

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker w/o post
Harrison County - 8/14/75 - 405 W. Austin, Marshall

FG

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

JOHN BRYCE (1784-1864), BAPTIST MISSIONARY AND SECRET AGENT FOR U.S. PRESIDENT JOHN TYLER DURING TEXAS ANNEXATION NEGOTIATIONS, AND THE REV. GEORGE WASHINGTON BAINES, GREAT-GRANDFATHER OF PRESIDENT LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON, FOUNDED THIS CHURCH SHORTLY BEFORE TEXAS BECAME A STATE IN 1845. DR. WILLIAM EVANS, MARSHALL'S FIRST PHYSICIAN, AND OTHER LEADERS OF THE PIONEER COMMUNITY WERE AMONG THE TWELVE CHARTER MEMBERS. THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY, THIS FELLOWSHIP HAS INCLUDED MEN AND WOMEN WHO WERE LEADERS IN THE CITY, STATE, AND BAPTIST FAITH.

SERVICES WERE HELD IN A BRUSH ARBOR OR NEARBY LOG SCHOOLHOUSE UNTIL 1849, WHEN A CHURCH BUILDING WAS ERECTED ON THIS LOT, DONATED BY STATE LEGISLATOR JAMES McCOWN (1808-55). THE SMALL FRAME STRUCTURE WAS REPLACED BY A LARGER BUILDING IN 1892.

MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION ORGANIZED THE SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH IN 1904. THEY ALSO HELPED ESTABLISH THE COLLEGE OF MARSHALL IN 1912. THIS JUNIOR COLLEGE LATER BECAME EAST TEXAS BAPTIST COLLEGE, A FOUR-YEAR SCHOOL WHICH IS STILL ACTIVELY SUPPORTED BY THIS CHURCH.

THE PRESENT SANCTUARY WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1953, AND THE CHILDREN'S BUILDING WAS COMPLETED IN 1955. A NEW EDUCATION BUILDING AND CHAPEL WERE ERECTED IN 1972, COMPLETING THE CHURCH COMPLEX.

(1975)

APPLICATION FORM FOR OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

(Revised 1974)

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

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Harrison County Jan 21, 1975 Date

1. The First Baptist Church
Title of marker
2. On The Sanctuary
Name of building, cemetery, public square, park, etc., where marker is to be placed.
3. 405 W. Austin St.
Marker site (street address or highway number)
4. Marshall, Texas
City or nearest city. If marker is to be placed on a highway or in a small community, you must briefly explain how to get there from nearest town shown on a Texas Highway Department road map. For example, "Marker will be in Bastrop Beach, which is 6 miles southeast of Angleton on FM 523."
5. _____
Distance (miles, yards, feet) and direction (north, south, east, west) of subject from marker site. For example, "Subject is 1/2 mile southwest of marker site."
6. The First Baptist Church 405 W. Austin Marshall, Texas
Owner of marker site Address City 75670
7. same
Sponsor of marker Address City
8. Max Lake Max S. Loe Marshall, Texas
County chairman 3704 Fitzgerald Address City 75670

"I have reviewed the narrative for this marker and attest to its accuracy."

9. The First Baptist Church
Person to whom marker is to be shipped Street Address City
Note: If marker is to be placed on a highway right-of-way, it will automatically be shipped to your district highway engineer.
10. Brick
Surface to which marker will be attached (i.e., wood, brick, stucco over stone) if not on post.

ORDER FORM

Please consult the marker catalog for specifications of the markers, paperweights, and signs available. Check the items desired below. Then mail this application and narrative history, together with a check made payable to the Texas Historical Foundation, to the address above. No applications will be accepted unless payment is included.

HISTORICAL MARKERS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" subject marker with post \$475 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" building marker with post \$150 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" subject marker without post \$435 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" building marker without post \$125 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" subject marker with post \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" building plaque only \$75 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" subject marker without post \$220 | <input type="checkbox"/> 14" medallion only (for replacement purposes) \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar) \$125 | |

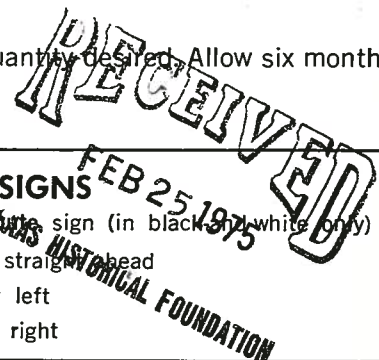
MARKER REPLICA PAPERWEIGHT

This item should be ordered at the same time marker is ordered. Indicate quantity desired. Allow six months from completion of marker for receipt of paperweight.

