

APPLICATION FORM FOR OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL

**Texas Historical Commission
State Marker Program
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711**

Title of Marker (subject to revision by THC staff) ► SITE OF FRENCHMAN'S WELL	County ► TARRANT
Marker Location (street address and town, or specific directions from nearest town on state highway map) ► 212 North Taylor (on west wall of Jail Building)	
Distance and direction of subject from marker site ► At approximate site	If not on post, type of surface to which marker ► Masonary wall will be attached (wood, stone, etc.)
Owner of Marker Site ► Tarrant County	Address City, Zip 100 Weatherford St. Ft. Worth , 76196
Sponsor of Marker ► Six Flags Chapter DAR Mrs. Edwin Easley,	Address City, Zip 6551 Calmont, Ft. Worth, 76116 phone 817 732 0388
Signature of County Chairman ►	Address City, Zip Dee Barker 2200 Oak Knoll Drive, Colleyville, 76034
Person to whom marker is to be shipped* ►	Address City, Zip Telephone Purchasing Department phone 817 334 1146 (required) Tarrant County Courthouse 100 Weatherford St. Ft. Worth 76196

**If marker is to be placed on highway right-of-way, it will be shipped to your district highway engineer.*
 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 marker.
 (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.

Signature of owner Roy English, County Judge

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 commendation 50¢ each

FRENCHMAN'S WELL

The Marker Committe recommends that the last two paragraphs be omitted from the narrative.

1. The building of the subway has no relevance to the topic. The subsurface water encountered in building the subway was not proven to have been the source of the Frenchman's Well.
2. The last paragraph is mesleading, as Six Flags Chapter, DAR . paid for the Marker.

Jenkins Garrett

Drusilla Sheldon

Evelyn Cushman, Chairman

TARRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Historical Marker & Researach Committee

January 24, 1988

As members of TCHC we have critiqued the attached
narrative and documation.

We therefore recommend that the application for a
Historical Marker for:

Site of Frenchman's Well

be approved.

Jenkins Garrett

Drusilla Sheldon
Drusilla Sheldon

Evelyn D. Cushman
Evelyn D. Cushman
Chairman

TELEPHONE MEMO
TARRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

DATE: 1-18-88

CALL FROM - TO: Jenkins Garrett

PHONE NUMBER: _____

TOPIC: Subway in Frenchman's Well narrative

Mr. Garrett informed me ^{that since I called him} he had ^{last week} contacted Kenneth "Ken" Garrett of the construction co. Haws + Garrett who built the Leonard's Subway. (They are not related to each other) Ken Garrett was more active in subway than Mr. Haws, was ^{at the site, daily.}

Ken Garrett stated that there was no spring encountered in the construction. Nor a stream that could be ascribed to the Frenchman's Well. Ken Garrett was aware of the proximity of the old well, but found only the usual ^{of normal} amount of seepage from the limestone ledges. Ken Garrett said that most of the water trouble came from the city mains.

Jenkins Garrett stated that, in his memory of the area, Frenchman's Well was on the East side of the extension (to the North) of Taylor St. and
(over)

2025

TELEPHONE
TARRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

DATE:

CALL FROM -

PHONE NUMBER:

TOPIC:

on the North side of the narrow street,
only an alley, really, which at one time was
known as W. Bluff St.

Jenkins Garrett suggests if there is
need for further information on the Subway to
contact Ren Garrett.

Mr Jenkins Garrett feels that the paragraph
in the Frenchman's Well narrative should be omitted
as he can see no connection.

Dee Barker

TELEPHONE MEMO
TARRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

DATE: 30 Nov 1987

CALL FROM - TO: Ruby Sabmitz

PHONE NUMBER: _____

TOPIC: Frenchmens Well location

~~Seacoast~~ ^{west}
exterior well (alleyway off Taylor)
new jail building
county property

6 Flags Chapter DAR
- building marker -
shipped to county - purchasing

(
REGENT
)

from
Mrs Edna Earley
6551 Calmar
Ft Worth 76116
7320388

TELEPHONE MEMO
TARRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

DATE: 7-16-88

CALL FROM - TO: Ruby Schmidt

PHONE NUMBER: _____

TOPIC: Frenchmans Well + SRT

SRT chapter being chartered by
group - Col. Rogers McClain -
name to be 'Capt. E. M. Daggett')

Frenchmans well

I informed her the antiquing com.
wondered if ref. to Subway should be in
this narr. - F. Well has private interest -
as was Subway - as husb. worked on it.
Rode 1st try etc

No firm answer to my question about
Subway info in F. Well narrative

SITE OF FRENCHMAN'S WELL

Researched By

Ruby Schmidt, Member
Tarrant County Historical Commission
4812 Morris
Fort Worth, Texas 76103

In the 1850s a unique cone-shaped stone structure was built to cover a hand-dug water well adjacent to the site of old Camp Worth, now Fort Worth, Texas. Serving as one of the first wells for the community, Frenchman's Well, with its unusual cover, became a recognized local landmark.

The name of the builder of Frenchman's Well, and its year of construction, are unclear. The earliest first-hand accounts concerning the well are provided by two Fort Worth citizens who were small children in the 1850s. Charles Ellis Mitchell, who arrived in Fort Worth on May 16, 1856 as a small child reported the following:

...we lived first in a log cabin under a big live oak tree on a spot later covered by the Criminal Courts Building (200 E. Belknap). It was said that the cabin had been used by the soldiers before they left. Just a few yards away from us stood the flag pole used by them....

People talk about the Frenchman's Well being dug by the soldiers. Well, I know which well was dug by the soldiers because it was still open and in use when we came here. Many's the time I looked into it, I suppose because I was warned not to do so, as I might fall in. But you know how a boy will do, and I was only six years old when we came.

The well dug by the soldiers was about 90 feet and was located right in the middle of Houston Street right between the west door of the Court House and Everybody's Store. The Frenchman's Well was really dug by a Frenchman. I knew him personally and while I don't remember seeing him dig the well I remember when he came here and did see him building his house which was about 50 feet away from the well.

There was a French colony just this side of Dallas and when the treasurer stole all the money and ran away, the colony broke up and three families came here. One family was named Loucks. Barbier was the name of the man who dug the well.¹

Another individual with childhood memories of Frenchman's Well was Howard W. Peak, who was born in Fort Worth shortly after civilians arrived at the military post. On September 23, 1932, in response to an inquiry about the well by a local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Peak wrote:

The well of which you speak was erected by a Mr. Barbee (sic) about the year 1857. He was a Frenchman, and migrated to Texas with the "French Colony" who settled old French town about five miles west of the city of Dallas. Mr. Barbee was a stone mason, and erected a school building about where Taylor Street butts into Belknap.

He also built a home just in front of this well. I recall having drunk from this well when but a child. Also recall that it was a perfect piece of masonry, constructed of stone and concrete, and the covering stood some five or six feet above the ground, and was rounded off in the shape of a bee hive.

The soldiers of the Fort had left some four years previous to the construction of the well.²

Using Howard W. Peak's first-hand information, a local DAR chapter installed a sign on the base of the well, inscribed, "FRENCHMAN'S WELL, 1857, Marked By Six Flags Chapter D.A.R."³ A news article reporting on the installation of the sign on the 75 year old well included the following description:

The well itself has been filled with earth long since, perhaps to keep curious children from falling into the shaft. But the hive-shaped masonry cover--like a cathedral crypt--stands 10 feet high, a monument to a man whose surname alone survives.

Old-timers recall hearing that a stone mason named Barbee migrated to Texas with the French colony that settled at old French Town, five miles west of Dallas. Barbee moved farther westward, built a stone schoolhouse on Taylor, near Belknap Street, and then he erected a stone house for himself and family.

Probably he already had dug the well, but he at last, at the height of his craftsmanship, constructed the hive-shaped cover with a stout beam at its apex. The beam, though worm-eaten, still supports the rusty pulley.... Flowers have been set out at the well's base, and Mexican children nearby have promised to tend them.⁴

Records of the short-lived La Reunion French Colony in Dallas County, which was established in 1855, indicate that a French native named Alexandre Barbier, his wife, and two sons named Alexes and Francois, were members of the colony. After La Reunion's demise Alexandre Barbier remained in Dallas County and served for a time as a City Marshall for the City of Dallas, then retired to Mineral Wells, Texas.⁵ There is a possibility that Frenchman's Well may have been constructed by one of his sons....

Numerous newspaper articles have chronicled the history of and fate of Frenchman's Well. In 1915 a Fort Worth Star-Telegram reporter lamented, "It seems one of the odd situations of Fate that even the first settlers can tell nothing of the origin of the last vestige of the 'fort' around which the city was built--a picturesque old stone well in the yard of an untenanted little house at 212 North Taylor Street." The well was described as having been built of "heavy stone blocks and tapers to an arched top. The walls are nearly three feet thick and there is no doubt in the minds of construction engineers that it will stand another sixty years or more if unmolested."⁶

Built of sturdy limestone and concrete, the ten foot high bee-hive shaped cone obviously gave some protection to the well. The worm-eaten oak beam supporting a rusty pulley was still there when the structure was demolished. In early years a shelf niche inside the arch had held a water bucket. Openings on the north and south gave easy access to persons drawing water, while the dome gave a degree of protection from the elements.⁷

Subsequent articles marvelled at the well's construction and lamented the deterioration of the well's surroundings. In 1936, in observance of the Texas Centennial, there were proposals to restore Frenchman's Well and construct a replica of the old fort nearby,⁸ but funds were unavailable and the plans were abandoned. Unfortunately the structure was smashed by a garbage truck in the

early 1948s, its rocks becoming mingled with a masonry pile but nevertheless distinguishable from the bricks and mortar.⁹

Many still-living citizens state that the well was still at its original site as late as 1948. At that time it occupied a spot in an alley on the east side of the 200 block of North Taylor Street. This location is now occupied by the city-county jail complex.

The newly formed Tarrant County Historical Society, planning to mark historical sites in observance of Fort Worth's centennial in 1949, initiated a project to relocate and reconstruct the domed structure.¹⁰

Upon approval by the Tarrant County Commissioners Court, the limestone structure was rebuilt on the west side of the courthouse square. Department store owners Marvin and Obie Leonard, who then owned the property upon which the well had originally been located, volunteered to pay for the project.¹¹

In the late 1950s the space on the west side of the Tarrant County courthouse square was allocated for the construction of the county's present Civil Courts Building; consequently the well was again demolished. Its materials were eventually moved to the rear garden of the Elton Hyder home at 4910 Crestline, Fort Worth. Martha Rowan Hyder commissioned a mason to create a modified smaller replica of the original well.¹²

FOOTNOTES

1.
Charles Ellis Mitchell memoirs, n.d., published in Fort Worth News-Tribune, Jan. 16, 1976, p. 12, "He Played in the Old Army Fort".
2.
Typed letter, Howard W. Peak to Martha Darnell, Chapter Chairman, D.A.R., September 23, 1932.
3.
Xerox copy of photograph of Frenchman's Well with DAR sign, Appendix A.
4.
"New Signs Point Way Now To Frenchman's Well Here." Fort Worth Star-Telegram, April ?, 1933.
5.
George Santerre, White Cliffs of Dallas: The Story of La Reunion, the Old French Colony, privately published (1955), p. 96.
6.
Fort Worth Star-Telegram, June 16, 1915(?). Appendix B.
7.
Personal observation of Frenchman's Well by researcher, Mrs. W. Albert Schmidt, both at its original site and when it was reassembled on the courthouse square.
8.
"Frenchman's Well', Now Abandoned, May Be Made Into a Beautiful Park", undated newspaper article (ca. 1936).
9.
"Imprints of Frontier Adventure from Which City Grew Being Lost", Fort Worth Star-Telegram, June 6, 1948.
10.
Ibid.
11.
"Old Frenchman's Well To Occupy New Place", Fort Worth Star-Telegram, July 17, 1948.
12.
See Smith-Burnett House file, Tarrant County Historical Commission.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Picture of Frenchman's Well in the late 1930s.
Taken by the Housing Authorities.
2. Picture and drawing of the well from private scrapbooks.
3. Memoirs of Charles Ellis Mitchell.
Fort Worth News Tribune, January 16, 1976, p. 12.
4. Material copied from Mary Daggett Lake files.
Fort Worth Public Library.
5. Fort Worth Star Telegram article. From scrapbook, 1915.
6. Clipping from Dallas Morning News, 13 Sept. 1925.
In Fort Worth Public Library file of Landmarks, Monuments.
7. A February 1926 newspaper clipping.
8. An early newspaper clipping thought to have been printed prior to 1932
9. Undated newspaper clipping.
10. Letter from Howard W. Peak, dated 23 Sept. 1932. Pictures taken by
DAR. In scrapbook of Six Flags Chapter, NSDAR, Fort Worth, Texas.
11. Newspaper clippings dated April 1932. In scrapbook of Six Flags
Chapter, NSDAR, Fort Worth, Texas.
12. Newspaper clipping of June 1938.
13. Newspaper clipping of June 6, 1948.
14. Newspaper clipping of May 1948.
15. Newspaper clippings, dates unknown.
16. Newspaper clipping, date unknown.
17. "Texas History Carved in Stone", by William Moses Jones, 1958.
18. See Elton Hyder House file. Tarrant County Historical Commission.

FRENCHMAN'S WELL marker

Please inscribe on rear:

SPONSORED BY SIX FLAGS CHAPTER, DAUGHTERS OF AMERICAN REVOLUTION

**APPLICATION FORM FOR OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL
Texas Historical Commission
State Marker Program
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711**

*Final appl.
submitted to
THC*

Title of Marker (subject to revision by THC staff) ▶ SITE OF FRENCHMAN'S WELL		County ▶ TARRANT	
Marker Location (street address and town. or specific directions from nearest town on state highway map) ▶ 212 North Taylor (on west wall of Jail Building)			
Distance and direction of subject from marker site ▶ At approximate site		If not on post, type of surface to which marker ▶ Masonary wall will be attached (wood, stone, etc.)	
Owner of Marker Site ▶ Tarrant County	Address 100 Weatherford St. Ft. Worth	City, Zip 76196	
Sponsor of Marker ▶ Six Flags Chapter DAR Mrs. Edwin Easley,	Address 6551 Calmont, Ft. Worth	City, Zip 76116 phone 817 732 0388	
Signature of County Chairman ▶ <i>Dee Barker</i>	Address 2200 Oak Knoll Drive, Colleyville	City, Zip 76034	
Person to whom marker is to be shipped* ▶	Purchasing Department Tarrant County Courthouse	Address 100 Weatherford St. Ft. Worth	City, Zip Telephone 76196 (required) phone 817 334 1146

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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

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

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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.

Roy English
Signature of owner Roy English, County Judge

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)
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Applicant must supply post and be responsible for placement.

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OTHER

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SITE OF FRENCHMAN'S WELL

Researched By

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Tarrant County Historical Commission
4812 Morris
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In the 1850s a unique cone-shaped stone structure was built to cover a hand-dug water well adjacent to the site of the former military Fort Worth, now in the heart of the city of Fort Worth, Texas. Serving as one of the first wells for the community, Frenchman's Well, with its unusual cover, became a recognized local landmark.

The name of the builder of Frenchman's Well, and its year of construction are unclear. The earliest first-hand accounts concerning the well was provided by two Fort Worth citizens who were small children in the 1850s. Charles Ellis Mitchell, who arrived in Fort Worth on May 16, 1856 as a small child wrote in his memoirs:

...we lived first in a log cabin under a big live oak tree on a spot later covered by the Criminal Courts Building. It was said that the cabin had been used by the soldiers before they left. Just a few yards away from us stood the flag pole used by them...

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The soldiers of the fort had left some four years previous to the construction of the well.²

Using Howard W. Peak's first-hand information, a local DAR chapter installed a sign on the base of the well's cover inscribed: "FRENCHMAN'S WELL, 1857, Marked by Six Flags Chapter, D.A.R."³ A news article reporting on the 1933 installation of the sign on the then 75 year old well included the following description:

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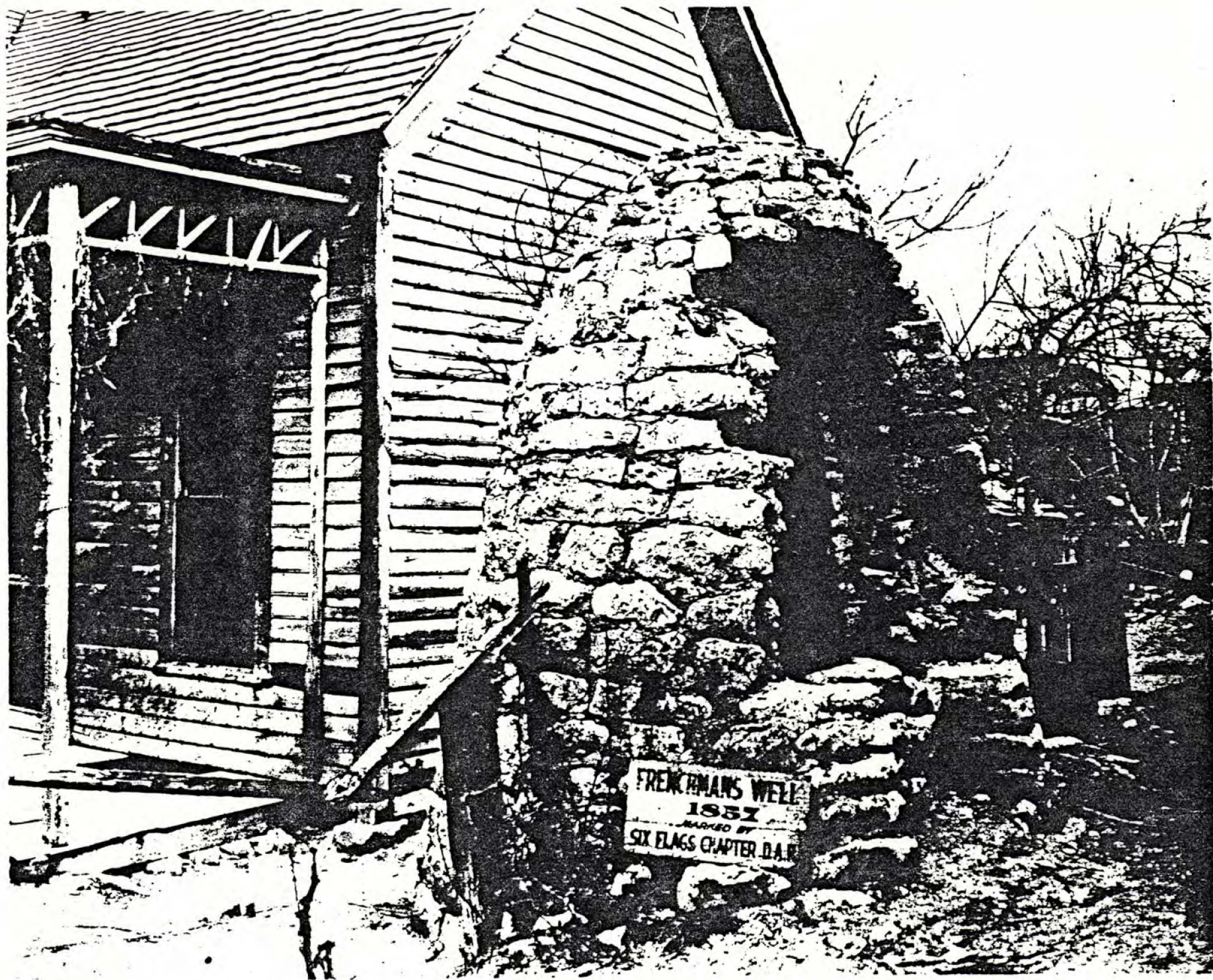
FOOTNOTES

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18. See Elton Hyder House file. Tarrant County Historical Commission.

Appendix A



Texas Historical Commission Staff (CJB), 12/20/88

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker without post, for attachment
to masonry
Tarrant County (Job #20888)
Location: 212 North Taylor, Fort Worth

SITE OF***
FRENCHMAN'S WELL*

CONSTRUCTED IN THE 1850s, A
COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY AT THIS
SITE WAS CALLED FRENCHMAN'S
WELL. IT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN
BUILT BY A FORMER MEMBER OF
THE LA REUNION COLONY IN DALLAS
COUNTY. THE WELL FEATURED A
LARGE STONE AND CONCRETE COVER
IN A BEEHIVE CONFIGURATION. A SHELF
NICHE INSIDE THE CONE-SHAPED DOME
HELD A WATER BUCKET, AND OPENINGS
ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH SIDES
GAVE ACCESS TO THE WELL. THE
WELL'S COVER WAS RELOCATED TO
THE WEST SIDE OF THE COURTHOUSE
SQUARE IN 1949, AND IN THE LATE
1950s WAS DISMANTLED AGAIN AND
MOVED TO A PRIVATE RESIDENCE.**

(1988)***

*3/4 inch lettering
**1/2 inch lettering
***1/4 inch lettering

TARRANT COUNTY

I approve the inscription for SITE OF FRENCHMAN'S WELL

as sent to me on 1/30/89

_____ signature

_____ organization

_____ date

Have you checked with other parties involved to make sure all the necessary cards are mailed in?

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711



CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 12276 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711 (512)463-6100

January 30, 1989

FEB 09 1989

Dee Barker, Chair
Tarrant County Historical Commission
P. O. Box 794
Colleyville, TX 76034

RE: SITE OF FRENCHMAN'S WELL
18" x 28" subject marker without post

Dear Dee:

I received your letter concerning this marker the morning after I had sent the letter and revision on January 26 to Mrs. Schmidt. So, please disregard that revision in favor of this latest one.

You will note that I have made some changes as suggested by you, Mrs. Schmidt, and Mrs. Searcy, but not all. The reference to Dallas County will remain, since the general public reading the marker, especially tourists, will not know where the La Reunion Colony was. It will give the subject some historic context, as well as hopefully encourage people to investigate further the French settlement in the area.

We will not be able to include any reference to the 1932 DAR marker in the text of this marker. That information, however, may be incised along the base of the marker at an extra cost of \$.75 per character. There is a 60-space limit, and if the DAR chapter will let us know how they want the incising to read, we will let them know the cost. It could be something like, "SITE PREVIOUSLY MARKED BY A DAR PLAQUE PLACED IN 1932".

I hope the inscription as now revised meets with your approval. I will send a copy of this letter along with the inscription and new approval cards to Mrs. Searcy and Mrs. Schmidt. If you have any further questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Beeman

Cynthia J. Beeman
Historian
State Marker Program

Enc.

The State Agency for Historic Preservation
cc: Mrs. Mildred Searcy
Mrs. Ruby Schmidt

Texas Historical Commission Staff (CJB), 12/20/88, revised 1/26/89, 1/30/89

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker without post, for attachment
to masonry
Tarrant County (Job #20888)
Location: 212 North Taylor, Fort Worth

SITE OF***
FRENCHMAN'S WELL*

CONSTRUCTED IN THE 1850s, A
COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY NEAR
THIS SITE WAS CALLED FRENCHMAN'S
WELL. IT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN
BUILT BY A FORMER MEMBER OF
THE LA REUNION COLONY IN DALLAS
COUNTY. THE WELL FEATURED A
LARGE LIMESTONE COVER IN A
BEEHIVE DESIGN. A NICHE INSIDE THE
CONE-SHAPED DOME HELD A WATER
BUCKET, AND OPENINGS ON THE NORTH
AND SOUTH SIDES GAVE ACCESS TO
THE WELL. THE WELL'S COVER WAS
RELOCATED TO THE WEST SIDE OF
THE COURTHOUSE SQUARE IN 1949,
AND IN THE LATE 1950s WAS
DISMANTLED AGAIN TO MAKE WAY
FOR NEW BUILDING CONSTRUCTION.**

(1988)***

*3/4 inch lettering
**1/2 inch lettering
***1/4 inch lettering

TARRANT COUNTY

I approve the inscription for SITE OF FRENCHMAN'S WELL

as sent to me on 1/26/89

_____ signature

_____ organization

_____ date

Have you checked with other parties involved to make sure all the necessary cards are mailed in?

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711



CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512)463-6100

January 26, 1989

FEB 09 1989

Mrs. W. A. Schmidt
4812 Morris Avenue
Fort Worth, TX 76103

RE: SITE OF FRENCHMAN'S WELL
18" x 28" subject marker without post

Dear Mrs. Schmidt:

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the proposed inscription for the "Site of Frenchman's Well" historical marker.

Although I was not sure from your letter exactly what in the text you wanted to change, it seems that you are most concerned about the reference to the well's location. With that in mind, I have changed "at this site" to "near this site". Does that make the inscription more accurate? We do, of course, want the marker to be historically correct, and we appreciate your taking the time to make the correction.

If the text as now written meets with your approval, please sign and return the enclosed card. If you want to make additional corrections, please do so on the enclosed copy of the inscription and return it to me. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Beeman

Cynthia J. Beeman
Historian
State Marker Program

Enc.

cc: ✓ Dee Barker
Mrs. Edwin Easley

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

Texas Historical Commission Staff (CJB), 12/20/88, revised 1/26/89

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker without post, for attachment
to masonry
Tarrant County (Job #20888)
Location: 212 North Taylor, Fort Worth

SITE OF***
FRENCHMAN'S WELL*

CONSTRUCTED IN THE 1850s, A
COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY NEAR
THIS SITE WAS CALLED FRENCHMAN'S
WELL. IT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN
BUILT BY A FORMER MEMBER OF
THE LA REUNION COLONY IN DALLAS
COUNTY. THE WELL FEATURED A
LARGE STONE AND CONCRETE COVER
IN A BEEHIVE CONFIGURATION. A SHELF
NICHE INSIDE THE CONE-SHAPED DOME
HELD A WATER BUCKET, AND OPENINGS
ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH SIDES
GAVE ACCESS TO THE WELL. THE
WELL'S COVER WAS RELOCATED TO
THE WEST SIDE OF THE COURTHOUSE
SQUARE IN 1949, AND IN THE LATE
1950s WAS DISMANTLED AGAIN AND
MOVED TO A PRIVATE RESIDENCE. **

(1988)***

*3/4 inch lettering
**1/2 inch lettering
***1/4 inch lettering

Dear Cynthia,

Little did anyone realize that so much time would lapse before the Frenchman's marker would be finalized. The project seemed appropriate as our Sesquicentennial project for Six Flags Chapter NSDAR since it is a matter of history that they first marked it fifty seven years ago a short time after having marked the grave of Revolutionary veteran, Thomas Hogg, forebear of our Texas governor.

No doubt some of the delay has been due to a breakdown in communication about our wish for the LOCATION to be marked, not the history after the stones were removed to their areas. We included that information just as part of the necessary material of documentation.

Duane Gage received this material and check several years ago. He wanted to polish the narrative and add information he obtained from NE TCJC, which had our approval. Unfortunately, this was delayed for a very long time due to his press of responsibilities. Other information was gathered after the application was in your hands. This was not sent since it was feared it might possibly delay the process. Now, it seems apparent that this was a mistake since the proposed inscription does not state the facts as we had hoped. If our mistake, please accept our apologies. But we must insist on some changes.

One of the problems seems to be whether or not the well was on the fort property, due to the rough 1853 map showing a sutler's building. The error may be there. It may be in the early pioneers' memories. However, it can be stated, without any hesitation, the well location was set in quite a way from the corner of Belknap and Taylor, slightly south of Bluff St. had it been in existence. This is not hearsay, but my personal observation as well as many others. It was to retain memory of location that Six Flags first made the marker so many years ago; this is a part of its history... and needs to be so stated. After all, our history was just then becoming significant to us!

Now, the next problem lies on the exact location of the fort which is laid out according to the compass, not as Fort Worth's streets are laid out in that area.

Miss Frances Allen, member of TCHS and descendant of early Fort Worth families, has spent a lot of time attempting to clarify this endless problem by locating some old deeds which help somewhat.

I found within the city records the old 1873-1884 City Ordinance Book (certainly an acceptable record) additional information as to the fort's location. The 1885 Sanborn maps of Fort Worth give an additional understanding.

The article about Sam Woody is pertinent due to his having been around the fort at the time mentioned, not at the later date of Howard Peak. Sam Woody was involved in

many facets of Fort Worth history, having given a lift into Fort Worth to John Peter Smith when he arrived in Fort Worth in December 1853, establishing the first school in the abandoned fort hospital a few days later, to influencing the vote for Fort Worth to become the county seat.

The Gambrell and Jarvis perspective are to gain an insight of just how westward the fort was...since the Criminal Court building (which now has its own historical marker) is on that location.

I realize everyone's dilemma but hope that an inscription can indicate the approximate location of the well for future generations since its obliteration has made it lost to history.

Sincerely,

Betsy Schmidt

MRS. W. A. SCHMIDT
4812 MORRIS AVENUE
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76103

Dee - This is a
copy of Mrs.
Schmidt's letter -
somewhat
confusing!
CAB

RECEIVED
JAN 25 1989

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

CRITIQUE OF SUBMISSION BY RUBY SCHMIDT
OF ADDITIONAL MATERIAL RELATIVE TO FRENCHMAN'S WELL

Her letter to THC - second paragraph - The marker application was for the well. It was so titled by both she and Duane in each version. The site is significant by its proximity to the earlier fort, and as the area of settlement at the time it was dug. But the application as written by both, and as submitted and approved, was to establish the existence, location and character of the well.

Paragraph 4 - There does not seem to be any disagreement over the location of the well. Numerous newspaper articles, written when it was still standing, and the memory of those now living, including Ruby, place the well at the intersection of Taylor and Bluff. Later, after street changes, in an alley.

