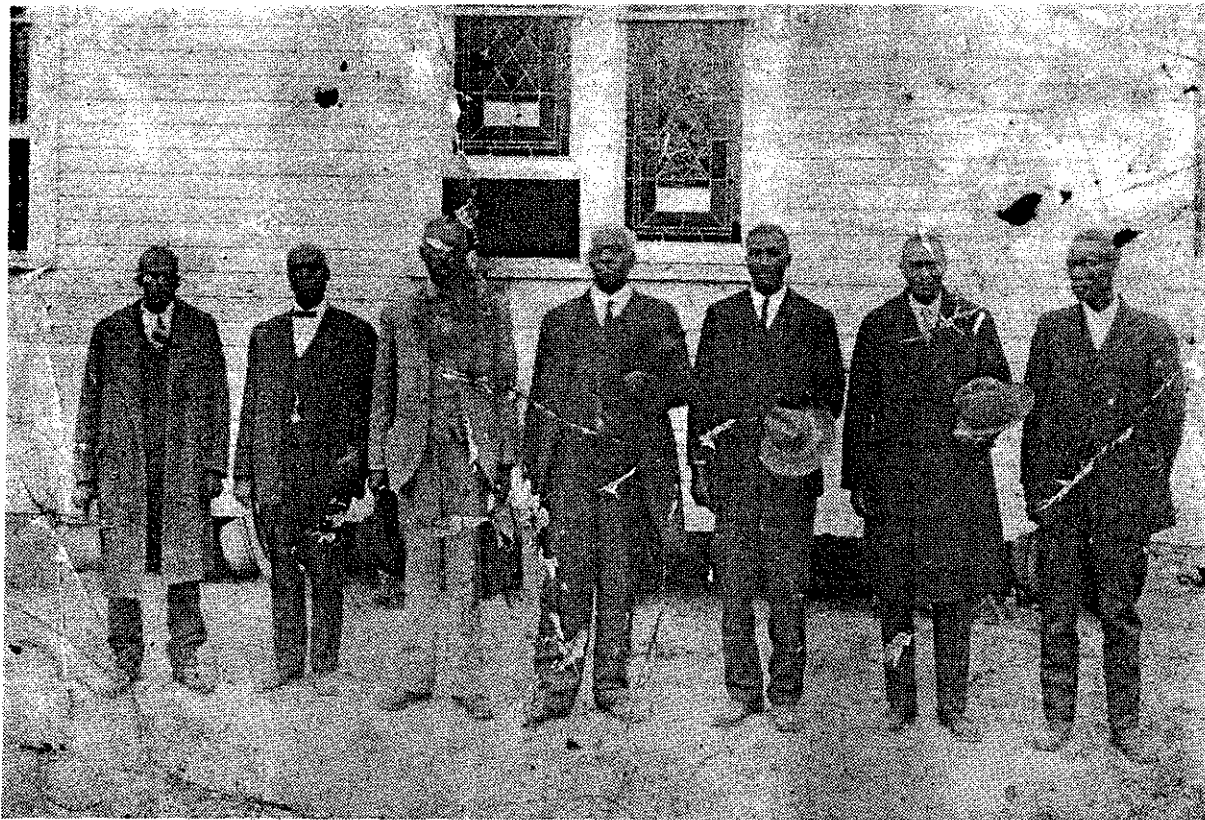


REV. A. P. COOKSEY
Pastor, 1935-1953



MRS. PAZETTA TAYLOR
Clerk, 1920-1950

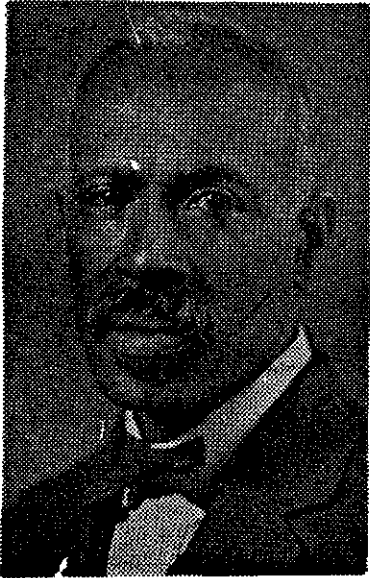
PAST DEACONS AND PASTOR



Standing left to right: David Jones, Dock Johnson, Ned Williams, Rev. R. B. Francis, Jeff Sanders, Gus Browne, Horace Taylor.

IN LOVING MEMORY

of



**DEACON, PROF. NED E. WILLIAMS
AND WIFE DECONNESS ADAH WIL-
LIAMS**

Deacon William's life was one of service to his community and church. Deaconess Williams was held in high esteem by all who knew her.

DEACON CHARLIE WADE

*Was loyal to his church and communi-
ty.*

IN LOVING MEMORY

of



HELEN S. HUNT



LENA BALLINGER

**1999 Application Form
Official Texas Historical Marker**

(Please complete both sides of form.)

This marker is for (title or subject): Pleasant Green Baptist Church
(Title subject to change by THC staff and/or State Marker Review Board.)

County: Gregg

Marker location (street address and city, or specific directions from nearest town on state highway map):
Hwy 349 Longview, Texas

Distance and direction of marker topic from marker site (if applicable):
Front lawn on post

Approval of County Historical Commission

The application and narrative history must be approved by the county historical commission before forwarding to the Texas Historical Commission.

Signature of CHC chair or Marker Committee chair: Norman M. Black, D.D. Date: 10-13-03
Address: 417 Mohrberly Ave., Longview, Texas 75602
Phone: 903/757-2261 FAX: 903/753-5337 email: norman.black@co.gregg.tx.us

The CHC chair or Marker Committee chair automatically will receive all copies of correspondence regarding this marker project.

Permission of owner for marker placement

Permission for placement of a marker must be obtained from the property owner. Please provide the name of a contact person if the owner is an institution, organization, or public entity. This section need not be completed if the marker is to be placed on right-of-way maintained by the Texas Department of Transportation.

Name: Deacon Board Pleasant Green Baptist Church
Contact person (if applicable): Ernest Lilly
Mailing address: Rte 11, Box 421 L Longview, TX 75603
Phone: _____ FAX: _____ email: _____
Owner's Signature: _____

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

To whom should the request for payment be addressed?

Name: MARVIN CALLOWAY
Contact person (if applicable): _____
Mailing address: 2913 N. Whitten, Tyler, TX 75702
Phone: 903-592-3308 FAX: _____ email: _____

Does this person wish to receive copies of all other correspondence concerning this application? Yes No

Is there anyone else to whom all correspondence concerning this marker application should be addressed?
(One additional name and address only, please.)

Name: Rev. R. L. DAVIS
Mailing address: Rte 11, Box 421 L Longview, TX 75603
Phone: (903) 643-3175 FAX: _____ email: _____

(over)



**TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

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 Bleck, ch. Gregg County Historical Commission
Street address: 417 Moberly Ave, Longview, Texas 75602
Phone: _____

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 | \$950 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" marker without post (see below) | \$900 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" marker with post | \$650 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" marker without post (see below) | \$600 |

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 | \$950 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" marker without post (see below) | \$900 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" marker with post | \$650 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" marker without post (see below) | \$600 |

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):

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:

History Programs Division, 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 History Programs Division for a separate order form.

A History of

Pleasant Green Baptist Church

In the mid eighteen forties portions of East Texas were sparsely populated.

Indians had been the predominate occupants of this land until 1839. Anglo Americans from the Deep South began to realize the advantages of moving to this new state and making homes in the forested, rolling hills. Many of these pioneers were farmers betting their entire lives on the inexpensive, fertile land of northeast Rusk County¹ Many of the farmers brought their slaves with them as did the farmers from neighboring Harrison County. After the Civil War there was a great influx of freed slaves from the Deep South who, for the most part, came through Shreveport, Louisiana into Marion, Harrison and Rusk Counties; more than the freedmen who came into Texas counties further south. The Sabine River that carries more water than any stream in Texas drained the land. The economy of the area was aided by navigation of the Sabine River that began as early as 1848 all the way to Belzora Landing in Smith County. An established river port was at Fredonia; however, cotton and other goods to be sold in New Orleans could be loaded on the steamboats at any point on the river that had a landing.²

¹ Gregg County Historical Commission files.

