

Alice Shannon Lewis

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Telephone
817/624-8002

1407 GRAND AVENUE
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76106

Stuart Gentling
4801 Harley
Fort Worth, TX 76107

July 9, 1991

Dear Stuart,

Thanks for your interest in Marine Schoolhouse. I am sending you a packet of information. Most of the packet is made up of various presentations that I have made in behalf of the schoolhouse.

The two color pictures were made in 1989 to go along with a letter I wrote as an appeal. The rest of the packet should explain itself.

Friends of Marine Schoolhouse, Inc. is just three months old, and we are in the process of getting our 501(c) 3 papers in order, but we are registered in the Secretary of State's office as a corporation.

The reason you never heard of Marine Schoolhouse before now is because when the Historic Preservation Council of Tarrant County had a survey done of the historic buildings in Tarrant County the firm they hired were not local people and they had never heard of Marine Schoolhouse.

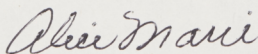
If you are interested in my professional background, I did the research and wrote the narrative paper that put M. G. Ellis School on the National Register in 1983. In 1983 I did the research and applied for a Texas Medallion marker for the Tom Yarbrough house at 820 Rivercrest Road. I did this research for Roby Penn who owned the house at this time. The Tom Yarbrough House was dedicated July 14, 1984

I have not done any research professionally since that time, but have concentrated on saving Marine Schoolhouse.

My sister and I went to your exhibit, and as we always do, we picked a picture that we would like to hang in our own homes. I picked your Canto, Cruz y Flores and she picked your painting of seashells on a window sill. We stayed longest in front of Jane Goodall, Scott's painting. Across the street at your sister's exhibit I picked the prairie scene and my sister picked the arched window. A few days later we took a friend to see the paintings and again we lingered in front of the marvelous portrait of Dr. Goodall.

Please call me when you return from Mexico. I am anxious to talk to you again about Marine Schoolhouse. The little building is deteriorating rapidly and the Fort Worth Landmark Commission, who is trying to help, moves so slowly.

Sincerely,



Alice Marie Lewis
1407 Grand Avenue
Fort Worth, Texas 76106

Phone: 624-8002

City attorney -
for Broderick - atty Stephen Weiss owner
Park Dept. -

Jimmie alman - Director of Library ~~Board~~

Nothing library only library is public library.



Marine Schoolhouse
Winter 1989
Before it was boarded up



Marine Schoolhouse
Spring 1989
After it was boarded up

*This packet went to Texas Historical Commission
Endangered Buildings Sept. 10, 1990*



Marine Schoolhouse
1309 N. Commerce
Fort Worth, Texas

August, 1990

This was the first schoolhouse on the property that was the location of the Merida G. Ellis School. Originally The North Fort Worth Public School.

The Merida G. Ellis School was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. Merida Ellis School burned January 29, 1986.

Interest in this schoolhouse has been shown by the neighborhood of the near North Side in Fort Worth. Help has been volunteered to restore this building when it is in a safe place. Its present location is in a district zoned for industry and at the present time is more in danger of deteriorating past restoration than it is in being demolished.

SUMMARY OF HISTORY OF MARINE SCHOOLHOUSE

Marine Schoolhouse, the first public building on the Northside, was built between 1872 and 1879 on the I. Thomas Survey south line (present N. E. 20th Street). In 1883 Approximately 3 acres of land was deeded to R. E. Beckham, county judge, and his successors in office for a public school. Sources indicate that the original schoolhouse continued at its first location on property owned by M. G. Ellis, just north of the dedicated public school property.

Tarrant County designated school districts by metes and bounds in 1884. Marine School District #1 was a triangle bounded by the present North Main Street on the west, N. E. 20th Street on the north (the I. Thomas south line) and the present N. E. 14th Street from North Main Street to an angle that met at N. E. 20th Street.

The Fort Worth and Gainsville road was established in 1885 running west of the "Ellis Schoolhouse" on the I. Thomas south line, indicating that the school was still on M. G. Ellis property and had not been moved to the dedicated school property.