Next several paragraphs - The additional material Ruby turned in seems to confirm the statement in the original narrative that the well was adjacent to the fort. Extractions from the documents which apply to the subject follow:

The newspaper article quoting Sam Woody, early resident, interviewed at age 91. Undated, but information in article seems to place it about 1917. - The article quoting Sam Woody referred to the well as a "fieldstone cistern" and a "rock cistern" which stood at the corner of Taylor and Bluff Streets. The article says "Woody says he distinctly remembers that the old rock cistern was not far from the fort, and estimates the distance from the cistern to the fort to have been about seventy feet." Woody said the fort was to the southeast. He said the parade grounds occupied the site where the courthouse then stood (which is the current one), and also where buildings on the block west of the courthouse stand, as well as the proposed jail site (the current lawn of the Criminal Courts Building). Woody thus placed the well at the intersection of Bluff and Taylor, about seventy feet outside the perimeter of the fort.

February 1917 newspaper article refers to recent decision to build a jail on the Fort site, and the unhappiness of the people about the selection of the site. The site then selected was the eastern portion of the block north of Belknap and facing Houston. the present lawn of the Criminal Courts Building.

Newspaper article - undated - There was a decision to buy two 36 foot frontage lots on Belknap 40 to 50 feet west of the proposed site so that the jail would not be on the fort site. "pleasing the ladies". This establishes they considered the present Criminal Courts Building lawn the fort site, but were not concerned with the site to the west where the building was built. The article referred to the "present jail" as being north of the courthouse. I also refers to the Kessler plan for a park to be built on the fort location north of the courthouse.

The 1873-184 City Ordinance Book reference: The ordinance book has a page titled "Introductory" with a subtitle "History" - It says "The officer cabins were put just back of the building now occupied by the implement company, corner of Houston and Belknap streets: the shelter for the soldiers under the trees north of Haymaker's bath house and the stables reaching out into the square.

The documents from the National Archives show the fort to be 697 feet long, from the outside of the buildings to the outside of the buildings, from east to west. And 455 feet north and south. When placing the officers houses in the fort plans upon the 1885 Sanborne map which shows the location of the agricultural implement company slightly south of the southwest intersection of Belknap and Houston streets, on Houston Street, we have an approximate location of the fort, only which house of the three in a row is unknown. This also agrees with the above mentioned ordinance's reference to the stables reaching out into the square. The 1885 Sanborne map shows the public square to be what is now a major portion of the western half of the courthouse block.

A recently printed newspaper map included in Ruby Schmidt's last submission shows the fort buildings superimposed upon a city map of the area. This map seems to be in agreement with the information cited above. The well would therefore have been located outside the boundaries of the fort, confirming earlier conclusions based upon newspaper articles citing memories of people living at the time of the construction of the well. It would possibly have been close to the old sutler's store, which by law was outside the boundaries of the fort.

The newly submitted material confirms our earlier narrative, that the well was at Bluff and Taylor Streets, that it was adjacent to the place where the fort had stood, and that it was not the fort well, which would have been in the area of Houston Street.

Critiqued by Dee Barker - January 1989



TARRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

24 January 1989

Cynthia Beeman
Marker and Research Department
Texas Historical Commission
Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Cynthia,

Reference "Frenchman's Well".

First, the DAR chapter has a new Regent, thus a new mailing address for your correspondence: Mildred Searcy, 1604 Montclair Dr., Ft. Worth, Texas 76103.

The only suggestion I have is that you change "large stone and concrete" to simply "limestone". From the picture it seems the concrete is only to hold the stones together, as with mortar on any structure. I can't see any large concrete areas. Also some of the stones are quite small, most average in size. Otherwise its fine.

Ruby Schmidt, whose name is on the narrative as providing research, and which really was providing newspaper articles, doesn't like anything about it. However the only point she made was that the inscription should read that the well stood in the middle of the old fort area. If she contacts you, please note that it did not. By plans from the National Archives we know the site was on the western edge of the fort area, about a block west of the western edge of the parade ground. Newspapers said adjacent to the fort.

Mrs. Searcy wants to omit reference to Dallas County. She doesn't like the word "configuration". Wants that sentence to read: "The well featured a large stone dome of a beehive design, with openings in the north and south sides for access to the well". She wants to omit reference to the private residence. she also does not like the word shelf.

Most of all she wants the narrative to state that the Six Flags chapter of DAR marked the well site in 1932. I explained the policy to her, and explained the purpose of the marker, to mark the well site. But I have to pass on the information to you, she wants the DAR given credit for an earlier marking of the site. The earlier marker was not a state marker, but a private marker.

As I look back at my suggestion, it is not clear. I meant "The well featured a large limestone cover in a beehive configuration".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dee Barker".

Dee Barker
Tarrant County

Texas Historical Commission Staff (CJB), 12/20/88

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker without post, for attachment
to masonry

Tarrant County (Job #20888)

Location: 212 North Taylor, Fort Worth

SITE OF***
FRENCHMAN'S WELL*

CONSTRUCTED IN THE 1850s, A
COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY AT THIS
SITE WAS CALLED FRENCHMAN'S
WELL. IT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN
BUILT BY A FORMER MEMBER OF
THE LA REUNION COLONY IN DALLAS
COUNTY. THE WELL FEATURED A
LARGE ^{LIMESTONE} ~~STONE AND CONCRETE~~ COVER
IN A BEEHIVE CONFIGURATION. A SHELF
NICHE INSIDE THE CONE-SHAPED DOME
HELD A WATER BUCKET, AND OPENINGS
ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH SIDES
GAVE ACCESS TO THE WELL. THE
WELL'S COVER WAS RELOCATED TO
THE WEST SIDE OF THE COURTHOUSE
SQUARE IN 1949, AND IN THE LATE
1950s WAS DISMANTLED AGAIN AND
MOVED TO A PRIVATE RESIDENCE. **

(1988)***

*3/4 inch lettering
**1/2 inch lettering
***1/4 inch lettering



CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512) 463-6100

January 5, 1989

Dee Barker
P.O. Box 794
Colleyville, TX 76034

Re: SITE OF FRENCHMAN'S WELL
18" x 28" Subject Marker without Post

Dear Ms. Barker:

Enclosed is the proposed inscription for the above referenced marker. Please review and verify the information contained in the inscription. In particular, be sure to check all names and dates, and make certain we have used the correct marker location. Please contact other sponsors of this application to discuss the wording of the marker. If you approve the inscription, sign and return your own enclosed card.

If you have corrections or changes to suggest, please make a copy of the inscription and return it to us with the marked corrections. Please do not type a new version of the inscription. We will make changes to meet our style and spacing requirements. Documentation of any changes in this inscription, particularly of names and dates, is required for our permanent file.

Note that this is a working copy, including filing and foundry instructions. The right-hand margin is uneven on this copy, but will be justified on the finished marker.

The marker will not be ordered for casting until the county historical commission and other persons or groups listed below have approved the inscription. You may retain this inscription copy for your files.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Beeman

Cynthia J. Beeman, Historian
State Marker Program

CJB/crl

cc: Mrs. Edwin Easley

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

Texas Historical Commission Staff (CJB), 12/20/88

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker without post, for attachment
to masonry

Tarrant County (Job #20888)

Location: 212 North Taylor, Fort Worth

SITE OF***
FRENCHMAN'S WELL*

CONSTRUCTED IN THE 1850s, A
COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY AT THIS
SITE WAS CALLED ^{BEEHIVE OR} FRENCHMAN'S
WELL. IT IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN
BUILT BY A FORMER MEMBER OF
THE LA REUNION COLONY IN DALLAS
COUNTY. THE WELL FEATURED A
LARGE STONE AND CONCRETE COVER
IN A BEEHIVE CONFIGURATION. A SHELF
NICHE INSIDE THE CONE-SHAPED DOME
HELD A WATER BUCKET, AND OPENINGS
ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH SIDES
GAVE ACCESS TO THE WELL. THE
WELL'S COVER WAS RELOCATED TO
THE WEST SIDE OF THE COURTHOUSE
SQUARE IN 1949, AND IN THE LATE
1950s WAS DISMANTLED AGAIN AND
MOVED TO A PRIVATE RESIDENCE.**

(1988)***

*3/4 inch lettering
**1/2 inch lettering
***1/4 inch lettering



TARRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

7 December 1988

Frances Rickard
Marker and Research Department
Texas Historical Commission
Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Frances,

Enclosed please find a check in the amount of \$375.00.

\$300 for Frenchman's Well marker.
\$42 for lettering on back of said marker, to read:
Sponsored by Six Flags Chapter, Daughters of American Revolution

\$33 for lettering on back of Hitch Cemetery marker, to read:
Sponsored by Tarrant County Historical Commission

Please be sure these two are dated 1988. It would mean a lot to our marker committee chairman, who researched and wrote the Hitch Cemetery narrative, that it be dated in her term of service.

Sincerely,

Dee Barker
Chairman, Tarrant County Historical Commission

T.R. FEHRENBACH, SAN ANTONIO
CHAIRMAN
MRS. H.L. LONG, KILGORE
VICE-CHAIRMAN
DR. DAN A. WILLIS, FORT WORTH
SECRETARY

MRS. LUNELLE A. ANDERSON, SAN MARCOS
JOHN M. BENNETT, SAN ANTONIO
CARRIELU B. CHRISTENSEN, AUSTIN
GEORGE CHRISTIAN, AUSTIN



CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RICHARD H. COLLINS, DALLAS
HAROLD D. COURSON, PERRYTON
MARTHA J. CROWLEY, RICHARDSON
MAXINE E. FLOURNOY, ALICE
BETTY E. HANNA, BRECKENRIDGE
SUZANNE W. HARRIS, SAN ANTONIO
KARL A. KOMATSU, FORT WORTH
JAMES S. NABORS, LAKE JACKSON
MARY ANN PERRYMAN, ATHENS
GAY RATLIFF, AUSTIN
EVANGELINE L. WHORTON,
GALVESTON ISLAND

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512)463-6100

October 7, 1988

Dee Barker
P.O. Box 794
Colleyville, Texas 76034

RE: SITE OF FRENCHMAN'S WELL
18 x 28 subject marker with post (Job #20888)

Dear Dee:

This letter is to notify you that the State Marker Committee has reviewed and approved the above-referenced topic for an Official Texas Historical Marker.

At this time, payment for the marker is due. A check, in the amount of \$405.00 (\$375.00 if paid for by a tax-exempt organization), should be made payable to the Texas Historical Commission and sent to the letterhead address at your earliest convenience.

Once payment 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 wishes to congratulate you for your efforts to record and preserve Texas history.

Sincerely,

Frances Rickard, Director
State Marker Program

cc: Mrs. Edwin Easley



CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512) 463-6100

May 31, 1988

Mildred Search
Regent, Six Flags Chapter, NSDAR
1604 Montclair Dr.
Fort Worth, Texas 76103

Dear Mrs. Searcy:

I have received your letter of 28 May concerning the historical marker application for the Site of Frenchman's Well in Tarrant County. That application is currently #60 on the list to be evaluated (we review them in the order in which they are received). I would estimate that some word should be back to you in about two to three months.

I am somewhat confused about your mention of \$375.00 for a large marker. We have received no funds for this marker; in fact, we do not accept payment until after the application has been approved by the State Marker Committee. The amount you mentioned is the payment for a small subject marker with post; the amount for a large subject marker is \$650.00. We would like to know fairly soon whether you wish to have the large or the small size marker, but please wait to send in the payment until we have requested it.

I am sending a copy of my letter along with a copy of yours to me to Dee Barker, chair of the Tarrant County Historical Commission. Perhaps she may be able to clarify our confusion about the check you submitted.

Sincerely,

Frances Rickard
Frances Rickard, Director
State Marker Program

/fr

cc: Dee Barker ✓



RECEIVED
MAY 31 1988

Six Flags Chapter

Fort Worth, Texas

May 28, 1988

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, Tx. 78711

Attn: Frances Rickard, Director
State Marker Program

Re: SITE OF FRENCHMAN'S WELL
Tarrant County

Dear Ms. Rickard:

I am writing in regards to your letter of March 18, 1988, to Dee Barker, P.O. Box 794, Colleyville, Texas. Please see copy of your letter attached.

A copy of your letter to Dee Barker was mailed to Mrs. Edwin Easley who was the Regent of Six Flags Chapter, NSDAR, Fort Worth, Texas, at the time your letter was written.

I am the present Regent of Six Flags Chapter, NSDAR, and since our chapter applied for the marker at the site of Frenchman's Well, Tarrant County, I will appreciate being informed of whatever action the State Commission takes on this marker.

Our chapter paid \$375.00 for a large marker at the time the application was submitted, approximately three years ago. If the marker is approved and if there is a price difference, we will be glad to pay what might be due.

We wish to thank the Commission for its consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

Mildred Searcy

Mildred Searcy (Mrs. T.C.)
Regent, Six Flags Chapter, NSDAR
1604 Montclair Dr.
Fort Worth, Tx. 76103

Encl.



CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512) 463-6100

March 18, 1988

Dee Barker
P.O. Box 794
Colleyville, TX 76034

Re: SITE OF FRENCHMAN'S WELL
Tarrant County

Dear Ms. Barker:

This letter is to notify you that we have received the above referenced marker application.

The application first will be reviewed and evaluated by the Texas Historical Commission staff. Should additional information be needed, you will be contacted. After any deficiencies have been corrected, copies of the application will be sent to the members of the State Marker Committee, who will make the final determination of the topic's acceptability for marking.

You will be notified as soon as the committee makes its decision. If the topic is approved for marking, we will request payment at the time of notification. 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 would ask that the dedication date not be set until you have received notice that the marker has been shipped.

We appreciate your interest in preserving the history of Texas.

Sincerely,

Frances Rickard

Frances Rickard, Director
State Marker Program

FR/crl

cc: Mrs. Edwin Easley

P.S. Please indicate what size marker is desired. Thank you.

TELEPHONE MEMO
TARRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

DATE: 20 Jan 88

CALL FROM - TO: Art Weinman

PHONE NUMBER: _____

TOPIC: _____

Ft Worth was large - at least 3 blocks
E & W
Sutter store near Taylor.

Taylor St on west edge of Fort
about 1 block from west edge of graveyard.

one of 9 forts established about same time.

Turner
One of rangers who located Fort where it is.

5 scouts had land in area - reason for locating
here.

Records of War Dept.

National Archives

that puts Frenchman Well on
western edge of Fort.

TELEPHONE MEMO
TARRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

DATE: 19 Jan 89

CALL FROM - TO: Mildred Searcy - DAR regent

PHONE NUMBER: _____

TOPIC: Frendman's Well

Told her I had talked with Ruby.

We had already sent in funds to have "Sponsored by etc" on marker. She is satisfied with that. Would like reference to earlier marking by them. think she understands that is against THC policy. She seemed to understand, ?

1. She wants to omit reference to Dallas County.
2. Doesn't see need for reference to "private residence"
3. Wants "Site was originally marked in 1932 by Six Flags Chapter of DAR"
4. Wants "the well featured a large stone dome of a beehive design, with openings on the north & south sides for access to the well."

Thought she understood marker is for the well, not for 6 flags marking it. Now not so sure. Still wants reference to earlier marking.

Write Beeman

TELEPHONE MEMO
TARRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

DATE: 19 Jan 89

CALL FROM - TO: Ruby Schmidt

PHONE NUMBER: _____

TOPIC: Frenchman Well Narrative

She thinks it is "horrible", poorly worked.

She wants it to say well was ^{in center} of Fort at Commanders House.

Also wants it to say DAR marked site at earlier date & give them credit for marking. Said DAR just wouldn't put up marker if it didn't give them credit in text.

See Weinman's info on Fort from National Archives drawing.

TELEPHONE MEMO
TARRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

DATE: 12 89.

CALL FROM ~~TO:~~ Evelyn Cashman

PHONE NUMBER: _____

TOPIC: Frenchmans Well.

Mrs Thurman C. Searcy
Mildred Searcy
1604 Montclair Dr.
Ft W., Tex 76103

534-5613

Regent of 6 Flags Capital DAR

What
Ruby wrote

THE BEE HIVE OR FRENCHMAN'S WELL
212 N. Taylor

The old "Frenchman's Well" has been nearly forgotten by a growing city as a link with early Fort Worth history...

Accurate documentation of actual events leading to the well's existence has been garbled. As a child I can remember having seen this structure, wondering about its unique shape. Little did I realize the period of time it represented or the important role it played in the early days of Fort Worth.

Built of limestone and concrete, the ten foot high bee-hive shaped cone obviously gave some protection to the well. A worm-eaten oak beam supported a rusty pulley which was still there when the structure was demolished. A shelf niche inside the arch had held a water bucket in early times. Openings on the North and South gave easy access to those desiring water and still gave a certain protection, whether from Indians or for sanitation one does not know.

Information from Wade H. Turner given to his daughter, a member of Six Flags Chapter, NSDAR, initiated a search for historical information on the well. This included a query to Howard W. Peak. His reply from Georgetown, Texas, dated 23 September 1932 corroborated having drunk from the well as a child, having been born at the fort site 14 June 1856, the 68th citizen of Fort Worth. His sister, Clara Gabrielle, was born at the site 4 Jan 1854. Peak said the well was one of the two used by the army post. The other location was in the middle of Houston between the west door of the court house and the old Everybody's and was dug by the soldiers to a depth of ninety feet.

Ke. dar?

With this encouragement Six Flags Chapter erected a sign saying "Frenchman's Well, 1857, marked by Six Flags Chapter DAR" Flower beds were laid out around the well for beautification.


Roscoe Ady, head of the Chamber of Commerce publicity department, proposed that some of the buildings of the old post be placed near the well and the land in that area be developed into a park extending from Belknap to the Trinity River. There were plans at that time to have a reproduction of the old fort on the Texas Frontier Centennial grounds.

The newly formed Tarrant County Historical Society under Dr. Rex Z. Howard had plans to resurrect the well but fate stepped in when a garbage truck backed into the structure in April or May of 1943, leaving only rubble.

The well's stones were given to the Tarrant County Historical Society, Frank Kent, president, by the landowners, Marvin and O. P. Leonard who paid for cost of removal after coring the well, with each stone numbered to rebuild it at another site. Tarrant County Commissioners Court granted permission to reconstruct the dome in the center of the court house lawn on Houston Street. The first project of the new society was planned for completion with Fort Worth's 1949 Centennial celebration.

Later the space was allocated for an addition to the court house. The stones were removed to the rear garden of the Elton Hyder home at 4910 Crestline. Martha Rowan Hyder commissioned a mason to create a replica of the original well. This later information came from material submitted by the Hydres in their application for a historical marker for their home.

Meanwhile the source of the water the well was still there, much to the dismay of the Leonards. The excavation for a 1400 foot privately owned subway by the Leonards revealed a flowing 1,000 gallon per day source of water eighty feet below ground. This problem was eliminated by three pumps running constantly and a French drain devised by my husband which drained the flow to the Trinity River. Only then could the concrete set up properly.

1. Picture of the well in the late 30's by the Housing Authorities.
2. Picture and drawing of the well from private scrapbooks.
3. Memoirs of Charles Ellis Mitchell, page 12, The News-Tribunes, January 16, 1976.
4. Material copied from Mary Daggett Lake files, Fort Worth Public Library on well when Ed Terrell lived there.
5. Fort Worth Star Telegram article, 1915, from scrapbook.
6. Clipping from Dallas Morning News, 13 Sept. 1925 in Fort Worth Public Library files of Landmarks, Monuments.
7. A February 1926 news clipping.
8. An early clipping thought to have been prior to 1932.
9. Clipping with no date.
10. Letter from Howard W. Peak dated 23 Sept. 1932. Pictures taken by DAR. In scrapbook of Six Flags Chapter, NSDAR.
11. Newspaper clippings from Six Flags scrapbook dated April 1932.
12. Newspaper clipping of June 1938.
13. Newspaper clipping of June 6, 1948.
14. Newspaper clipping of May 1948.
15. Newspaper clippings, date unknown.
16. Newspaper clipping, date unknown.
17. Newspaper clipping on building of subway, date unknown.
18. "Texas History Carved in Stone" by William Moses Jones, 1958.
19. Marker application for Elton Hyder home, 4910 Crestline.
20.  One of Arnold's orders carried out by Francis Knaar was to dig a well. Although the 1850 Census of the soldier indicates he was born in Germany, his nickname was Monseuer, giving us yet another possibility.

14630
Trammell
Cages original draft

SITE OF FRENCHMAN'S WELL

Researched By

Ruby Schmidt, Member
Tarrant County Historical Commission
4812 Morris
Fort Worth, Texas 76103

ORIG. DRAFTS

DUPLICATE
MATERIAL.

In the 1850s a unique cone-shaped stone structure was built to cover a hand-dug water well adjacent to the site of old Camp Worth, ^{now with later structure} present Fort Worth, ^{the city of} Texas. Serving as one of the first wells for the community, Frenchman's Well, ^{FW} with its unusual cover, became a recognized local landmark.

The name of the builder of Frenchman's Well, and its year of construction, are unclear. The earliest first-hand accounts concerning the well are provided by two Fort Worth citizens who were small children in the 1850s. Charles Ellis Mitchell, who arrived in Fort Worth on May 16, 1856 as a small child, reported the following:

...we lived first in a log cabin under a big live oak tree on a spot later covered by the Criminal Courts Building (200 E. Belknap). It was said that the cabin had been used by the soldiers before they left. Just a few yards away from us stood the flag pole used by them...

People talk about the Frenchman's Well being dug by the soldiers. Well, I know which well was dug by the soldiers because it was still open and in use when we came here. Many's the time I looked into it, I suppose because I was warned not to do so, as I might fall in. But you know how a boy will do, and I was only six years old when we came.

The well dug by the soldiers was about 90 feet and was located right in the middle of Houston Street right between the west door of the Court House and Everybody's Store. The Frenchman's Well was really dug by a Frenchman. I knew him personally and while I don't remember seeing him dig the well I remember when he came here and did see him building his house which was about 50 feet away from the well.

* There was a French colony just this side of Dallas and when the treasurer stole all the money and ran away, the colony broke up and three families came here. One family was named Loucks. Barbier was the name of the man who dug the well.¹

Another individual with childhood memories of Frenchman's Well was Howard W. Peak, who was born in Fort Worth shortly after civilians arrived at the military post. On September 23, 1932, in response to an inquiry about the well by a local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Peak wrote:

The well of which you speak was erected by a Mr. Barbee (sic) about the year 1857. He was a Frenchman, and migrated to Texas with the "French Colony" who settled old French town about five miles west of the city of Dallas. Mr. Barbee was a stone mason, and erected a school building about where Taylor Street butts in to Belknap.

He also built a home just in front of this well. I recall having drunk from this well when but a child. Also recall that it was a perfect piece of masonry, constructed of stone and concrete, and the covering stood some five or six feet above the ground, and was rounded off in the shape of a bee hive.

The soldiers of the Fort had left some four years previous to the construction of the well.²

Using Howard Peak's first-hand information, ~~the~~ local D.A.R. chapter installed a sign on the base of the well, inscribed, "FRENCHMAN'S WELL, 1857, Marked By Six Flags Chapter D.A.R."³ A news article reporting on the installation of the sign ^{on the 75 year old well} included the following description:

The well itself has been filled with earth long since, perhaps to keep curious children from falling into the shaft. But the hive-shaped masonry cover--like a cathedral crypt--stands 10 feet high, a monument to a man whose surname alone survives.

Old-timers recall hearing that a stone mason named Barbee migrated to Texas with the French colony that settled at old French Town, five miles west of Dallas. Barbee moved farther westward, built a stone schoolhouse on Taylor, near Belknap Street, and then he erected a stone house for himself and family.

Probably he already had dug the well, but he at last, at the height of his craftsmanship, constructed the hive-shaped cover with a stout beam at its apex. The beam, though wormeaten, still supports the rusty pulley.... Flowers have been set out at the well's base, and Mexican children nearby have promised to tend them.⁴

Records of the short-lived La Reunion French Colony in Dallas County, which was established in 1855, indicate that a French native named Alexandre Barbier, his wife, and two sons named Alexes and Francois, were members of the colony. After La Reunion's demise Alexandre Barbier remained in Dallas County and served for a time as a City Marshall for the City of Dallas, then retired to Mineral Wells, Texas.⁵ There is a possibility that Frenchman's Well may have been constructed by one of his sons....

Numerous newspaper articles have chronicled the history of and fate of Frenchman's Well. In 1915 a Fort Worth Star-Telegram reporter lamented, "It seems one of the odd situations of Fate that even the first settlers can tell nothing of the origin of the last vestige of the 'fort' around which the city was built--a picturesque old stone well in the yard of an untenanted little house at 212 North Taylor Street." The well was described as having been built of "heavy stone blocks and tapers to an arched top. The walls are nearly three feet thick and there is no doubt in the minds of construction engineers that it will stand another sixty years or more if unmolested."⁶

2nd para for page 4
Subsequent articles marvelled at the well's construction and lamented the deterioration of the well's surroundings. In 1936, in observance of the Texas Centennial, there were proposals to restore Frenchman's Well and construct a replica of the old fort nearby,⁷ but funds were unavailable and the plans were abandoned. ✓ Unfortunately the structure was smashed by a garbage truck ^{in the} around early 1948⁴⁰, its rocks becoming mingled with a masonry pile but nevertheless distinguishable from the bricks and mortar. ^{insert 5 line para} The newly formed Tarrant County Historical Society, planning to mark historical sites in observance of Fort Worth's centennial in 1949, initiated a project to relocate and reconstruct the domed structure. ^{2/0}

Upon approval by the Tarrant County Commissioners Court, the limestone structure was rebuilt on the west side of the courthouse square. Department store owners Marvin and Obie Leonard, who then owned the property upon which the well had originally been located, volunteered to pay for the project.¹⁰

This researcher remembers Frenchman's Well, both at its original site and at its courthouse location. Built of sturdy limestone and concrete, the ten foot high bee-hive shaped cone obviously gave some protection to the well. The wormeaten oak beam supporting a rusty pulley was still there when the structure was demolished. A shelf niche inside the arch had held a water bucket in early times. Openings on the north and south gave easy access to persons drawing water ~~and still gave a certain~~ *while the cone gave some* protection from the elements.

In the late 1950s the space on the west side of the Tarrant County courthouse square was allocated for the construction of the county's present Civil Courts Building; consequently the well was again demolished. Its materials were eventually moved to the rear garden of the Elton Hyder home at 4910 Crestline, Fort Worth. Martha Rowan Hyder commissioned a mason to create a modified smaller replica of the original well.¹¹

Ironically the subsurface water which fed the original well was to play a trick on the Leonards who had so graciously provided for the preservation of the well. During the excavation and construction of a 1400 foot privately owned subway designed to carry customers from a parking area into the Leonards Department Store complex, water seepage interfered. One steady spring accounted for about 1,000 gallons per day. This problem was eliminated by the installation of three pumps *which ran* ~~running~~ constantly *by* and a French drain (devised by this researcher's husband, W. Albert Schmidt) which channeled the water into the Trinity River. Only then could the subway's concrete be properly set.¹²

~~Tarrant County Historical Commission now wishes to place an official historical marker at the well's original site, on the west wall of the city-county jail complex now located there.~~

FOOTNOTES

1

Charles Ellis Mitchell, n.d., Memoirs, published in Fort Worth News-Tribune, January 16, 1976, p. 12, "He Played in the old Army Fort." See Appendix A.

2

Typed letter, Howard W. Peak to Martha Darnell, Chap. Chm., D.A.R., Sept. 23, 1932, Georgetown, Texas. See Appendix B.

3

See xerox copy of photo, ~~Appendix C.~~ *Appendix A*

4

^{now} "New Signs Point Way to Frenchman's Well Here," Fort Worth Star-Telegram, April ?, 1933.

5

George Santerre, White Cliffs of Dallas: The Story of La Reunion, the Old French Colony, privately published (1955), p. 96.

6

Fort Worth Star-Telegram, June 16, 1915(?). ~~See Appendix D.~~ *B*

7

"Frenchman's Well, Now Abandoned, May Be Made Into a Beautiful Park," undated (ca. 1936) article; ~~see Appendix E.~~

8

^{newspaper} "Imprints of Frontier Adventure From Which City Grew Being Lost," Fort Worth Star-Telegram, June 6, 1948. ~~See Appendix F.~~

9

Ibid.

10

"Old Frenchman's Well To Occupy New Place," Fort Worth Star-Telegram, July 17, 1948. ~~Appendix G~~

11

~~See official Texas historical marker application for Smith-Burnett House, Tarrant County Historical Commission files.~~

12

"Water Bothered Tunnel's Diggers," Fort Worth Star-Telegram, n.d. See Appendix H.

well-bib

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Picture ^{of Frenchman's Well} of the well in the late 30's, ^{taken} by the Housing Authorities.
2. Picture and drawing of the well from private scrapbooks.
3. Memoirs of Charles Ellis Mitchell, ~~page 12, The News-Tribunes,~~ ^{Fort Worth} January 16, 1976, ^{pg 12.}
4. Material copied from Mary Daggett Lake files, Fort Worth Public Library ^{on well when Ed Terrell lived there.}
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17. ~~Newspaper clipping on building of subway, date unknown.~~
18. "Texas History Carved in Stone", by William Moses Jones, 1958.
19. ~~Marker application for Elton Hyder home, 4910 Crestline.~~ ^{SEE HOUSE files} ^{Farwest County Hist Comm}
20. ~~One of Arnold's orders carried out by Francis Knaar was to dig a well. Although the 1850 Census of the soldier indicates he was born in Germany, his nickname was Monssuer, giving us yet another possibility.~~

space

Unrelated

make like #11 on FTNOTE

SITE OF FRENCHMAN'S WELL

Researched By

Ruby Schmidt, Member
Tarrant County Historical Commission
4812 Morris
Fort Worth, Texas 76103

In the 1850s a unique cone-shaped stone structure was built to cover a hand-dug water well adjacent to the site of old Camp Worth, now Fort Worth, Texas. Serving as one of the first wells for the community, Frenchman's Well, with its unusual cover, became a recognized local landmark.

The name of the builder of Frenchman's Well, and its year of construction, are unclear. The earliest first-hand accounts concerning the well are provided by two Fort Worth citizens who were small children in the 1850s. Charles Ellis Mitchell, who arrived in Fort Worth on May 16, 1856 as a small child reported the following:

...we lived first in a log cabin under a big live oak tree on a spot later covered by the Criminal Courts Building (200 E. Belknap). It was said that the cabin had been used by the soldiers before they left. Just a few yards away from us stood the flag pole used by them....