² Ibid.

After 1865, small communities of African-Americans began to spring up in East Texas and almost every community had its church and sometimes a cemetery. Pleasant Green is one of these communities, now in Gregg County.

Pleasant Green is a rural community located on Texas Highway 349 in southeastern Gregg County. It was established by emancipated slaves. It was in this community the Pleasant Green Baptist Church was organized on December 20, 1871 by the Reverends Henry Moses and Charles Anderson.³ The church was organized to meet the needs of the "colored" people in this and adjacent communities and as a place where the "colored" people could worship or gather for future growth or "just a place to be alone".⁴ The first members of the Church included Richard Jones, Ned Johnson, Billy Flag, Richard Rollins, William Bradley, Lucy Woddard, Thebby Pitman, Vinny Alston, Sarah Hutchenson, Ella White, Nola Thomas and Corella Carter; Reverend Henry Mass was the first pastor.⁵ Today the Church's membership is approximately three hundred and is continuing to increase.

Pleasant Green Baptist Church was originally located on a small farm in what was then Rusk County which became part of Gregg County in 1874, one year after the part of Gregg County north of the Sabine River was formed out of Upshur County (1873).⁶ This location was approximately one mile west of its present location. In 1884, the Church was re-located to its present site and a frame building was built. Mr. Simon Claiborn and his wife, Mealy Claiborn, "granted, bargain, and sell, and convey to the Trustees of Pleasant Green Baptist Church, County of Gregg, State of Texas all that certain tract or parcel

³ Printed Program, Eighty-second Church Anniversary, May 1953.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

situated and described as follow, to wit...1 acre or 75 vs. square”⁷. A 1908 deed signed by the Claiborns and certified by them in 1935 states, “2 acres set apart for church purposes.”⁸ In 1909, under Pastor Francis, the Church was rebuilt.⁹ In early years with few church members, service was held once a month. As membership increased services were held twice monthly on the first and third Sundays. Presently services are held every Sunday, a practice that was started with the leadership of Reverend J. C. Delley in the 1960s.¹⁰

Numerous improvements and renovations have been made to the original structure while still maintaining the original outer appearance. In 1968, under the leadership of Pastor Delley, a pastor’s study and modern indoor restrooms were added. From 1968 to 1987, new windows, new pews, central heat and air conditioning and carpet were installed and the ceiling was lowered. From 1987 to the present under the leadership of Pastor R. L. Davis other improvements and changes were made. These changes included the lowering of the choir loft, construction of new side entryways, one with a handicap ramp, eight new classrooms, a fellowship hall, new pastor’s study and a ladies’ lounge. The church was bricked with brick to match the older part. Other improvements include installing new carpet, purchasing new furniture for the pastor’s study and the pulpit. In 2000, the congregation held a mortgage burning ceremony to celebrate the end of the Church building indebtedness.

⁶ Souvenir Booklet, *One Hundred-tenth Church Anniversary*, (1981).

⁷ Deed Records of Gregg County, vol. 2023, p. 123.

⁸ Deed Records of Gregg County, vol. 180, pp. 106-107.

⁹ *Traditions of the Land – The History of Gregg County*, Eugene W. McWhorter, Gregg County Historical Foundation, Longview, Texas, 1989.

¹⁰ Souvenir Booklet, *op. cit.*

The Church has continued to grow and make changes to meet the spiritual and educational needs of its members. The Church annually holds a program to honor current graduates, gives a college scholarship funded by Marvin Calloway to a senior, holds annual Vacation Bible School and many members attend Christian Education workshops. The Church site increased when a parcel of land east of the property was deeded to the Church by Marvin Calloway.¹¹

In keeping with the spiritual needs of the members the Church, under Pastor Davis' two "sons", Madera Hilburn and James Shan, have been preordained. The Deacon Board was increased with the ordination of Marvin Harris, Madera Hilburn, John Hutchings, Leonard Jones, Wilton Jones, John L. Lewis, Marvin Thompson, Marvin Snoddy, Alfred Taylor and William Calloway.

Pleasant Green Baptist Church was created to meet the religious, educational and social needs of the people of this community and to give its members opportunities to grow and prosper spiritually. Today, the Church strives to continue and grow and promote opportunities for its members to uphold Christian teachings and doctrines.

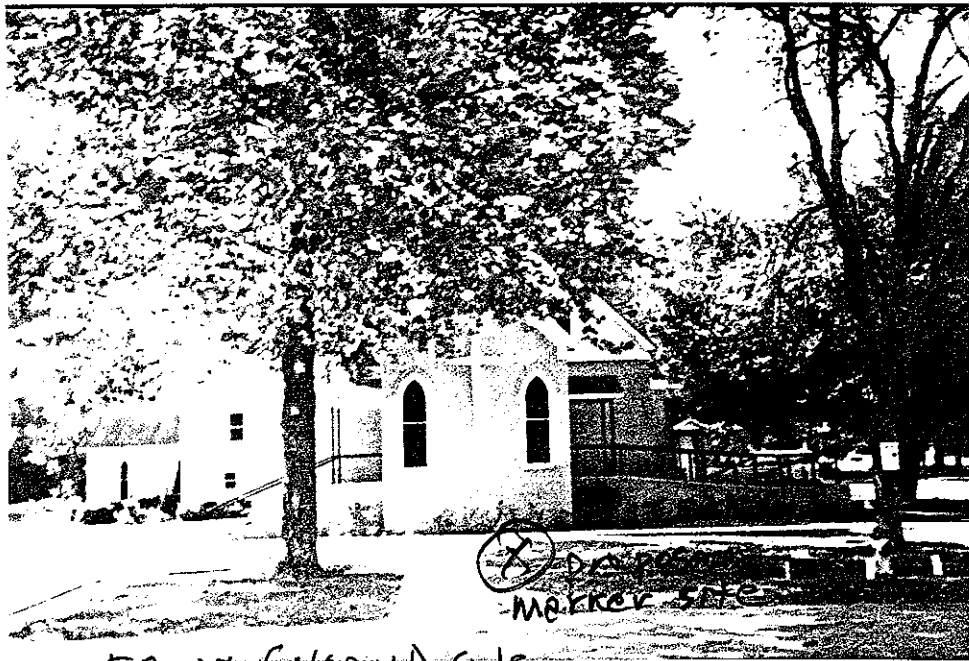
Marvin Calloway

Note: Undocumented information provided through oral and personal interviews and communications with church and family members.

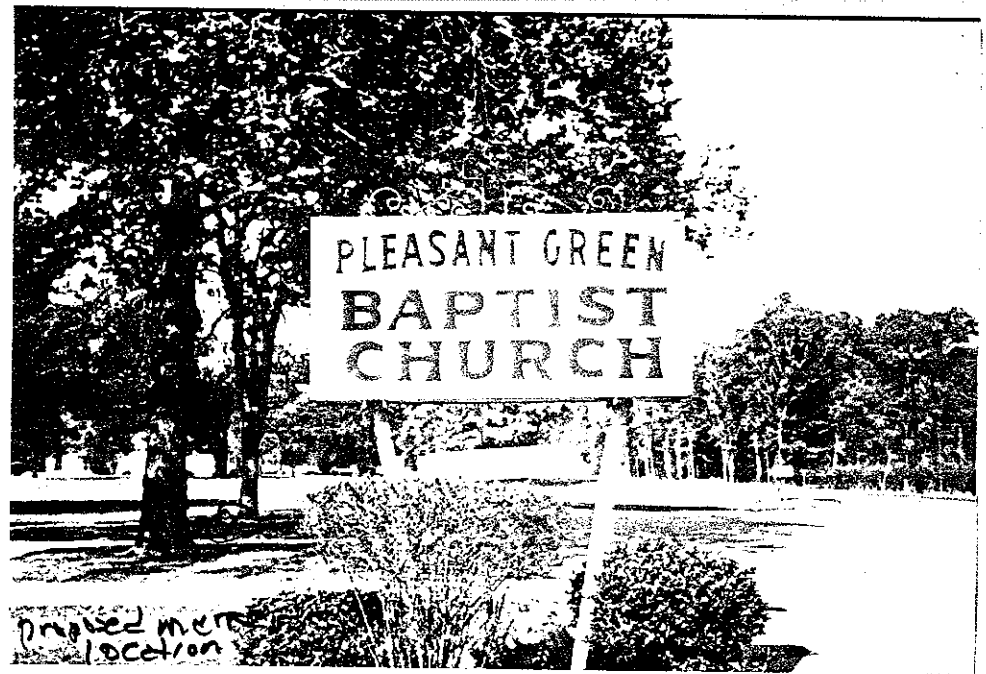
¹¹ Deed Records of Gregg County, vol. , p. .

