

MEDALLION STRUCTURE

HARRISON COUNTY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Marshall, Texas

Existing  
Information  
Marker }  
}

24 x 20 Bronze Plate  
Installed in 1950, year of  
Church's Centennial Celebration



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, U.S.

ORGANIZED MAY 30, 1850

REV. M.W. STAPLES, PASTOR

-. -

THIS BUILDING ERECTED IN 1884

REV. JOHN T. McBRYDE, PASTOR

-. -

BUILDING REBUILT AND ENLARGED 1950

REV. R. BRUCE BRANNON, PASTOR

-. -

".... UPON THIS ROCK I WILL BUILD MY  
CHURCH; AND THE GATES OF HELL SHALL  
NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT."

MATTHEW 16:18

*1" letters*

*3/4" letters*

*1/2" letters*

**APPLICATION  
THE TEXAS HISTORICAL BUILDING MEDALLION**

**RECEIVED**  
JUL 15 1963  
JULY 1, 1963  
TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY  
COMMITTEE

County HARRISON Town MARSHALL Date of Application JULY 1, 1963

Address: (If the Building is not in town indicate number of miles and direction from center of town and number or name of highway or road.)

Corner North Fulton and West Burleson Streets

Present Owner: Trustees of First Presbyterian Church, U.S.

General Designation: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Built: Organized in 1850; Present bldg. built in 1884

Present Condition: Very Fine condition and is being used at the present time.

Interest: Architectural Original Scottish Architectural

Historical \_\_\_\_\_

Organization or Individual Assuming Responsibility of Building: \_\_\_\_\_

First Presbyterian Church, U.S.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BOX	
Date Received: _____	<i>ppr Ward</i>
Date Approved, Rejected: _____	
Committee Ruling: <u>MRGD-8-2-63</u> <u>OK GJA 10/17/63.</u>	
Area Representatives: _____	
Committee Members: _____	
No. Assigned <u>770</u>	
Date Mailed _____	

Additional Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Sources of Information: Have original Church minutes from 1850 to present date. Also have records in our Presbyterian Historical Foundation Library in Montreat, N.C.

*Rev. Wm. Henry Benchoff*  
Signature — Owner or Authorized Representative

400 W. Burleson St., Marshall, Texas  
Address

UNLESS THE FOLLOWING IS SUPPLIED, THE BUILDING MEDALLION COMMITTEE CANNOT ACT UPON THIS APPLICATION:

- 1. Complete information asked for above
- 2. Kodak picture of building attached to application
- 3. Check for \$14.75 made payable to TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

I hereby certify the above application has been approved by the Harrison County Historical Survey Committee:

*BK  
Gust*  
If I could sign the ones in the Sanbandle & the ones in Russell Co. I can sign this!  
*GJD.*

*Mrs. Elizabeth R. Patterson*  
County Chairman  
200 Riggs Circle, Marshall, Texas  
Address

TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE  
George W. Hill, Executive Director  
112 East 18th Street  
Austin, Texas

APPLICATION FOR BLDG. MEDALLION  
FOR

First Presbyterian Church  
Marshall, Texas

The significance of this building to the locality is chiefly cultural and architectural. It was constructed in 1884.

Although this building was not connected with any historical period, the church congregation was organized in 1850 at Wyalucing, the home of Beverley Lafayette Holcombe, and many local citizens who were prominent in the affairs of the community and state were members of it. \*

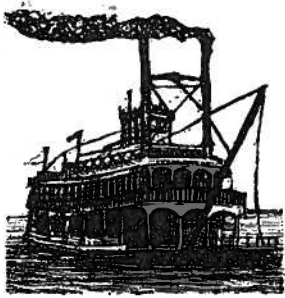
*Mrs. Elizabeth Patterson, Chm.*

Harrison County Historical  
Survey Committee

*Who?  
Was it 1st Pres?  
Church - area? or  
Anything else?  
Significance?*

RECEIVED  
JUL 22 1983  
TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY  
COMMITTEE





# The Harrison County Historical Society

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE HERITAGE AND RECORDED HISTORY OF MARSHALL AND HARRISON COUNTY

MARSHALL, TEXAS

ADDRESS CORRESPONDENCE TO  
200 Riggs Circle

RECEIVED  
SEP 23 1963

September 22, 1963

TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY  
COMMITTEE

Dear Mrs. Keefe:

In reply to your letter of September 10 asking if the First Presbyterian Church of Marshall was the first Presbyterian church organized in this area, I will give you the facts as set forth in the history of this church which was published as a part of its Centennial Celebration in May of 1950 :

- 1 st congregation organized in January 1845. This was a small group which did not survive.
  - 2 nd congregation organized in May 1850 at Wyalucing, the home of B. L. Holcombe. Among the members of this congregation were the famous Lucy Holcombe and her sister Anna who married Brig. Gen. Elkanah Greer; and after the war Brig. Gen. M. D. Ector was an active member in the church.
- In 1852 a frame church was built  
In 1884 the old church was sold and the present building was erected.