People talk about the Frenchman's Well being dug by the soldiers. Well, I know which well was dug by the soldiers because it was still open and in use when we came here. Many's the time I looked into it, I suppose because I was warned not to do so, as I might fall in. But you know how a boy will do, and I was only six years old when we came.

The well dug by the soldiers was about 90 feet and was located right in the middle of Houston Street right between the west door of the Court House and Everybody's Store. The Frenchman's Well was really dug by a Frenchman. I knew him personally and while I don't remember seeing him dig the well I remember when he came here and did see him building his house which was about 50 feet away from the well.

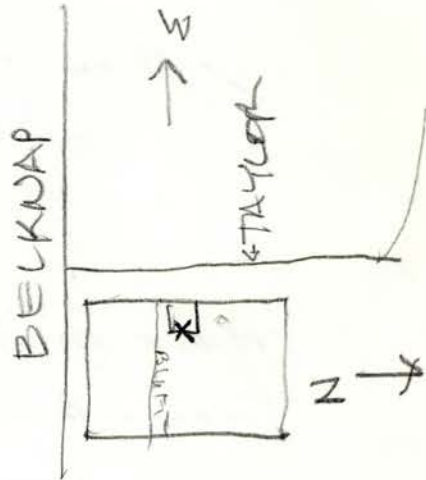
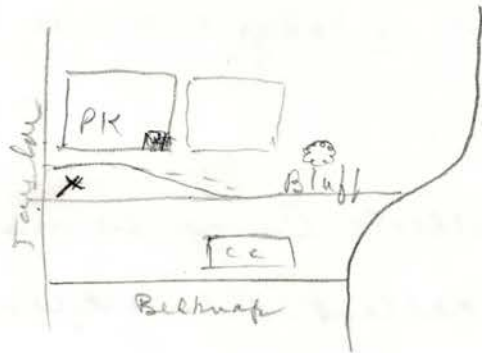
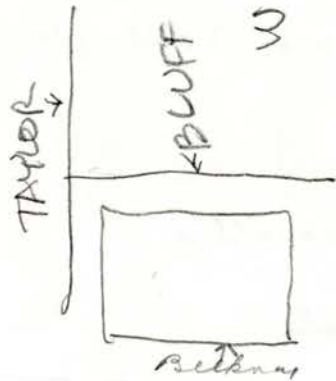
There was a French colony just this side of Dallas and when the treasurer stole all the money and ran away, the colony broke up and three families came here. One family was named Loucks. Barbier was the name of the man who dug the well.₁

See O'TOOLE re

Article S-T of lady's memories of home on Tandy pl. lot

Robert Smith collects Camp Bowie Memorabilia
George Beal - collect old carpenter tools.

From - Robert C. Smith



Frendlman's Well

page 1

typo - next to last paragraph - "street"

page 2

DAR + D.A.R.

"

the then 75 yr old ~~two~~

page 3

para 2. This quote idealizes well as part of the fort. The narrative is otherwise saying it was not part of fort. Also says it was built 4 years after soldiers left fort. We should not quote incorrect info. He could use his 6th description of well at the time of the article though. Add quotes at end.

para 3

would not make definite statement of height. It looks about 10' by photos, but better to approximate since we don't know. Peak said 5 or 6 ft. ~~in~~

page 4

1st sentence. "early 1940^{mid}s", not 48.

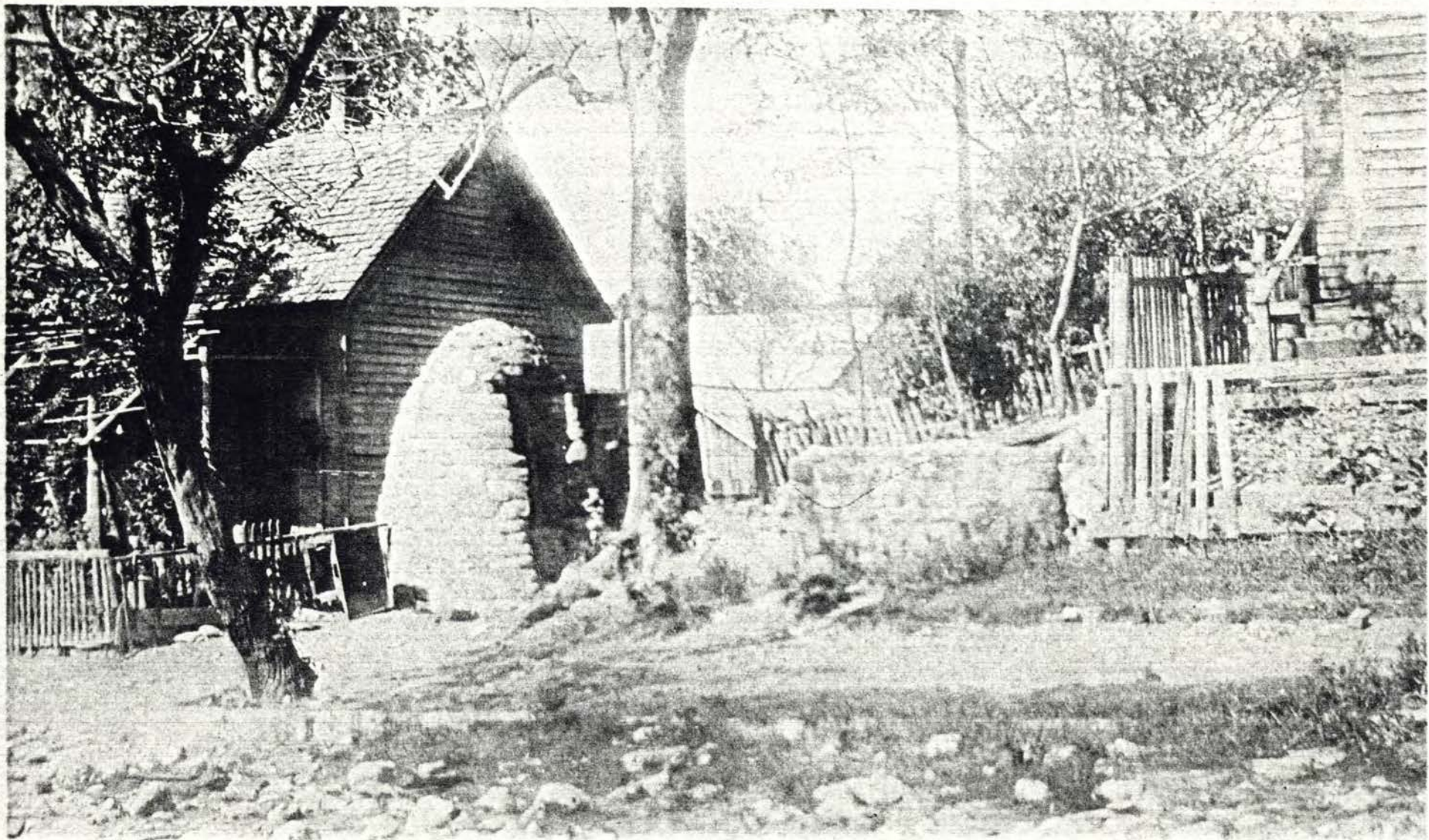
Newspaper article was 48, said demolished

with ~~his~~ premises 2 years

2nd sentence - where did this come from?

pg 4

approval by C.C.?



From Mary Daggett Lake
Postcard collection in
Archives



morton and Belknap, where a rock building later stood. Of course, the two trees were made into just one pole, with one on top of another.

People talk about the Frenchman's Well being dug by the soldiers. Well, I know which well was dug by the soldiers because it was still open and in use when we came here. Many's the time I looked into it, I suppose because I was warned not to do so, as I might fall in. But you know how a boy will do, and I was only six years old when we came.

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There was a French colony just this side of Dallas and when the treasurer stole all the money and ran away, the colony broke up and three families came here. One family was named Loucks. Barbier was the name of the man who dug the well. (Editor's Note: The settlement was La Reunion, a communistic-type venture where land and property were owned jointly. It was located on what is now Fort Worth Avenue in Oak Cliff, just east of the Grand Prairie line. Settlements like La Reunion were not uncommon in those days, the largest being in Oneida, N.Y. The leading advocate of such life was Albert Brisbane, whose son, Arthur, became editor of the Hearst Newspapers during the 1920's).

THE FIRST MILL was put up in Fort Worth in 1853 or 1854. I helped tear it down after it was used about 25 years and was so old and weavy in the wind that the top of the building was tied to a tree to keep it from falling down. It was located just east of the Henderson Street bridge on Clear Fork. Julian Feild and David Mauck had put it up.

Another thing that was already here was B. F. Bamberg's butcher shop. It was the first butcher shop in Fort Worth and was a ramshackle little old building on the corner of Belknap and Rusk (Commerce) Streets. Bamberg had a place out in the country and every day he'd kill a beef and bring it into his place and hang it up to drip. No matter who tried it, nobody could buy a pound of meat off him before morning and the place was never locked. When he was ready to sell the meat it would cost one, two or three cents a pound, according to what piece you wanted.

People talk about a drought. I've been here when there was a real drought. Not a drop of whisky in town. It was hard to get

stuff here. Teamsters would start out with wagons yoked to oxen and often be gone three months. By the time they'd get back we'd be clear out of candles, sugar, salt, pepper and other staples.

Salt came from a place now called Grand Saline and when the teamster's wagon got here it sold for \$10 to \$20 a hundred pounds and people would fight to get it at those prices. Coffee sold for \$10 a hundred pounds green. We'd buy about ten pounds for a dollar, take it home, grind it and parch it, and then we'd have real coffee.

Sugar ten pounds for a dollar, too. Folks always sent their kids to the store when they wanted things and when I went after sugar I'd take a pillow slip. The clerk would pour it out on brown wrapping paper and wrap it up. Then I would put the package in my slip and carry it home but would lose some even then. Wheat usually ran about 50 cents a bushel and flour \$1.50 a hundred pounds. We had very few vegetables in those days, just staples. Nowadays you have all sorts of beans; when I was a kid I don't remember beans at all.

PLANTATIONS IN those days didn't amount to much more than 10 or 15 acres; you see, it all had to be hand-worked. A man can't clear much acreage with a hoe. There were a number of plantations in the county. Nat Terry had one at the north end, or foot, of Samuels Avenue. The plantation home was just east of the road going north from the end of Samuels Avenue, and the slave quarters were back of the home.

I've heard people talking about all kinds of weather and some of it unseasonal. I've seen it snow in Fort Worth in April — on April 11, 1857, and I didn't know about it until I stepped into it over my ankles when I opened the door to go out to stake our hog. We boys all went barefooted spring, summer and fall in those days. The way I did, I staked the hog out in the day and penned it at night.

Eating in those days was quite different from now. People didn't have so much fancy food. We had plenty of beef and jerked beef, wild-hogs fattened on acorns, and plenty of sweet and buttermilk. We didn't have your fine Jerseys in those days so we always kept ten or 15 head of cows and when milking time came everybody in the family would go out with a bucket and each would get a little. When the first frost hit the cattle would high-tail it for the tall timber for protection from the winter and our

In Old Fort Worth

MRS. W. A. SCHMIDT
1812 W. MERIE AVENUE
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76103

He Played in the Old Army Fort

In 1853, John Peter Smith opened Fort Worth's first school in an abandoned Army barrack, and closed it after a few months to become a surveyor.

Parents taught their children after that, but in 1856 decided to set up a school for boys and girls. A. D. Johnson, M. J. Brinson, Thomas Moody, William Mosely, Julian Feild and Dr. Carroll M. Peak were chosen as trustees. They hired Prof. M. D. Kennedy to teach the boys and invited Mrs. John A. Mitchell of Tennessee to teach the girls. Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell arrived a few months later with their children, including a young son, Charles. He grew up, the very oldest Fort Worth — the Army Dragoons had left only a few months before he arrived.

Charles Mitchell married Martha Ellen Gilmore, first white girl born in Tarrant County. Her father, Seabourne Gilmore, was the second chief justice (county judge) in 1850-1852 and served again in 1856-1858. Charles became a printer and farmer. He and his wife were married more than 50 years, moved to Haslet and lived to nearly 90. In his last years Charles Mitchell wrote his memoirs, a fascinating account of the earliest days of Fort Worth which has never been published. The News-Tribune will print the memoirs, beginning in this issue.

By CHARLES ELLIS MITCHELL

Early in 1856 my mother was contacted by Lawrence Steel, Julian Feild, Hiram Jewell and Professor M. D. Kennedy, who was an important man in Fort Worth, to teach school and give a course in music in a private school for girls only.

My mother had a piano and was already teaching in Memphis, Tenn. Three months after we got here, the piano came and it was the first ever to come to Fort Worth. My father was a road builder and was at that time completing a four-mile stretch of plank road. He completed it before he came on. Plank roads were the best in those days. They were made of flattened log halves, laid over heavy piling.

We came from Memphis to Shreveport, then to Dallas by stage-coach. It took about 18 hours to get from Dallas to Fort Worth by stage coach because there had been a lot of rain and the country was very muddy. In fact, we started from Dallas in the morning and had supper at Johnson Station — only half way here.

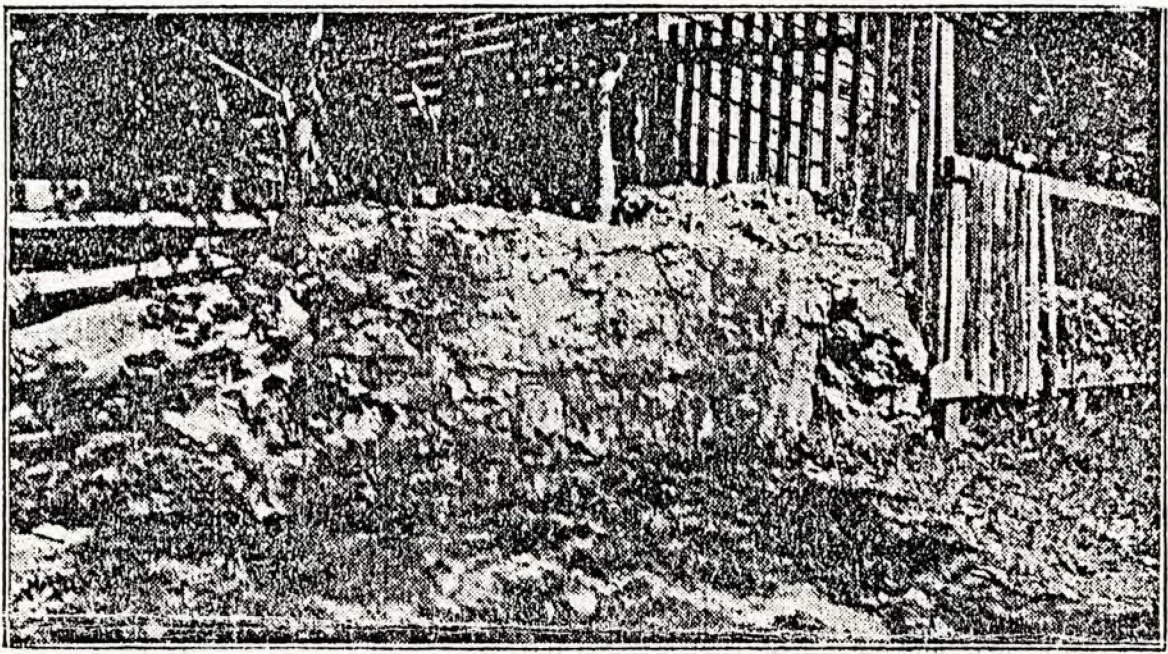
IT WAS MAY 16, 1856 when we arrived in Fort Worth and we lived first in a log cabin under a big live oak tree on a spot later covered by the Criminal Courts Building (now the Criminal Justice Building, 200 E. Belknap). It was said that the cabin had been used by the soldiers before they left. Just a few yards away from us stood the flag pole used by them. It was made of

3
APPENDIX A

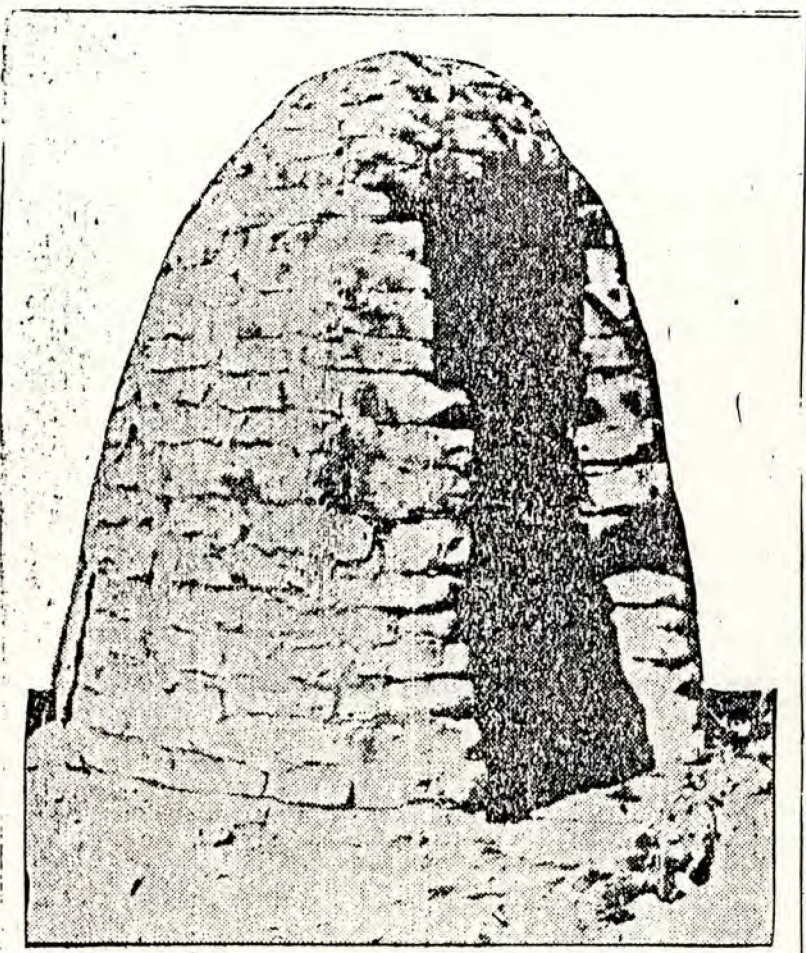
Main
 Item Clipping
 From Dallas Morning News
 Date 9-16-1975
 Folder N.Landmarks, monuments,

MRS. W. A. SCHMIDT
 4812 MORRIS AVENUE
 FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76103

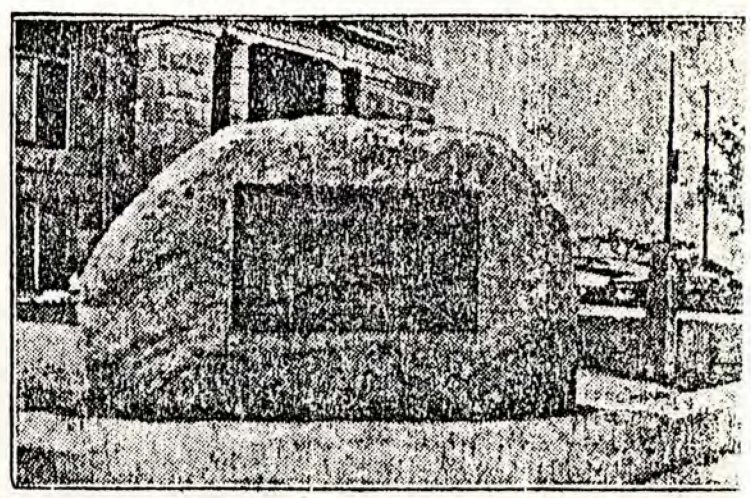
Well and Part of Stone Fort Are Only Relics of Military Invaders' Brief Settlement



Crumbling remains of old Fort Worth. The wall is said to be part of a stone corral that surrounded the officers' quarters.



Curb of the old well that served the officers of Fort Worth in the early '50s.



Monument erected at the approximate center of the old fort the Daughters of the American Revolution. The small obelisk at the right marks the site of another well, discovered in excavating for the monument. To the rear is the Criminal Court Building.

↑ MIK DAR

This well must have been the earliest one see write-up by Preston Board

MARY DAGGETT LANE
COLLECTION

Item Clipping

From Fort Worth

Press

Date July 17, 1948

Folder No. Landmarks, Monuments, Memorials

APPENDIX G

Old Frenchman's Well To Occupy New Place

Frenchman's Well, one of Fort Worth's oldest historical landmarks, is being saved for posterity.

The old stone well, built in 1849 to serve the dragoons garrisoning the fort on the bluff overlooking the Trinity, now occupies a spot in an alley just west of the county jail.

It is now being dismantled by Marvin and Obie Leonard, on whose land it stands, and will be moved to a spot on the northwest corner of Courthouse Square.

The workers on the job already have cored out the well. They will number each stone as it is taken out so that the well, in its new position, will be exactly as it was before.

The Leonard brothers volunteered to pay the cost of removal when the Fort Worth Historical Society requested that the landmark be preserved.

According to Dr. Rex Z. Howard, vice president of the historical group, the well was first known as "Soldier's well" but was later called Frenchman's well, because it was built by a Dr. Gonnough, who came to the fort here from Icaria, a French settlement near the present town of Justin.

Dr. Gonnough's hobby was stone masonry. He used a style he learned in France, and his work still adorns several cemeteries in

this section of Texas.

He built the tombstones for the graves of the children of Maj. Ripley E. Arnold, commandant of the fort, in what is now Fort Worth's Pioneer Rest. Other samples of his skill stand in the Acton burying ground near Granbury, and in the old Rock Church cemetery near Bluffdale.

Dr. Howard said today that preservation of the old well marks the first phase of the city's forthcoming 1949 centennial activities.

The historical society already has proposed a new park just north of the old Van Zandt home in the edge of Trinity Park for the purpose of erecting a replica of the fort which the Second Dragoons used in 1849 on courthouse bluff.

"The project, if carried out, would be in conjunction with the Park Department," said Dr. Howard, "but the society hopes that other Fort Worth firms will take the same sort of interest in the fort park that the Leonards have in preserving the well."

Another picture shows a workman "digging up" the well.

New Signs Point Way Now To Frenchman's Well Here

New signs will guide you now—if you are interested—to Frenchman's Well, in an alley where Taylor Street slopes from Belknap Street toward the Trinity.

At the well appears a sign: "Frenchman's Well, 1857, marked by Six Flags Chapter, D. A. R." An arrow points from Belknap Street to the well's location.

The well itself has been filled with earth long since, perhaps to keep curious children from falling into the shaft. But the hive-shaped masonry cover—like a cathedral crypt—stands 10 feet high, a monument to a man whose surname alone survives.

Old-timers recall hearing that a stone mason named Barbee migrated to Texas with the French colony that settled at old French Town, five miles west of Dallas. Barbee moved farther westward, built a stone schoolhouse

on Taylor, near Belknap Street, and then he erected a stone house for himself and family.

Probably he already had dug the well, but he at last, at the height of his craftsmanship, constructed the hive-shaped cover with a stout beam at its apex. The beam, though worm-eaten, still supports the rusty pulley that must have been added some years after Barbee dug the well.

Members of the Six Flags Chapter first learned of the well's existence through Wade H. Tanner, 1725 Fifth Avenue, whose daughter, Mrs. Claude L. Drennon, is a chapter member.

Mrs. W. P. Bowdry of Six Flags Chapter, chairman of her organization's state committee for the preservation of historic spots, has led in the move to mark the 75-year-old well.

Flowers have been set out at the well's base, and Mexican children nearby have promised to tend them.

DAR Chapter Places Marker At Old Well

On West Belknap Street, at the head of Taylor Street, a newly erected sign points north to an old pioneer well.

At the well is a marker reading "Frenchman's Well, 1857." This was placed there recently by the Six Flags Chapter, DAR.

The well was erected by a Mr. Barbee, who migrated to Texas with the French Colony that settled at the old French Town about five miles west of Dallas, according to Howard W. Peak.

Barbee was a stone mason and erected a school building near where Taylor Street intersects Belknap. He also built a stone residence, just south of the well. The well foundation serves for the present building there.

The well was on his place and was built in the style of his homeland in France, with a bee hive cover. The masonry was so well

date 7

1438

Item Clipping
From Fort Worth
Press
Date July 17, 1948
Folder No. Landmarks, Monuments, Memorials

Old Frenchman's Well To Occupy New Place

Frenchman's Well, one of Fort Worth's oldest historical landmarks, is being saved for posterity.

The old stone well, built in 1849 to serve the dragoons garrisoning the fort on the bluff overlooking the Trinity, now occupies a spot in an alley just west of the county jail.

It is now being dismantled by Marvin and Obie Leonard, on whose land it stands, and will be moved to a spot on the northwest corner of Courthouse Square.

The workers on the job already have cored out the well. They will number each stone as it is taken out so that the well, in its new position, will be exactly as it was before.

The Leonard brothers volunteered to pay the cost of removal when the Fort Worth Historical Society requested that the landmark be preserved.

According to Dr. Rex Z. Howard, vice president of the historical group, the well was first known as "Soldier's well" but was later called Frenchman's well, because it was built by a Dr. Gonnough, who came to the fort here from Icaria, a French settlement near the present town of Justin.

Dr. Gonnough's hobby was stone masonry. He used a style he learned in France, and his work still adorns several cemeteries in

this section of Texas.

He built the tombstones for the graves of the children of Maj. Ripley E. Arnold, commandant of the fort, in what is now Fort Worth's Pioneer Rest. Other samples of his skill stand in the Acton burying ground near Granbury, and in the old Rock Church cemetery near Bluffdale.

Dr. Howard said today that preservation of the old well marks the first phase of the city's forthcoming 1949 centennial activities.

The historical society already has proposed a new park just north of the old Van Zandt home in the edge of Trinity Park for the purpose of erecting a replica of the fort which the Second Dragoons used in 1849 on courthouse bluff.

"The project, if carried out, would be in conjunction with the Park Department," said Dr. Howard, "but the society hopes that other Fort Worth firms will take the same sort of interest in the tort park that the Leonards have in preserving the well."

*another feature
shows a
workman
"digging up"
the well*

New Signs Point Way Now To Frenchman's Well Here

New signs will guide you now—if you are interested—to Frenchman's Well, in an alley where Taylor Street slopes from Belknap Street toward the Trinity.

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An arrow points from Belknap Street to the well's location.

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The well was on his place and was built in the style of his homeland in France, with a bee hive cover. The masonry was so well constructed the cover is still in almost perfect condition.

Mrs. R. M. Kelso and Miss Martha Darnall composed the committee in charge of placing the marker at the well. They have also laid out flower beds around the well.

Mrs. W. P. Bowdry, who is a member of the chapter and state chairman of the committee for the preservation of historic spots, assisted the committee in charge.

1932,

*This well must have dated from before 1857
as soldiers were gone by then*

APPENDIX B

Georgetown, Texas
September the 23
1932

Miss Martha Darnell,
Chap. Chm. Daughters-
Amer'n Revolution-
1908 Fifth Ave,
Fort Worth.

My dear Miss Darnall:

Replying to yours of the 21st.

The well of which you speak was erected by a Mr Barbee about the year 1857. He was a Frenchman, and migrated to Texas with the "French Colony" who settled old French town about five miles west of the city of Dallas. Mr Barbee was a stone mason, and erected a school building about where Taylor Street butts in to Belknap.

He also built a home just in front of this well. I recall having drunk from this well when but a child. Also recall that it was a perfect piece of masonry, constructed of stone and concrete, and the covering stood some five or six feet above the ground, and was rounded off in the shape of a Bee Hive.

The soldiers of the Fort had left some four ~~years~~ years previous to the construction of the well.

Very Sincerely,

Howard H. Peck



MRS. W. A. SCHMIDT
4812 MORRIS AVENUE
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76103



Old
well.
Belknap
before
worked
by
D. C.

Mexican
children
in
near
of
old

Ed Terrell

FORT WORTH'S FIRST WATER SYSTEM

A lone hooded well, corner Bluff and Taylor Streets, is reminiscent of early Fort Worth life. The old rocks, of which it is constructed are all intact, just as they were when it was in active use in the family of Captain Ed Terrell, the first white man to set foot in Tarrant County.

Captain Terrell built his early home on the site where the well is located, the ^{land} ~~place~~ extending to the Trinity on the north. The history of the old well is rather unauthenticated. From the best information obtainable it was never used by the City as a source of water supply, although it is understood that Captain Terrell allowed many persons and families to use the water from the well - neighbors and friends who lived nearby.

Miss Ada Gambrell, ^{of Texas Street,} the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Gambrell, pioneers in Fort Worth, recalls that the old city wells were farther east, just near the present Criminal Courts building, and that the Ed Terrell well was there when her parents located in Fort Worth in 1869. She knew that it had been built many years before that time. Captain and Mrs. Terrell erected a concrete story and a half house on their lot, and early Fort Worth citizens boarded with them - I. Carb, J. Samuels, Frank Ball and others. The house was razed a good many years ago to allow for the widening of Taylor Street.

Charles Mitchell said a Frenchman from the Old French Colony, Dallas, "La Reunion", by the name of Barbier, built the old well we know today (Now located on the west side of the Court House lawn) as "Frenchman's Well".

MRS. W. A. SCHMIDT
4812 MORRIS AVENUE
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76103

Masonry Said by Some to Resemble Mexican Work—Queer
Old Structure Will Stand Long While Yet.

1915

Ruins are a part of the sights
that Fort Worth, the modern American
city, has to show visitors, but
ruins there are here of unknown origin.

It seems one of the odd situations
of Fate that even the first settlers can
tell nothing of the origin of the last
vestige of the "fort" around which the
city was built—a picturesque old stone
well in the yard of an untenanted lit-
tle house at 313 North Taylor street.