BIBLIOGRAPHY

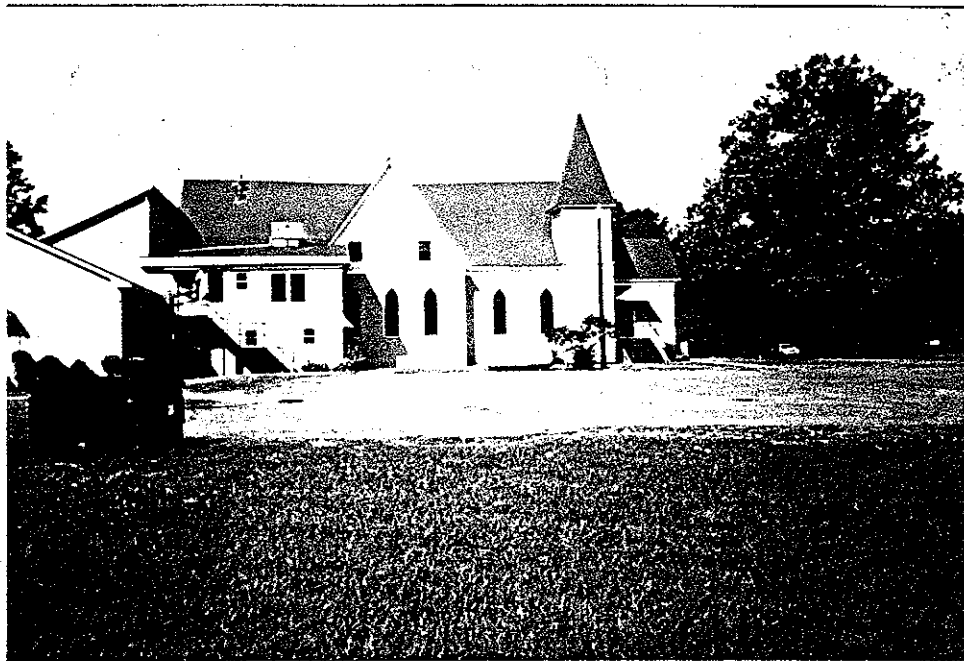
- Deed Records of Gregg County, Texas.
Gregg County Historical Commission files.
- McWhorter, Eugene W., *Traditions of the Land - The History of Gregg County*,
Gregg County Historical Foundation, Longview, Texas, 1989.
- Printed Program, Eighty-second Pleasant Green Baptist Church Anniversary,
May, 1953.
- Souvenir Booklet, One Hundred-tenth Pleasant Green Baptist Church Anniversary,
1981.