- 3" x 4" plastic paperweight with replica of marker inside \$ 50

SCOTCHLITE HIGHWAY DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

- Please indicate quantity desired.
- | | |
|--|---|
| 24" x 24" Historical Markers In City sign \$ 50 | 18" x 22" Historical Route sign (in black and white only) \$ 50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> black-and-white (for farm-to-market roads, state and U.S. highways) | <input type="checkbox"/> with arrow pointing straight ahead |
| <input type="checkbox"/> green-and-white (for interstate highways) | <input type="checkbox"/> with arrow pointing left |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> with arrow pointing right |



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THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
of
MARSHALL, TEXAS

by
Mrs. James K. Abney

The 130-year history of Marshall's First Baptist Church is inspirational, challenging and impressive. It is inspirational for the courage and character of its founders and subsequent leaders, challenging for its growth in the Master's work, and impressive for the distinguished personages and historic events recorded in its history since 1845.

John Bryce (May 7, 1784-July 26, 1864) founded the church in 1845, shortly before the Republic of Texas became one of the states of the United States.¹ A pious missionary with a colorful personality, Bryce was a native of Virginia who had practiced law and preached the Gospel in three Virginia cities -- Richmond, Lynchburg and Fredericksburg. During the War of 1812 he served as an army chaplain and later he was a master of chancery under Chief Justice John Marshall, for whom the city of Marshall was named.² In 1843 President John Tyler appointed Bryce "surveyor of Shreveport, Louisiana, and Confidential Agent" of the United States during the negotiations which led to the annexation of Texas.³ The Southern Baptist Convention, meeting in Augusta, Georgia, named him a missionary to Arkansas, Louisiana and East Texas, in which role he came to Marshall in 1845, according to old associational records.⁴

Bryce was assisted in organizing the First Baptist Church by the Rev. George Washington Baines, great-grandfather of Lyndon Baines Johnson.⁵ Although Baines was not living in Marshall at the time, he soon moved to the

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new and growing city, giving and ministering in Christian service both in and about the Marshall area. In later years, during the period of conflict over the location and relocation of Baylor University, he served as the third president of the university. Appointed for one year, he was the last president of Baylor at Independence, before it was moved to Waco.⁶

The two founders were aided in organizing the church by 12 charter members, several of whom already were known to Texas. In the group were Mrs. Isaac Van Zandt, Dr. William Evans and family, Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Brown, the J. D. Scott family, a Mrs. Garrison, a Mr. Dade and Mrs. James McCown.⁷

Mrs. Van Zandt's husband, for whom Van Zandt County was named, had been appointed by President Sam Houston as Plenipotentiary to the United States from the Republic of Texas.⁸ Dr. Evans was the first practicing physician in Marshall.⁹ Martha Evans, his daughter, married Edward Clark of Marshall, who became Texas' first Civil War governor,¹⁰ and Lemuel Dale Evans, the doctor's brother, served Texas on its supreme court from 1848 to 1852 and as U. S. Representative from 1857 to 1859. As a member of the Know Nothing Party, Lemuel D. Evans fell into deep disfavor with many Marshallites when it became known that he had been appointed a special agent for the United States by President Abraham Lincoln.¹¹ It has not been determined if he was a member of the Dr. William Evans "family" listed as charter members of the church, but it is known that he was living in Marshall when the church was organized. It is a quirk of history that Dr. Williams was the father-in-law of a "rebel" governor of Texas and the brother of a special agent of President Lincoln.

Three years after the church's organization, James McCown, husband of one of the 12 charter members, donated to the church a beautifully wooded

block in the city's original townsite as property on which to build the church's first permanent building. Until this time the congregation had met on this property, in fair weather, under a brush arbor shared with other denominations. In cold or wet weather the congregation met several blocks away, in a log school house at 200 West Burleson.¹² This pattern of worship continued until the first sanctuary was built in 1849.¹³

James McCown (1808-1855) was a native of Tennessee who moved to Alabama and in 1839, with several brothers, applied for land in Texas. The brothers first settled in Montgomery in 1841, where James McCown was appointed quartermaster in Col. Joseph L. Bennett's regiment of volunteers in 1842. He is credited with building Montgomery County's first courthouse in 1843. Early in 1843 James McCown moved his family to Marshall, where he acquired considerable property and in 1846 was elected to the first Texas legislature.