"It was here when the barracks were
built," they say, but they don't know
whether it was here before.

Granting that the well dates back
even as far as the establishment of
Camp Worth June 6, 1849, it is now
sixty-six years old. It is of such un-
usual type that persons familiar with
the ruins of ancient Mexico venture
to suggest that it is of Mexican ma-
sonry and dates back to the time when
Texas was Mexican territory.

The old well is of heavy stone blocks
and tapers to an arched top. The
walls are nearly three feet thick and
there is no doubt in the minds of con-
struction engineers that it will stand
another sixty years or more if unmo-
lested. But it stands unmarked as a
precious historical relic.

Men and women who were little boys
and girls when United States troops
garrisoned Fort Worth to protect the
little settlement from Indian raids tell
how of the times when Major Ripley
Arnold's cavalry horses drank from
the trough supplied by the old stone
well.

The well is in a yard which con-
tains the ruins of several buildings of
the old fort, which have been de-
stroyed. The well is dry and is gradu-
ally filling up with rubbish.

The military post, which was named
Fort Worth in honor of Brig. Gen. Wil-
liam Jennings Worth, after it had
been established as Camp Worth, was
abandoned Nov. 17, 1853, after four
years of occupation, the troops moving
to Fort Belknap, about a mile from the
site of the present town of Belknap.

Among those who were prominent
citizens while the soldiers were here
were: Col. Abe Harris, James F. El-

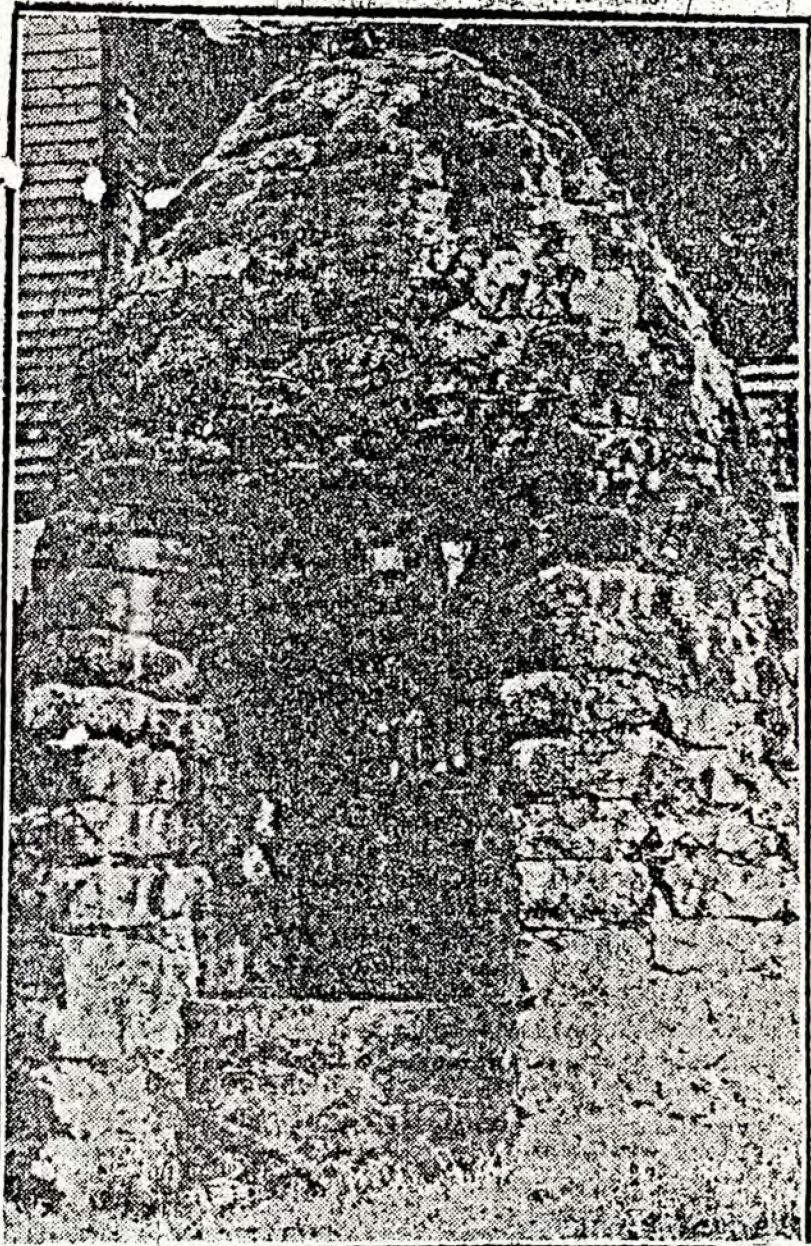
lms. G. F. ... Mer. E. M. Daggett, C.
M. Peak and John Peter Smith.

FORT WORTH STAR TELE

Well That Supplied Fort Here Still Standing; Origin Unknown

June 16.

Staff Photo by Warren.



MRS. W. A. SCHMIDT
4812 MORRIS AVENUE
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76103

'Frenchman's Well' Now Abandoned May Be Made Into a Beautiful Park

Cairn-like Heap of Stones
Near Junk Yards and
Woodpiles.

A hollow stone cairn-like heap stands neglected in a neighborhood of junk piles, woodyards and refuse, but around it may be developed a well groomed park rich in the history of Fort Worth's early days.

Such is the plan of Roscoe Ady, head of the Chamber of Commerce publicity department, for that stone heap near Belknap and Taylor Streets is one of the few remaining visible landmarks of the original Fort Worth. Known as "Frenchman's Well," it has been identified by a sign erected by the Six Flags Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. The marker gives the date, 1857.

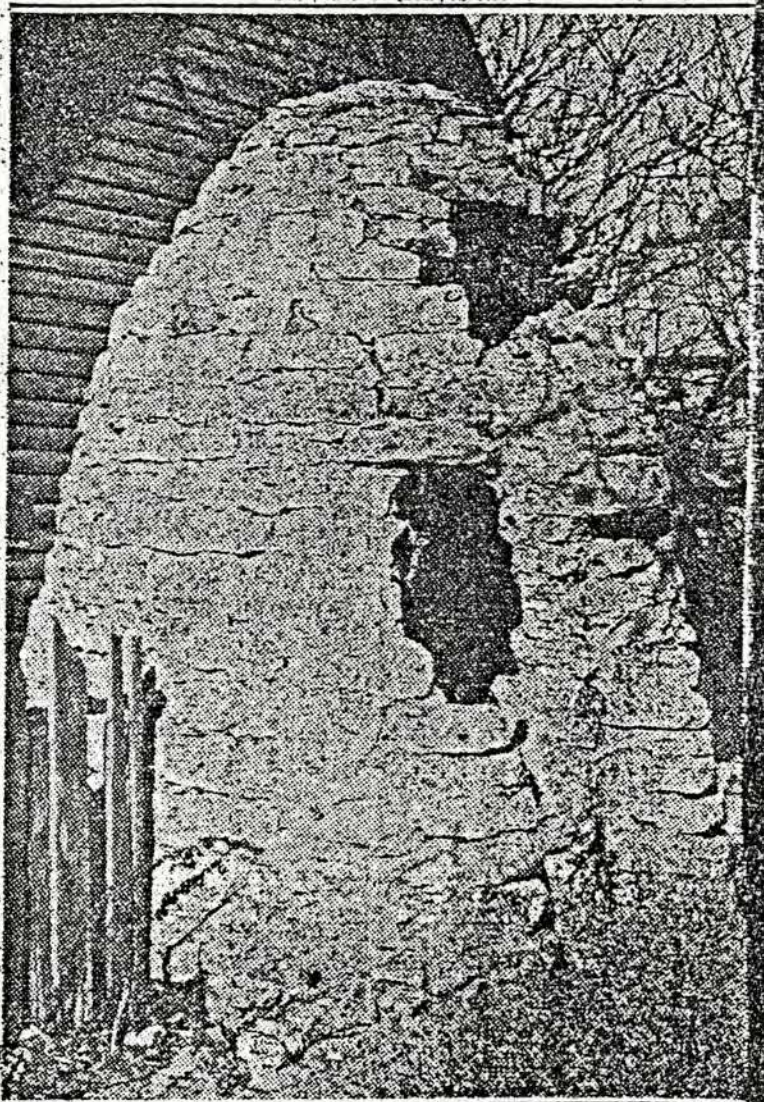
Howard Peak, pioneer resident of Tarrant County, said that the well was one of the two from which residents of the pioneer army post obtained their water. The other well, Peak said, was situated somewhere on the grounds of the courthouse, but long since has been filled and covered.

It is Ady's proposal that a replica of some of the buildings of the old post be placed near the well and the land in that area be developed into a park extending from Belknap to the Trinity River.

Ady says that foundations of one of the original houses in the first settlement may be uncovered in the excavation work.

Plans already are under way for a reproduction of the old fort on the Texas Frontier Centennial grounds.

Water Supply at Old Fort



From beneath this pile of stones came water that simmered in pioneer kettles and washed homespun and calicos. Around this, one of Fort Worth's first sources of water supply, it is proposed to develop a park. Residents of the army post for which Fort Worth is named used the well situated near Belknap and Taylor Streets.

Historical Society Warned Landmarks Disappearing

Historic landmarks in Fort Worth are being obliterated through disregard of their worth, Dr. Rex Z. Howard told the Tarrant County Historical Society Tuesday night.

Frenchman's Well, close associated with the military fort which once stood on the site, is being in danger of being wiped out by a pile of discarded masonry, he said. The well, located at the terminal Courts Building and the Ripley-Appold Place housing project, is being destroyed.

Standing about 12 feet above the ground, the well structure was intact until 1930, when it was knocked down by a garbage truck, Dr. Howard said. The stones from the well are at the site but may be lost in the pile of old bricks.

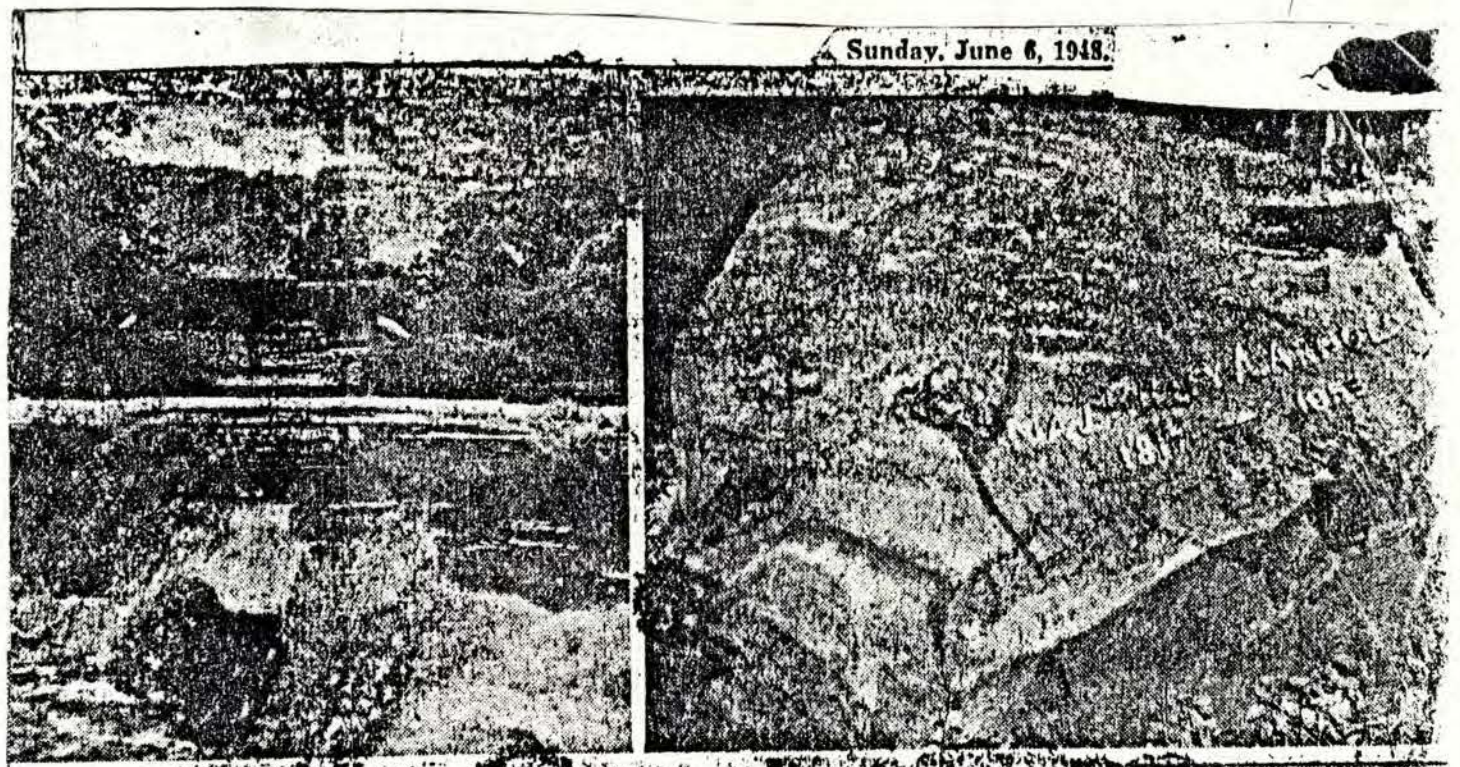
With comparatively little expense, the above ground portion of the well could be erected on the City Hall lawn as a monument.

Dr. Howard, a travel-guide writer by hobby, said Cold Springs, another landmark, has been "carefully marked" by a city dump.

Turning to other matters, Dr. Howard said Fort Worth's nickname—"Where the West Begins"—originated in an Indian treaty signed by Sam Houston.

In 1845, he explained, Houston came to Bird's Fort (Birdville) and negotiated the treaty which gave the Indians everything west

MRS. W. A. SCHMIDT
4812 MORRIS AVENUE
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76103



HISTORY'S IMPRINTS—The upper photo is not merely the Botanic Garden; the pond in the foreground is the approximate spot where the first white men in this vicinity, two trappers, made camp. The lower right picture shows historic Frenchman's Well, last relic from the original Army fort here, as it stood until two years ago. Today it is rubble, smashed by a garbage truck. But the rocks are discernible and the Tarrant County Historical Society plans to resurrect it on a new site. The upper right photo shows the tombstone marking the grave in Pioneers Rest of Maj. Ripley Arnold, the Dragoon commander who established Fort Worth as one of a string of forts across Texas.



ERASED BY DECAY, NEGLECT, DESTRUCTION

Imprints of Frontier Adventure From Which City Grew Being Lost

By OLIVER NIGHT.
Decay, neglect and destruction are erasing the imprints left by the era of frontier adventure in which Fort Worth's history is firmly embedded.
Indeed, Fort Worth—facing the start of its centennial year just six months from now—might be known as the city with much history and few markers.
True, some historical sites have been marked, but many others have gone unrecognized.
For example, the last standing relic from the Army fort from which the city grew has been reduced to rubble within the past two years. Frenchman's Well, water supply for the fort, was smashed by a garbage truck. Its rocks are now mingled with a masonry pile, but they can be distinguished from the bricks and mortar.
Will Resurrect Well.
The newly formed Tarrant County Historical Society, planning to mark historical sites, intends to resurrect the well and move it to another location. It now is in the area between the Criminal Courts Building and Ripley Arnold Place.
Frenchman's Well had a stone covering—igloo fashion—to protect soldiers from Indian bullets and arrows.
Botanic Garden, justly deserving the position it occupies in the community, encompasses one of the most historical spots in the city. And it, too, is unmarked. The pool in the Botanic Garden is the approximate spot at which ~~Trappers Terrell and Lusk~~ the first white men in this vicinity—made camp to trade with the Indians.
At that time an Indian encampment stretched from what is now the Botanic Garden to the water plant.
Terrell and Lusk completed

They were freed when Terrell convinced the savages that he could obtain many more blankets if he could return to his people.
Liberated by the Indians, Lusk drifted away somewhere, but Terrell eventually came back as a peddler to trade with the soldiers at Fort Worth, which had been established in the meantime.
A reminder of the '70s and '80s when Fort Worth was a frontier headquarters for cowboys, gamblers, buffalo hunters and frontiersmen of all types is painted on the rear of a brick building facing the courthouse.
In that building, next door to the Grand Hotel, Jim Courtwright maintained a detective office before he became city marshal. At least 80 years old, the black and white sign is still discernible. It faces on an alley now, but in the frontier days there were hitching posts there.
Courtwright's real name was Tim, but somewhere along the line it was changed to Jim through usage.
Famous for Long Hairs.
Courtwright was famous for hair which hung to his shoulders, his drawl and his unquestioned ability with a six-shooter. He once lived in Tombstone, Ariz., and was a friend of Bat Masterson, Dodge City marshal, and Doc Holiday, a gunman of repute.
"Long Hair" Jim was killed by a saloon keeper in 1887.
Another spot that is not marked is the clump of trees in front

of the County Health Center. The late Tom Slack, pioneer banker, established the fact that these are the same trees to which Maj. Ripley Arnold tethered his horse when the Second Dragoons arrived on the bluff to build Fort Worth.
Arnold, killed by the post surgeon at Fort Graham, is buried in Pioneers Rest.

MRS. W. A. SCHMIDT
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FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76103

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'WEEP HOLES'

Water Bothered Tunnel's Diggers

A famous poetic phrase aptly describes the excavation of Leonard's 1,400-foot subway tunnel, "water, water every where."

"My men had a saying that they couldn't work unless their feet were wet," said Kenneth Garrett Jr. of Haws and Garrett General Contractors.

Almost throughout the entire job "weep holes" (springs) would appear to saturate the

floor and make work uncomfortable. One real steady spring accounted for approximately 1,000 gallons of water each day. This constant flow, which always seemed to be westward, necessitated the use of three pumps all year to allow work to continue.

Mr. Obie Leonard was a close supervisor during the project, said Garrett. "He would come out every morning in a clean pressed suit and by the end of the day he looked as if he had been dragged through the tunnel. He's a real worker and doesn't care for himself."

It took extra care near the end of the job when it was time to pour the concrete. A pipe drainage system had to be installed in the walls and ceiling. This was also true for the floor, but in order to pour the concrete, the water had to be dammed up in an adjoining area to keep it out of the concrete and allow it to set.

Under West Belknap, the workers met a new foe, solid rock. They had to blast their way through it. The main problems faced at that point were the cramped conditions and being unable to keep the blasts low enough to avoid damage to

layers above. To control the blasts the company brought in a seismograph operator to measure the intensity of each explosion. An intensity log was kept to record the explosives used, reaction and the results of each blast.

The rock, however, was a "good friend" as Leonard commented. The workers were able to dig straight down without danger of cave-in.

The excavating process was very slow at some points and a Caterpillar was brought in at \$160 per day, not including expenses of operator. With its "ripper" (tooth or drag) at the rear it was able to gouge huge chunks from the rock surface and then by using its dozer it could pile the rock for loading.

The job was almost accident free. A rock fell striking a worker on his metal helmet and a form fell. No other accidents were recorded.

Construction was hard, but for Leonard's, the builder and the citizens of Fort Worth the operation of this "world's first" privately owned subway will be well worth the effort.

Carpeting Protection In Subway

The thousands of customers who will ride Leonard's private M&O Subway during its first weeks of operation will rate the red carpet treatment.

A total of 344 square yards of carpet will line the station platform and each of the five cars on the new subway.

Chosen to withstand the onslaught of the crowded crowds was Enkaloff's continuous filament nylon carpet by Bigelow-Banford, Inc. Developed especially for carpet use, Enkaloff nylon provides a thick resilient pile and a durable loft, capable of withstanding traffic.

The rich deep texture and high bulk are augmented by a natural luster which resolves what once had been a dilemma for carpet users: May Bigelow and Enka officials.

Nylon carpets with a high luster look beautiful but tend to soil readily, they explain, while too little luster increases soil resistance but tends to give a lifeless and dull appearance.

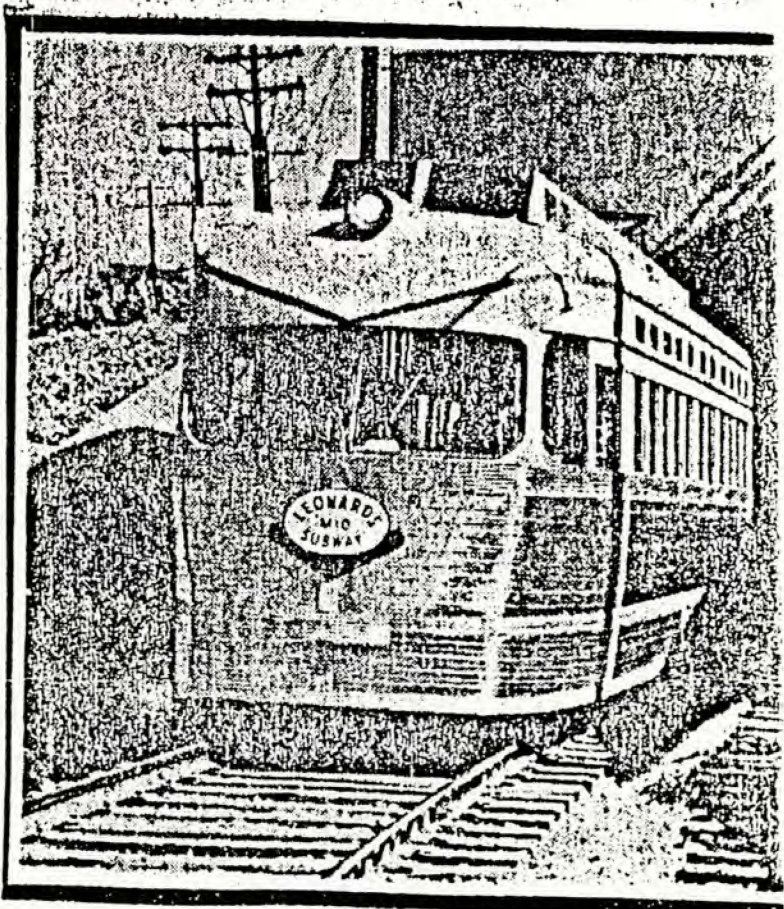
Enkaloff's natural luster was able to fulfill Leonard's "red carpet" requirements — impressive beauty plus the ability to withstand the "torture treatment" of a regiment of M&O riders.

400 Tons of Steel

Over 400 tons of steel was used to support the tunnel through which the Leonard's subway train runs.



EXPENSIVE BUT EFFICIENT — This big Caterpillar, rented for \$160 per day plus, was needed to cut through the walls of solid rock blocking excavation of Leonard's subway tunnel.



MRS. W. A. SCHMIDT
4812 MORRIS AVENUE
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76103

DOES HISTORY REPEAT ITSELF?

MRS. JARVIS AND THE JAIL SITE

To the Editor of The Record:

When we first began the protest against the desecration of the old fort site by the erection of a jail on it, at a meeting of a lot of women and a few men, with the county commissioners. I, in the indignation of the moment, said: "If you won't listen to us, and put the jail there, we will tear it down—I welded a hatchet before Carrie Nation did, and have not forgotten the art." I had no thought of a reporter repeating it and did not think how bad that statement would look in print, but of family history I was struck with the similarity of the motives that prompted the use of the hatchet at that time and the present.

As an explanation of my undignified action, I decide to pass the incident on to the people of Fort Worth to prove that the eternal fitness of things is an aborn principle in the heart. Whether the thing to be put on exhibition is a jail or a private back yard. I had moved from the timbered country of East Texas, where we had shade trees and vines for shelter from the sun, and to insure the privacy of our home from comers and goers along the street, and first lived in a house that belonged to my brother, K. M. Van Zandt, on the block where the Westbrook hotel now stands. After six months of anxious waiting my husband bought a lot in the suburbs of the little town and built us a pretentious home, on the corner of Sixth and Lamar, the garden being where the Elks' building now stands.

This was the first two-story building in Fort Worth for two years, and the lumber was hauled from Wood county in ox wagons. The back yard was decorated with the usual small houses, barns, hen-house, chicken coops, etc., absolutely necessary for a suburban residence, where a cow, horse and chicken were kept, but was not particularly beautiful for exhibition. For months we enjoyed our new house but had no fence, and whenever I went in the back yard to hang out clothes, feed chickens, or get wood from the woodpile, I knew I was in full view of all my neighbors. Just think of it, my husband's office was over my brother's store on the square, and I could see him from the kitchen window when he turned into the head of Houston street coming home at noon, and knew it was time to take up dinner.

Finally it was decided to have a yard fence, and while the idea of having a white paling fence for the front yard brought an overwhelming sense of luxury and opulence, the privacy I would have in the back yard appealed to me even more. Well, when the front yard was fenced it was a thing of beauty—nothing like it in town. My cousin, Tom Organ, was a carpenter and as the fence grew we all admired and enjoyed it. Finally the back side door was reached and the fancy little white fence was creeping past the house. Then I protested. "Stop," I said, "I want a close plank fence from the house to the barn," but the carpenter and the husband said, "this is so much prettier, and we will begin the close fence when we reach the cow pen." I said the back yard was my private property, and I wanted it private. Thinking I had gained my point, I went out with the baby, Van Zandt, to spend the afternoon, but when I came home there were three panels of fence finished going towards the cow pen. To say I was mad is putting it mildly. I felt just like I would if they began putting the jail on our park site. But I did not say a word. Thinking I had gracefully yielded to the inevitable my husband went to bed and to sleep, then I put the baby to sleep and got my hatchet. The moon was shining brightly and I could see how to work, and nerved with all my pent-up indignation and aborn sense of Texas independence, I worked with a will and in fifteen minutes those three panels of fence were lying to the street and then I went to bed. My

husband pretended to be asleep, but I never could believe that he could have slept through all that knocking. In the morning I went to the kitchen to get breakfast, keeping an eye on the demolished fence. The carpenter came by sun-up and stood looking where the cyclone had struck, and then my husband, while I was hidden but within easy ear-shot, Tom looked up and said "Why, Major, what's the matter with the fence?" And he washed his hands of having any relation to the matter and said "that cousin of yours did it." Before noon my husband was back in his law office attending to his business. I was happy about my household work, and Tom Organ was putting up a close plank fence which ran from the corner of the house in the street and then down to the horse lot.

Back yards and jails are a natural necessity, but the more private they are the better.

Another little bit of history: The women of Fort Worth as explained in a little article a short time ago for the relief of the first needy people we ever had in Fort Worth organized the Associated Charities, and by building houses on vacant lots, buying sewing machines or wash cans for the house mothers, we took care of several families, the county furnishing each a small amount of money to pay the grocery bill. One family I remember consisted of a paralyzed father, a mother and three children, for the support of whom the county gave \$5 a month—\$1 each—and they were getting along comfortably. But those county commissioners also got a building bee in their bonnets and decided to have a new courthouse. Of course, all were delighted at the idea, for the old one had burned down and we must have a new one. We women never saw any connection between the new courthouse and the Associated Charities until we went to draw the usual allowance for groceries and were astounded when we were told that the commissioners had decided to use no more county money for poor people until they went to the poor farm. I, being president, went at once to one of the commissioners who lived in town, to protest. Alas, the rulings of the commissioners are like the laws of the Medes and Persians, and the poor people must starve or go to the poor house until the new courthouse was finished. I took up the case of the family mentioned, and asked how much it would cost the county if they went to the poor farm. The reply came promptly: "Five dollars each, \$25 for the whole family." In vain I pleaded, the answer came again: "No, we are going to build a monument while we are in office that you women will all be proud of." They did build a monument with their names on the corner stone, and the Associated Charities disbanded because we could not do the work and pay all the money, too. While the commissioners build their monuments with their names thereon, but women had tongues if not votes, and they were not re-elected at the next election.

We think the big jail, besides being in the wrong place, is a wanton waste of the people's money, both because detention farms have been proven both a moral and a financial success, and because prohibition is coming, and if we need a jail at all, it should only be a small one.

It is hard for us old Fort Worth people who have seen the city's infancy stood on the bluff where the old fort was and told our children of how the Indians used to come down the river valley from the north and drive off cattle and horses from the prairie, and show them how the soldiers could aim their cannon up the valley to drive them away, to see the old site desecrated.

County commissioners are only successive incidents in our city's history, but we are here to stay. The civic committee has been occupying the park board for years to buy this site, but the park board is just waiting up to

the possibilities of our city beautiful. They have done so much during the past year in the way of park improvement and playground supervision that we were waiting for the development of the Kessler plan, until they had recuperated a little. Therefore, the announcement that the commissioners had bought our historic spot for a jail site came to us like a clap of thunder out of a clear sky.

Personally, I think our commissioners and Judge Brown are honest and conscientious, and think they are working for the best interests of the town and county, but I feel like praying, as Jesus did on the cross: "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do."

Will not the loyal citizens and taxpayers, from the eastern to the western, from the northern to the southern boundaries of our county unite in urging that the jail site be stripped west until it heads Throckmorton and our city be allowed to be beautiful and glorified until there shall not be said another south of the Mason and Dixon line. A wise man may change, but a fool never.

MRS. J. J. JARVIS.

Now called Criminals Bldg. It was set back some to the West due to adverse reactions



—Star-Telegram Staff Photo.

OLD AND NEW—Dorothy Jo Wood, 6, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Wood, 203 Taylor, watches as the Frenchman's Well, almost a century older than she, is dug up. The workman with the shovel is Ray Taylor, 3209 N. W. 24th.

FORT WORTH CENTENNIAL

Old Frenchman's Well Will Be Reconstructed

Debris and dirt of decades were cleared Saturday from the old Frenchman's Well as workmen dug out the circular landmark behind the Criminal Court Bldg., near Taylor St.

The well will be reconstructed by the Tarrant County Historical Society on the Houston St. lawn of the County Courthouse, in time for Fort Worth's centennial celebration next year.

The oval rock hood that served pioneer settlers as a safeguard against Indian arrows was missing Saturday. Scattered two years ago by a truck, the rocks have been preserved. Old photographs will enable the Historical Society to rebuild the hood, according to Dr. Rex Z. Howard, vice president of the society.