FRONT (NORTH) SIDE



Dotted map location



EAST SIDE

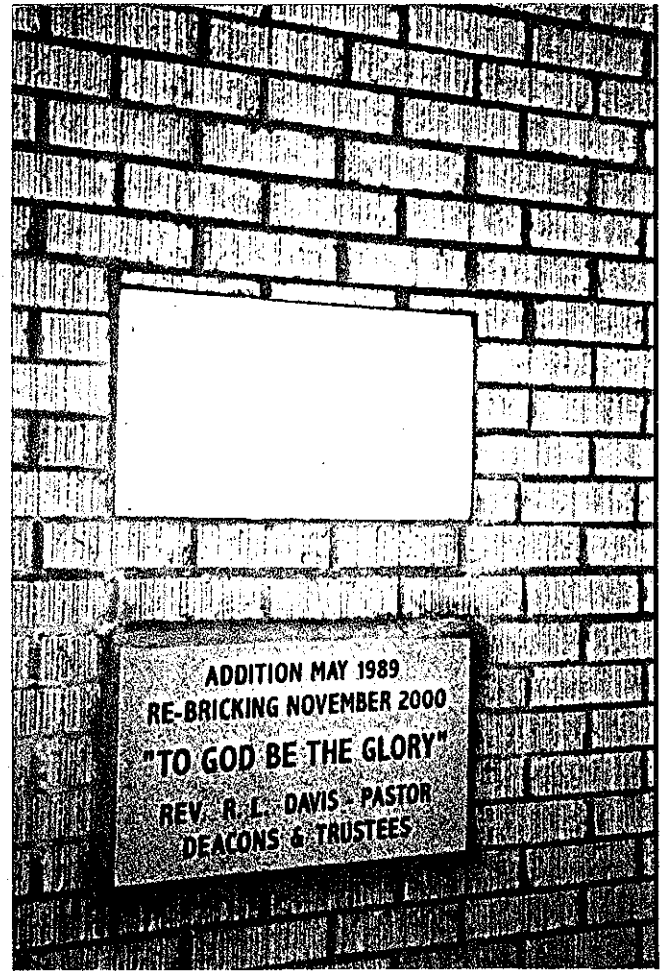


WEST SIDE

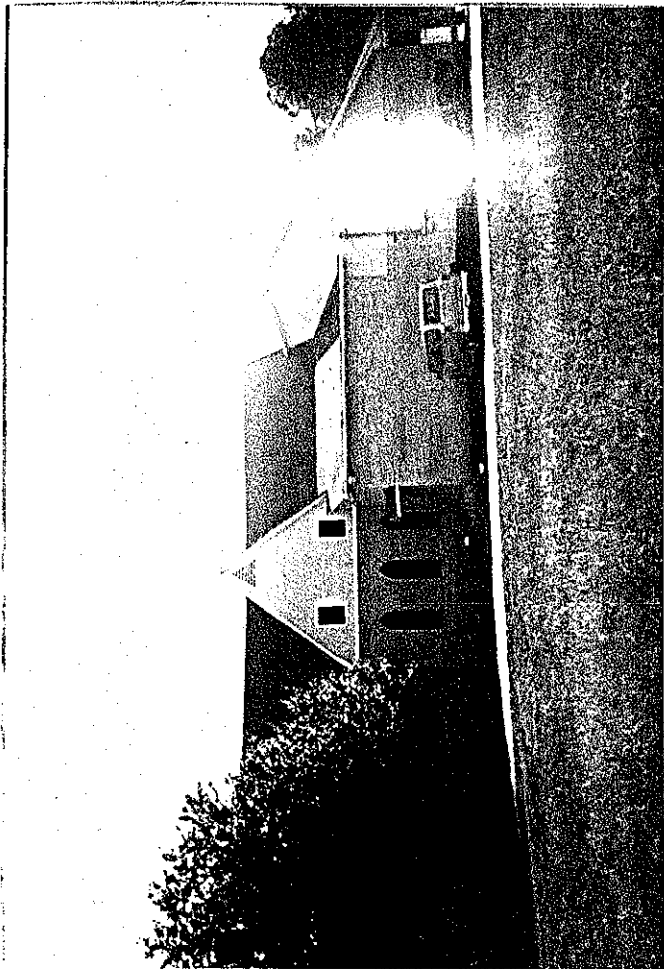
10-4-2003



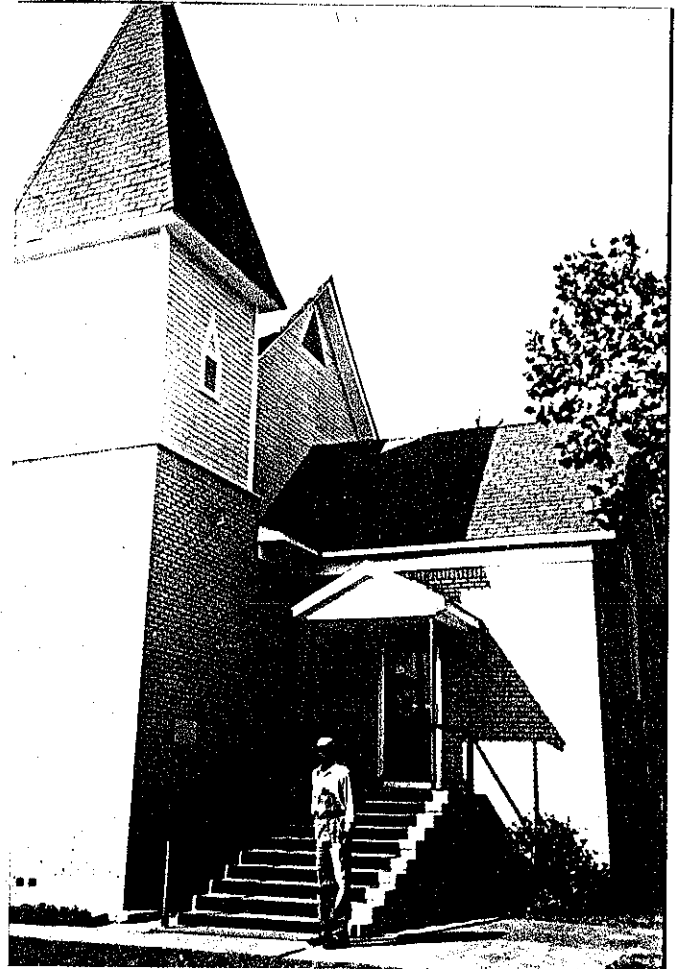
SW CORNER



10-4-2002

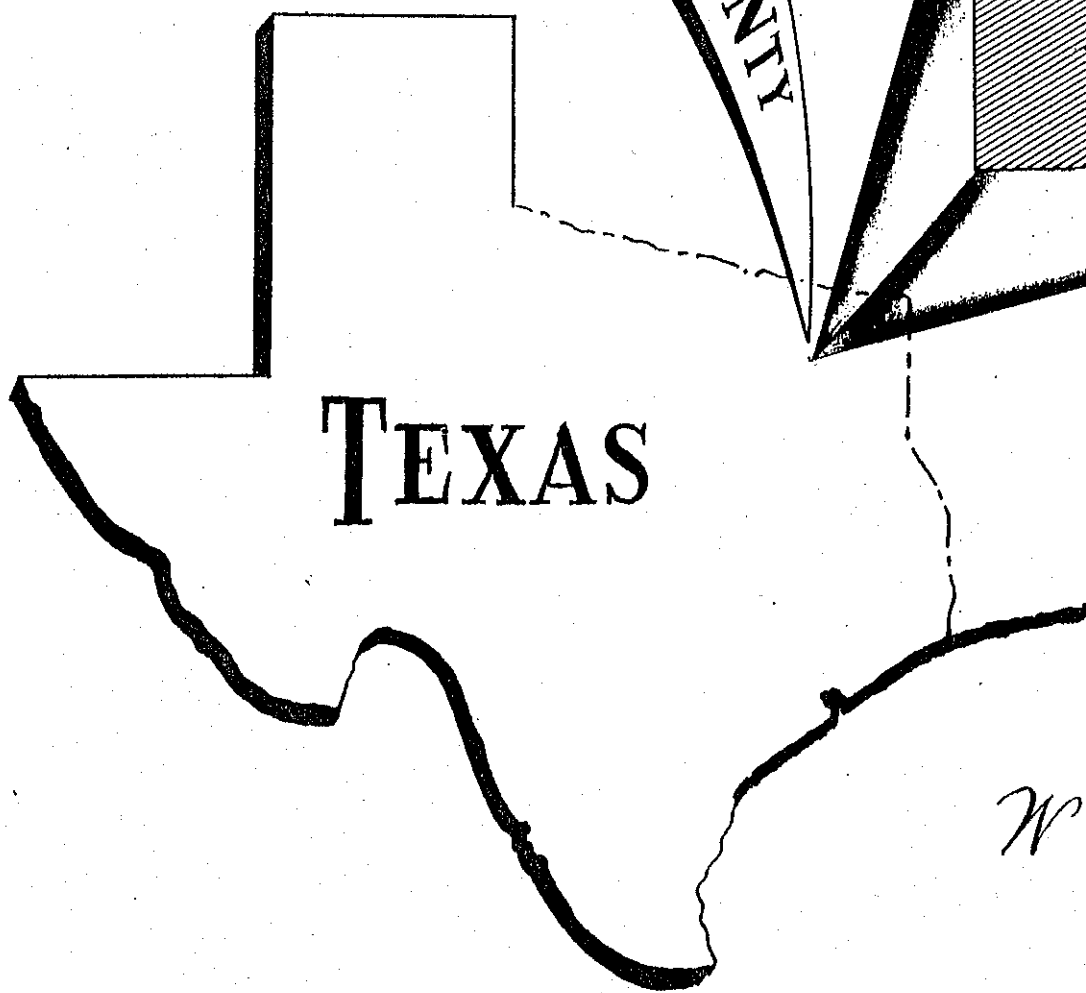
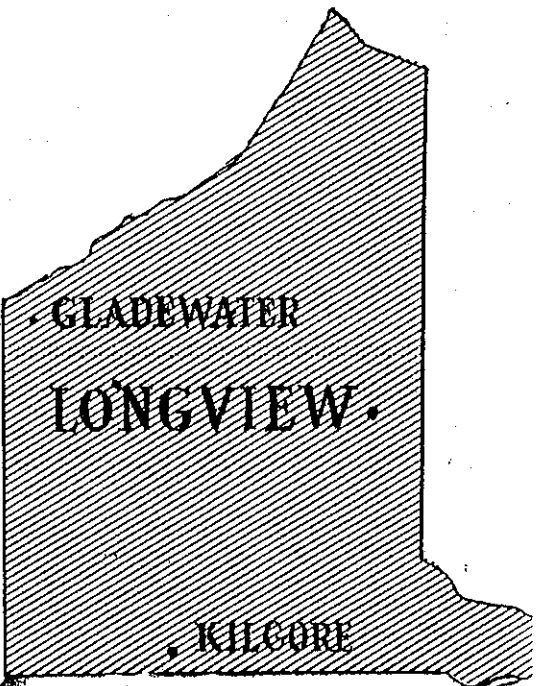