Although James McCown orally deeded the First Baptist Church its first property,¹⁴ it was not until 37 years after his death and only a few months before the second sanctuary was built in 1892 that the church was given clear title to his home by recorded deed. Deed records in the Harrison County courthouse record the transaction as follows:

James McCown to First Baptist Church by E. M. F. Morgan¹⁵ and Dr. N. A. Morgan, heirs at law to James McCown, in the interest we feel in the cause of Christian Worship . . . and in the further consideration of carrying out the intentions of James McCown have this day conveyed this property to The First Baptist Church of Marshall . . . (A description of the property follows.)

The Rev. George Tucker was called to fill the church pulpit in 1849, the year the church built its first house of worship on this property. Friends of the church throughout the city contributed funds toward its construction,¹⁶

the first permanent church structure in the city, and all denominations were welcomed to worship there in union, as they had in the old brush arbor, until each could build its own building.

The early records of the church, including the name of the architect and the cost of the first structure, were lost in a fire which destroyed the Gregg store, but a description of the church building is in the historical files of the church:

The sanctuary was an oblong wooden structure with a belfrey. A baptistry was provided and filled with water drawn from a well. Oil lamps furnished lights; a reed organ was used by the choir. A union Sunday School met here every Sabbath, and many secular affairs were permitted to be held in this building -- lectures, sacred concerts and school commencements. This was the largest auditorium in town; no other place could accomodate the audiences of the city. Negro slaves were permitted to attend services before, during and after the War Between the States, and until that race was able to have its town houses of worship. Seats were reserved for them in the rear of the building. 17

By 1890 the congregation had grown to a point that the original building no longer was adequate, and funds for a new structure were raised under the pastorate and able leadership of Dr. J. M. C. Breaker, who had accepted the church's call the year before. 18

From 1849 to 1892, many outstanding preacher's of God's word had filled the First Baptist Church pulpit, including one who in particular was outstanding in every respect. He was Dr. A. E. Clemmons, widely known not only in Texas but in many other parts of the country, who served the church on five different calls: 1858-1862, 1866-1868, 1873-1874, 1881-1883 and 1885-1888. He was a civic leader, astute businessman and eloquent speaker. It is significant, as the nation approaches its 200th birthday, to remark that "Dr. Clemmons was born of good American Revolutionary stock on both sides of his

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house."¹⁹ A resident of Marshall for 25 years, he was a 40-year member of the Masonic order, and -- a fiery as well as eloquent speaker -- was adamant against the liquor traffic and open saloons of the day in Marshall. He spoke with such zeal against "demon rum" that his life was threatened several times. The threats were considered so serious that an armed guard was posted outside the church when he preached, though he himself never went armed.²⁰

Dr. Clemmons and his family moved to the new city of Longview in 1870, *where he became* ~~becoming the first~~ pastor of the Longview First Baptist Church, *and where* ~~which~~ he and sons Tom and Joe *later* ~~organized~~ *the First National Bank* ²¹

Other ministers who served the First Baptist Church of Marshall prior to the coming of Dr. Breaker were the Rev. William Stokes, 1853-1857; the Rev. Mr. Bayliss, 1863-1865; Dr. W. G. Lancaster, 1869-1870; the Rev. J. L. Blicht, 1870-1871; the Rev. W. D. Beverly, 1871-1873; the Rev. T. N. Coleman, 1875-1878; the Rev. G. W. Rogers, 1879-1881; and the Rev. W. J. Mitchell, 1883-1885.²²

The church had continued to grow in size and spirit when another historic minister accepted the church's call in 1889. Dr. J. M. C. Breaker (July 25, 1824-April 14, 1894) was a man of background and experience and was widely known throughout the nation not only as a great religious leader but also as a speaker of national renown, as revealed by the Breaker Collection of Private Papers and Personal Effects in the Harrison County Historical Museum. This collection contains a number of beautifully written manuscripts in this scholarly man's own handwriting. Included are texts of papers and speeches given at state and national meetings and conventions. One such was a speech

delivered in North Carolina on the occasion of the centennial anniversary of George Washington's initiation into the Order of Free Masons. Dr. Breaker, who then was Grand Chaplain, made the address before the Grand Lodge of North Carolina in 1852.²³

J. M. C. Breaker, Jr., then living in Houston, was architect for the church's second sanctuary, donating his services with the exception of the clerical fees involved. Before the new building was completed in 1892, the much loved senior Breaker submitted his resignation as pastor because of illness.²⁴ He sought a change of climate, but his illness was fatal. "Blessed are the dead, who died in the Lord."²⁵