Records show that the school was used for a community church that organized in 1888, and at that time a second room was added to the little building. The Baptist Church used the little school to organize separately from the Community Church in 1890 because they had more than 20 members and the schoolhouse would hold only twenty people.

Trustees of Marine School petitioned the court to sell the schoolhouse and the lot in September 1891. The court granted permission to sell, but in October the same year the court revoked that permission. This was probably done because the schoolhouse belonged to the county, but the lot belonged to M. G. Ellis and if the schoolhouse were sold there would not be a place for school to be held.

A new school was built in 1892 on the dedicated property, the address being given in the City Directory as Rusk (present N. Commerce) and 14th Street.

The Marine Methodist Church met in the Marine Schoolhouse prior to 1897 and Boulevard Christian Church used "old Marine School" in 1903 as a meeting place.

Fire destroyed the new school building in September 1904, but the old school building adjoining was saved. School was started again in October of that year and one of the buildings used was the old Marine Schoolhouse.

The City of North Fort Worth organized for school purposes immediately after the fire and planned to build an elaborate new school which would no longer be under the jurisdiction of the county. The county school had only eight grades. The North Fort Worth Public School was to go through high school.

North Fort Worth High School was organized in the old Marine Schoolhouse in 1905 before the new North Fort Worth Public School was finished. North Fort Worth had acquired the small building and the triangle of land when they took over the school from the county.

Mr. Mulholland bought the building and moved it to its present site after the North Fort Worth Public School was finished. It was used as a residence until 1988 when it was declared sub-standard and boarded up. It is still at 1309 N. Commerce.

The present owner of the building is Lee Broadus Development Corp.

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NATHAN BARRETT'S ORIGINAL PLAN
FOR NORTH FORT WORTH, 1888.

In a newspaper advertisement dated January 1, 1889 showing the plan was this description:

"The above map represents the property of the Fort Worth City Company comprised in North Fort Worth addition. This is the most sightly property in Tarrant County. It begins within a stone's throw of the courthouse and its business blocks are within 1500 feet of the business center of Fort Worth and six of the national banks and principal business houses. The addition will be reached by a grand viaduct 950 feet long, crossed by an electrical railway line which belts the property going to and coming from Fort Worth. Most of the lots are covered with beautiful trees and flower gardens flourish luxuriantly. The St. Louis, Arkansas, and Texas comes to the business center. The Fort Worth Union Stockyards adjoin the property on the east and will make adjoining property very valuable. The finest artesian wells in the county are on this property. The landscape view is magnificent, while the addition itself is laid out in accordance with the plans of the best landscape engineer in the country who laid out Pullman, Illinois. Lots are held at very low figures and will rapidly appreciate in value."



EVENTS CONCERNING THE FIRST SCHOOL BUILDING IN MARINE

- 1872 - Sadie Hagan Cope said the first school she attended was under a big tree at Rocky Spring and Mrs. John Mitchell was the teacher.
Report made by Mrs. Ray McCoy to Mary Daggett Lake
Mary Daggett Lake Collection - Fort Worth Public Library
- 1879 - M. G. Ellis buys 250 acres of the I. Thomas survey from Drucilla Thomas.
Amparo's Santiago's abstract
"Parents decided it was time to bring education to the prairie. They passed the hat. M. G. Ellis donated the site."
Victor McCarthy to Mack Williams
Fort Worth Press 12/15/57
Florence Brumbaugh Pribble pointed out 2000 N. Commerce to her son, C. B. Pribble, as the location of the old Marine School.
Interview with C. B. Pribble 3/9/88
- 1883 - Stephen Terry and J. P. Smith deed property south of the I. Thomas line (20th Street) to R. E. Beckham, Judge of Tarrant County, "and his successors in office in Trust for public schools" M. G. Ellis and others paid \$5.00 for the land. December 29, 1883.
Tarrant County Deeds Vol. 27, pg. 317
- 1884 - April Commissioner's Court ordered the County Judge to give notice that at the next term of the commissioner's court said court will proceed to lay out School Districts, and that each district be requested to furnish said court with a map or boundaries of the precinct as desired by them.
Commissioners Court Minutes Vol. 3, pg. 507
June "--- ordered that Tarrant County be divided into school districts as designated by metes and bounds on County map this day filed with the county clerk.
Commissioners Court Minutes Vol. 4, pg. 110
- 1885 - "---ordered by the court that there be holden in the several school districts of Tarrant County. Texan election on the first Sat in August, 1885 for the purpose of electing School Trustees for the ensuing scholastic year and further that the following persons be and they are hereby appointed in the district designated to hold said election: Marine School House - M. G. Ellis, W. L. Holt, G. T. Eskew
Commissioners Court Minutes - Vol. 14, pg. 239
"
---order and establish a first class road beginning at the north end of the land that runs by the New Cemetery west of the Ellis School-house on the I. Thomas Survey South line, thence north---"
Commissioners Court Minutes - August 1885