BACK (SOUTH) SIDE

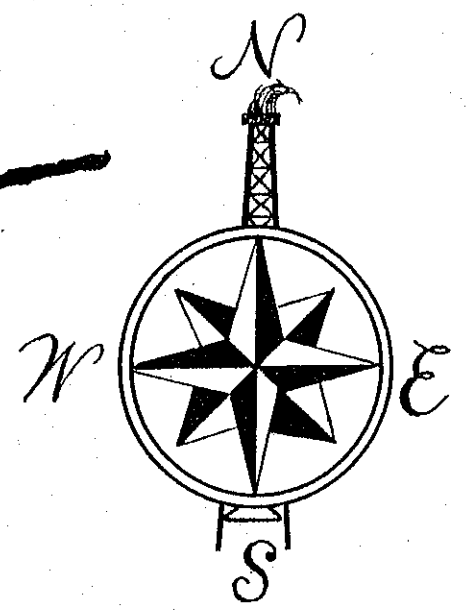


NE CORNER & MARVIN CALLOWAY

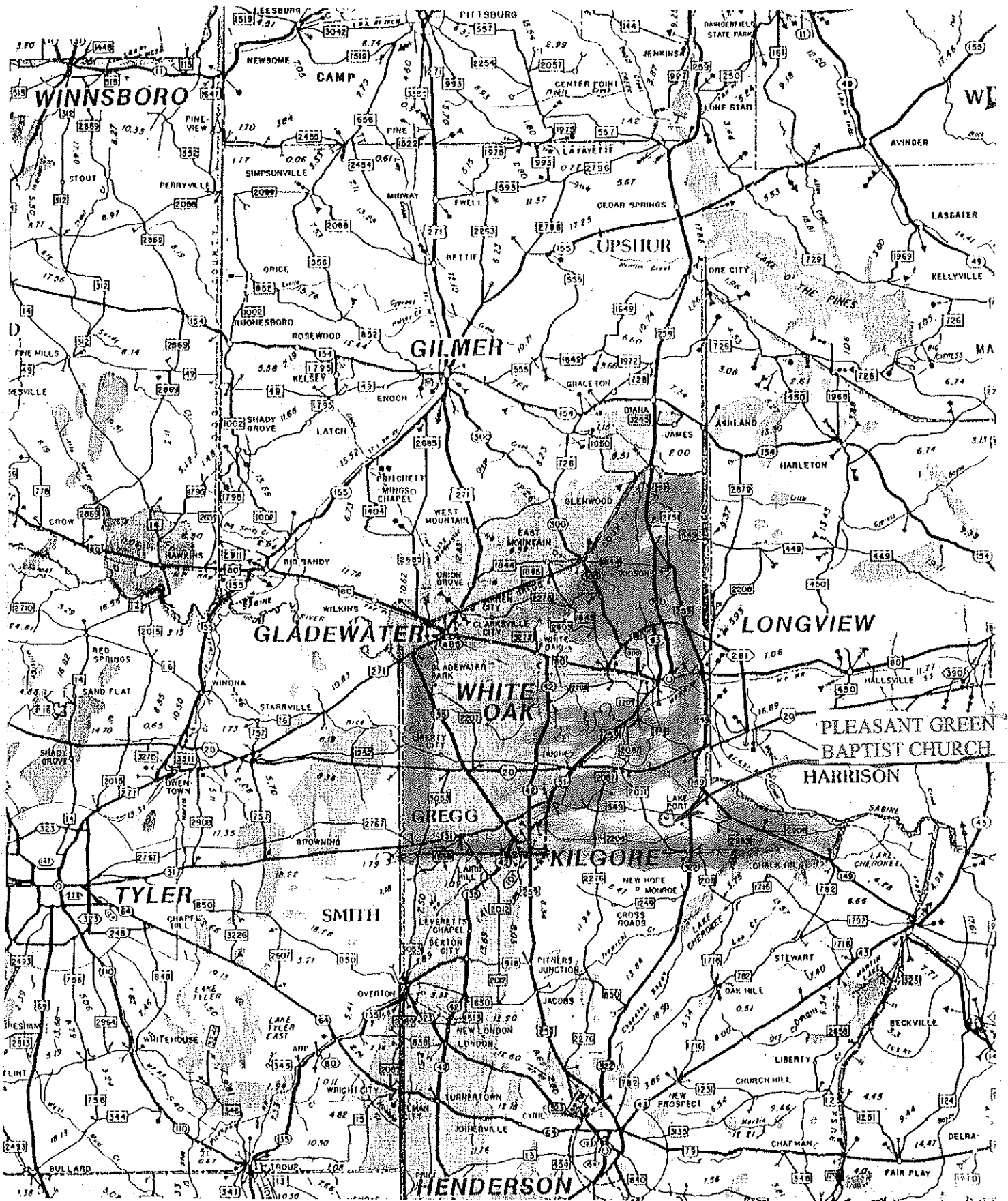
GREGG COUNTY



TEXAS



GREGG COUNTY



Pleasant Green
1871-1982 - Pleasant



1909

FOREWORD

This book is designed to be a historic memory of Pleasant Green Baptist Church which will be shared with families, friends, neighbors, and Christian brothers and sisters for years to come. The Souvenir Book Committee is indebted to the many members and friends who have shared with the Committee historical information, old pictures, and just plain general advice.

So, on this our 110th anniversary, let us all thank God for giving our forerunners and us the faith to come this far, rejoice with jubilation, and pray that God will continue to bless Pleasant Green Baptist Church as it moves through its next 110 years of Christian service.

Historic photograph - earliest.

10-13-07

The Church has continued to grow and make changes to meet the spiritual and educational needs of its members. The Church annually holds a program to honor current graduates, gives a college scholarship funded by Marvin Calloway to a senior, holds annual Vacation Bible School and many members attend Christian Education workshops. The Church site increased when a parcel of land east of the property was deeded to the Church by Marvin Calloway.¹¹

In keeping with the spiritual needs of the members the Church, under Pastor Davis' two "sons", Madera Hilburn and James Shan, have been preordained. The Deacon Board was increased with the ordination of Marvin Harris, Madera Hilburn, John Hutchings, Leonard Jones, Wilton Jones, John L. Lewis, Marvin Thompson, Marvin Snoddy, Alfred Taylor and William Calloway.

Pleasant Green Baptist Church was created to meet the religious, educational and social needs of the people of this community and to give its members opportunities to grow and prosper spiritually. Today, the Church strives to continue and grow and promote opportunities for its members to uphold Christian teachings and doctrines.

Marvin Calloway

Note: Undocumented information provided through oral and personal interviews and communications with church and family members.

¹¹ Deed Records of Gregg County, instrument no. 9710613



**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, Ernest Lilly, Marvin Calloway, Rev. R. L. Davis

FROM: Dan K. Utley

RE: Pleasant Green Baptist Church, Gregg County

DATE: October 20, 2003

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.

At this point, we have checked the application to be sure it includes all the 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 45 days. Please note that in order to be fair to all marker applicants, we review the applications in the order in which they are received. **Also, please note that because of the many variables 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 type="checkbox"/> None; packet is complete. Thanks! | <input type="checkbox"/> Site plan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Signature of authorized CHC member | <input type="checkbox"/> Floor plan delineating any changes |
| <input checked="" 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 the proposed marker site | <input type="checkbox"/> Street address or directions to marker site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Documented narrative history | <input type="checkbox"/> City/county map 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 | |

Additional notes: 1. Since a church representative failed to sign the application, we will need a signed letter from the pastor or deacon chair authorizing us to place a state marker on church property. 2. Please note that the marker application submitted was outdated; the current price for a small subject marker with post is \$850. No need to send money now, though; you will be billed when the application is reviewed and approved.

If you have questions at any point in the process, please call us. Thank you for your interest in preserving and recording Texas history.

The Texas Marker Team:

Dan K. Utley
Marker Program Coordinator
512/475-2692
dan.utley@thc.state.tx.us

Linda C. Henderson
Historian/Marker Writer
512/463-5851
linda.henderson@thc.state.tx.us

Egina Reyes
Office Manager
512/463-6063
egina.reyes@thc.state.tx.us

PLEASANT GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH

P.O. Box 12266 9270 FM Hwy. 349

Longview, Texas 75606-2266

Reverend Robert L. Davis, Pastor

"Christian Education Is The Hope Of Our Nation"

TO: Historical Marker Committee

FROM: Reverend R. L. Davis

DATE: November 5, 2003

RE: Placement of Historical Marker

During the Business Meeting on Monday night, November 3, 2003, we discussed the placement of the Historical Marker on the church grounds. After the business meeting we gathered outside and decided that it should be placed in the "Y" in the sidewalk as near the center as practical. A stake has been placed to indicate the placement.

RLD/ej

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RLD", with two horizontal lines underneath it.



Gregg County Historical Commission

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

417 Moberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

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

November 16, 2003

Dan K. Utley
Marker Program Coordinator
Texas Historical Commission
P. O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Pleasant Green Baptist Church, Gregg County

Dear Dan:

Enclosed is the needed letter of permission from the pastor of the church to place the marker on the property.

Best regards,

Enc.



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 13, 2003

Dr. Norman Black
417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview TX 75602

Dear Dr. Black:

We have conducted a preliminary review of the Official Texas Historical Marker application for Pleasant Green Baptist Church. Before we can complete the evaluation, however, we will need some additional information.

1. The history provides good detail on the development of the church, but we would also like information about its early programs and outreach. Through what programs has it served the community over the years? Has it developed missions or merged with other congregations?
2. On page 2, the history notes the first members included twelve individuals plus the pastor. Where these the only charter members, or were there others?
3. The footnote on page 4 does not include the deed volume and page.

Please note this is not a rejection of the application, but simply a request for additional information or clarification. Answers to the above items should be submitted in the form of a *documented addendum* to the original application narrative, including reference notes. We will place the application on hold until we hear from you again. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dan".