Leonards Paying

Marvin and C. P. Leonard, who own the land on which the well is located, are paying the cost of the removal, Dr. Howard said, in co-operation with the Historical Society's program of preserving historical landmarks here.

Records indicate the well was built in 1849, when U. S. troops were based in the tiny fort, overlooking the Trinity, that preceded the settlement here.

First known as the "Soldier's Well," it later was dubbed the "Frenchman's Well" in honor of its builder, a Dr. Gonnough who came here from Icaria, then a French settlement near the present site of Justin.

Work Still Stands

According to Dr. Howard, Dr. Gonnough learned stone masonry in France and practiced it in his adopted land as a hobby. Dr. Gonnough's work can still be seen in the old Rock Church Cemetery near Bluff Dale and the Acton burying ground near Granbury.

The Frenchman's skillful hands also fashioned the tombstones for

the children of Maj. Ripley Arnold, commander of the U. S. Second Dragoons at the early fort here. The children are buried in what is now Pioneer's Rest.

If the Historical Society's plans are carried out, a replica of the seven-building fort will be erected on the old Van Zandt property near Farrington Field, as an attraction for centennial celebration visitors.

The project would be carried out in conjunction with the Park Department, Dr. Howard said, adding that "the society hopes that other Fort Worth firms will take the same sort of interest in the fort park that the Leonards have in preserving the well."

MRS. W. A. SCHMIDT,
4812 MORRIS AVENUE
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76103

*Copied from papers in
the possession of
Mrs. Arthur O. Weisman
8/24/84*

Fort Worth's
First Well
To Be Saved

The Frenchman's well was situated on the east side of the property to be sold in 1850. It was dug by one of the early settlers who had come to the city in 1847. The well was dug for the purpose of supplying water to the property. It was one of the earliest wells in the city. The well was dug by one of the early settlers who had come to the city in 1847. The well was dug for the purpose of supplying water to the property. It was one of the earliest wells in the city.

FRENCHMAN'S WELL

Old Frenchman's Well, city's earliest landmark has intermingled story. Accounts differ as to when and by whom it was dug, but the W.P.A. history of the county credits a Frenchman by the name of Louis Whitmore with the well's inception. Charles E. Mitchell, an early day settler, claims it was dug by a Frenchman named Barbier in the 1850's, Barbier being from a French

colony near Dallas. Still another says the well was dug by one Dounoud, a Frenchman who lived in Fort Worth, helped settle the New Idria people in the valley near Justin of today. A street bears Dounoud's name, located east-west, just south of Pioneer Rest Cemetery. (See Bohemian Magazine for C.C. Cummings' story on New Idria Settlement)

New Signs Point Way Now To Frenchman's Well Here

New signs will guide you now—if you are interested—to Frenchman's Well, in an alley where Taylor Street slopes from Belknap Street toward the Trinity.

At the well appears a sign: "Frenchman's Well, 1857, marked by Six Flags Chapter, D. A. R."

An arrow points from Belknap Street to the well's location.

The well itself has been filled with earth long since, perhaps to keep curious children from falling into the shaft. But the hive-shaped masonry cover—like a cathedral crypt—stands 10 feet high, a monument to a man whose surname alone survives.

Old-timers recall hearing that a stone mason named Barbee migrated to Texas with the French colony that settled at old French Town, five miles west of Dallas. Barbee moved farther westward, built a stone schoolhouse

on Taylor, near Belknap Street, and then he erected a stone house for himself and family.

Probably he already had dug the well, but he at last, at the height of his craftsmanship, constructed the hive-shaped cover with a stout beam at its apex. The beam, though worm-eaten, still supports the rusty pulley that must have been added some years after Barbee dug the well.

Members of the Six Flags Chapter first learned of the well's existence through Wade H. Tanner, 1725 Fifth Avenue, whose daughter, Mrs. Claude L. Drennon, is a chapter member.

Mrs. W. P. Bowdry of Six Flags Chapter, chairman of her organization's state committee for the preservation of historic spots, has led in the move to mark the 75-year-old well.

Flowers have been set out at the well's base, and Mexican children nearby have promised to tend them.

DAR Chapter Places Marker At Old Well

On West Belknap Street, at the head of Taylor Street, a newly erected sign points north to an old pioneer well.

At the well is a marker reading "Frenchman's Well, 1857." This was placed there recently by the Six Flags Chapter, DAR.

The well was erected by a Mr. Barbee, who migrated to Texas with the French Colony that settled at the old French Town about five miles west of Dallas, according to Howard W. Peak.

Barbee was a stone mason and erected a school building near where Taylor Street intersects Belknap. He also built a stone residence, just south of the well. The well foundation serves for the present building there.

The well was on his place and was built in the style of his homeland in France, with a bee hive cover. The masonry was so well constructed the cover is still in almost perfect condition.

Mrs. R. M. Kelso and Miss Martha Darnall composed the committee in charge of placing the marker at the well. They have also laid out flower beds around the well.

Mrs. W. P. Bowdry, who is a member of the chapter and state chairman of the committee for the preservation of historic spots, assisted the committee in charge.

April 1932

This well must have dated from before 1857
as soldiers were gone by then

Old Frenchman's (Soldiers) Well

Original structure of old Ft. Worth, built in 1849 on bluff overlooking the Trinity, one block Northwest. Moved and rebuilt by Marvin and Obie Leonard for the Tarrant County Historical Society in 1848.

On Court house ground, Ft. Worth

The Double Log Cabin

At Holland's Lake. A monument to the pioneers of Parker County. The East Room with bullet scarred walls shows where George McCleskey was killed by Indians in 1873. The West Room was Dan Waggoner's headquarters. Ranch house built in 1855. Adopted meeting place for Old Settlers Reunions.

1.5 mi. E Weatherford, Parker County

Colonel Alfred G. Cooper

Seminole Florida War, 1836, Captain in Mexican War, 1846, Lt. Col. Confederate Army, 1862, born in Tennessee, June 22, 1817, died February 28 1883.

*Spring Creek Cemetery, 8 mi. S Weatherford, Parker County,
St. Hy 177*

To the Memory of

Isaac Parker

Pioneer, soldier, and law maker. Born April 7, 1793 in Elbert County, Georgia. Came to Texas in 1833. Served in Elisha Clapp's Company in 1836 Member of Congress of the Republic of Texas, 1839-1845, of the Constitutional Convention in 1845. State Senator. Died April 14, 1883 in Parker County.

Near Weatherford, Parker County

Samuel Joseph Redgate

Born in England, 1800, member of Legislature, 1858-1861, died May 20, 1893. Jane Yergins Jordt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Yergins, wife of H. E. Jordt, born in what is now Oklahoma, August 20, 1836, died April 8, 1896. In Memory of Mary Yergins-Redgate, born in Germany, June 11, 1816, died in Dayton, Ohio, October 31, 1881. Shortly after Mrs. Yergins was captured by Indians in 1836, a daughter, Jane, was born and the two were ransomed. Mrs. Yergins after the death of her husband, was married to Samuel J. Redgate.

Greenwood Cemetery, Weatherford

On This Site

Then a post-oak grove by the side of the old Fort Worth and Fort Belknap Road, the first District Court in Parker County was held in 1856 with Judge Nathaniel Burford, presiding.

6 mi. N Weatherford, Local Rd. 51, Parker County

Eastland County

Formed from Young and Bexar territories. Created February 1, 1858; organized December 2, 1873. Named in honor of Captain William Mosby Eastland, 1806-1843, hero of San Jacinto, member of the Mier Expedition who drew the first black bean at Salado, Mexico, and was executed on March 25, 1843. Eastland, the County seat.

.6 mi. W Eastland

Site of

First Oil Well Drilled in Eastland County

The J. H. McCleskey No. 1 discovery well of the Ranger Pool was drilled by Warren Wagner under the supervision of W. K. Gordon of the Texas Pacific Coal and Oil Company, July 2, 1917. Initial production was 1600 barrels with three million feet of gas. Abandoned May 30, 1930 after producing 275,000 barrels of oil.

3 mi. SW Ranger

The United States Military Telegraph Line

Established in 1874-1875 from Fort Griffin to Fort Concho, crossed here.

7 mi. E Baird, Callahan County

Belle Plain

First official county seat of Callahan County, 1877-1883. The first unofficial county seat was Callahan City where the Commissioners Court was organized, July 30, 1877, and several civil and probate cases filed. By an invalid election, October 13th, and by a valid election, December 9, 1877, Belle Plain was selected. On January 16, 1883, the county seat was located at Baird.

6 mi. N of Baird

Captain Andrew Jackson Berry

Indiana, May 16, 1816, died at Baird, Texas, July

MRS. W. A. SCHMIDT
4812 MORRIS AVENUE
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76103

Item

From

Date

Folder No.

MRS. W. A. SCHMIDT
4812 MORRIS AVENUE
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76103

without any grading at all and finished their work just in time.

Welcoming the Road.

The first train ran into Fort Worth at night. The engine pulling the train was a wood burner fired by hand, a wood chunk at a time. The entire countryside turned out to witness the spectacle of a real train running under its own steam. Having no modern noise-making devices like steam sirens and whistles and bells the enthusiastic Fort Worth boosters made anvils and steel bars answer the purpose. As the train rolled into the town a great cheer went up and untiring men kept up a din with the anvils and steel bars. Strong men embraced and shed tears of joy as they saw their dreams come true. Backs were slapped and men did flings about the streets to the flickering light of torches and a bonfire which had been lit. Witnesses say it was one of the most inspiring scenes they ever gazed upon for those who had stuck through the fight, who had wagered their all on the chance of getting the railroad to come on to the West knew when they saw the old wood burner come puffing out of the darkness that their town was made and that it would survive and not

perish as many had predicted when they moved away.

Indian Wars.

During the years after the Civil War and just before the construction of the first railroad into the city Indians, with Comanches in predominance, raided the territory to the West of Fort Worth, murdering settlers, stealing stock and burning crops and homes. They were put in their fighting and raiding moods because of the facts that the whites were ruthlessly slaying the game on which they depended for existence.

The whites were killing off the deer and wild turkey and other game, and the Indians resented this. To retaliate they pillaged and made their raids on the herds of settlers. They stole horses and cattle even would enter the homes of the frontiersmen and steal all the food in the house, it was said.

Fort Worth had a scrap over the location of the county seat similar to that which gripped Dallas in its early days. It seemed that Birdville, now only a small place, comparatively speaking, wanted the seat of the county government. An election was held and when the votes were counted it was found that Fort Worth had

won. But the residents of Birdville claimed, and justly so it was proven later, that the Panther City residents won illegally by importing a family from Wise County and allowing all its members to cast the votes which decided the election. The squabble was taken up and continued for several years and was still going on ten years later when the Legislature authorized another election. Before this was held one had lost his life, others were wounded, as the result of fistie encounters and gun fights. When the final election was held Fort Worth won. By being the county seat temporarily the population had been increased until a preponderance of the voters resided in Fort Worth.

Prosperity.

As the city began to grow there arose a great deal of rivalry between business men and property owners on the two main thoroughfares, Main and Houston streets. Houston street was the most popular because it was located nearer the residence districts, while at its south end South Main was headed almost directly into Houston street because of a jog. The owner of the Fort Worth Street Railway was heavily interested in property on Main street and not at all on the other thoroughfare. So when he decided it was time to build an extension of the line into

South Fort Worth he discovered a way to divert all the traffic up Main, leaving Houston street to its own devices. The new spur was built down Main street to Front street, where it was turned directly west and across Houston street and then south again and out on South Main. This was done instead of just continuing the line south at an angle from Main into South Main. And when he constructed the tracks across the lower end of Houston street the owner of the railway company took no trouble to lower the grade to coincide with the grade of the street at all. He left the tracks and ties above ground, effectually barring traffic from the south up Houston and turning it all to Main, on which he had much property.

Industrial Warfare.

The first cars were horsedrawn and frequently jumped the tracks. When this happened the driver would beckon friends who would aid him in lifting the cars back on the rails. The streets were unpaved and were muddy nearly all the time or filled ankle deep with fine dust. Sidewalks were of wood.

From the time the first train pulled into the city until ten years later Fort Worth thrived, but in 1886 industrial trouble beset the city. Other railroads had built to Fort Worth, including the Santa

Fe and the Missouri-Kansas-Texas.

Clashes occurred several times during the duration of the strike. Several people were killed when trains were ambushed by strikers, and traffic was suspended. Women aided their striking husband and fathers in the conduct of the dispute. When enough strike-breakers had been obtained to man a train and the train started these women would sit on the track and refuse to allow the train to pass. Many of them had babes in their arms. Engines were started down the tracks to frighten them off, but they stuck without wincing as the steel monsters were run within a few inches of them before being brought to a halt.

Boom Days Again.

When the strike was settled and harmony once more restored Fort Worth continued to grow and attract other railroads. Today it is a bustling city and though it bears the Fort prefix as a part of its name, no fort and no soldiers are found there.

While the modern Fort Worth bustles on in its complex modern day life, the remnants of its ancient birthplace stand forgotten. While the immaculate streets of the modern city are swept clean each day and night, this veritable cradle of its civilization is coated with the dust of years.

Notes on Sealy's - *by Emma Jane Berry*

My great grandmother, Mary Sealy, died here during the Civil war, and is buried in Pioneer Rest. Grandfather Sealy, her son, died in summer of 1869. They came to Texas years before from North Carolina, settling in south Texas, where they lived until after his marriage to Jane Charlotte Nance and the birth of Aunt Joella, the first baby, November 16, 1857. When they came to Fort Worth to live. Aunt Matt, (Mattie Baker Sealy Bolles,) was born in a room of the ~~old~~ old fort soon afterward. The fort was a square stockade with a large, one-room -and -loft, log house at the corner. There was a well in the enclosure and it remained for many years after the fort was gone.

Old Clipping Says Houses Lacking at Army Post Here

The impression there were houses at the old army post established as Fort Worth in the middle of the last century is removed by Col. Abraham Harris in a newspaper interview posted in an old scrapbook belonging to Mrs. Dave L. Keith, 1940 Fifth Avenue.

It is "one of those dreams originating in the mind of a romancer which became by much repetition accepted fact," one of the post's founders is quoted as saying. "There never was a blockhouse, stone or wooden fort of any kind at this post."

Mal. Ripley Arnold's headquarters were at his tent pitched on the block just west of the courthouse square, and his command camped around him according to army regulations.

Company F, to which Harris belonged, was assigned quarters near the bluff.

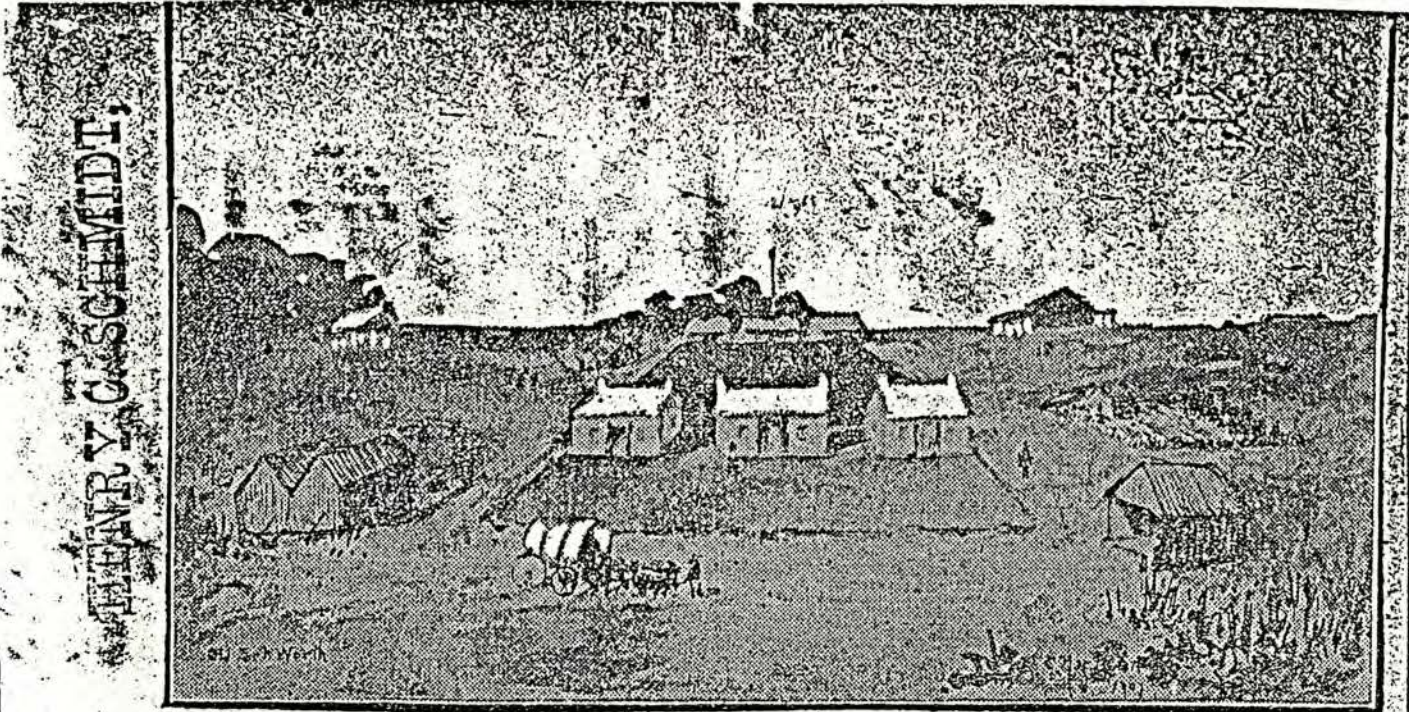
In the interview, written by Mrs. Moore Murdock, national commandant of the Dames of 1848, Colonel Harris is asked some of his early recollections of Fort Worth to which he responds:

"Henry Daggett came here and went into the merchandising business in 1850, and I was one of his first customers. Among other citizens then were Archie Robinson, who lived on Robinson's Branch; Leonard Edwards, whose home was out about six miles on the Cleat Fork; J. W. Conner, on the West Fork; Isaac Thomas and Isaac Sohwade just below the Conners; Jack Brauch still farther down, and following the northeast bend of the river was a settlement composed of the Elliots, Jordans, Gilmores and John York. All of these were pioneer settlers who came here before 1849 to make good claims to the colony head-right privilege: 640 acres of land to actual heads of families."

The interview was said to have been written when Colonel Harris was the oldest living citizen of Fort Worth.

FORT WORTH IN 1853

(This illustration of Fort Worth is made for the Record from a small water color sketch executed by Miss Christina McLain, according to a description by Mrs. Florence Peak, widow of Dr. C. M. Peak, a Fort Worth pioneer. The flag staff stands in the center of the square where the soldiers drilled. The houses surrounding all faced the square, the front row being the officers' quarters. The center house in the front row was the largest and was occupied by Major Ripley Arnold, in command of the post. This building was afterward used as a ^{Hotel} kept by Mr. Jack Brinson. The house to the right of the center was the surgeon's quarters. It was afterward occupied by Dr. Peak and was the birthplace of Mrs. Walden. The house to the left of the center was Lieutenant ^{Holloway} Holloway's quarters. It was later occupied by Mr. Julian Feild, father of Dr. J. T. Feild, and still later by Dr. Peak. Howard W. Peak was born there June 14, 1856. The row of buildings to the north of the square were the quarters of the soldiers. At the left of the square was the hospital with two small offices used by the quartermaster and the corner one used for commissary supplies. The little house in the upper left hand corner was the sutler's store, being on the site of the home of Mrs. Newman, on W. Belknap street. The building to the right of the soldiers' quarters was the cavalry stable, with a public well in front. In the lower right hand corner is Mr. Knerrar's blacksmith shop. *Knarr* The prairie schooner in the foreground is starting to Houston for supplies under command of John White. The trip occupied three months' time. The site of the fort was one block west of the courthouse square.)



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INTRODUCTORY

Historical

According to the best information, Mr. G. P. Farmer was the first settler in this immediate vicinity. On coming with one Edmund S. Terril, he camped in the live oak grove near the junction of the Texas and Pacific and Fort Worth and Rio Grande railways, southwest of the city, in June, 1849. Brevet-Major Arnold, in charge of the Second dragoons of United States troops, a few days previously had established a frontier post in a valley about one hundred and fifty yards west of the present Holloway place, and near the race track and old cemetery. The post was one of a cordon then recently designated to extend from Red River southwestwardly to the Rio Grande, as a protection against Indians and bands of marauders from Mexico. Major Arnold, on arrival, named the post "Fort Worth," after Gen. Wm. J. Worth, who had distinguished himself in making the first advance on the City of Mexico in September, 1847, and was then in command of the district.

Shortly after coming, Mr. Farmer sought the army surgeon for attention to the illness of the man with him. On that occasion, as sickness prevailed among the soldiers where they then were, he suggested the high bluffs (in the region of the Public Square) as a healthier spot for the post. The advisability of the change commended itself, and as soon as the proper arrangements could be made, a removal was effected to about the west side of the square. The officers' cabins were put just back of the building now occupied by the implement company, corner of Houston and Belknap streets; the shelter for the soldiers under the trees north of Haymaker's bath house, and the stables reaching out into the square. All were enclosed by a rope fence, as a kind of cattle guard, and there

INTRODUCTION

Historical

was any actual fort or stockade, as generally supposed. The only reason of its size and favorable location, became a base of supplies for those more distant.

The county was organized in the spring of 1850, and named for Brigadier-General E. H. Tarrant, who, in the spring of 1848, commanded the brigade district, composed of Cass, Bowie, Red River, Lamar and Fannin counties.

In November, '53, the last detachment of dragoons, under the command of Lieutenant Haliday, left the post. During the four years of its occupancy Major Arnold had retained the general command, being relieved by Major Merrill in '53, shortly before the abandonment. Major Arnold met his death in the hands of the surgeon of the post under peculiarly distressing circumstances, and his remains now rest in the old cemetery.

With the exception of a few from the friendly tribes, little was subsequently seen of the Indians. The first house built on the site of the town was by Mr. Farmer, near the corner of Weatherford street and a half of a mile from the forks of the river. Near the time the soldiers left, the community around the post averaged about 100; and in 1861 the population was about 350. But hardly any more than some straggling houses (little better than huts) existed up to nearly 1872, when Colonel Tom Scott and Mr. J. W. Forney encouraged the people to donate 320 acres to the Texas and Pacific Railway Company. From that period the real growth of the town may be said to have begun.

The first district court held in Tarrant county was presided over by Governor O. M. Roberts, exchanging with the first

MRS. W. A. SCHMIDT
14812 PARIS AVENUE
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76103

Old Frenchman's Well, City's Earliest Landmark, Crumbles Amid Trash, Weeds

Fort Worth Forgets Spot Prominent In Earliest History

Young boys today played about a crumbling, trash-filled mound of stone just west of the county jail. Glass from a broken whisky bottle littered the ground. Weeds grew in profusion.

Neglected and forgotten by a growing city, it doesn't look like much today. But this is the old Frenchman's well, Fort Worth's oldest link with its past.

Here was started the community of Fort Worth, which will be 93 years old tomorrow.

See that giant old sycamore tree that stands over the well? Maybe that tree is more than 100 years old. If it could only talk—

It can't, so Jack Killingworth, 9, of 505 W. Bluff, takes over. Jack and Kenneth Lee, 9, of 444 Burnet, play cowboy and Indian around the old well almost every day.

"This is the old Frenchman's well—it's been here since Indian days," Jack tells you. "See those old rotten sandbags up there? The soldiers used to hide behind them and shoot. And see those barbed wire marks on that old tree . . . that's where they put the wires to keep the Indians out."

At least that's what somebody told Jack.

He points to what he is sure are bullet holes on the rocks surrounding the abandoned well. And he tells of finding a "general's button" and an "old holster that some cowboys must have left around ere in the Wild West days."

Histories differ as to when the well was dug and by whom. The WPA history of the county credits a Frenchman by the name of Louis Whitmore with digging the well in the 1860's.

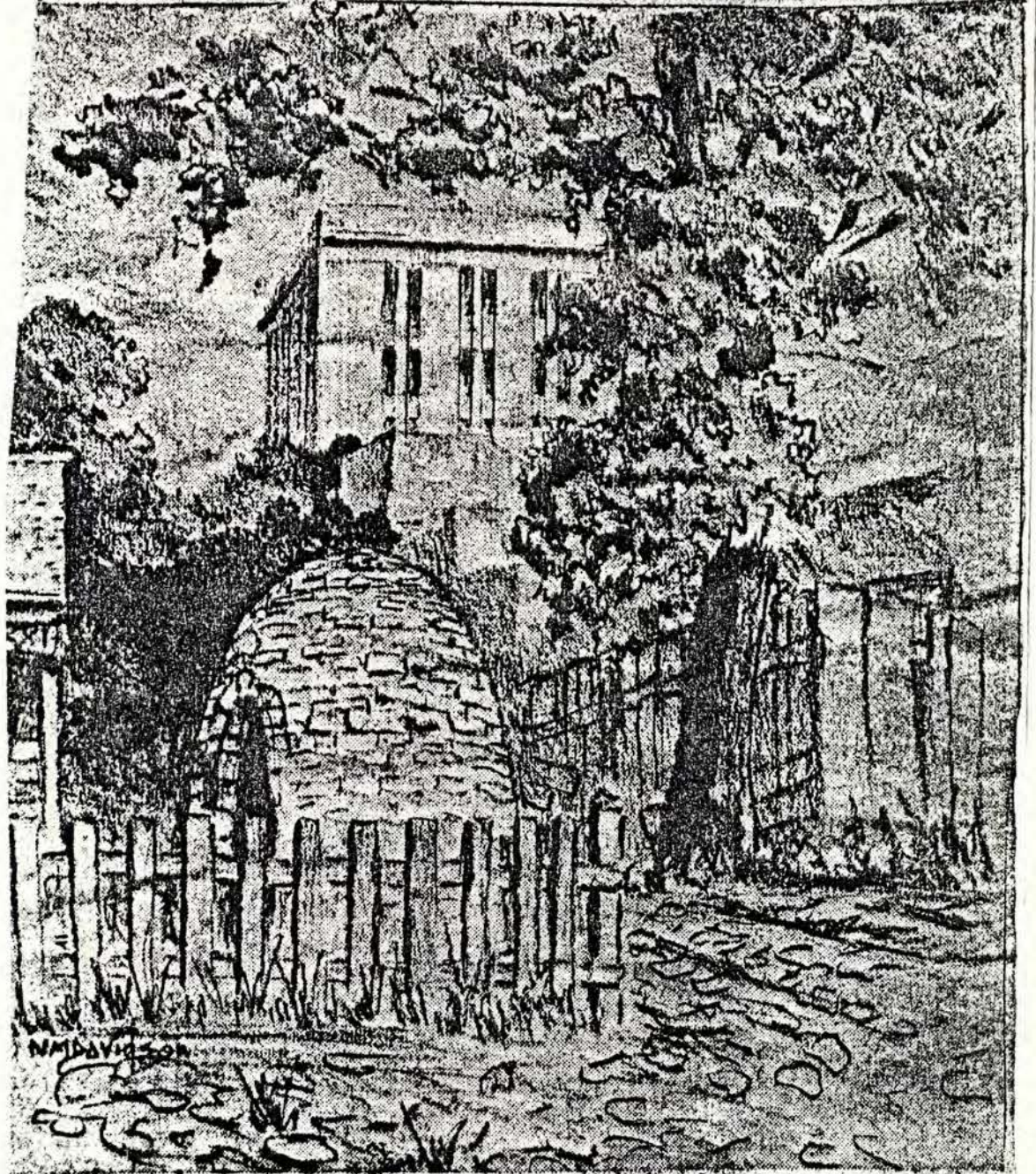
But C. E. Mitchell, an early settler, in his autobiography, claims it was dug by a Frenchman by the name of Barbier in the 1850's. Barbier was said to have come to Fort Worth from a French colony near Dallas. Perhaps one well



FRENCHMAN'S WELL, historical link with early-day Fort Worth, is a crumbling ruin today on the eve of the 93rd anniversary of the city's founding. In an alley off Taylor St. near Criminal Courts Bldg., it's a play-place for neighborhood boys like Jack Killingsworth, 505 W. Bluff, and Kenneth Lee, 444 Burnet.

was dug on the site of another—it doesn't make a lot of difference who dug it, or when. It's there. There are two entrances to the rock dome, one on the north side, the other on the south. The sloping wall on the north side is still intact, but the rocks on the south side, several times rebuilt, look like the ruins of an old Spanish mission. The well has been filled up.

A Relic of Early Day Fort Worth



This relic of early-day Fort Worth—a well-curbing which stands on North Taylor Street behind the Criminal Court Building—was sketched recent-

ly by N. M. Davidson. The structure, made of native limestone, once covered "Frenchman's Well," which is believed to date from 1857. The well now

is sealed but the curbing stands as a reminder of the period in which soldiers were garrisoned in Fort Worth.

Fort Worth Has Birthday, It's Eighty-Ninth, Tomorrow

Fort Worth has a birthday tomorrow, its eighty-ninth.

On June 6, 1849, 42 men in Company F of the Second United States Dragoons established a fort at the confluence of the forks of the Trinity River, and called it Fort Worth.

The name given to the outpost was adopted for the settlement which followed.

The War Department, without specific information from the matter of fact records, has concluded from reports that the fort was established

gold rush and Indian campaigns in the Southwest.

Brevet Maj. Ripley A. Arnold is listed in the records as the founder. It was named for Brevet Brig. Gen. William J. Worth, who died in May, 1849, at San Antonio after an outstanding army career.

Fort Worth was occupied steadily by the army until Sept. 15, 1863, when it was officially abandoned in the midst of the Civil War. The last garrison was commanded by Brevet Maj. H. W. Burdett.