Events Concerning The First School Building in Marine -continued

1885 - continued

"Then there was the one-room frame schoolhouse, located where the M. G. Ellis School now stands. The first school teacher was Miss Carrie Campbell and her school consisted of 20 pupils. We had to carry the drinking water from the rockhouse spring, nearly one-half mile away.---"

In Old Fort Worth - When the North Side Had Only 11 Homes
By Mack Williams - The News Tribune - July 2,3,4, 1976

- 1888 A Community Church was organized in the school building.
Saga North Fort Worth Baptist Story
By Laura Haywood Brown
North Fort Worth News - January 22, 1954

1888-89 A second room was added to the school during this school year.

9/13/1888 - Purchase of Furniture from F. P. Prewitt - \$45.00
9/17/1888 - "Repairs" by Elliott & Roe - \$64.73

FWISD Archives - Leon Mitchell's notes

- 1890 - Baptist Organized in the little schoolhouse.
Saga North Fort Worth Baptist Story
By Laura Haywood Brown
North Fort Worth News - January 22, 1954

- 1891 Court petitioned to sell school building and lot
September 15, 1891 - Court granted permission
Tarrant County Commissioners Court Minutes
Court revoked permission given to sell lot and building
October 14, 1891
Tarrant County Commissioners Court Minutes

- 1892 - New school built - W. J. Whitaker paid \$983.35 for "Building"
Burton Lingo Lumber Co. pd. \$1111.65 for lumber
Available School Fund Accounts Disbursements in Detail
Reproduced from the holdings of the Texas State Archives

- 1897 Boulevard Christian Church used old Marine School in 1903 as a meeting place while a new small church building was being erected at Boulevard and 14th Street.

North Fort Worth News 11/27/1953

- 1904 "Fire last night destroyed the main school building of North Fort Worth located on Fourteenth and Calhoun Streets. ---a small school building and other building adjoining were saved.

Fort Worth Record - 9/30/1904

continued

1904 - continued

October 10, 1904 "The public schools of North Fort Worth will open today, the board of trustees having arranged for the occupancy of nine building. One of these buildings is the public school property of the town, which has two rooms and can accomodate two teachers."

Fort Worth Record - October 10, 1904

1905 "North Fort Worth High School was organized in September, 1905 with two teachers devoting all their time to the work and a third, the principal, a part of his time. Four pupils constituted the Senior Class for that year; one boy and three girls. The work was done for a larger part of the time in a two-room frame building with no library and scarcely any scientific apparatus.---"

Report of Principal M. H. Moore, Annual Report
Fort Worth Public Schools - September, 1913

PROOF OF PRESENT LOCATION OF MARINE SCHOOLHOUSE

"I know it (the schoolhouse) was moved by Mr. Mulholland and used as a residence when a larger school was needed and erected. In fact, my sister and her family once lived in the building after it was moved to 1309 N. Commerce and was no longer used as a school.

Things I Remember About Early Days in Fort Worth
By Sam Smith - 1965

"The first schoolhouse north of the Trinity still stands at 1309 N. Commerce --- weather beaten and sagging, it stands in a rwo of modest homes occupied mostly by Latin-Americans."

Sunday Beat by Mack Williams
Fort Worth Press 12.15.57

DESCRIPTION OF MARINE SCHOOL HOUSE

"---the little building with eight windows and a fireplace was moved from the site."

Sunday Beat by Mack Williams
Fort Worth Press 12/15/57