Dan K. Utley, Historian
Marker Program Coordinator
dan.utley@thc.state.tx.us

cc: Ernest Lilly, Marvin Calloway

nblack

From: "Dan Utley" <dan.utley@thc.state.tx.us>
To: <norman.black@co.gregg.tx.us>
Sent: Saturday, December 13, 2003 11:00 AM
Subject: Pleasant Green Baptist Church

Dr. Black:

I just wanted you to know I'm mailing a letter requesting a little bit more information on the Pleasant Green Baptist Church application. It has good basic information, but we would also like to know more about the early church programs and outreach. I also had a question about the charter membership and a footnote. I copied Ernest Lilly and Marvin Calloway on the letter.

Thanks, as always, for your good work. Linda, Cynthia and I wish you the very best for the holidays.

Dan

Dan K. Utley, Historian
Assistant Director, History Programs Division
Marker Program Coordinator

12/13/03



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

January 27, 2004

Dan K. Utley, Historian
Marker Program Coordinator
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Pleasant Green Baptist Church

Dear Dan:

Mr. Calloway brought the following three pages to me a few minutes ago. From my conversations with him I believe this is all the pertinent information he will be able to provide.

Sincerely,

Norman Black, D.D.S.

Enc.



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 13, 2003

Dr. Norman Black
417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview TX 75602

Dear Dr. Black:

We have conducted a preliminary review of the Official Texas Historical Marker application for Pleasant Green Baptist Church. Before we can complete the evaluation, however, we will need some additional information.

1. The history provides good detail on the development of the church, but we would also like information about its early programs and outreach. Through what programs has it served the community over the years? Has it developed missions or merged with other congregations?
2. On page 2, the history notes the first members included twelve individuals plus the pastor. Where these the only charter members, or were there others?
3. The footnote on page 4 does not include the deed volume and page.

Please note this is not a rejection of the application, but simply a request for additional information or clarification. Answers to the above items should be submitted in the form of a *documented addendum* to the original application narrative, including reference notes. We will place the application on hold until we hear from you again. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dan".

Dan K. Utley, Historian
Marker Program Coordinator
dan.utley@thc.state.tx.us

cc: Ernest Lilly, Marvin Calloway

A History of Pleasant Green Baptist Church

Addendum to the Narrative

Information Requested:

Pleasant Green Baptist Church was the focal point of the Pleasant Green Community. (1) The church developed and continues to provide many programs to aid and serve the community. Some of these programs include:

1. Baptist Young People Union (BYPU) to train the youth in Christian Education.
2. Women's Missionary Society to promote Christian education for adults, care for the needy and shut-in and carry out the mission of the church.
3. Seniors Appreciation Day to emphasize the work and accomplishments fo the elderly.
4. Black History Month activities to enhance the cultural heritage of Black Americans.
5. Food Drives to help feed the needy.
6. Scholarship Funds to support students who are pursuing a higher education.
7. Graduation Day to stress the importance of education.
8. Vacation Bible School to provide Christian education and recreation for young people during the summer.
9. Youth Sundays which give young people opportunities to learn and actively participate in the roles and responsibilities of church officers, leaders and members
10. Church sponsored trips to enhance cultural awareness.
11. Sponsored a Boy Scout troop in the late 1940's and early 1950's and scout, Marvin Calloway, represented the local troop at the Jamboree in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania.

Pleasant Green Baptist Church, when established, had twelve members and a pastor .(2) The membership grew as the community's population increased.

Regarding the footnote on page 4 of the narrative history, Gregg County's new record filing system assigns a number to the document. the document number is GCC 9710613.

(1) THE HANDBOOK OF TEXAS ONLINE (TSHA Online), updated, December 4, 2002.

(2) Eugene W. McWhorter, TRADITIONS OF THE LAND: HISTORY OF GREGG COUNTY (Longview, Texas: Gregg County Historical Foundation, 1989).

January 23, 2004

Marvin Calloway
Pleasant Green Baptist Church
1316 Pleasant Green Rd.
Longview, TX 75603

Dan K. Utley, Historian
Marker Program Coordinator
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711-2276

Dear Mr. Utley;

Regarding your recent letter concerning the Official Historical Marker for Pleasant Green Baptist Church, I am including the additional information that you requested. I hope that this additional information will be most helpful. Thanks for your response and further consideration.

Yours Truly,


Marvin Calloway



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

March 3, 2004

Marvin Calloway
2913 North Whitten
Tyler, TX 75702

RE: PLEASANT GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker w/ post
Job # 03104; Gregg County

Dear Mr. Calloway:

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 \$850.00, 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan K. Utley".

Dan K. Utley
Historical Marker Program Coordinator
History Programs Division
dan.utley@thc.state.tx.us

pc: Dr. Norman Black, Gregg CHC
Ernest Lilly

Texas Historical Commission staff (LCH), 7/21/2004

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Gregg County (Job #03104) Subject CH, BP, AA (Atlas 13059) UTM: 15 336265E 3586182N

Location: Longview, 9270 FM 349

PLEASANT GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH

FOLLOWING THE CIVIL WAR, EMANCIPATED SLAVES ESTABLISHED THE FREEDMEN'S COMMUNITY OF PLEASANT GREEN. ON DECEMBER 20, 1871, PASTORS HENRY MOSES AND CHARLES ANDERSON LED LOCAL RESIDENTS IN ORGANIZING A BAPTIST CONGREGATION. THE REV. HENRY MASS SERVED AS THE CHURCH'S FIRST PASTOR. ORIGINALLY MEETING ON A SMALL FARM, THE CONGREGATION MOVED TO THIS SITE IN 1884, CONSTRUCTING A FRAME SANCTUARY. SIMON AND MEALY CLAIBORN DEEDED THE PROPERTY TO THE CHURCH. IN 1909, THE CONGREGATION BUILT A LARGER HOUSE OF WORSHIP TO WHICH IT MADE ADDITIONS THROUGHOUT THE 20TH CENTURY. TODAY, THE CHURCH REMAINS A CENTRAL PART OF THE HISTORIC AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY, FOSTERING EDUCATION AND SPIRITUALITY.

(2004)

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: Dr. Norman Buck 8-4-04



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWERENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: Dr. Norman Black, 903/757-2261
Ernest Lilly (I don't have a phone number on file)
Marvin Calloway, 903/592-3308

FROM: Linda C. Henderson

RE: Pleasant Green Baptist Church marker, Gregg County, Job # 03104

DATE: 7/30/2004

Enclosed is the proposed inscription for the aforementioned marker. Please review it for accuracy, verify the proposed location, and check names, dates and facts. As you review the inscription, please note the following:

- Because this is for an Official Texas Historical Marker, the final wording, including punctuation, style and grammar, is up to the Texas Historical Commission.
- If you have corrections to recommend, please make them on the attached copy and return it to me. We ask that you *not* type a new version of the inscription.
- If you suggest the addition of new information not included in the narrative history, we will need a typed addendum to the file with appropriate documentation and notes.
- Inscription space is limited, so any suggested additions should be accompanied by suggested omissions.
- The draft you received is a working copy for the foundry's use; the right-hand margin will be justified on the finished marker.
- If the requested changes are minor and agreed upon by all parties, no additional approval letter will be sent. Therefore, please consider and proof the text carefully before sending it back to the THC.
- We cannot mention anyone who has not been deceased for 10 years or more.
- **Please do not set a dedication date until you have received the marker. Due to the many variables in the process, we cannot guarantee delivery dates.**

The marker cannot be ordered until we have approvals from each person noted above. Please confer with each other to ensure consensus and to minimize the number of rewrites, which can slow the marker process for you and for others.

I will be your contact person for all inscription questions, so please contact me at the agency address or at the following:

Email: linda.henderson@thc.state.tx.us * Phone: 512/463-5851 * Fax: 512/475-3122

Notes: Please let me know if you have any questions.



**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, Clora Austin
FROM: Dan K. Utley
RE: Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Gregg County
DATE: July 29, 2004

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 have 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 45 days. Please note that in order to be fair to all marker applicants, we review the applications in the order in which they are received. **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 |
| <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 the proposed marker site* | <input type="checkbox"/> Street address or directions to marker site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Documented narrative history | <input type="checkbox"/> City/county map 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.*

Additional notes: None

The Texas Marker Team:

For check-in and evaluations:

Dan K. Utley
Chief Historian
512/475-2692
dan.utley@thc.state.tx.us

For inscription questions:

Linda C. Henderson
Historian
512/463-5851
linda.henderson@thc.state.tx.us

For billing and shipping:

Egina Reyes
Office Manager
512/463-6063
egina.reyes@thc.state.tx.us



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

HISTORY PROGRAMS DIVISION
512/463-6063

P.O. Box 12276 • Austin, TX 78711-2276

Official Texas Historical Marker
Payment Form

Marker Title: Pleasant Green Baptist Church.