1938

One said it in sleep, and as sleep induces the amount of dangerous.

born in an address on of Beauty to Goodness lned beauty as the "as-us" of the objective, and is-it-should-be-ness" of He mentioned the dif- pure and mixed art. person in the world n up with self-centered cannot appreciate pure ays looks upon beauty affects his fellow and uted. "That is our we begin to think of a being useful to us we ht of its beauty, for a f art is not useful, for to an end, but the end

Influencing the Cost us" was the subject of H. Golaz at noon.

ly Mrs. Percy V. Pen- peak on "What Our s of Its Girls." At 4 . Howe will speak on "What?"

coat of food was the ineday afternoon pro- methods of Buying as a ng the Cost of Food" a roundtable discus- Mary Gearing of the as. She condemned g, because it is liable e substitutes on the spot. She condemned les because the con- the extra expense in ondemned credit buy- buyer is apt to buy

Blodgett of the Uni- alked on "The Stock oups as a Means of t of Food." She de- he dinner as the door he demonstrated how nds of food thrown lized in soup.

enhill's subject was by Education in the ficiency." She said rance tests for chil- e bad, and reminded the ancient Greeks t the child to go t until 17 years old st audiences of the dress of Mrs. Percy rmer president of ation of Women's night on "Who outh or Age?"

hardships of young are unable to solve ause of a lack of standing from their

love and sympathy oncluded, "get into open, and when it here."

ND INDIGESTION. vils. Persons suf- ion. Mrs. Robert writes that when Mattoon she was a a indigestion and distressed her and like a heavy weight omach and chest. l at night, and felt t of the time. One in's Tablets cor- that she has since person.—Adv.

FIRM GETS CONTRACT

ial Safe Co., 824 awarded the con-

ship, was \$7,169,385.7

The system is made up of many individual properties. The report shows that most of these smaller lines were operated at a loss, but if they had been operated independently of the

\$339,000 above operating expenses.

The Shreveport, Sherman & South- ern showed a deficit of \$348,000.

The M., K. & T. first and second mortgage lines, embracing 1,448 miles, the trunk of the system, showed an average net income of \$8,015,000.

DEAL TO ALTER SITE FOR JAIL NEARLY CLOSED

A deal for the purchase of two lots, each having a frontage of thirty-six feet on Belknap street and immediately adjoining the market square property on the west has been practically closed by the city park board. A proposition will be submitted to county commissioners as soon as it is possible, providing for the addition of this property to the site of the new jail and criminal court building. It will enable the jail to be built forty or fifty feet west of the proposed location.

Commissioners Childers and Wall admitted Thursday that the plan had been proposed to them and both, while refusing to commit themselves definitely, seem to favor it.

"It will come nearer uniting everyone concerned than anything that has been suggested," Wall said Thursday.

Childers stated that he could not make a definite statement in regard to the attitude of the commissioners, but felt that they were "willing to go part way." The proposed arrangement is practically identical with one of the plans submitted by the women who desired to preserve the site of the old fort for park purposes.

The arrangement probably will mean that the commissioners will transfer the present jail site, directly north of the court house to the park board to be used for park purposes, in exchange for the tract west of the market square site. The determination shown by the park board in its attempt to secure the property indicates that the proposal to establish a large park between the courthouse and the river, in conformity with the Kessler plan, will be carried out.

SCHOOL SURVEY ON VOCATIONS NOW PROBABLE

If the Chamber of Commerce and the city school board can agree on arrangements for a vocational survey, it is probable more active steps toward extension of vocational training in the city schools will be taken in the near future.

MARKET SQUARE NOT FORT SITE, SAYS PIONEER HERE AT TIME

The fort from which Fort Worth took its name was not located on the site where the county commissioners plan to erect the new jail, but stood seventy to ninety feet west of the jail site, according to Sam Woody, 91, residing at 1200 Samuels avenue, who arrived in Fort Worth in 1849.

Woody says he is able to tell the approximate location of the site where the old fort stood by a time-worn fieldstone cistern still standing at Taylor and Bluff streets from which he declares he dipped many a drink of water back in the eighties.

Well Built by Soldiers.

The well was built by the soldiers in Major Ripley Arnold's command, and Woody says he saw them at work. He says that Major Arnold became a good friend to him, and that he got a team and covered wagon and would join the food supply trains which hauled rations from Houston to Fort Worth to feed the soldiers and citizens here.

Woody says he distinctly remembers that the old rock cistern was not far from the fort, and estimates the distance from the cistern to the fort to have been about seventy feet southeast. He says that the site occupied by the courthouse and the buildings on the block west of the courthouse as well as the proposed jail site composed the parade grounds.

Recalls Indian Fights.

"I remember when the Comanche Indians chased Indians belonging to another tribe to Fort Worth, and I saw the Indians who were being pursued run and hide in the cliffs around the old fort. They begged Major Arnold to help them, and he fired a cannon, which frightened the Comanches away. Although I remember some of the circumstances surrounding many Indian raids and fights, I never in all my life killed an Indian, and I am proud of it," declared Woody.

GERARD AT MADRID

MADRID, Feb. 22 (via London).—James W. Gerard, former American ambassador at Berlin, and his party arrived here this morning on their way to the United States.

GIRLS! TRY IT! HAVE THICK WAVY,

...ated iron. This particular form of iron is easily assimilated, does not blacken nor injure the teeth nor upset the stomach. It will increase the strength and endurance of weak, nervous, irritable, careworn, haggard looking women 200 per cent in two weeks' time in many instances. I have used it in my own practice with most surprising results.—Ferdinand King, M. D.

NOTE: NUXATED IRON recommended above by Dr. King can be obtained from any good druggist, with or without a physician's prescription, on an absolute guarantee of success or money refunded.

It is dispensed in this city by S. R. Burnett and all good druggists.—Adv.

"Down to Our Store"

- Granulated sugar, 13 lbs. \$1.00
- Good Prunes, 3 bls. 25c
- Evaporated Peaches, 3 lbs. 25c
- Evaporated Apples, 2 lbs. 25c
- 4 Crown Raisins, 2 lbs. 25c
- Seedless Raisins, 2 lbs. 25c
- Fancy Cooking Figs, 2 lbs. 25c
- Fancy Pitted Red Plums, lb. 30c
- White Swan Mince Meat, 3 pkgs. 25c
- Fancy Patent Flour, sack \$2.40
- Rolled Oats, 3 pkgs. 25c
- Macaroni, 3 pkgs. 25c
- Spaghetti, 3 pkgs. 25c
- Alphabetos, pkgs. 10c
- Egg Noodles, pkg. 10c
- Vermicelli, pkg. 10c
- Jello, 3 pkgs. 25c
- Jiffy Jell. 25c
- Minute Tapioca.
- Pata Cake Flour.
- Swan's Down Cake Flour.
- 10 bars good Laundry Soap. 25c
- Lye, 3 cans. 25c
- Rub-No-More Powder, 6 pkgs. 25c
- Life Buoy Soap, 6 bars. 25c
- Skat, 3 cans. 25c
- Large Ivory Soap, 3 bars. 25c
- Bengal Blue.
- Armour's Star Ham, lb. 24c
- Armour's Star Bacon, lb. 30c
- Good Breakfast Bacon, lb. 25c
- Smoked Shoulders, lb. 18c
- Dry Salt Chunks, lb. 16c
- Crusto, medium pails. 85c
- Crusto, large pails. \$1.65
- Creamery Butter, lb. 40c
- Oleomargarine, lb. 25c
- Fresh Eggs, doz. 35c
- Wisconsin Cream Cheese.
- New York Cheddar Cheese.
- Brick Cheese.
- Limburger Cheese.
- Imported Swiss Cheese.
- Pimento Cheese.
- Green Chili Cheese.
- Full line of vegetables. 50c
- Apples, peck. 10c
- Large Grape Fruit. 10c
- Oranges.
- Meat Scraps makes your hens lay, pkg. 25c
- Poultry Powders.
- Hen Food.
- Little Chick Feed.
- Chicken Chowder.
- Fancy Patent Flour, sack \$2.40
- Meat Market in Store.

H. E. SAWYER

203-205 South Main St. Lamar 5540.

Ab-h-ab-tlshooo!! Catching Cold?

Get a Bottle of

Mentho-Laxene

Take as directed—right away. Checks and aborts colds and coughs in 24 hours. Guaranteed. Nothing so good. Proven so. Makes a pint of Cough Syrup. All druggists.

King's Catarrh Bad Colds Cream for

FT. WORTH
 COLLECTION
 Item Clipping
 From Ft. Worth
 Star Telegram
 Date 3-11-1923
 Folder No. Landmarks,
 Monuments, Memorials

House of Logs from Original Fort Rich in Historic Relation

CLOSELY LINKED WITH GROWTH OF FT. WORTH

Pioneer Home and Its Builder

A little frame house on East
 Bellmead Street, there, were
 placed some of the logs with
 which the famous Fort Worth was
 built, the foundation of the present
 metropolis, the anniversary of which
 will be celebrated Nov. 17, 1923.
 The home is the property of Mrs.
 C. J. Gambrell, 81, now living at
 2114 Texas Street. She and her
 husband, who has long since depart-
 ed, built the little home from logs
 of the original fort in 1870.

The pioneer spirit is reflected in
 the life story of Mrs. Gambrell. En-
 twined with Indian raids, scalping
 parties, thievery and business hard-
 ships, it is closely linked with the
 frontier struggles of the city, which
 grew from a military outpost.

Moved Here in 1867.
 My husband, C. J. Gambrell, and
 I came to Fort Worth in September,
 1867, from Pontotoc County, Missis-
 sippi, in a covered wagon drawn
 by a pair of big mules," said Mrs.
 Gambrell.

"Before leaving home we had our
 bedding and extra clothing piled at
 the neighborhood cotton gin, to
 save space in our wagon.
 "We started out by going along
 and we were swamped here, too, no
 through to the Mississippi bottom
 without company it was reported
 to be full of desperadoes. We first
 thought that we could make it
 through in a day but the roads were
 so bad and the game was so high
 and jumping over the road that we
 soon found we had miscalculated.

"My heart sank within me when
 we saw that we would have to
 camp in the bottom and make enough
 two handfuls of panned-out corn
 a whole time after dark, with soldiers
 in close pursuit.
 "On Mountain Route.
 "About two or three days before
 we reached Fort Worth we met the
 granchippos and this was certainly
 discouraging, for they were dis-
 couraging all granchippos. This made
 me feel like turning around and go-
 ing back."

"We arrived in Fort Worth after
 being on the road about a month
 and it did not rain once all the
 way. We stayed here several weeks,
 then moved to a farm on the West
 fork of the Trinity River, where
 "This is how located."

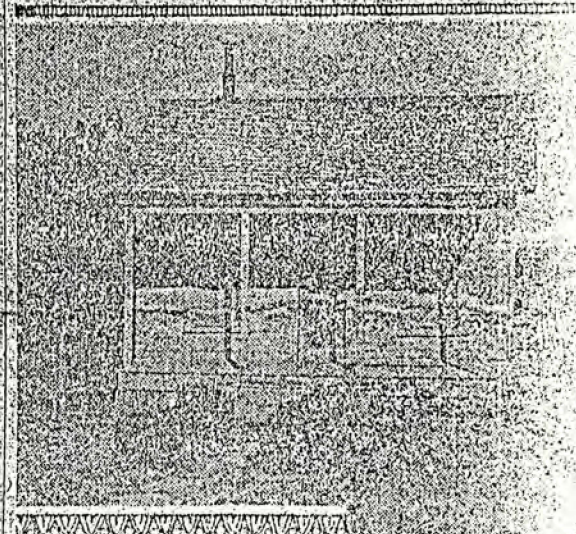
"Then the couple remained for
 some time. Mrs. Gambrell asserted,
 "The Indians were so bad coming
 in, killing and scalping people, and
 stealing horses and cattle that I
 told my husband that the world was
 too wild for us to live at a place
 like that." Mrs. Gambrell said, "So
 we bought a farm on Marine Creek,
 then about five miles from Fort
 Worth."

"Our next move was into the vil-
 lage of Fort Worth, in December,
 1870, where we bought ground front-
 ing on Bellmead Street, adjoining the
 old Fort grounds, for which we paid
 \$500 in gold."

"The framework on the two-room
 dwelling in the plot of ground into
 which we moved was constructed
 with some of the old Fort logs. My
 husband was in the grocery business
 on the west side of the square, just
 across the street west from the pub-
 lic well."

Business Reversed Recalled.
 When the T. & P. railroad into
 Fort Worth was delayed, her hus-
 band, with other business men, went
 to Aurora, Texas, Wise County,
 planning to enter the grocery busi-
 ness at that place. That was in the
 Fall of 1873 and business was so
 dull here that a number of people
 experienced difficulty in making a
 living.

"My husband took typhoid fever
 and died in 1874," she continued. "I
 brought his body back to Fort
 Worth and buried him in the Pio-



MRS. CATHERINE J. GAM-
 BRELL, 81, widow of John
 C. Gambrell, who came to
 Fort Worth in 1867 from Mississippi.
 The little frame house was built in
 1870. In its logs some of the logs
 from the old fort. It is located at
 614 North Hamilton Street.

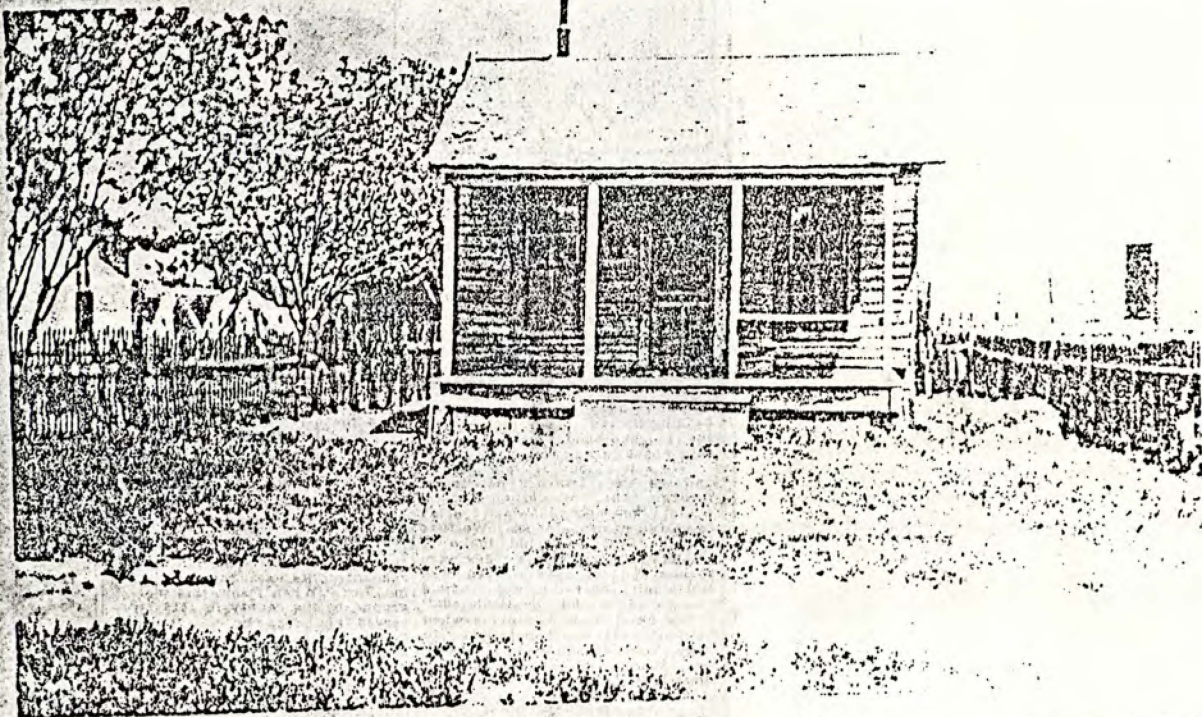
"I moved back
 home on Bellmead Street and
 raised my family there.
 "Preserved by Sentiment.
 "All of these years I have care-
 fully preserved this little house on
 account of its association with the
 old Fort. When I sold this plot of
 ground to the county in 1918 I re-
 served this house and gave it to my
 two daughters who bought a lot and
 moved this house out.
 "These logs are in a good state of
 preservation to this day. I cele-
 brated an anniversary last month on
 the fifteenth of October and have
 been living at 2114 Texas Street for
 the last 28 years."

Hallam family

owned by C J Gambrell 1870

earlier on Balknap
adj. fort grounds.
paid \$500. in gold.

House at 616 N. Hampton Street in which are used some
of the old logs that went in the fort, 1849, at Fort Worth.
This house is at 616 N. Hampton.



Number at 616 N.
Hampton Street in
which are used
some of the old
logs that were in
the fort, 1849, at
Fort Worth.

POST CARD

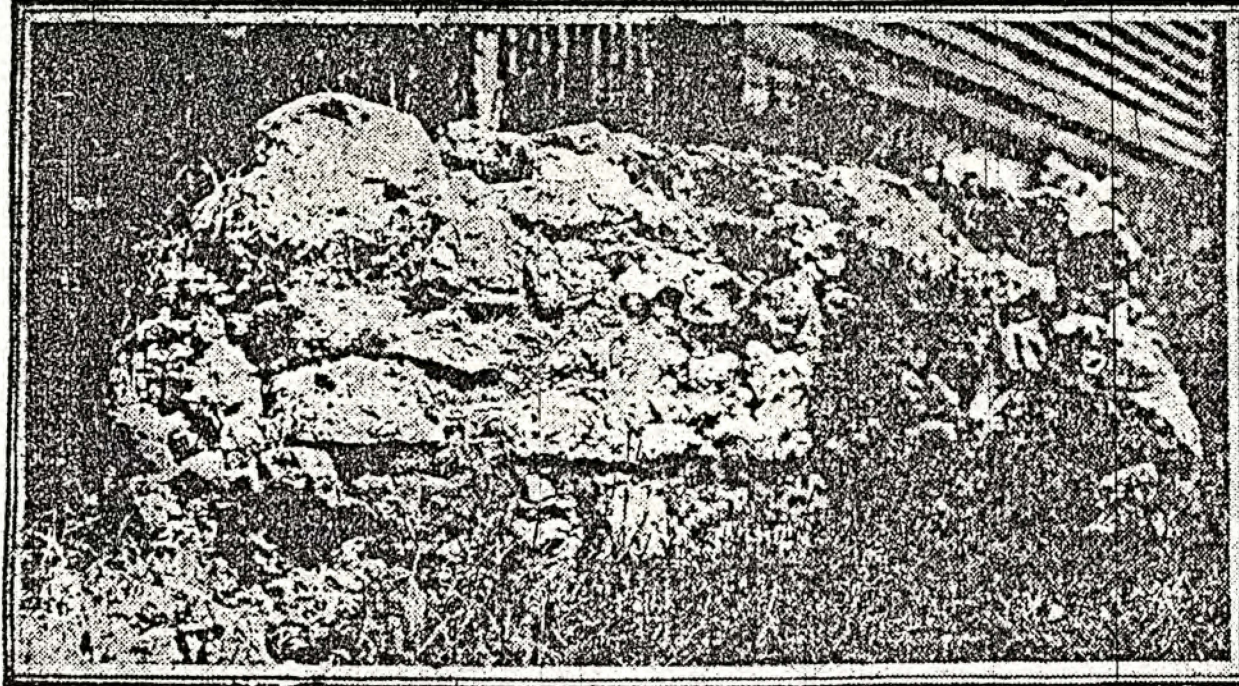
This house is at 616 N.
Hampton Street,
Fort Worth, Texas

N N O K O
O PLACE N
K STAMP O
O HERE K
O N O K O

1879
Mary, Virginia, Va.

THE UPON WHICH RUINS OF OLD FORT WORTH STAND WILL BE CONVERTED INTO SOUTH'S MOST BEAUTIFUL PARK TO HONOR TARRANT SOLDIERS

Star Telegram Aug 3 1915 20



A jagged piece of white masonry, protruding from the weeds.

A stone arch over a well stuffed with garbage.

These are the neglected ruins of Fort Worth, the military post from which one of the proudest cities in the United States obtained its name and from which its history dates.

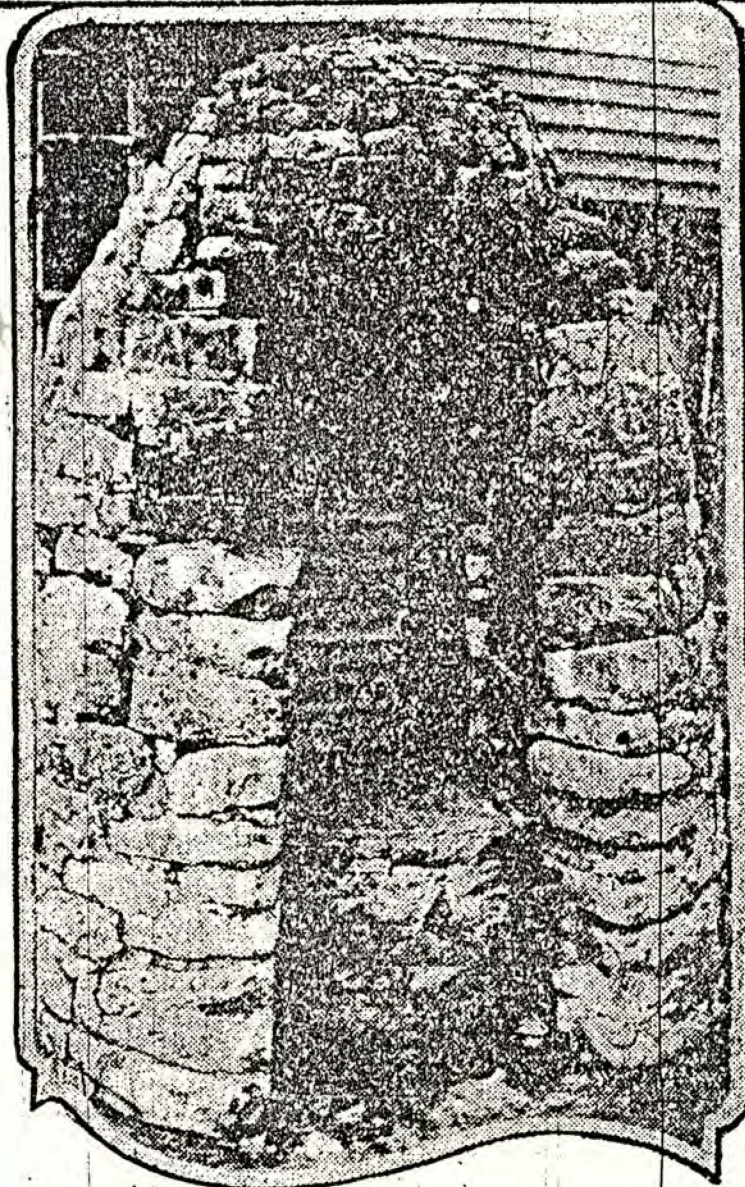
The ruins are at the intersection of Bluff and Taylor Streets, a block east of the Courthouse and a few hundred yards from the Trinity. A tenant house is built directly over the spot where the Fort once stood. The well is in an alley.

The Tarrant County Memorial Association will soon ask a bond issue to buy this property as well as the old Tarrant County public square. Thirty acres in all will be purchased and it will be made into a park commemorating the Tarrant County heroes in the World War.

The most beautiful and elaborate park in the South, covering thirty acres and taking in the bluff of the Trinity,addock Viaduct and portions of the Trinity River bottom, is the plan of the Tarrant County Memorial Association.

The Association is an organization to build a suitable memorial to every Tarrant County soldier who participated in the World War. It is one of the strongest organizations in the State, having for its unit members from every civic and commercial club in Tarrant. The reach of its influence extends to every community and hamlet in Tarrant County. In Fort Worth it is the women's civic clubs, the Parent-Teachers' Associations, alumni clubs, the commercial luncheon clubs belong to it and in rural districts the community and school house clubs are also affiliated with it.

Already the projected plan has the approval of the entire membership. Opinions have been obtained on about thirty acres of land along the Trinity River bluff northeast and immediately north and northwest of the Courthouse covering the identical spot where the old



VILLA JUAN MOVED TO ISLATON

(By New York Times Special Leased Wire) WASHINGTON, Sunday. Mexico, contain all the movements and all the movements of Villa and Go with a hint of their coming in the advance announcement recently received at the Mexican Embassy here have been dispersed comes from a Villa Chihuahua City and that the intelligence communicated to the United States authorities who serve in the border campaigns.

Acting on Villa's tactics, after the V out of Juarez by Ar retired southwest force in the desert, decided to employ a distant from the forces were then necessary purposes subsistence without upon the population that this scattering report of the disintegrated troops given out by the embassy.

The desire of Villa to capture Juarez was a base of supplies for their military force their subsistence force was also desired to try and it was believed Juarez the United States government in time to report of El Paso. The Carranzistas, however, Villa plan.

The population of reported to be about between secret supporters said to be general Chihuahua City that Villistas by American rebel leader back months. Reports from and Angeles have again and that Am is on his way to take refuge in these reports are by the Villa and on the border week ago last Wednesday leaders held a meeting miles of Chihuahua their plans for capture.

site beautified while in their present state.

Building The well is but a from the banks of the early defenders were the Indians that the river after water. The Redskins would vegetation along the and take pot shots they went to get was dug and over a oval shaped arch, seventy years which deteriorated it.

Tonkawas was a Indian tribe which was as. They were one of most of them lived. The military co



FIRST WELL — The last remains of the original fort was the old Dutchman's Well just north of Belknap on Taylor Street. It was accidentally smashed by a garbage truck in the 1940s.



Know Your Fort Worth

(one of a series)

3

THE OLD "FRENCHMAN'S WELL" has been nearly forgotten by a growing city as a historic link with early days in Fort Worth. The old well is located in what is now an alley off Taylor Street near the Criminal Courts Building. It was dug during Indian days, although histories differ as to when and by whom. The W.P.A. history of this county credits a Frenchman by the name of Louis Whitmore with digging the well in 1860, but C. E. Mitchell, an early settler, claims in his autobiography that it was dug by Barbier, a Frenchman, in the 1850's. Stories are told of early-day soldiers hiding behind it to shoot. There are two entrances to the rock dome—one on the north side, the other on the south. The sloping wall on the north side is still intact. At one time, it was the town's only water supply. The old well is now filled but it is a real historic landmark in Fort Worth.

MRS. W. A. SCHMIDT
4812 MORRIS AVENUE
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76103

st-Teachers' Associations, alumni clubs, the commercial luncheon clubs along to it and in rural districts the community and school house clubs are also affiliated with it.

Already the projected plan has the approval of the entire membership. Opinions have been obtained on about thirty acres of land along the Trinity River bluff northeast and immediately north and northwest of the Courthouse covering the identical spot where the old military post of Fort Worth was established, taking in the place on the river where pioneer settlers forded it when they came to town and all of the old grounds known in days past as the public square.

Authorize Purchase.

W. A. Hanger, one of the leaders in the movement, went before the Commissioner's Court of Tarrant County last week and asked the court how it could view the proposition of substituting a bond issue for the purchase of the land. The Thirty-fifth Legislature passed an act providing that a county may buy or authorize a bond issue for the purchase of land for parks for the improvement of land for county park purposes.

The Tarrant County Memorial Association, having for its object a memorial for the entire county, also intends that the park shall be in fact Tarrant County park. The County Courthouse will be the key building in the park plan. Much of the ground taken in by the options secured already by the Association was formerly the public square of Tarrant County, where farmers and tradesmen and townsmen mingled in days gone by.

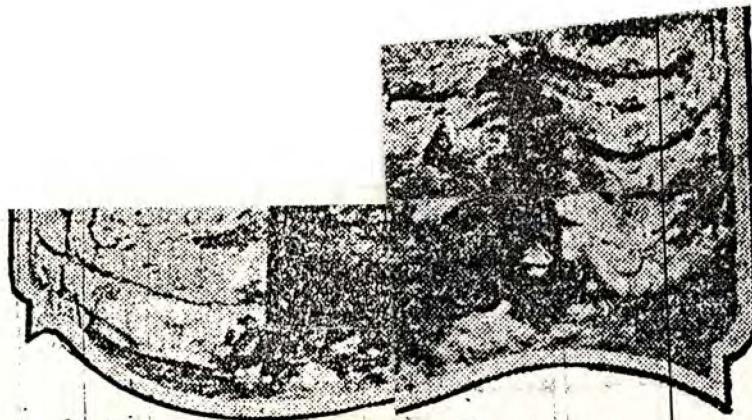
"Time was when every Saturday and now and then on first or second Mondays the public square was filled with folks," said Hanger. "The public square was an institution, and it was a big part in the life of the people of the county. There the old settlers and the country and town men met. Stories were swapped and reminiscences were exchanged. It was the point of contact between the town and the country and the established meeting place between farmers.

Public Square Has Passed.

"The public square has passed. Little stores have crowded in and exchanged it from the face of the town. But in its place we intend to build the Tarrant County Memorial Park, which will be one of the beauty spots of the world. The tentative landscape plans which have been drawn will make it one of the most wonderful parks in the country and Tarrant County will be known far and wide as having made the finest memorial to the soldiers of the county who went to the army to fight the Hun."

The park will be unique because in the expanse of the thirty acres will be included the most historic spots in North Texas. Besides taking in the old public square the Tarrant County Memorial Park will include the ford high farmers living to the north of Fort Worth crossed in coming into the city. The Trinity was an impassable stream in practically every place at that time. No bridge spanned it. Just north of the present Paddock Viaduct a few hundreds yards is the old ford. Shambling shacks now surround it but still there is the distinct trail that led into the white rocks of the cliff. "The pioneer's trail," a well laid out roadway through the park following its route is a tentative arrangement in the plans for the Tarrant County Memorial Park.

The park will be wonderful in perspective. The old jail will be razed and the ground it covers will be made a part of the park. The Courthouse will be the central figure in a group of ornamental—but all serving a utilitarian purpose—which complete plans include. The entire bluff will be cleared of the



The top picture shows the remains of the old Federal fort, built by the garrison that founded the city. Below is the well from which the garrison drew its water. Both are still standing near the Courthouse and are included in the Memorial Association's park site.

