

If a reason is needed to save Marine Schoolhouse it is not because it is over a hundred years old. It is because there is very little left of our more humble beginnings. We have Log Cabin Village to remind us how the settlers lived. We haven't saved any of the shot-gun houses that came later, and the only "proof houses" that I know anything about is in Justin, Texas on my sister-in-law's family farm.

We have saved the big, beautiful mansions and some of the early "skyscrapers" and of course, the courthouse. It is right that those things should be saved, but we haven't saved the real beginnings of our community. That may be because as soon as we could build something bigger and more beautiful we tore down the old one and replaced it with something much better.

In the case of Marine Schoolhouse instead of tearing it down when a bigger and better school was built it was used for something else - a community church. Then when bigger and better churches were built the little building was used to supplement the already outgrown new schoolhouse. When the new school burned the old one was used to start a high school until the big new brick North Fort Worth Public School was finished.

Housing was scarce in North Fort Worth when the elaborate North Fort Worth Public School was built. The European immigrants who worked on the stockyards were living in tents, and so the little building was bought and moved to 1309 N. Commerce by Mr. Mullholland and used as a rent house.

When the schoolhouse was built in 1879 there were non of what we consider necessities. There is no evidence of even an out house and the boys had to carry water from a quarter of a mile away.

This little building needs to be saved to show us what it was really like. Children need to know what hardships their ancestors had, not knowing they were hardships. The children of the 1870's and 80's thought it was a privilege to have a place to go to learn to read and write and do some basic arithmetic, and a teacher to teach them. This is why we need to save Marine Schoolhouse.

It will be a privilege to save this historical little building and put it to use to inspire present and future generations to preserve their culture.