And so it was that the Rev. John Holland, a new minister, young and able, preached the first sermon in the new church building. An artist of considerable ability, the Rev. Mr. Holland painted the fresco which adorned the walls of the building, as well as the curtain beyond the baptistry, portraying the baptismal scene depicting John and Jesus at the River Jordan.²⁶

The new church edifice, of Gothic architecture and with a spire topped with a weather vane pointing heavenward, was completed at a cost of \$10,000. Members of the congregation and friends of the church contributed stained glass windows, as memorials to loved ones,²⁷ as well as the electroliers and many of the furnishings. In its lifetime the church's members were called to worship by two different bells. The first was confiscated by the Union army, which garrisoned Marshall during the occupation period following the War Between the States. The second, cast by Kyle & Co. of Louisville,²⁸ and containing 80 silver dollars to benefit its tone, was the largest bell in town and often was rung as a fire alarm.²⁸

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Marshall experienced many social and economic changes during the period from 1893 to 1910, but the First Baptist Church continued to grow in spirit, enlarging the circle of its Christian influence in the community. During this period the church was served by five pastors: Dr. M. T. Andrews, 1898-1902; the Rev. E. L. Wesson, 1903-1904; the Rev. M. E. Weaver, 1904-1908; the Rev. Robert Wilson, 1908-1909; and the Rev. A. A. Duncan, 1910. The church expanded in five departments of Christian service, adult, senior, intermediate, junior and primary, in both Sunday School and B.Y.P.U. activities. The Sunday School was considered the most important phase of the church's activity during this period.²⁹

In 1915 the First Baptist Church organized the W.M.S. Auxiliary. This was composed of the women of the church as an outgrowth of The Mitchell Aid Society, organized in 1884 during the pastorate of Dr. Mitchell. As an auxiliary, the organization broadened its Christian service to include weeks of prayer, mission study and sponsorship of the Sunbeams, GA's, Junior Y.W.A and R.A. groups.³⁰

An important factor in the spiritual growth of the church occurred September 4, 1904, during the pastorate of the Rev. M. E. Weaver. On this date, in church conference, the members voted to organize the Second Baptist Church in the northern section of Marshall. For several years, the collections for missions had been sent to two different boards, but at Dr. Weaver's suggestion, all funds for this purpose were diverted to this domestic mission.³¹ A lot was purchased for \$350, and a church building was erected at a cost of \$4,200.³² From this date forward, the First Baptist Church has been instrumental in founding other missions and has sent thousands of dollars to the Mission Board to

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help carry out the great commission to "Go ye into all the World and preach the Gospel."

Significantly, as the spiritual growth of the church increased, the need for additional physical facilities became necessary, and the church congregation perceived the need for a denominational school at the college level. During the pastorate of the Rev. William T. Tardy, a brilliant pulpit orator who came to the church in 1910, the church was instrumental in organizing the College of Marshall. Since the days of the Republic, the citizens of Marshall had hoped for such a school, and the town's leading citizens backed the building program in spirit and with funds. Their desires were realized in 1912, when the college was chartered on January 27. The former junior college has since been expanded into a four-year college of arts and sciences and renamed East Texas Baptist College. Since its establishment, the members of the First Baptist Church have contributed thousands of dollars in furtherance of the high goal of Christian education.

Dr. T. C. Gardner was first president of the new college and a member of the First Baptist Church congregation. A man of impressive record who received many honors, Dr. Gardner was recognized in many states for his 55 fruitful years of service from 1913 to 1968. The archives of the Harrison County Historical Museum contain a substantial file on this historic figure.

Dr. H. D. Bruce served the college as its eighth president after his election in 1942, serving for 18 fruitful years, during which the college developed from an unaccredited junior college to a fully accredited four-year institution of higher learning. He and Mrs. Bruce were constructive and energetic members of the First Baptist Church the entire time. In addition to

serving as president of the college, Dr. Bruce also served as vice president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, as a member of the board of Texas Southern University, Houston, as an executive officer of Houston Baptist College during its formative years, and in many other noteworthy activities furthering the cause of Christian education.