From other sources I find that the Cumberland Presbyterian Church of Marshall ( an entirely different denomination from the First Presbyterian ) was established in April of 1848. I do not know when its original church building was constructed. It is no longer in existence and the present building is of a fairly recent date.

The Harrison County Historical Survey Committee approved the application for a Medallion for the First Presbyterian Church because of its architectural interest, its cultural influence in the community, and the prominent persons who were members of its early congregation.

Along this same line I would like to get a statement from the State Committee which awards Medallions in regard to its present policy in awarding Medallions to homes. Harrison County has some of the most notable examples in the state of early homes -- from an architectural point of view. The families who built them were prominent in County affairs, but no person or event of statewide historical importance is connected with the house.

Eight Medallions have thus far been awarded to houses in Harrison County. Four of these were to homes whose only claim to distinction are age and architectural interest. There are at least six more worthy of a Medallion for the same reasons. It *will* be very awkward if our County Survey Committee urges and secures applications from the owners for Medallions only to have them turned down by the State House Committee.

Is it now required that some historical personage or event be associated with a house before it is eligible for a Medallion? We will hold up our Medallion program until this matter is clarified.

Sincerely yours,

*Elizabeth R. Patterson*, Chm.,

Harrison County Historical  
Survey Committee

Keely Keefe

RECEIVED  
OCT 25 1963

P. O. Box 3908, Odessa, Texas

TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY  
COMMITTEE

October 22, 1963

Mrs. Elizabeth Patterson  
200 Riggs Circle  
Marshall, Texas

Dear Mrs. Patterson:

Mrs. Keefe has asked me to answer your letter of September 22 regarding Medallion possibilities.

The application for the First Presbyterian Church was held up because we did not feel that enough history was presented on the first application, but the material you later supplied took care of this, and it has now been approved; you will be getting an official notice from the Austin office shortly.

The policy has not changed regarding awarding a Medallion to homes. This is still done on the basis of "structures of historical and cultural significance to the state and community in which it exists, therefore, meriting preservation." The test mentioned in your letter is one that is set forth for the new Texas Official Historical Markers and not Medallions; however, this same reasoning has been applied to Medallion applications where the structure itself, because of its age or some other reason, might not have qualified standing alone.

We have several people "flirting" with the idea of doing a comprehensive book on Medallion structures, and for that reason, we are requiring that adequate information be submitted with the application. I know that you can well understand the necessity for this.

I realize that a number of our committees have been embarrassed when they have gone to the time, trouble and expense of submitting an application and having it turned down. I don't know of any way that we can completely cure this. We are required by law to take this state action, but I think that we can do this-- i.e.--you could write us a letter about these various structures and furnish a picture if possible, and we can circulate the information to the committee and in turn give you an idea as to whether or not it would pass. . . .then you could go to the owner.



It must be borne in mind, too, that applications from your area (I still call it our area) are reviewed more rigidly, or I should say by a more severe standard, than those from the newer portions of the state. You have so many fine old buildings, and I know that you want to keep up the area standards just as we do.

Kind regards. . . .

Cordially,

John Ben Shepperd  
President

cc: Austin office ✓  
bs



TEXAS  
PRESS  
SERVICE

Marshall News  
Messenger  
APR 19 1964



**MEDALLION PRESENTATION**— Col. Chesley F. Adams, right, president of the Harrison County Historical Society, is to make presentation of the Texas Historical Survey Committee's medallion to be placed on the outside wall of the church soon, at the evening service at 7:30 p. m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Named by the Session of the

church to accept the medallion for the congregation is Miss Rebecca Cameron, left, member of the church, member of the historical society, teacher of the Senior High Sunday School Class and chairman of the Business Women's Circle. To preside at the presentation is the Rev. William Henry Benchhoff, center, minister of the church.

Harrison  
TEXAS  
PRESS  
SERVICE

Marshall News  
APR 17 1964

## Presbyterians To Receive Medallion

Presentation of a Texas Historical Survey Committee Medallion is to be made at the evening service at the First Presbyterian Church on Sunday. The presentation is one of several phases of the observance of Texas Civil War History Appreciation Week to be noted from April 21, San Jacinto Day, through April 26.

The Medallion, later to be attached to an outer wall of the church, will be presented in a brief ceremony at which the Rev. William Henry Benchhoff, minister will preside. Col. Chesley Adams, president of the Harrison County Historical Society will make the presentation to Miss Rebecca Cameron, named by the Session of the church to receive the Medallion for the congregation, as a member of the church and the historical society, a Sunday School teacher and chairman of the Business Women's group.

The church, established in 1850, has had an active part in community life throughout its 114 years since organization, and has occupied the present structure since May 1884.

The Rev. Mr. Benchhoff will preach at both morning and evening services. At the morning service there is to be a solo by Miss Myra Jo Putman and at the evening service the Men's Quartet, composed of Frank Long, Bushe Morgan, E. T. Morley and W. J. Sedberry, will present the special music. Edwin Johnson will be at the organ.