County: Gregg Job Number: #03104 Amt. Enclosed: \$850.00

Please specify method of payment: Check enclosed*
 Visa
 MasterCard

*Checks should be made payable to **TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Credit card number: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Signature: Mawin Callaway

FOR THC OFFICE USE ONLY:

Remittance #: _____

Check #: _____

Amount: _____

MARVIN CALLOWAY, TRUSTEE ACCOUNT

1027

DI 3428492
Ph 903-643-2524 or 903-592-3308
1316 Pleasant Green Rd
Longview, TX 75603

88-78/1119

March 11 DATE 04

PAY TO THE ORDER OF TEXAS Historical Commission \$ 850.00

Eight hundred fifty ~~and no/100~~ DOLLARS



THIS CHECK IS DELIVERED IN CONNECTION WITH THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT (S)

	Historical Market		
	Pleasant Green Check		

Marvin Calloway

⑈001027⑈ ⑆111900785⑆ 84 3012 8481⑈

SHARLAND STYLE 12 (X17)

Regions Bank TEXAS



Gregg County Historical Commission

417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

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

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

October 14, 2004

Mr. Marvin Calloway
2913 North Whitten
Tyler, TX 75702

Dear Mr. Calloway:

I am enclosing a copy of "A Typical Historical Marker Dedication Program". These dedications usually are very short, about twenty minutes long. I would try to limit the program to no more and half an hour. As you can see some of these items are optional and may be even unwanted. Certainly some music can be used if desired. I would use as many different members of the church as you can. For instance we will need at least two members for the unveiling. Contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Norman Black, D.D.S.

Enc.

January 9, 2005

DEDICATION OF AN OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER FOR
PLEASANT GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH
3:00 P.M., SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2005

green velvet
white top

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: DR. NORMAN BLACK

Welcome to the dedication of an Official Texas Historical Marker, the Pleasant Green Baptist Church. These proceedings are authorized by the State of Texas, the Texas Historical Commission and the Gregg County Historical Commission

INVOCATION: REV. M.H. HILLBURN. The invocation will be given by Reverend M.H. Hillburn.... Rev. Hillburn. Thank you Rev. Hillburn.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: BROTHER WILLIAM CALLOWAY will introduce our guests...Brother Calloway.....Thank you Bro. Calloway.

WELCOME; DR. BLACK. We have (some or a) special guest(s) who I would like to introduce: Commissioner of Precinct 4 of Gregg County, Danny Craig.. (comments),

(ADDRESS): BROTHER JOHN HUTCHINS will tell us a brief history of Pleasant Green Baptist Church....Bro Hutchins...thank you, Brother Hutchins.....

DEDICATION OF MARKER: BROTHER LEONARD JONES. Mr. Jones family sold this land to the community....Mr. Jones....Thank you Mr. Jones.

UNVEILING OF MARKER: BROTHERS WADE JONES, AMPY JONES, ALFRED TAYLOR, CALVIN MOORE, GLENN MOORE and Edmund Roy Moore

READING OF TEXT OF MARKER: BROTHER LEONARD JONES will now read the text of the marker.....Thank you Mr. Moore.....Thank you Bro. Jones.

REMARKS: by Brothers E. LILLY, D. CRAIG, and REV. J. D. PALMER.
....Thank you, gentlemen.

BENEDICTION; Reverend Hillburn will bring out benediction.

NOTE; ALL DEACONS AND TRUSTEES WILL CIRCLE THE MARKER FOR PICTURES

Thank you all for coming.

January 9, 2005

DEDICATION OF AN OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER FOR
PLEASANT GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH
3:00 P.M., SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2005

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....Thank you, gentlemen.

BENEDICTION; Reverend Hillburn will bring out benediction.

NOTE; ALL DEACONS AND TRUSTEES WILL CIRCLE THE MARKER FOR PICTURES

Thank you all for coming.

Texas Historical Commission staff (LCH), 7/21/2004
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Gregg County (Job #03104) Subject CH, BP, AA (Atlas 13059) UTM: 15 336265E 3586182N

Location: Longview, 9270 FM 349

PLEASANT GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH

FOLLOWING THE CIVIL WAR, EMANCIPATED SLAVES ESTABLISHED THE FREEDMEN'S COMMUNITY OF PLEASANT GREEN. ON DECEMBER 20, 1871, PASTORS HENRY MOSES AND CHARLES ANDERSON LED LOCAL RESIDENTS IN ORGANIZING A BAPTIST CONGREGATION. THE REV. HENRY MASS SERVED AS THE CHURCH'S FIRST PASTOR. ORIGINALLY MEETING ON A SMALL FARM, THE CONGREGATION MOVED TO THIS SITE IN 1884, CONSTRUCTING A FRAME SANCTUARY. SIMON AND MEALY CLAIBORN DEEDED THE PROPERTY TO THE CHURCH. IN 1909, THE CONGREGATION BUILT A LARGER HOUSE OF WORSHIP TO WHICH IT MADE ADDITIONS THROUGHOUT THE 20TH CENTURY. TODAY, THE CHURCH REMAINS A CENTRAL PART OF THE HISTORIC AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY, FOSTERING EDUCATION AND SPIRITUALITY.

(2004)

At Marker Dedication some church members pointed out errors in text

Henry Moses should be Mass

Rev. Henry Mass should be Moss

Mealy Claiborn real name was Amelie.

1909 date should be 1905 (I doubt this - MVB)

Sick & Shut-Ins

Brother L. B. Adamss
 Sister Barbara Coleman
 Sister Mertie Derricks
 Sister Mary Jane Earl
 Brother Johnny London
 Brother Forest Whitaker
 Sister Bercy Jordan
 Sister Lizzie B. Trimble
 Brother Leroy Boyd

Prayer Request

Sister Berta Lee Harris
 Sister Virginia Reddic
 Brother Hosea Hutchins
 Sister Johnnie D. Earl
 Sister Zeffie Hilburn
 Sister Ora Mae Johnson
 Sister Wilma Holman
 Sister Rosie Mae Hopson
 Sister Lillie Jean Wilson
 Sister Annie L. Moss
 Sister Berlina Higgins
 Sister Annie L. Batess

January Birthdays

Sis. Regina Geter	1st	Brother Johnny London	16th
Brother Jeremy Evans	6th	Sister Creola Dudley	17th
Brother James Shans	7th	Brother Wilton Jones	17th
Brother Roy Walker	7th	Sister Chantrel Hutchings	22nd
Sister Ella Faye Boyd	10th	Sister Dianne Hilburn	23rd
Brother Amond Hutchings	11th	Sister Lanita Lewis	24th
Sister Virginia Reddic	11th	Brother Deroyce Lewis	26th
Sister Meosha Brown	14th	Brother Dewayne Lewis	26th
Sister Rebekah Mills	15th	Sister J.W. Daniels	27th

OUR HARVEST

REVIVAL TO REVIVAL

AUGUST 7, 2004 TO AUGUST 12, 2005

Candidates for Baptism	0
Christian Experience/Letter	0
Rededication	0

Reminder

All those who wish to do early voting, please see Sister Eva Jones immediately after church at the offering table to obtain a ballot to be completed at that time. If you have questions, please see a Pulpit Committee Member.

We are asking all Auxiliary Heads to turn in a format of your upcoming programs for 2005 to Sister Lanita Lewis as soon as possible. We would like to start preparing our programs in advance for your approval. So if you know who will be on program, please give a draft to Sister Lewis or Jones.