Dr. J. Wesley Smith, dean of the college for many years, though never a president, has such a beautiful tenure of service to the college, to the First Baptist Church and to the statewide service of the Master that he has also been included in this narrative. Known affectionately as "Dean Smith," he served as vice president of the State Junior College Association from 1940 to 1942 and as president from 1942 to 1944. He was elected vice president of the Senior College Association of the Baptist Association for the 1945-1946 term. The J. Wesley Smith Bible Chair at East Texas Baptist College is named for him. In emeritus status since 1957, he has been in regular attendance and has been a member of the First Captist Church for more than 50 years. ³⁶

Another outstanding member of the First Baptist Church is the present president of East Texas Baptist College, Dr. Howard C. Bennett. President since 1960, he has been a member of the executive board and chairman of the education commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, and he is a past president of the Texas Baptist School Administrators' Association. Both Dr. Bennett, who was named as "Most Worthy Citizen of Marshall" in 1963, and Mrs. Bennett are leaders in the Marshall community.

Among notable church members of the past was the late M. G. Pace, who in 1916 was named the East Texas head of the Federal Land Bank and was a deacon of the church for 60 years.

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Returning to the history of the church, of which the role it played in founding the College of Marshall is only a facet, one of its major developments came during the pastorate of the Rev. S. H. Frazier, from 1925 to 1928. This was the construction of a modern educational building, named Frazier Hall to honor the incumbent pastor. Encompassing 74 rooms on four floors, as well as a kitchen and large recreation hall, the building was designed to accommodate 1,500 Sunday School students. ³⁷ Total floor space amounts to 25,296 square feet. A faithful and strong defender of the Word, Dr. Frazier is still a member of the First Baptist Church.

The pastor with the longest pulpit tenure was the Rev. Harlan J. Matthews, who served the church from 1930 to 193~~9~~⁴¹, and the pastor with the second longest was the Rev. Arthur Rutledge, during whose pastorate from 1945 to 1956 the present sanctuary was built. Once again the growth in membership had necessitated another building program! The church's present -- and third -- sanctuary was constructed in 1953 at a cost of \$350,000. The handsome Georgian Colonial structure, glorified by a towering spire visible from all highway approaches to the city, was designed by the Harry I. Bosworth architectural firm. Yates Construction Co. of Marshall was the contractor.

The same architect and contractor teamed two years later, in 1955, to erect a children's building, attached to the sanctuary by a passageway, at a cost of \$10,000. Dr. Rutledge, during whose pastorate both the sanctuary and children's building were erected, became executive director of the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention after leaving Marshall in 1956.

Still other additions to the church were completed in 1966 during the

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pastorate of the Rev. Marion M. Harris, who served the church from 1958 to 1967. Three new classrooms were added over the sanctuary foyer, and large lounges were constructed on each side of the sanctuary's front foyer. Cost of these additions, designed by Marshall architect George Rodgers, was approximately \$40,000. During his ministry, the Rev. Mr. Harris also served on the executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The current pastor, who came to the First Baptist Church as the Rev. Connie E. Ward, now serves the church as Dr. Connie E. Ward after earning his doctorate by commuting between Marshall and New Orleans to satisfy the degree requirements. During the seven years he has led his congregation, he has given inspired leadership, in the tradition of his predecessors. As well as in the church, his presence has been felt throughout the community. He is a member of the Marshall Rotary Club, the board of East Texas Baptist College and the board of the Harrison County Ministerial Association, of which in 1975 he was president. He also was serving as moderator of the Soda Lake Baptist Association and president of the pastors advisory council of East Texas Baptist College. During his pastorate he has served as a director of the Marshall Council on Alcohol Education and as president of the Harrison County Mental Health Association. Previous to coming to Marshall he had served as a director of the Monroe (Louisiana) Regional Mental Health Center, the Richland (Texas) Association for Retarded Children and the Gulf Coast Mental Health Association.

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It was under Dr. Ward's guiding hand that the most recent enlargement

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program was accomplished. A new 33,000-square-foot education building and chapel were dedicated on May 7, 1972. Designed by Marshall architect George Rodgers and constructed by Yates Construction Co. of Marshall at a cost of \$552,775, this commodious addition keeps the faith with the complementary architectural design of the earlier buildings.

