

14" x 9" Medallion Plate
Gregg County - 3-27-67 -
411 S. Center Street (LONGVIEW)
Longview, Texas

WOMACK-LACY HOUSE*

HAD FIRST GINGERBREAD TRIM
IN TOWN. BUILT BY ALBERT A.
AND ELIZA FLEWWELLEN WOMACK,
1876. WOMACK HAD EARLY GENERAL
STORE. A DAUGHTER, KATE,
MARRIED JUDGE EDWIN LACY.

BUILDERS' DESCENDANTS
STILL LIVE HERE.**

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 1967***

THE WOMACK FAMILY

Jacob Pryor Womack and wife, Nancy Ann Faddis Womack came to Texas from Hillsboro, North Carolina and settled at Port Caddo, Harrison County, Texas, between 1840 and 1850. Jacob Pryor Womack had been a merchant at Hillsboro and is believed to have continued the same occupation in Texas.

His son, John Faddis Womack and wife, Lockey Ann Wagnon Womack moved to Marshall, Texas. John Faddis Womack entered the mercantile business. He and his father purchased lands in what are now Gregg, Panola, Harrison and Upshur counties. One of the purchases made in 1851 was in the Hamilton McNutt Survey on which part of Longview now stands.

John Faddis Womack entered the Confederate army as a Major. Upon cessation of hostilities, he returned to Marshall to find his business destroyed. To support his family he sought employment with the railway leading out of Marshall towards Shreveport as a conductor. After two or three years of great effort, he was able to re-enter the mercantile business. His success was such that he was able to give each of his nine children eight thousand dollars in gold upon their marriages.

His eldest son, Albert Alonzo Womack, a Confederate veteran, came to Longview in 1871 where he entered the mercantile business which continued until his death in 1910.

Four of the daughters of John Faddis Womack and their husbands moved to Longview between 1872 and 1878. Their husbands entered mercantile business; their firms being Mayfield and Lockett, F.T. Rembert & Co., and Womack and Perry.

Albert Alonzo Womack and wife, Eliza Flewellen Womack had one surviving child, Kate Perry Womack, who married Judge Edwin Lacy.

Kate Womack Lacy was born and lived 85 years in the house which her father built and for which the medallion is sought.

History

The land upon which the original house was built was acquired by Albert Alonzo Womack on December 20, 1875, from J.W. Boring and A.S. Walls as shown by deed of record in Volume "B" Page 595 of the Deed Records of Gregg County, Texas. The house was built shortly thereafter by Albert Alonzo Womack and his young wife, Eliza Flewellen Womack.

The gingerbread trim on the house was brought from Cincinnati, Ohio and attracted much attention locally. Descendants of the original owners have been in continuous occupancy of the house since its construction.

The data here given is authenticated by Judge Edwin Lacy, husband of the late Kate Womack Lacy, who was the daughter of the builder. She was born in the house more than 86 years ago. Material from her obituary which appeared in the Longview Daily News on November 23, 1965, further substantiates the above statements.

The history presented above was prepared by Judge Edwin Lacy.

The Lacy family is one of the most prominent in East Texas. The Judge is a most distinguished jurist and has been a man of legal stature in the state for many years. He is now between 85 and 90 years of age and still goes to his law office down town Longview each week day. His children are Mr. John Edwin Lacy, business man and oil royalty owner of Dallas, Mrs. Roger Keene of Dallas and Mrs. Jim Bond of Dallas. All three quite prominent in Dallas social and business circles.

Many legal and political figures have been entertained here.

Albert
Alonzo Womack a co-founder of the old mercantile firm of Womack and Perry in early Longview.

John Edwin Lacy

DALLAS — Services for John Edwin Lacy of Dallas, formerly of Longview, will be held at 2 p.m. today, April 3, at Sparkman Hillcrest Northwest Highway Chapel with Robert J.D. Perkins officiating. Family graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 4, at Grace Hill Cemetery in Longview. Mr. Lacy passed away on Tuesday, March 31, 1998.

Born in Dallas on Sept. 12, 1917, and reared in Longview, he was the son of Thomas Edwin Lacy and Kate Womack Lacy of Longview. He attended Davidson College and graduated from Southern Methodist University School of Law.

Mr. Lacy is survived by his wife, Virginia Phelps Perkins Lacy; one daughter, Susan Lacy Sinclair and her husband, Donald Sinclair; one son, Robert J.D. Perkins and his wife, Sharyn Donaldson Perkins; his grandchildren, Kathryn Lacy Sinclair, William Blake Sinclair and Robert Bryan Perkins; and two sisters, Elizabeth Lacy Bond and Kathryn Lacy Keane.

Honorary pallbearers will be Spencer Carver, Roger Keane, Gary Keane, William Keane, Arthur McCarthy, Richard Orrock, Robert Phelps and Donald Sinclair.

