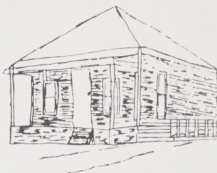


Friends of Marine Schoolhouse, Inc.

P. O. Box 4026
Fort Worth, Texas 76164
(817) 624-8002



Stuart, I hope the macaws will quit flying long enough for you to meet with us Monday, September 23 at 9:00 a.m. We will be in Hector Beltram's office at 607 N. Retta. That is in Riverside. You go east on Balknap to N. Retta and turn left. Hector's office is in the Baker Nursery Building. There is an enourmous old magnolia in front and a parking lot in back. If you get to Race Street you have gone a little too far so turn around and go back to the magnolia and you are there!

Alice Marie

September 18, 1981

FRIENDS OF MARINE SCHOOLHOUSE, INC. AND MARINE SCHOOLHOUSE

Friends of Marine Schoolhouse, Inc. is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to promote interest and obtain funds so that Marine Schoolhouse may be moved, restored to its original and authentic state and maintained on public property. The objectives are to use Marine Schoolhouse as an educational and historical facility and inspire future generations to preserve their cultural heritage.

Marine Schoolhouse is eligible for the National Register, for a Texas Historical Marker and as a Fort Worth Landmark.

Marine Schoolhouse was built in 1879 by M. G. Ellis and supported by the ranchers and farmers who lived north of the of the Trinity River. It was a subscription school, one in which the parents paid a "subscription" to employ a teacher. It was 20' x20', had two windows on each side and a fireplace on the back wall. It was originally located at N. E. 20th Street and North Commerce.

In 1883 the school was moved a few feet south to land donated to the county by J. P. Smith and Stephen Terry. It became Marine School #1, a county school or common school. Ten feet was added to the back of the little building in 1888, giving it another room.

A new school was built in 1890 and the little schoolhouse became a community church where circuit riders preached to the non-denominational congregation. As the neighborhood grew the different denominations formed and broke away from the community church and built their own churches. North Fort Worth Baptist Church was the first one to organize in the little building.

When the new building burned in 1904 the City of North Fort Worth, Inc. organized for school purposes and took over the County schools in North Fort Worth. They put the old building to use while they were building a large brick schoolhouse later known as M. G. Ellis School. The county school had only eight grades, but the North Fort Worth Public School was to have a high school and so three more grades were added. The old Marine Schoolhouse was pressed into use for the first high school. It was called North Fort Worth High School.

Housing was scarce when the elaborate North Fort Worth Public School was built. The European immigrants who worked on the stockyards were living in tents, so when the new building was ready for use the schoolhouse was bought by Mr. Mulholland moved to 1309 N. Commerce.

Marine Schoolhouse is still at 1309 N. Commerce, but will be donated to Fort Worth by the owners, Lee Broadus Corporation. It will be moved to Circle Park Boulevard and placed beside the North Branch Library.

Donations of money and "in kind" work are needed immediately for moving the schoolhouse, a pier and beam foundation made and for security fencing.