The number of distinguished Texans recorded on the First Baptist Church's membership rolls is large and impressive, and only those who have left their mark on the church establishment, indeed on Texas history, have been mentioned in this narrative. As no woman has served as pastor, no women have been included, but the women of the church should not be omitted from credit for their many contributions. The committee appointed by the pastor to research and prepare an application for a Texas Historical Commission marker has recommended that a history of the women of the First Baptist Church be written to record the women's contribution adequately and with due respect to them. ⁴⁰

As in the early days of the church, the First Baptist Church sanctuary is used frequently for community events today, a commentary on the fact it still is the largest church auditorium in the city, as it was in 1849. The Marshall High School's choir has presented the Messiah within its walls, and the annual commencement services of East Texas Baptist College are held at the church. Indeed, the church auditorium has played a major role in the life of Marshall throughout the years, as it has in the life of Texas Baptists. It is noteworthy that the First Baptist Church of Marshall was chosen as the host church for the Baptist State Convention of 1894 and met in the church's second sanctuary. ^{40 41}

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Dr. Ward summarized the spirit and growth of the church over 128 years in his words at the dedication of its most recent expansion on May 7, 1972: "Never in her history has our church been in better condition to truly minister as the body of Christ than she is presently. Now we are challenged to use this physical facility to the maximum in an effort to reach, win and teach people for our Lord Jesus Christ. Brick and mortar have been joined together to construct a building of physical beauty. However, this building will take on its ultimate in beauty when it is with people and they are developed to be like Jesus. To this task let us pledge ourselves without reservation. May we ever be inspired by these words of Jesus: 'As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you'."

That this story of Christ's ministry in Marshall shall not be lost to future generations is the reason for applying for an official historical marker for the First Baptist Church.

FOOT NOTES

- 1 Information from the archives of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, photocopy of which was supplied to the First Baptist Church of Marshall for the purpose of this narrative. Also, A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 1845-1928, page 9.
- 2 First Baptist Church Dedication Day Souvenir Reprint, May 7, 1972, page 6.
- 3 ibid.
- 4 Baptist General Convention files, op. cit.
- 5 ibid.
- 6 Letter, Kent Keith, archivist of the Texas Collection, Baylor University, to Mrs. Inez Hughes, director of the Harrison County Historical Museum. Also, Michael A. White, HISTORY OF BAYLOR UNIVERSITY 1845-1861, Texian Press, Waco, page 53.
- 7 A BRIEF HISTORY, op. cit., page 9.
- 8 Van Zandt was an early settler in Harrison County, locating first at Elysian Fields. He moved to Marshall shortly after its incorporation.
- 9 Evans file, Harrison County Historical Museum archives.
- 10 ibid.
- 11 ibid.
- 12 Sam Houston spoke under an oak tree during one of his political campaigns. The Sesame Club of Marshall placed a historical tablet on the tree, which is still flourishing today. The lot later was the site of the Masonic Female Institute, established in 1852, and now is the home of the First Church of Christ Scientist.
- 13 A BRIEF HISTORY, op. cit., page 10.
- 14 The McCown family history may be found in the Harrison County Historical Museum archives.
- 15 The E. M. F. Morgan named in the deed was Eugenia Mary Frances Morgan, daughter of James McCown and wife of Dr. N. A. Morgan. The deed is recorded under date of June 17, 1892, in the deed records of Harrison County, Vol. 28, page 17.
- 16 A BRIEF HISTORY, op. cit., page 10
- 17 ibid.

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- 18 ibid., page 12
- 19 Clemmons file, Harrison County Historical Museum
- 20 ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE NEW WEST, Marshall, pages 500-501.
- 21 ibid.
- 22 A BRIEF HISTORY, op. cit., pages 20-31.
- 23 Breaker collection of manuscripts and personal effects, Harrison County Historical Museum.
24. It is believed that in 1892, when the new building was being planned, it became necessary to check title to the land before construction could begin and that no deed to the property from McCown to the church could be discovered. This would explain the delay in filing and the fact of the deed being from McCown's heir. James McCown acquired the property in 1844 (deed records of Harrison County, Vol. F, page 7 (April 9, 1847)).
- 25 A BRIEF HISTORY, op. cit., page 29
- 26 ibid., page 30.
- 27 Two of these stained glass windows connect the present sanctuary with the new church chapel.
- 28 A BRIEF HISTORY, page 26. The bell is still at the church, in the children's building.
- 29 ibid., page 26
- 30 ibid.
- 31 ibid., page 21
- 32 ibid.
- 33 Since the ministry of the Rev. Mr. Tardy, the pastor who was instrumental in founding the college, the president and his family traditionally have been active members of the church.
- 34 A BRIEF HISTORY, op. cit., page 21
- 35 ibid., page 32.