Memorials for Mr. Lacy may be made to the First Presbyterian Stew Pot of Dallas, 1822 Young St., Dallas, Texas, 75201.

text until 20 years after his or her death, except in the case of a deceased person of state or national significance, in which case the State Marker Review Board of the commission will be the final authority on eligibility. Individuals must be eligible for marking on their own merits, rather than from their association with, or relation to, a historical person. Eligibility for an Official Texas Historical Grave Marker will also be determined by this rule.

12. Marking Events

If an event changed the course of state or local history, that event will be eligible for historical marking 30 years after its occurrence. The event must have specific beginning and ending dates.

13. Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks

Designation as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark is given to structures that are deemed worthy of preservation for their architectural and historical associations. Such structures are eligible for the landmark status because of architectural integrity, history, and age (50 years old or older). In no case may the landmark status be awarded unless the structure is in good repair. The landmark designation becomes effective when the application is approved by the State Marker Review Board. The landmark designation is conveyed by an Official Texas Historical Marker; designation comes only through participation in the marker process.

14. Relocated Structures

Buildings that have been moved cannot be considered for designation as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks. Relocated structures may qualify for subject markers if their history and architectural integrity warrant, and if there is proof that the relocation was required. Proof consists of evidence that the relocated building was formally condemned by the state or a political subdivision of the state, or that it was under threat of imminent destruction. The State Marker Review Board will be the final authority on the validity of such claims.

15. Artificial Siding

A structure cannot be considered for Recorded Texas Historic Landmark designation if artificial (aluminum, asbestos, vinyl, etc.) siding applied to its exterior within the preceding 50 years covers and/or alters its historic architectural materials or features.

16. Permanence of Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Designation

The status of Recorded Texas Historic Landmark is a permanent designation, and is not to be removed from the property in the event of a transfer of ownership. The landmark marker awarded to any structure shall remain with that structure and may not be removed or displayed elsewhere, unless the State Marker Review Board gives express approval for such action.

17. Restraints to Changes in Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks

The exterior appearance of structures designated as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks may not be changed appreciably after receiving such designation. If structural changes, including the relocation of the structure, are desired, the applicant will conform to the provisions of the Texas Government Code, Chapter 442, Section 442.006(f), which state that:

A person may not damage the historical or architectural integrity of a structure the commission has designated as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark without notifying the commission at least 60 days before the date on which the action causing the damage is to begin. After receiving the notice, the commission may waive the waiting period or, if the commission determines that a longer period will enhance the chance for preservation, it may require an additional waiting period of not longer than 30 days. If appreciable or unwarranted changes are observed to have been made on a structure designated as a landmark, the designation and the marker may be withdrawn by the State Marker Review Board.

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18. Disposition of a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Marker

A Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Marker for a structure that has been destroyed or from which the State Marker Review Board has removed the designation may: (a) be placed in an appropriate local museum for display with accompanying photos and history; (b) be presented to the county historical commission for use in the promotion of historic preservation or education; or (c) be placed in another location determined by the State Marker Review Board.

19. Placement of Historical Markers

Official Texas Historical Markers are to be displayed in conspicuous places accessible to the public, and in dignified surroundings. Desirable sites are public highways, parks, and city streets where the reading of the marker text will be of educational value. If the site of a commemorated event, structure, institution, or other topic is on private property or is otherwise inaccessible to the public, the marker is to be placed in an accessible location as near as possible to the historic site.

20. Relocation of Historical Markers

(a) Causes for relocation. Official Texas Historical Markers may be relocated:

(1) when they are the object of persistent vandalism in their original location;

(2) when a more accurate site for the marked event or structure has been determined;

(3) when an extant hazard to viewers of a marker can be reduced or eliminated by its relocation; or

(4) when better public access results.

(b) Written permission. Relocation shall be with the written consent of the Texas Historical Commission, given through the office of the executive director. Requests to relocate 1936 centennial markers will be carefully scrutinized. The original historic location of these markers should be retained if at all possible.

Susan Lacy Sinclair

3756 Knollwood
Houston, Texas 77019
713.961.3231
713.438.9956 Fax

May 12, 2000

Dr. Norman W. Black, Chairman
Gregg County Historical Commission
417 Mobberly Avenue
Longview, Texas 75602

Re: Womack-Lacy House

Dear Dr. Black,

I am writing to you on behalf of my aunts, Elizabeth Lacy Bond and Kathryn Lacy Keane, and myself to request a waiver from the Texas Historical Commission of the sixty-day waiting period for demolition of the Womack-Lacy House. We were totally unaware of this requirement and want to be in full compliance with the law. We are saddened by this mutual decision, but it is the only possible one from an emotional standpoint. The historical marker is being returned to you and it should be in your hands at the beginning of next week.

We are deeply indebted to you for your assistance in this matter, and if you need any further information please contact me at the above stated address and phone number.