Courts and Civil Courts buildings will be surrounded by groves and beautiful landscapes. The Paddock Viaduct will be about the center of the park.

Establishment of Fort.

The identical spot where in the Spring of 1849 Maj. Ripley Arnold of the Second Regiment of United States Dragoons, under the directions of the Secretary of War, established Fort Worth, will be included and preserved inviolate from commercial buildings forever. The remains of the old fort are now grown over with shrubbery and covered with small tenant houses.

The old well, built of stone and with a well constructed stone structure over it, is stuffed with garbage. This spot is one of the most historic in Texas and Hanger and other members of the Tarrant County Memorial Association consider it a near reproach upon the citizenship of Tarrant County that no steps have been hitherto taken to either perpetuate it or mark it. Not even a slab nor a sign marks it as the place where the first military post was placed in North Texas by the United States Government to claim this country, now the richest section in the world in natural resources, from the Indian. Fort

Worth was the first of a chain of military posts established in North Texas.

The soldiers under the command of Major Arnold first encamped a mile to the north of the present Courthouse and after a brief stay there it was removed to the northwest corner of the old Public Square. The post received its name from Gen. William J. Worth, a major general in the United States Army during the Mexican War and one of the heroes of that war, the soldiers at the post having served under him during that struggle.

The original fort consisted of roughly constructed barricades and a log cabin and small outposts. Plans at present are not definite as to whether or not it will be restored or the present

—Staff Photos.

site beautified while the ruins are left in their present state.

Building of Well.

The well is but a few hundred yards from the banks of the Trinity, but these early defenders were so harassed by the Indians that a short trip to the river after water was very hazardous. The Redskins would lie in the scraggly vegetation along the banks of the river and take pot shots at the soldiers when they went to get water. So the well was dug and over it was placed a conical shaped arch, so well built that the seventy years which has passed has not deteriorated it.

Tonkawas was the name of the Indian tribe which inhabited North Texas. They were expert horsemen and most of them lived on horseback.

The military contingent was kept here until 1852, when it was withdrawn but Fort Worth was not abandoned however, it remaining in Federal hands a few years. Later it was abandoned.

In the meantime Tarrant County had been formed, named after Gen. Edward H. Tarrant. With the loss of the Fort, Fort Worth obtained the county seat. An effort was made to drop the "Fort" from the name of the city, but this was unsuccessful.

VERSATILE.

Nip Harper says that when he takes his double-barrel shotgun to go hunting, Towser refuses to be stampeded by trees hanging full of squirrels and would hunt nothing but quail. When he takes up his rifle, then the sagacious animal will not cast even a side-long glance at a quail, but gives his whole attention to squirrels. When Nip takes up his club, neither squirrels nor quail can secure any attention from Towser. He has eyes for rabbits only. And the other day, when Nip took his

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FULL COLLEGE AND
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Personal Attention—Distinguishing feature of the Academy. Every boy looked after every day.

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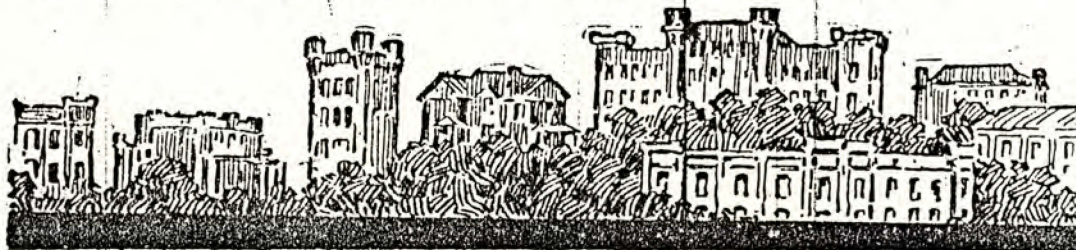
COL. I. L. RICE, President

P. O. Box 44

Prospective patrons desiring a personal interview with our faculty please address A. B. Buchanan, Box 280, Fort Worth, Texas.

Lebanon, Tennessee

representative w



Frenchman dug first public well in Fort Worth

BY BILL FAIRLEY
Special to the Star-Telegram

In 1857, a pioneer woman entered a beehive-shaped well house, took a bucket from a stone shelf and cranked the container into the water 60 feet below.

After a few minutes, she cranked the heavy, water-filled vessel back to the top and poured the contents into two of her own buckets. She replaced the well bucket on the shelf, picked up her buckets by long rope handles that she put over each of her shoulders. Then, she trudged wearily back down the hill to her family's one-room log cabin near the confluence of the two branches

of the muddy Trinity River.

Fort Worth's first community water department was in place.

Before the well opened, Fort Worth residents depended on individual wells or bought water from vendors who hauled water into the city on wagons. About 300 people lived in Fort Worth in 1857, and they paid to have a well dug to provide free water to residents.

French emigre Alexandre Barbier, a stonemason and well digger, constructed the well.

In 1855, Barbier and several French natives arrived in Texas and settled in La Reunion, which organized along the lines of a com-

munist-style colony. All land and profits from their individual labors went into the central treasury with each member sharing equally.

In 1856, however, the treasurer absconded with the assets, and the commune broke up. Three La Reunion families, including Barbier's, came west to Fort Worth.

Fort Worth residents hired Barbier to dig a well where 212 Taylor St. is today, just north of West Belknap Street and across Taylor from the Ripley Arnold Apartments.

Local boys followed the Frenchman as he slowly and carefully erected the well house using

limestone blocks he had cut, according to the memoirs of Charles E. Mitchell, who was 7 at the time that the well was built.

Ruby Schmidt, a member of the Tarrant County Historical Commission, researched the well several years ago and wrote that the well house was "10 feet high in a beehive-shaped cone; its walls were three feet thick. It had a stout beam at the apex which supported a chain pulley. A shelf niche inside held a water bucket. There were openings on the north and south sides" large enough for a person to enter the structure.

Many people incorrectly thought

11-12-97

Tales from WHERE THE WEST BEGINS

Stories from the colorful
history of Tarrant County

that soldiers stationed at the Fort Worth Army base had built the well, Mitchell wrote. Soldiers built a 90-foot-deep well in the middle of what is now Houston Street, near where the Tarrant County Courthouse stands today, but that was only to serve the fort.

Mitchell knew Barbier well. The Frenchman built his home 50 feet

(More on FAIRLEY on next page)

11-12-97

Fairley

From previous page

north of the well on what is now North Taylor Street where it runs downhill into the Tandy parking lot.

The location was just west of where the 2nd Dragoons' fort stood, named by the commander, Maj. Ripley Arnold, in honor of Gen. William Jenkins Worth, hero of the Mexican War.

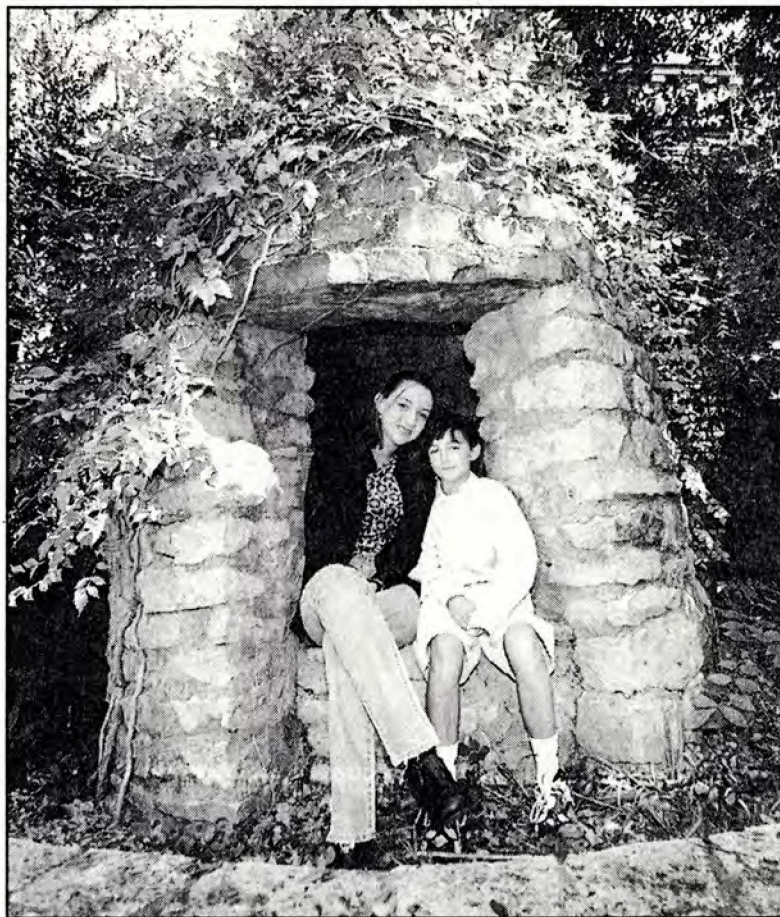
Large public water wells, such as Frenchman's Well, were rarely used after city water began being pumped into homes and businesses in 1884. Only those who lived within a few blocks of Frenchman's Well continued to use it.

In 1933, 75 years after Barbier had completed the well, the Six Flags Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution erected a commemorative sign beside the well: "Frenchman's Well, 1857, Marked by Six Flags Chapter, D.A.R."

The well had long since been filled with dirt because it was considered a hazard for neighborhood children.

In 1940, when the Federal Housing Authority was beginning construction of the Ripley Arnold Apartments across Taylor Street from the well, Roscoe Ady, an official of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, sought an injunction to prevent demolition of the well by "persons who are removing stones from its walls."

Ady said he was working with the housing authority to "help preserve the well."



Special to the Star-Telegram/TOM PENNINGTON

Lili Hyder and Peter Rowan More sit in a Frenchman's Well House that was originally built in 1857 and later rebuilt on property now owned by the children's grandmother Martha Hyder.

But in the mid-1940s, the hive-shaped well house was toppled by a garbage truck, strewing the stones, bricks and mortar across what had become an alley.

In 1949, the Tarrant County Historical Society, to commemorate Fort Worth's 100th anniversary, planned to mark the exact well spot with a historical plaque. The group also proposed that the structure be

rebuilt, using the original stones, across from the west side of Courthouse Square.

Department store owners Marvin and Obie Leonard, who then owned the property where the original Frenchman's Well was located, agreed to pay for rebuilding the familiar beehive-shaped structure west of the courthouse. But the well house soon had to be dismantled when the courthouse was expanded.

Most of the huge stones were salvaged and purchased by Ollie Burnet, who rebuilt an almost exact replica of Frenchman's Well in the garden of her Fort Worth mansion.

Today, the site of Frenchman's Well is covered by the jail complex. And the salvaged stones that were reshaped into a well house are in a Grecian setting surrounded by a trumpet vine at the Rivercrest estate of Martha Hyder.

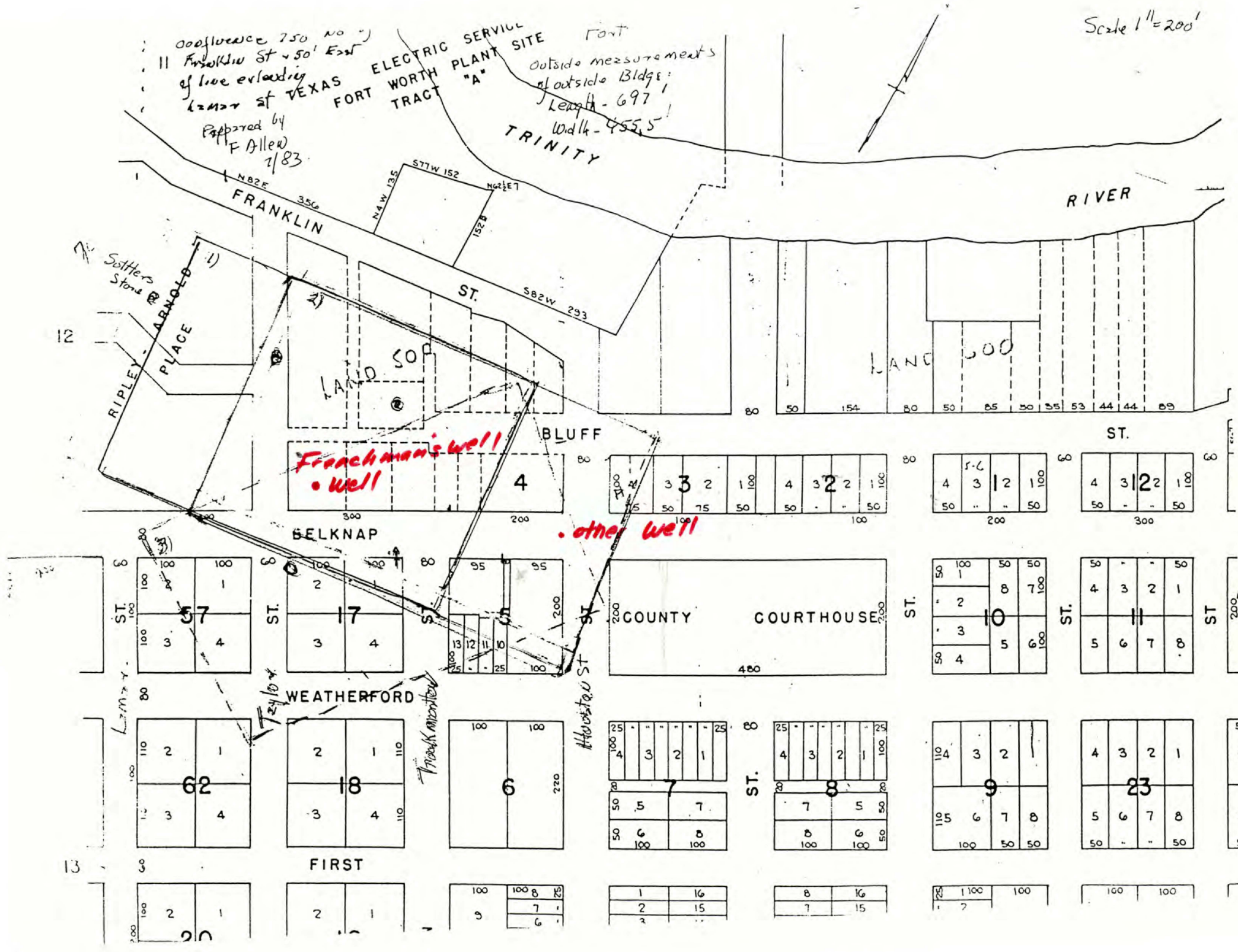
Sources: Fort Worth Star-Telegram story, June 1938; Charles Ellis Mitchell's memoirs, a portion of which were published in the Fort Worth News-Tribune in January 1976; and the private memorabilia collection of Charles O'Toole, Fort Worth.

Bill Fairley is a longtime Fort Worth resident interested in the history of Texas and Tarrant County. You can e-mail him at billfairley@star-telegram.net

Scale 1" = 200'

confluence 750 No
11 Franklin St ~ 50' East
of live existing
12227 St TEXAS
Prepared by
F. Allen
2/83

ELECTRIC SERVICE
PLANT SITE
FORT WORTH TRACT
"A"
outside measurements
of outside Bldgs:
Length - 697'
Width - 455.5'



Sottlers Stone
RIPLEY ST
ARNOLD ST

Frenchman's well
• well

other well

WEATHERFORD ST

FIRST ST

Houston St

ST.

ST.

ST.

ST.

ST.

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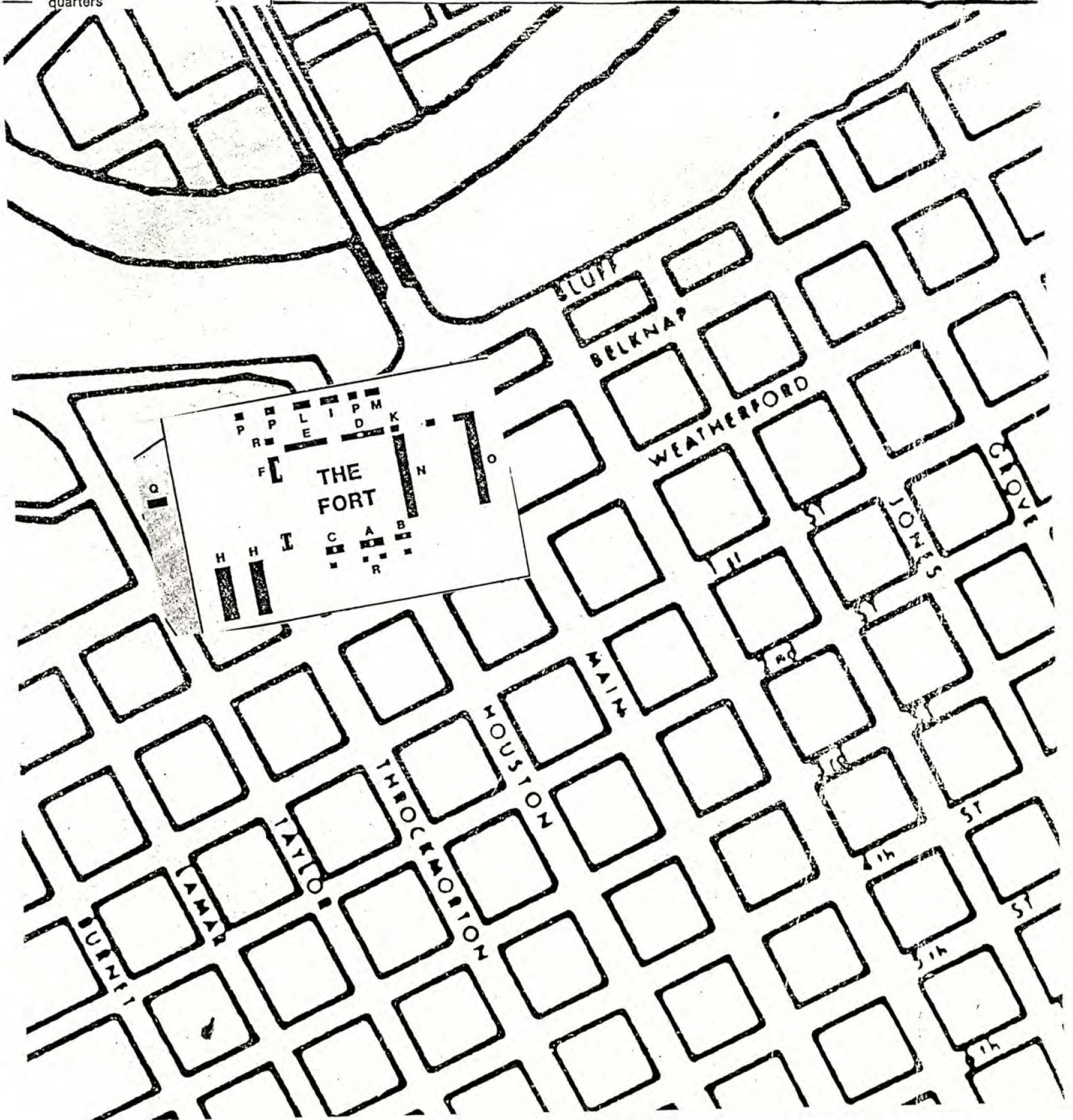
ST.

ST.

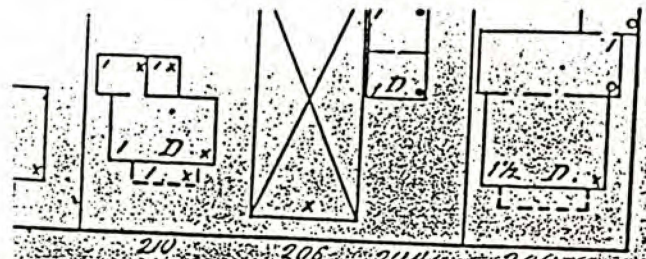
Identifications of the buildings

- A - Commanding Officers Quarters, two rooms
- B - Officers quarters, two rooms
- C - Officers quarters, two rooms
- D - Quarters Company B, 2d Dragoons, two double buildings with passage between
- E - Unoccupied company quarters

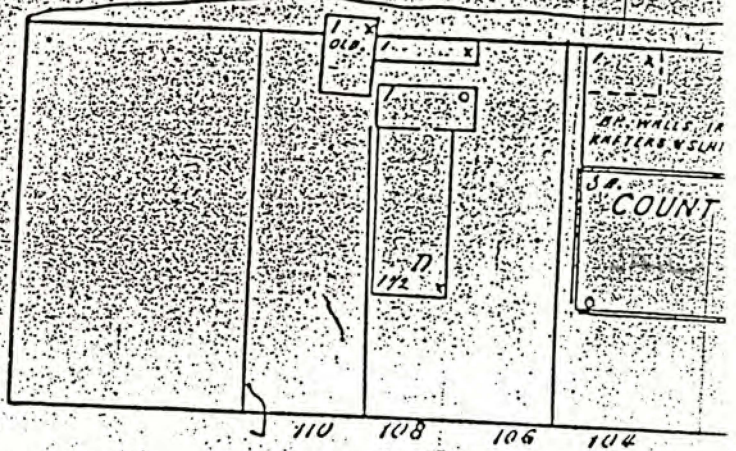
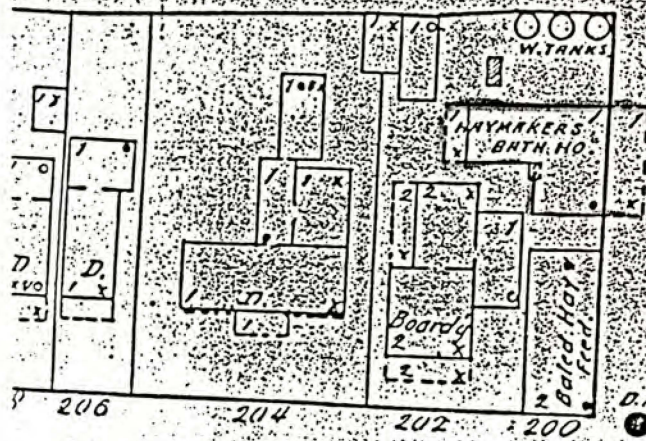
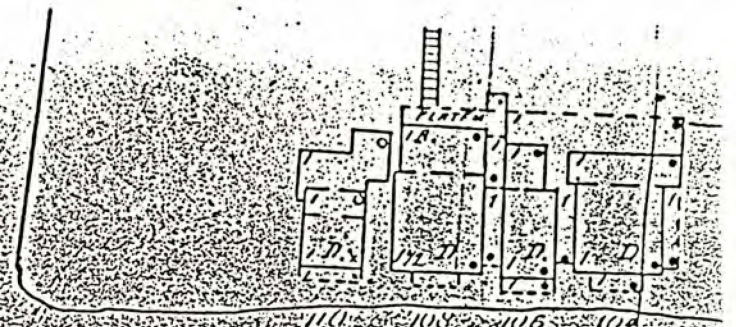
- F - Hospital, two rooms
- G - Adjutant's Office, two rooms
- H - Two commissary's storerooms
- I - Quartermaster's storeroom
- K - Guard House
- L - Bake House
- M - Company G Troop shed
- N - Company G Stable
- O - Unfinished quartermasters stable
- P - Laundresses
- Q - Sutler's Store
- R - Kitchens



1885 Sanborn Map

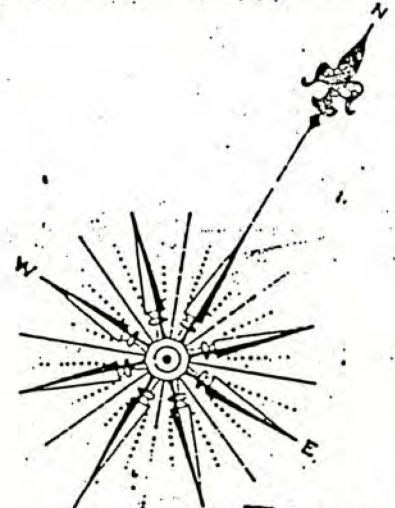
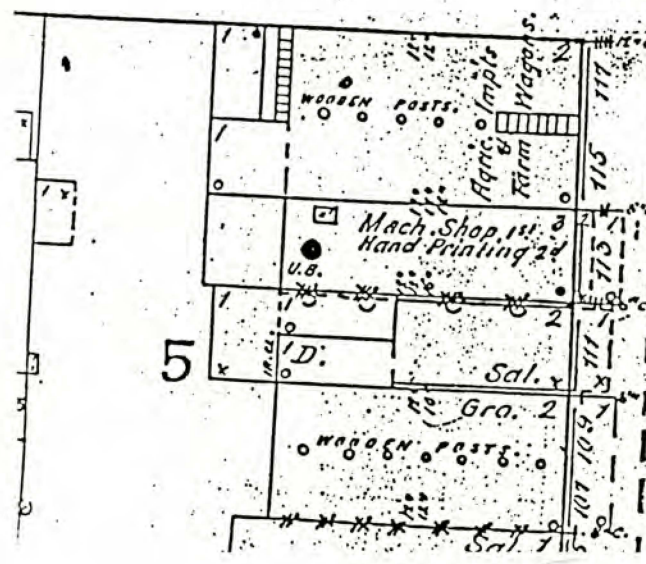


W. BLUFF



N. BELKNAP

HOUSTON

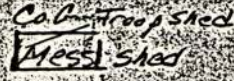
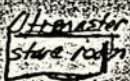
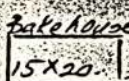


PUBLIC SQ.

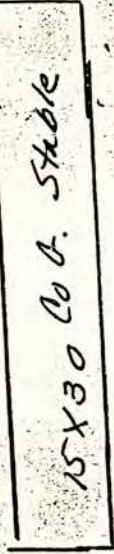
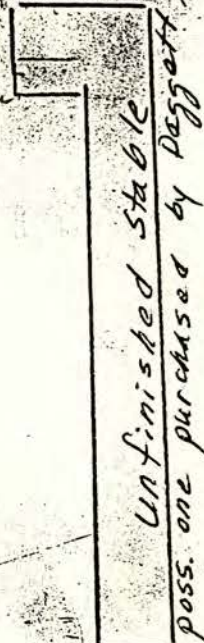
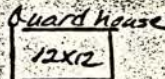
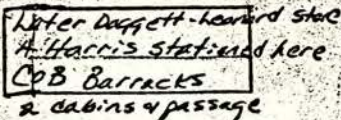
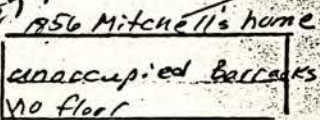
(Very rough Draft)

Bluff of River

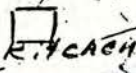
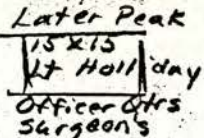
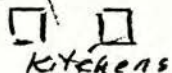
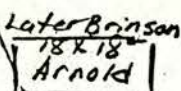
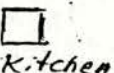
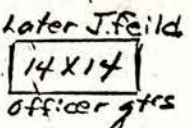
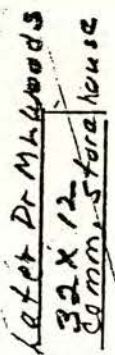
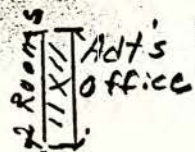
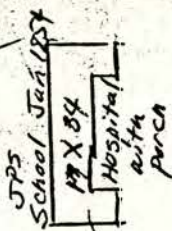
Heritage PK



staff



Ed Tennell after Soldiers left
Suttler
G.W. Newman
1877



Note: well actually midway between Bluff (alley) and Belknap although boundary

An old stone well dug to serve those on the bluff overlooking the Trinity was located at the alley of Taylor Street and will soon be a forgotten memory. A hive-shaped masonry hood stood high over the well to protect those drawing water. Although well marked in the 1930s, the well fell into disuse and was eventually torn down. A token rebirth of the hood on the court house square lasted only a short time, due to the building of the adjacent courtrooms on the west side.

Watch portrait, etc for 1983 new

FRENCHMAN'S WELL 200 block of Taylor

The old well has been nearly forgotten by a growing city as a historic link with early days in Fort Worth. The old well was located in what is now an alley off Taylor Street near the Criminal Courts Building. It was dug during Indian days, although histories differ as to when and by whom. The W.P.A. history of this county credits a Frenchman by the name of Louis Whitmore with digging the well in 1860, but C. E. Mitchell, an early settler, claims in his autobiography that it was dug by Barbier, a Frenchman, in the 1850's.

Still another says the well was dug by one Gounoah, a Frenchman who lived in Fort Worth, helped settle the New Icaria people in the valley near Justin of today

Another version gives the address as 212 N. Taylor. Says that the well is of heavy stone blocks and tapers to an arched top. The walls are nearly three feet thick. 1915 newspaper.

I personally know that until it was moved it still contained a heavy beam to support the rope and bucket. There was a wooden shelf on the inside to place the bucket when not in use.

Dates of opening of the El Paso, Sept. 22, 1877; was expanded and called the Pickwick in 1886; renovated and called the Delaware 1891; razed in 1910 by Benj. J. Tillar and the Westbrook built by him in 1911.

When opened in 1921, the hotel was called The Texas; shortly thereafter it became known as Hotel Texas.

Ginger Rogers (Virginia Katherine McMath) b. Independence, Mo. 16 July 1911, daughter of Eddins and Ela Emogene (Owens) McMath. Began as child dancer in 1930. Step father John Rogers.

City Directory of 1945 lists 3135 E. Lancaster, Tarrant County Children's Home.

T&P marker date 1980.

Oakwood entrance marker enclosed.

Saunders marker sponsored by North Fort Worth Historical Society.

AZLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH Incise: Azle Historical Museum, CWF, Azle Christian Church 117 Church St. 1980

Birdville Church of Christ, 3208 Carson St., Fort Worth 1979

Birdville Cemetery 1975 6100 Cemetery Rd., Haltom City

Barkley 1979

TEXAS SESQUICENTENNIAL—Chapter ~~BOX FLAG~~ SIX FLAGS City FORT WORTH
Chairman/Address RUBY JACKSON SCHMIDT 4812 MORRIS, FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76103
Number members flying Texas Flag _____ Flying Flag of the USA 2 Did your
Chapter present a Texas Flag no Large _____ Small _____ Miniature _____ Where _____

Say Pledge to Texas Flag yes How many meetings? 10 Does your chapter have a
Texas Flag Code book? no Name it? _____ Did your chapter plant Texas
Wildflowers Individuals _____ What kind? bluebonnets
Publicity? _____

Did your chapter plant trees appropriate to area no What kind _____
Where? _____

Did your present a Texas History Book to a Library? no School _____ If so, give
names _____

Did your give THE TEXAS CONNECTION—WITH THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION by Robert
H. Thonhoff to a school or library? yes Did you recognize any American
Revolutionary Patriot, who also was a Texas Hero or Citizen? no Name _____
Where? _____ Kind of ceremony? _____

Has your chapter planned a special program on Texas Sesquicentennial? yes _____

Describe cannot count due to March & April 1986 dates _____

Has your chapter planned a special project on Texas Sesquicentennial? yes _____
Describe on reverse side. A special award will be given for the most
outstanding Texas Sesquicentennial celebrations.

An interesting Fort Worth relic is no longer on view; this early well was on
the original bluff location of the military post which later became Fort Worth.
The bee-hive shaped masonry cover of limestone stood ten feet high with an opening
on the north and the south. Apparently protection from Indians was a concern.
Located near the alley of Taylor Street, the white stone hive was very noticeable.
Ed Terrell, earliest white man in this area, had a nearby home and used water from
this well. A letter from Howard W. Peak, child of the first doctor here, indicates
the water from this deep well was very sweet. Another letter to Six Flags Chapter,
23 Sept. 1932, from Peak gives additional information, although there are conflicting
stories on who dug the well.

Six Flags marked the well in early 1933, laying out flower beds to enhance
the location. A heavy oak beam supported the pulley; an oak shelf held the bucket.

After a garbage truck damaged the hive shape, it was torn down and removed
to the west lawn of the county court house, two blocks to the east. There it remained
as a reminder of early pioneer days until a need arose to add courtrooms on that lo-
cation. There was a mystery for many years about what happened until the Tarrant
County Historical Commission discovered Martha Rowan Hyder had commissioned a mason
to reconstruct the hive cover in her rear gardens at 4910 Crestline. Unfortunately,
the appearance was changed to a lower, rounded top.

Since Six Flags originally marked this spot with a sign, it seems appropriate
to re-mark it for the Sesquicentennial. A new jail complex now covers the original
site. The plan is to place a placque on the exterior wall nearest the original location.
This will be an approved Fort Worth 150 project as well as an approved historical
marker through the Texas Historical Commission.

(Incidentally, when the subway was dug eighty feet deep through this bluff,
water still flowed from the source of the well water and had to be diverted through
a drain to the river.)

AMON CARTER MUSEUM

August 22, 1984

Mrs. Ruby Schmidt
Tarrant County Historical Commission
TCJC, Northeast Campus
828 Harwood Road
Hurst, Texas 76053

Tax # 75-600-1170 exemption certificate

Dear Ruby
According to your request of August 22, 1984 the photos you wish to use are:

Ft. Worth Housing Authority # 1: The Frenchman's Well, dug in 1857.

Please supply the following information:

Purpose for which you desire photos study purposes - not for reproduction

If the photos are to be published, also supply the following information:

Title _____

Publisher _____

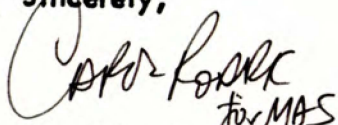
Date of Publication _____

Enclosed are the Regulations for Photographic Collections explaining the rules and fees for using photos from the museum. If you agree to the terms of our regulations, sign below:

Name _____ Date _____

We have received your remittance for \$ 5.00. When we have received one completed and signed copy of this letter, we will reply to your request for reproduction and ship the previously listed photographs to you.

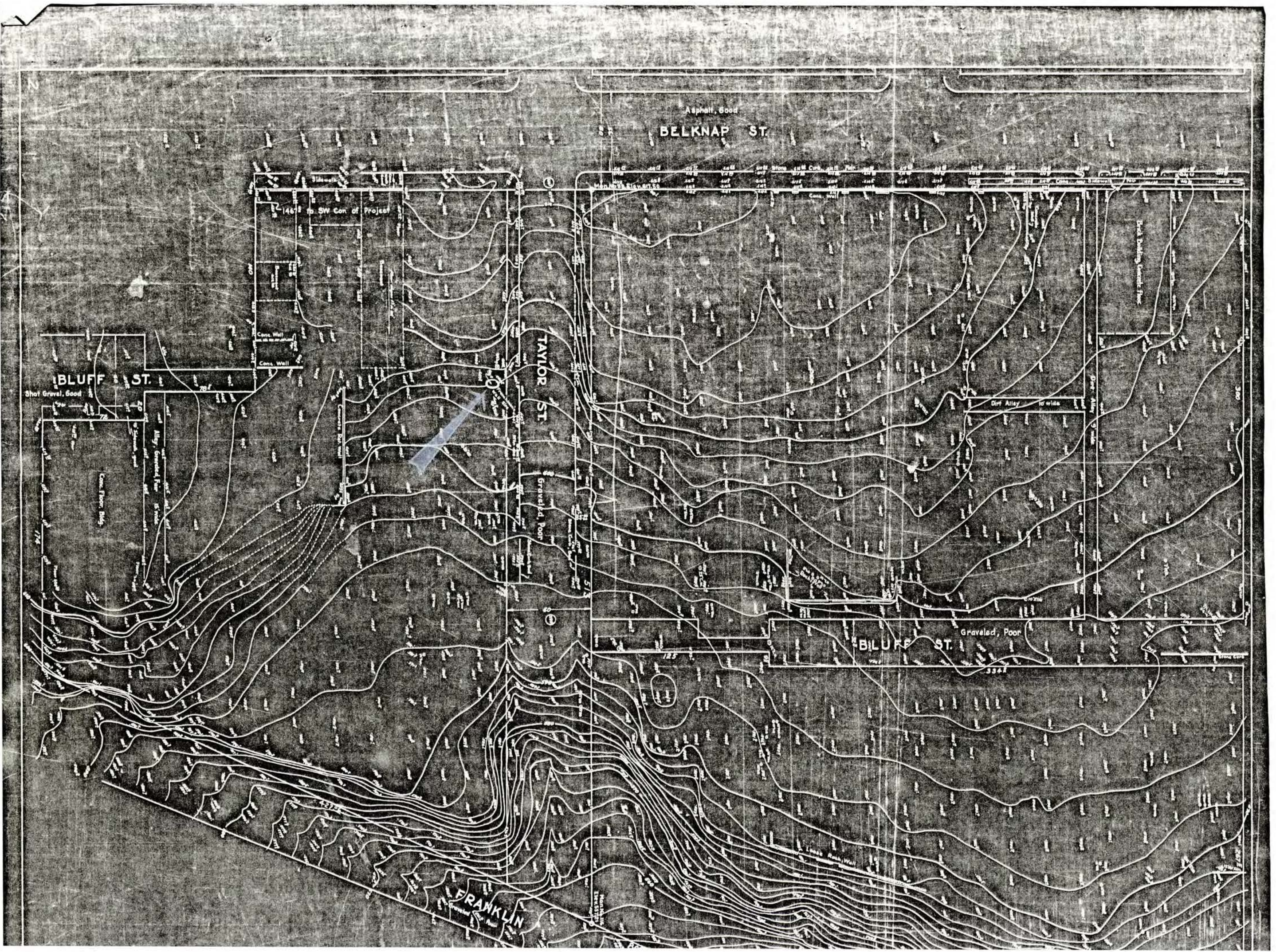
Sincerely,


for MAS

Marni Sandweiss
Curator of Photographs

Appendix A





Asphalt, Good
BELKNAP ST

BLUFF ST

TAYLOR ST

BLUFF ST

FRANKLIN

146' to SW Con of Project
Cons. Well
Cons. Well

Dir. Alley 10' wide

Gravelled, Poor

Shot Gravel, Good

Gravelled, Poor

Rock Building Concrete Block

Gravelled, Poor

Gravelled, Poor

Gravelled, Poor

I herby certify that this map truly shows the boundaries, streets and alleys, elevations and contours, etc. over the area shown hereon, as obtained by actual surveying upon the ground.
 Surveys made during October, November and December 1915.

BROOKES BAKER
Brookes Baker
 Surveyor

- LEGEND**
- Contour
 - Boundary
 - Alley
 - Street
 - Channel
 - Creek
 - Drain
 - Elevation
 - Elevation
 - Elevation
 - Elevation
 - Elevation

LEGEND
 Contour Interval 5 feet



TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

HOUSING AUTHORITY
 OF THE CITY OF FORT WORTH, TEXAS
FORT WORTH-TARRANT CO-TEXAS

BROOKES BAKER, SURVEYOR
 SCALE: 1 inch = 100 feet

DATE: 1908 DEC 12 PROJECT NO. 105
 SHEET NO. 22/2

FRANKLIN ST

ST

FRANKLIN ST

FRANKLIN ST

FRANKLIN ST

FRANKLIN ST

FRANKLIN ST

FRANKLIN ST

FRANKLIN ST

Scale of 1 inch = 100 feet



FRENCHMAN'S WELL
 MAP OF
 AREA WITH
 WELL LOCATION

Asphalt, Good
BELKNAP ST

Men No 98, Elev. 67.50

TAYLOR ST.

BLUFF ST.

Alley, Graveled, Fair 15' Wid

1467 to SW Cor. of Project

Conc. Wall

Conc. Wall

Concrete Ret. Wall

Basement

Sidewalk

Basement

Basement

Basement

Basement

Basement

Basement

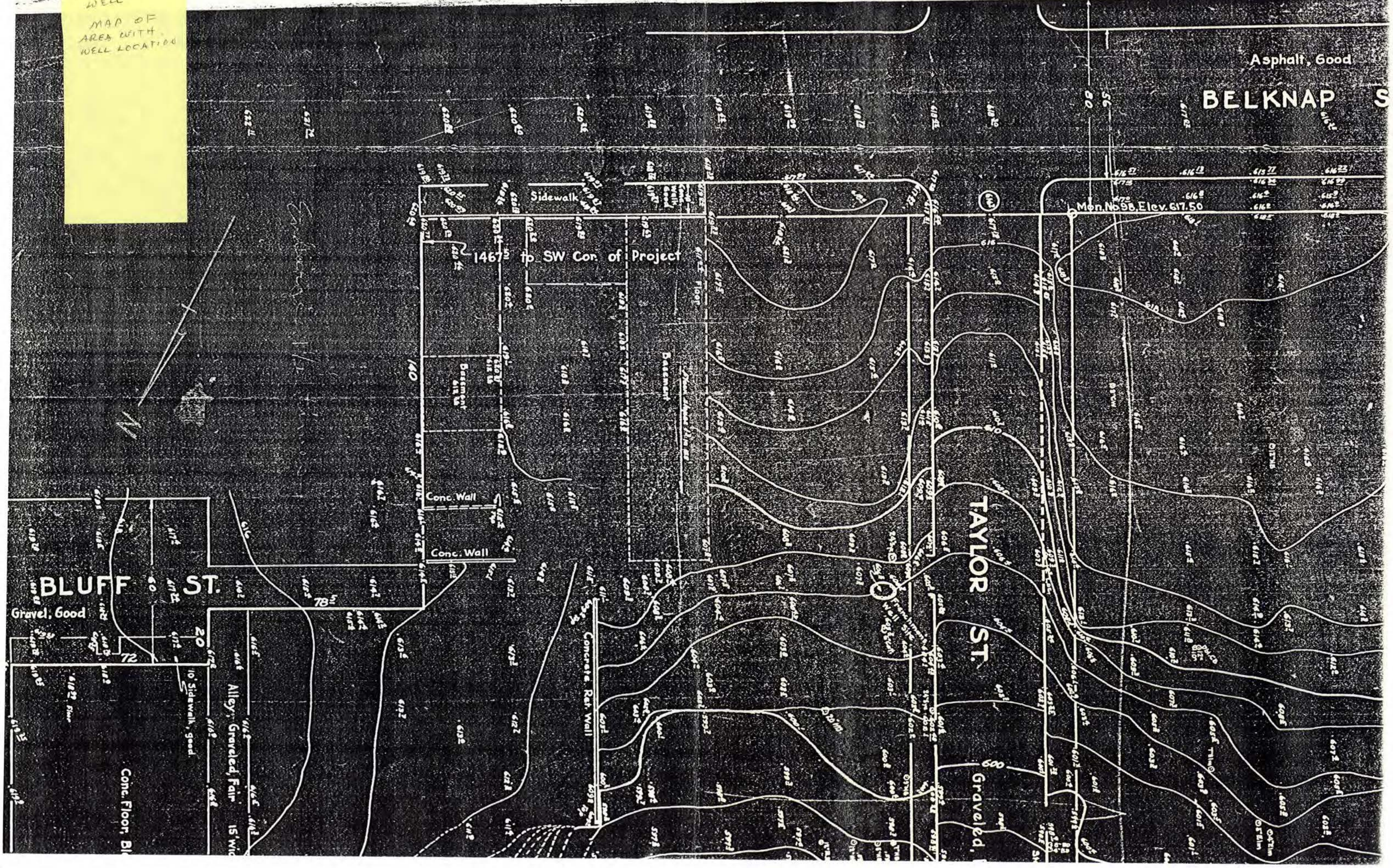
Basement

Basement

Basement

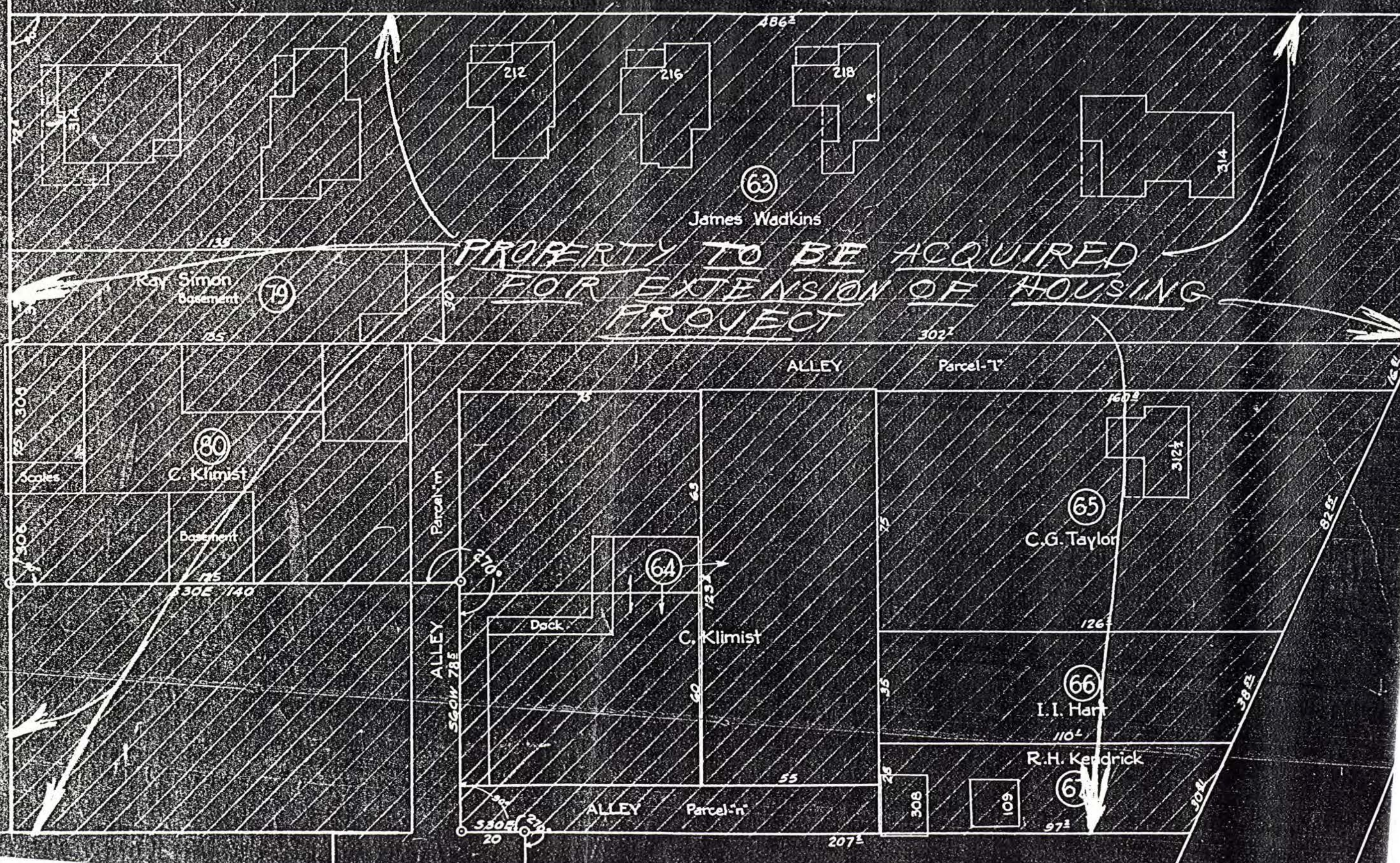
Basement

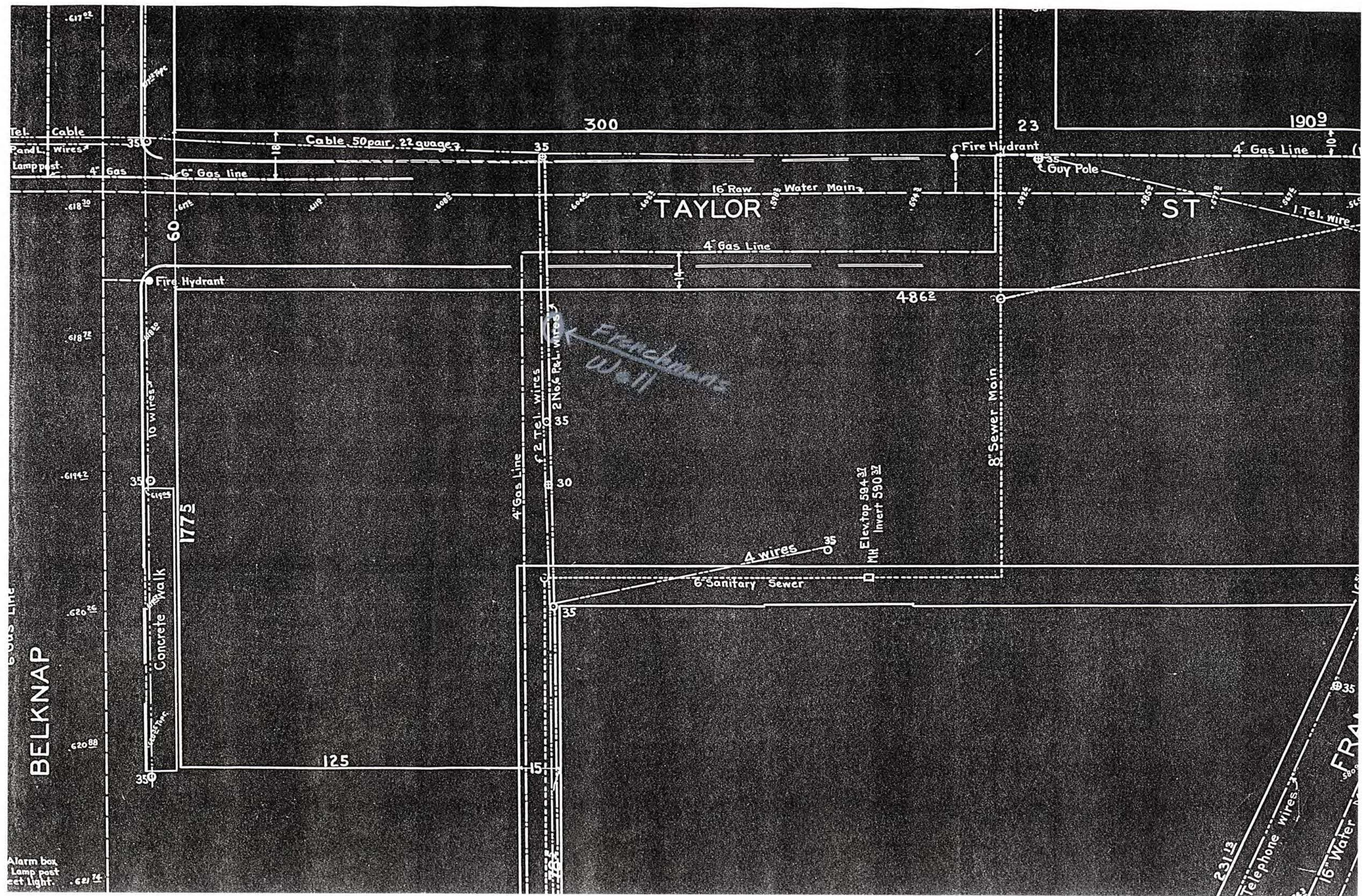
Basement



TAYLOR ST. Parcel-1c

BELKNAP





300

23

1909

TAYLOR ST

ST

BELKNAP

1775

125

Frenchman's Well

MH Elev. top 594.32
Invert 590.32

Tel. Cable
Panel Wires
Lamp post

Cable 50 pair 22 gauge

Fire Hydrant

Guy Pole

Fire Hydrant

4" Gas Line

2 Tel. Wires
2 No. 6 P&L Wires

16" Raw Water Main

4" Gas Line

8" Sewer Main

4 wires

6" Sanitary Sewer

Concrete Walk

Alarm box
Lamp post
ect light.

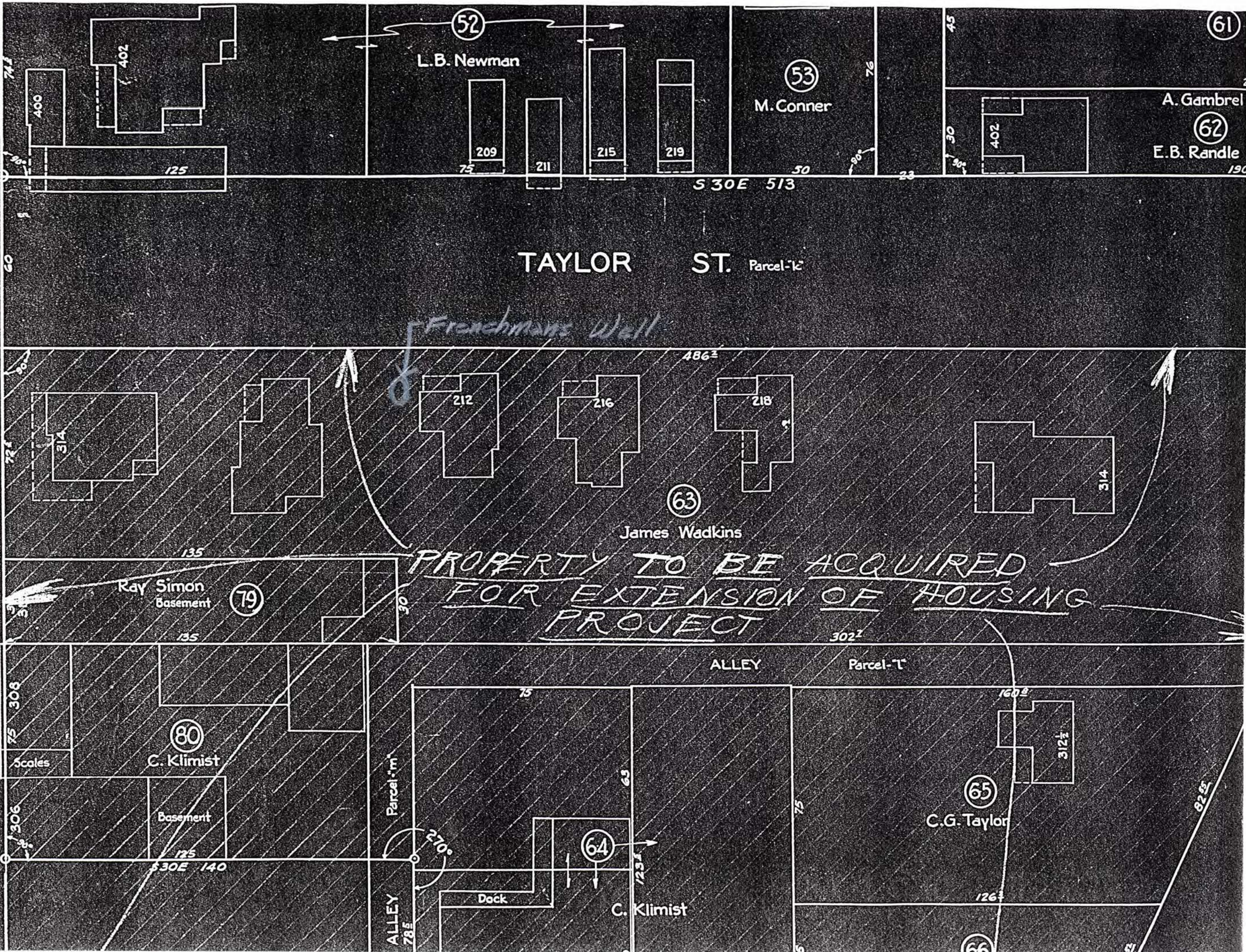
231.12

Telephone wires

16" Water

BELKNAP

Mon. No. 98, Elev. 617.50



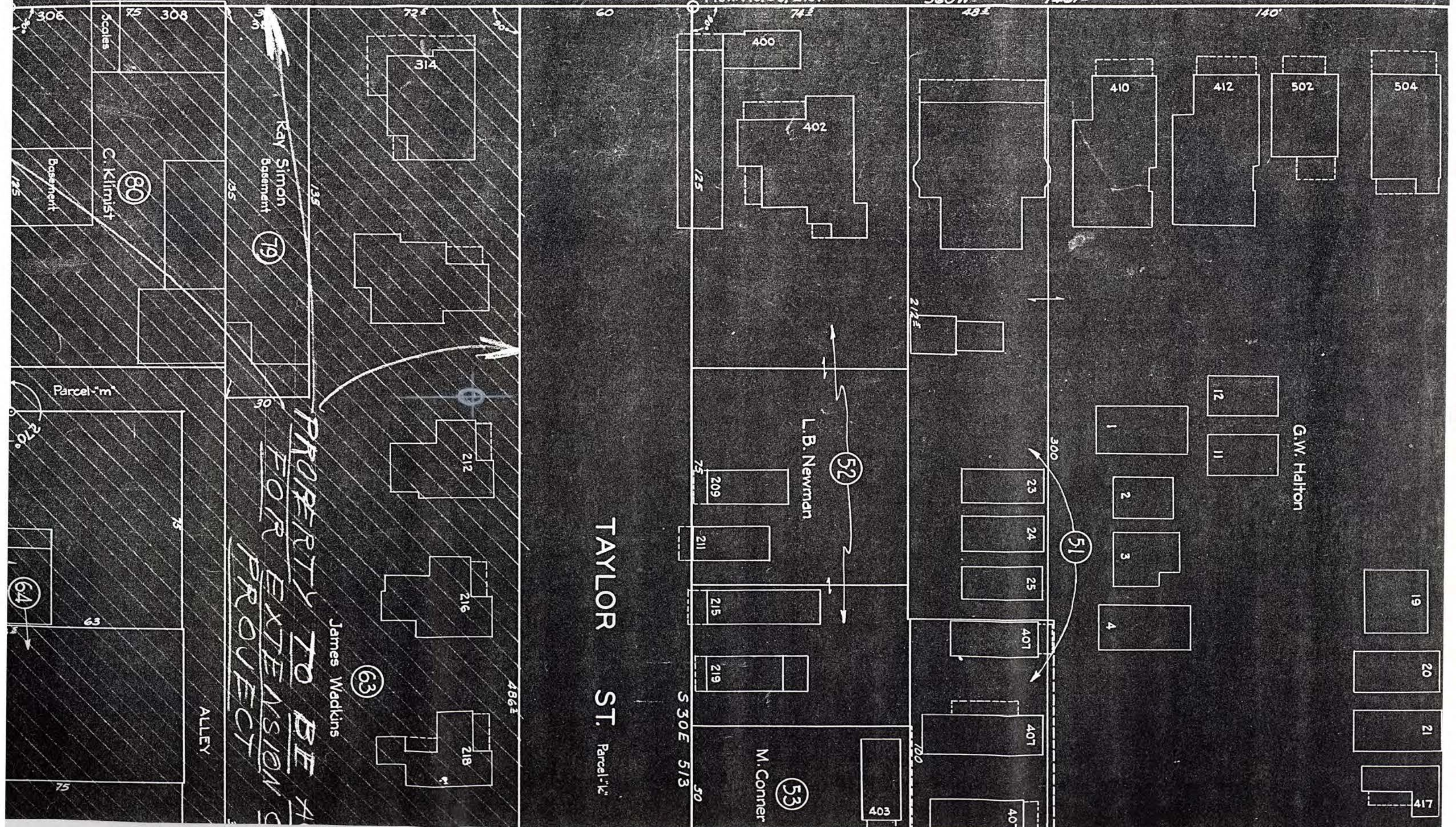
PROPERTY TO BE ACQUIRED
FOR EXTENSION OF HOUSING
PROJECT

BELKNAP

ST.

Mon. No. 98, Elev. 617.50

SGOW 1467E



306

75 308

308

72E

60

74E

48E

1467E

140'

314

400

402

410

412

502

504

Ray Simon
Basement

C. Klimist

(79)

(80)

Basement

Parcel "m"

30

PROPERTY TO BE EXTENDED FOR PROJECT

212

L.B. Newmair

(52)

G.W. Halton

12

11

1

2

3

4

19

20

21

417

TAYLOR ST. Parcel "k"

James Madkins

(63)

216

209

211

215

219

S 30E 513

M. Corner

(53)

403

407

407

ALLEY

(64)

63

75

486E

50

100

300

(51)

212E

125

50