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- 36 church records and personal interview with J. Wesley Smith.
- 37 A BRIEF HISTORY, page 34.
- 38 Church records, building file and souvenir reprint, page 5
- 39 Souvenir reprint
- 40 For historical purposes, it seems appropriate to mention Mrs. ^{M. F.}~~E. S.~~ McGee, granddaughter of the donor of the church site and great-granddaughter of James Harper Starr, for whom Starr County was named. Mrs. McGee was well known throughout the state. She was chairman of the Citizens Party for many years, held many posts in the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs, and was a lifelong, active member of the First Baptist Church.
- 41 Archives of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Archives of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, 1845-1928 (Marshall).

Dedication Day Souvenir Reprint, May 7, 1972.

HISTORY OF BAYLOR UNIVERSITY 1845-1861, Texian Press, Waco.

Letter, Kent Keith, archivist of the Texas Collection, Baylor University,
to Mrs. Inez Hughes, director of the Harrison County Historical Museum.

Evans file, Harrison County Historical Museum.

McCown file, Harrison County Historical Museum.

Deed records of Harrison County.

Clemmons file, Harrison County Historical Museum.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE NEW WEST, Marshall.

Breaker collection, Harrison County Historical Museum.

Church records, First Baptist Church of Marshall.

Personal interviews.

DEDICATION DATE (if known) _____

MARKER NAME First Baptist Church JOB# 4312

TOWN Marshall COUNTY Harrison DATE 2-25-75

Design E, 27" x 42", without Post \$435.00

MARKER _____ SIZE _____ PRICE _____

Jack M. Bowen & F. Douglas Davidson

SIGNER OF CHECK _____

PROCEDURE FOR MARKER APPLICATION

INITIAL	DATE	
gna	2-25-75	1. Application checked and dated
gna	3-11-75	2. Check deposited
DP	2-26-75	3. Folder checked and approved
		4. Additional information sent for
CB	2-28-75	4a. Sent to SMC for subject matter approval.
ckw	3-12-75	5. Letter of approval sent, permanent record and DSA recording, labeling, listed & filed in current marker work
ckw	4-25-75	6. Checkout to inscription writer
A.B.T.	5-2-75	7. Sent for State Marker Committee approval
ckw	5-16-75	8. Inscription submitted for County approval
		9. Highway permission secured (if necessary)
		10. Order sent to Southwell
ckw	6-5-75	
ckw	6-14-75	11. Rubbing checked
ckw	8-14-75	12. Stencil cut
ckw	8-25-75	13. Recorded for Marker Guide
ckw	8-25-75	14. News release sent, w/copy to TSHSC President (Recorded Landmark Certificate sent, if necessary)
ckw	9-20-75	15. Notice of shipment sent
ckw	9-23-75	16. Extraneous material deleted, folder given to architectural historian
	9-24-75	17. Folder placed in completed marker file

TITLE OF MARKER First Baptist Church of Marshall [A 27"x 42" marker is applied for]

CITY Marshall

COUNTY Harrison

DATE 2-25-75

EVALUATION OF
APPLICATION FOR COMMEMORATIVE MARKER
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

4312

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE STATE MARKER COMMITTEE:

Your appraisal of the attached dossier is hereby requested. To assist you in your deliberations, the comments and recommendations of the staff are included. If your own comments are extensive, you may attach other sheets, or write on the back of this one.

Please retain in your file all but this evaluation sheet, which we request that you return to the state office at your earliest convenience. If the majority of the State Marker Committee recommends acceptance, the inscription will be written and sent to you for your approval. At that time you may wish to refer to the history previously submitted.

Truett Latimer
Executive Director

Substantive evaluation:

This topic has the usual worthy-but-monotonous aspects, but it also has a facet that in our times makes for fascination: its founder (pious though he was) was a confidential agent of the U. S. government placed in a foreign land to spy for the President of the United States. A pity that this is of such evanescent interest that it probably has no historical merit at all. Had our journalism fraternity not touted the CIA so much, this little exotic touch would hardly be interesting in 1975. Add to that man's placement as church founder the identity of the co-founder, George Washington Baines, and there is opportunity for amazement here. Still the solid history is good and impressive enough. Isaac Van Zandt's wife was a charter member. The church also included the Evans family with its Yankee Spy apropos a Rebel governor, and the early times are shown to need a strong consolation of religion to be applied in the daily lives of members. Mrs. Abney did a creditable job of writing the history. Seth Walton and others in the church also contributed helpful counsel, it is said. *J. Parmelee, 2-26-75*

Administrative evaluation:

Recommend approval - Jay 2-26-75

RECOMMENDATION OF SMC MEMBER:

Signature, SMC Member

Date

MEMO

From the desk of:

MAX S. LALE

4312

February 24, 1975

Dear Deolece:

I apologize for the fact that this application is less than an exhibit specimen, but I find I don't have another copy of the form. I'm asking Bob for a supply.