Sincerely,


Susan Lacy Sinclair

WOMACK – LACY HOUSE

SUMMARY OF EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE DEMOLITION

On February 21, 2000, Mr. John W. Harrison, Jr. told me he had heard that surviving relatives of Mr. John Edwin Lacy were thinking about demolishing the house. He told me Mr. Lacy, who died March 31, 1998, had two sisters, Elizabeth and Kathryn, who lived out of town (Longview). I later learned these two to be Elizabeth Bond and Kathryn Keane of Dallas. Mr. Lacy also had a daughter, Susan Sinclair, who lives in Houston. I told Mr. Harrison the importance of the owners of buildings with historical markers notifying the Historical Commission of any plans to alter or demolish these structures. Mr. Harrison was aware of this fact. He attempted to telephone Elizabeth Bond several times while he was at my office and received no answer. He later told me he had tried to contact her by telephone several times in the following days, with no success.

Mr. Harrison has the opportunity to see the Womack – Lacy House almost daily and promised to let me know if "anything develops". Sometime in April 2000 Mr. Harrison telephoned me telling me there was some activity at the house. I drove to the house and introduced myself to Susan Sinclair. Another older lady was present at the time but chose not to introduce herself (this was probably Kathryn). I gave Mrs. Sinclair my Gregg County Historical Commission card and explained my interest in the historic house. Susan told me that, "we don't know what we are going to do with it yet". The other lady said they were undecided as they were going to do with the house. I explained that I needed to be informed if any changes or a change in ownership was planned. Also, I told both ladies that historical residences such as this house are often desired and sometimes listed "for sale" in preservation periodicals and, if there was anything the historical commission or I can do to assist them please let me know.

At 11:35 A.M., Friday, May 12, 2000, there was a message on my answering machine from Mr. Harrison that the house was being demolished. I immediately drove to the house and found this to be true. It is my opinion that the demolition began, Monday, May 8th. Mr. Thomas Sweeny came in the driveway at this time and gave me the information that the family was adamant in their desire to demolish the old house; that it was an emotional, not an economical decision.

I returned to my office and telephoned Frances Rickard, Director of History Programs at the Texas Historical Commission advising her of the events. She advised me to make photographs of the site, which I did – in black and white and in color film. I made the photographs at 3:00 P.M. and mailed the color prints to Mrs. Rickard about an hour and a half later.

4:30 P.M., May 16, 2000

The Official Texas Historical Marker for the Womack – Lacy House, was returned to me Tuesday afternoon, May 16, 2000, by Mr. Tom Sweeny. It had been mailed to him, as promised, by Mrs. Keane. Her return address is R. J. Keane, 3901 Normandy, Dallas, Texas 75205. The marker is in “mint” condition, obviously never having been displayed on the house exterior.

From: Norman Black <norman.black@co.gregg.tx.us>
To: Frances.Rickard@thc.state.tx.us <Frances.Rickard@thc.state.tx.us>
Date: Monday, December 11, 2000 10:24 AM
Subject: Womack--Lacy House

Dear Frances:

Thank you for the letter about the Womack-Lacy House. I am sorry you had trouble with my e-mail. I knew I had lost connection during the Thanksgiving holidays but I didn't realize it was bad before that.

I certainly do miss the old house; there is just a cleared lot with fine old trees there now and the nice wrought-iron fence was sold, also.

Yes, I do had the medallion and plate. It's in mint condition and I don't think it was ever placed. One day in 1967, we dedicated three markers. You should have seen the caravan, which included John Ben, Lee Lawrence and Amelia Belding, as we went from site to site. But I don't remember much else about the ceremonies, to know if the markers were in place at that time. I had planned on keeping the marker for educational purposes (for the CHC) for the time being. Later, possibly placing it as a display in the Gregg County Historical Museum. However, if you want me to return it to you or the foundry for destruction I will do so.

Sincerely,

Norman

Dr. Norman W. Black
Gregg County Historical Commission
417 Mobberly Ave.
Longview, Texas 75602
(903) 757-2261
Norman.Black@co.gregg.tx.us

Preserve historic district

I read the article in the Longview News-Journal on April 17 concerning the replatting of a historical area so Habitat can build a cluster of low-income houses. This is absurd.

What is our city's thinking on this matter? Longview has a habit of tearing down its history. We have very few historical places remaining. This is one that needs to be left intact. Why destroy a neighborhood and devalue this property just so Habitat can build a little city of this type housing? Where have our values gone?

We are talking about a large part of our city's history. Are you so selfish that you cannot see the value that you will be destroying? For what, a dream you have of building a city of habitat houses? There is nothing wrong with that dream as long as it does not destroy something that is very valuable to our city.

There is another direction that you can go with this. One street over, on the opposite end is a place they call White City. These old houses have been boarded up for years and have been an eyesore and a pain for our city. Also, there are vacant lots that could be built on. Regardless what Habitat says about the houses being owner occupied, there is no guarantee that in the future these houses would not

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become rental property. To carry through with this would only give Habitat a very bad image. I also read another article on April 19, that Mr. Donovan, LEDCO's hired consultant, said, "You need to work on improving the appearance of your city."

Clustering housing in one of our last historical residential areas is not a way to improve the appearance of our city. Please give this matter some serious evaluation before destroying an irreplaceable portion of our city's historical value.

Gennie Gomez
Longview