Pleasant Green Baptist Church
 9270 FM Hwy 349 P.O. Box 12437
 Longview, Texas 75603 Longview, Texas 75607
 (903) 643-3175

“Christian Education Is The Hope Of Our Nation”



1909

“Official Texas Historical Marker Dedicatio

Sunday, January 9, 2005

Pleasant Green Baptist Church



2005

This day, Sunday, January 9, 2005 is the day of history making for the Pleasant Green Baptist Church and Church Community. Today our church dedication services will become a memorable part of American History and the African American Community. Congratulation to Pleasant Green Baptist Church on your 133rd year anniversary.
(December 20, 1871)

ORDER OF SERVICE SUNDAY, January 9, 2005 ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE	MUSICIAN
DEVOTION	DEACONS
MORNING HYMN	CHOIR & CONGREGATION
RESPONSIVE READING ALL STANDING/NO WALKING	
MUSIC	CHOIR
ANNOUNCEMENTS	
	Benevolent, Tithes & Offering Deacons & Ushers
ALTAR CALL	(Please gather around the Pulpit) (All that can and will)
HYMN OF PREPARATION	CHOIR & CONGREGATION
THE GOSPEL	PASTOR
INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP	
WELCOME	COURTESY COMMITTEE
DEDICATION OF TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER (Please gather on front lawn at Historical Marker site)	
BENEDICTION	At Marker Site

HISTORICAL MARKER READS:

PLEASANT GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH

FOLLOWING THE CIVIL WAR, EMANCIPATED SLAVES ESTABLISHED THE FREEDMEN'S COMMUNITY OF PLEASANT GREEN. ON DECEMBER 20, 1871, PASTORS HENRY MOSES AND CHARLES ANDERSON LED LOCAL RESIDENTS IN ORGANIZING A BAPTIST CONGREGATION. THE REV. HENRY MASS SERVED AS THE CHURCH'S FIRST PASTOR. ORIGINALLY MEETING ON A SMALL FARM, THE CONGREGATION MOVED TO THIS SITE IN 1884, CONSTRUCTING A FRAME SANCTUARY. SIMON AND MEALY CLAIBORN DEEDED THE PROPERTY TO THE CHURCH. IN 1909, THE CONGREGATION BUILT A LARGER HOUSE OF WORSHIP TO WHICH IT MADE ADDITIONS THROUGHOUT THE 20TH CENTURY. TODAY, THE CHURCH REMAINS A CENTRAL PART OF THE HISTORIC AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY, FOSTERING EDUCATION AND SPIRITUALITY.

(2004)

NOTE: Through the years in reprinting documents, names and dates were misprinted. Moses/Mass should be Moss and December 20th should be December 30th.

DEACONS

George Brittain
William Calloway
Marvin Harris
John D. Hutchings
Leonard Jones
Wilton Jones
John L. Lewis
Ernest Lilly
Melvin Snoddy
Alfred Taylor
Marvin Thompson
Claude Whitaker

TRUSTEES

William Calloway Byron Mills
William Wade Jones Alfred Taylor
Tyree Daniels Roy Walker
Calvin Moore Bennie Davis
Hosea Hutchins Glenn Moore
Ampy Jones, Jr. Milton Wright
Phillip Thompson Leonard Jones
Marvin Harris John L. Lewis
James C. Hopson Wilton Jones
German Loyd Edmund Roy Jones
Dennis Thompson Larry Johnson
Willie F. Blanton Ernest Jones, Jr.
John D. Hutchings Sam Boyd, Jr.

**GREGG COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
317 MOBBERLY AVENUE
LONGVIEW, TEXAS 75602
January 09, 2005**

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR . . . Reverend M.H. Hilburn
CO-DIRECTOR Sis. Patricia A. Hutchings**

**TYPICAL HISTORICAL MARKER DEDICATION
PROGRAM**

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

Invocation Reverend M.H. Hilburn

Welcome Dr. Norman W. Black

Introduction of Guest Brother Ernest Lilly

**Address Brother Roy Walker
(History of The Church)
(About 5 – 10 Minutes)**

**Dedication of Marker Brother Leonard Jones
(Family Who Sold Land to Community)**

**Unveiling of Marker Brothers Wade
Jones, E. Roy Jones, Ampy Jones, Jr., Calvin Moore,
Glenn Moore and Alfred Taylor**

Reading of Marker Brother Leonard Jones

Remarks Brother D. Craig, Rev. J. D. Palmer

Benediction Reverend M. H. Hilburn

**NOTE: All Deacons and Trustees Will Circle the
Historical Marker for Picture**

Marking a piece of local and black history



Michael Cavazos/News-Journal Photo

Members of the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church unveiled a Texas Historical Marker after Sunday morning services. The church, formed after the Civil War, is celebrating its 134th year.

Church celebrates more than a century of worship in East Texas

By **PATRINA A. BOSTIC**
pbostic@longview-news.com

Pleasant Green Baptist Church members Sunday celebrated 134 years of history in East Texas.

It is a church where members say they've worshipped all of their lives, and they're proud of the church's history that dates back to 1871.

Following the Civil War, a group of freed slaves established the Freedmen's Community of Pleasant Green and organized a Baptist congregation.

The members Sunday unveiled a Texas Historical Commission marker in front of the church. The marker is a testament to black history in Gregg County, historical commission officials say.

Dr. Norman Black, chairman of the Gregg County Historical Commission, and Gregg County Commissioner Danny Craig helped dedicate the church's marker as members gathered around it.

Craig told the crowd that history is important and the marker represented sacrifices made by "our ancestors."

Those ancestors originally met on a small farm. In 1884, they moved a mile down the road to 9720 FM 349 where the church now sits.

Church member Johnnie W. Daniels, 92, is part of that history. She is the oldest living member of the church, officials said.

"I imagine you would find someone here from every original member because the ties are strong," said Patricia Hutchinson, a church member.

Hutchinson's great-grandfather, Ned Johnson, was a member of the church when it was founded.

And when people leave the area, they oftentimes come back.

Hutchinson left to attend college at Texas Southern University and then went on to Denver, Colo., to complete her graduate

See **HISTORY**, Page 6A



Michael Cavazos/News-Journal Photo

The Rev. M.H. Hilburn of Pleasant Green Baptist Church gives a speech before the unveiling of a Texas Historical Marker on Sunday morning at the church.

History

From Page 1A

studies in business. Then she came back.

Hutchinson was at the church with her two nieces, Chantrel, 6, and Cara, 5. The young ones are believed to be part of a generation that will continue the church's family ties.

They might leave the area to get an education, but, the adults believe, they too will come back.

Hutchinson's mother, Ruth Walker, 87, also left to attend beauty school in Dallas and returned. So did Daniels, who left to earn a master's degree from Prairie View A&M University.

The church each year recognizes high school and college graduates with a special service, emphasizing the importance of higher education. And scholarships are awarded to students who wish to further their education.

Ampy Jones Jr. has been a member all his life — for 65

years — and remembered what it was like to worship at the church many years ago.

"It feels good to know about my ancestors and what they've done," he said. "And I'm a part of it."

Jones, Phillip Thompson, 77, and Robert and Alfred Taylor, who are ages 57 and 53 respectively, remembered when the church's bathroom and baptizing pool were outside.

They talked about the time when the church wasn't air conditioned, and people used cardboard fans to keep cool.

"I never thought about worshipping elsewhere," Hutchinson said. "It never occurred to me.

"I guess I thought about living in other places, but home is always great," she said.

The church has about 190 members.

Texas Historical Commission:
www.thc.state.tx.us

Gregg County Historical Commission:
www.co.gregg.tx.us/departments/historicalcommission.asp



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

February 5, 2005

Paul Jaap,
Area Engineer
Texas Department of Transportation
1301 A Karnes Road
Longview, Texas 75604

Re: Historical Marker direction signs

Dear Mr. Japp:

Recently the Gregg County and State of Texas erected two historical markers: one for the Grable Cemetery and one for the Pleasant Green Baptist Church.

The Gregg CHC requests that TxDot install four "Historical Marker One Mile" signs at these locations:

On FM Road 349 one mile East of Pleasant Green Baptist Church and another sign one mile west of the church on 349. On FM 2011, one mile north of Grable Cemetery and another sign one mile south of the cemetery.

Of course your judgment will prevail depending on the road, terrain and your rules for signage. There are some of these signs on Texas roads that state, "1/2 mile" but, if possible, I would prefer to use the one mile designation.

Thank you very much for your continual efforts and assistance in preserving Texas historical heritage.

Sincerely,

Norman Black, D.D.S.