However, I believe the narrative is accurate. The committee which did the research included Dr. Polly Davis and Seth Walton of the East Texas Baptist College history faculty, both members of the church, and the pastor, an earned PhD, though not in history.

msl

RECEIVED

FEB 25 1975

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION



Texas Historical Commission

Box 12276, Capitol Station,
Austin, Texas 78711
Truett Latimer
Executive Director

Re Approval
5-29-75
(BW)

May 16, 1975

Mr. Max S. Lale
3704 Fitzgerald
Marshall, TX 75670

RE: First Baptist Church
Design E, 27"x 42", w/post

Dear Mr. Lale:

Before we order casting of the enclosed marker inscription, we would like for you to please review and verify the history set forth in the text, as approved by the State Marker Committee.

Will you please signify your approval of the inscription as submitted by signing and returning the enclosed card at your earliest convenience. You may retain the marker copy for your files.

Sincerely,

Truett Latimer
Executive Director

By:

Bob Watson
Director of Programs

TL:km

Harrison

revised

I approve of the inscription for First Baptist Church

as sent to me May 29th, 1975

Max Lee
Signed

6-3-75
Date

RECEIVED
JUN 5 1975

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

BOX 12243 • CAPITOL STATION • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711 • PHONE GR5-8268

June 5, 1975

Mr. Bill Southwell, Jr.
The Southwell Company
P.O. Drawer 299
San Antonio, Texas 78208

4312

NO. _____

Design E, 27" x 42", without Post

First Baptist Church
Marshall, TX
Harrison _____ County

Dear Mr. Southwell:

Enclosed is an application for Design E, 27" x 42", without Post,
First Baptist Church, for the City of Marshall, Harrison
County.

We would appreciate a rubbing of this inscription.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Gertrude N. Amador
Secretary

GHA/s

Enclosure

SHIP TO:

The First Baptist Church
405 West Austin
Marshall, TX 75670

Texas Historical Commission Staff (CW), 4/28/75, revised 5/29/75
27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker without post
Harrison County (Order #4312)

Location: 405 W. Austin, Marshall
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH*

4312

*** **
JOHN BRYCE (1784-1864), BAPTIST MISSIONARY AND SECRET AGENT
FOR U.S. PRESIDENT JOHN TYLER DURING TEXAS ANNEXATION
NEGOTIATIONS, AND THE REV. GEORGE WASHINGTON BAINES, GREAT-
GRANDFATHER OF PRESIDENT LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON, FOUNDED
THIS CHURCH SHORTLY BEFORE TEXAS BECAME A STATE IN
1845. DR. WILLIAM EVANS, MARSHALL'S FIRST PHYSICIAN, AND
OTHER LEADERS OF THE PIONEER COMMUNITY WERE AMONG
THE TWELVE CHARTER MEMBERS. THROUGHOUT ITS HISTORY,
THIS FELLOWSHIP HAS INCLUDED MEN AND WOMEN WHO
WERE LEADERS IN THE CITY, STATE, AND BAPTIST FAITH.

SERVICES WERE HELD IN A BRUSH ARBOR OR NEARBY LOG
SCHOOLHOUSE UNTIL 1849, WHEN A CHURCH BUILDING WAS
ERECTED ON THIS LOT, DONATED BY STATE LEGISLATOR JAMES
McCOWN (1808-55). THE SMALL FRAME STRUCTURE WAS REPLACED
BY A LARGER BUILDING IN 1892.

MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION ORGANIZED THE SECOND
BAPTIST CHURCH IN 1904. THEY ALSO HELPED ESTABLISH THE
COLLEGE OF MARSHALL IN 1912. THIS JUNIOR COLLEGE LATER
BECAME EAST TEXAS BAPTIST COLLEGE, A FOUR-YEAR SCHOOL
WHICH IS STILL ACTIVELY SUPPORTED BY THIS CHURCH.

THE PRESENT SANCTUARY WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 1953, AND
THE CHILDREN'S BUILDING WAS COMPLETED IN 1955. A NEW
EDUCATION BUILDING AND CHAPEL WERE ERECTED IN 1972,
COMPLETING THE CHURCH COMPLEX.**

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

(1975)***

FILE COPY - DO NOT REMOVE

APPROVED
Truett Latimer
by *Bob Watson*
6-5-75