

RECEIVED  
AUG 25 1962

APPLICATION

THE TEXAS HISTORICAL BUILDING MEDALLION

TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY  
COMMITTEE

County Harrison Town Marshall Date of Application: July 31, 1962

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.)

303 Perry Drive  
Marshall, Texas

Present Owner: Hobart Key Jr

General Designation: Log Cabin -

Mar. Key - Bush Cabin.

Date Built: 1842 near Smithland, Marion Co. Tex

Present Condition: Removed to Present location  
in Marshall in 1938

Interest: Architectural The best of the old log houses  
in the county

Historical The chief feature being a  
unique beam + brace construction

Organization or Individual Assuming Responsibility of Building:

Hobart Key Jr.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BOX

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved,  
Rejected: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Ruling:  
OK. Millard Com

Area Representatives: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Members:  
W. A.

No. Assigned 282

Date Mailed \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Remarks: Originally a 2 room "log treat"  
Only one room of which was joined. Made of  
Hewn Pine Logs 18' long & 10" thick - flat to flat.

Sources of Information: Deed records Marion County, Tex. & Mr.  
J. M. Singleton, Jefferson Tex, (H. Key Jr. - Marshall Tex.

Hobart Key Jr.  
Signature — Owner or Authorized Representative

110 1/2 E. Austin 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:

Seth R. Walton Jr.  
Pres. Harrison County Historical Society  
10 Linwood Dr., Marshall, Texas  
Address

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



TEXAS  
HISTORICAL  
COMMISSION

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

GEORGE W. BUSH, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 22, 1999

Billy Nutt  
502 E. Travis  
Marshall TX 75670

Re: Trammel's Trace Cabin (Key Log Cabin)  
301 Henley Perry Drive, Marshall, Harrison County  
Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, 1965

Dear Mr. Nutt:

Enclosed are the copies you requested from the historical marker application file for the Trammel's Trace Cabin in Harrison County. As you can see, since this was one of the early applications, prior to the time when detailed documentation was required, there is very little information in the file.

As I understood the situation from our telephone conversation, you would like to repair and refinish the historical marker. Please see the enclosed instruction sheet, and if you have any additional questions feel free to contact me.

You also asked for information concerning continuing maintenance and repair of the cabin. I've enclosed a brochure which explains the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark designation and the responsibilities concerning notice to the Texas Historical Commission regarding any exterior work to the building. Should you have specific questions concerning upkeep and repairs to the structure, please contact Linda Roark in the Division of Architecture at 512/463-9122.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia J. Beeman".

Cynthia J. Beeman  
Historical Marker Program Coordinator  
History Programs Division  
[cynthia.beeman@thc.state.tx.us](mailto:cynthia.beeman@thc.state.tx.us)

c: Linda Roark, THC Division of Architecture  
Margaret Agnor, Harrison County Historical Commission

14" x 9" Medallion Plate  
Harrison County  
,

TRAMMEL'S TRACE CABIN.

BUILT BEFORE \*\*\*  
1842.HAND-HEWN

LOGS,CHINKED WITH PIPE CLAY.

FOR STRENGTH HAS BUTTERFLY

MORTISING ON LOG ENDS AND

BEAMS WITH TEE-BRACES.WAS

PART OF A 2-PEN DOG-TROT

HOUSE.MOVED HERE,\*\*\*  
1938,BY MR.

AND MRS. HOBART KEY,JR.\*\*

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK,1965.\*\*\*

\*\*3/8" lettering

\*\*\*1/4" lettering

FILE COPY-DO NOT REMOVE

*Stencil  
BP*



Longview News  
Longview, Texas  
AUG 29 1962



Marshall News Messenger  
Marshall, Texas

AUG 30 1962

## Marshall Cabin Medallion Given

MARSHALL. — The first Texas historical building medallion for Harrison County has been awarded for the old Key Log Cabin in Marshall.

The announcement was made by Millard Cope, former Marshall resident and member of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee.

The cabin is owned by Hobart Key Jr. It was built in 1842 near Smithland in Marion County. In 1938, it was moved to its present location and restored. The home has the distinction of being the last of the old log houses in the county.

The home has a unique beam and brace construction and is made of hewn pine logs 18 feet long, 10 inches thick.

The medallion is awarded for structures of historical, architectural or cultural significance to the area in which they exist. The State of Texas places the medallion, signifying the structure worthy of preservation.

"This old log cabin is tangible evidence of the lives of early pioneers," Cope said.

"The State of Texas and its agency, the Texas State Historical Survey Committee, award the Medallion, hoping that the cabin will be preserved for future generations to see and learn first-hand of the history of this area."

## Medallion Awarded To Key Log Cabin

Structure Built In 1842 At Smithland  
And Moved Here Given State Recognition

The First Texas Historical Building Medallion for Harrison County has been awarded for the Key Log Cabin in Marshall, according to the Texas State Historical Survey Committee. The cabin is located just west of the Hobart Key Jr., home at 303 Henley-Perry Drive. It was built in 1842 near Smithland in Marion County.

It was moved to its present location and restored in 1938 and has the distinction of being the last of the old log houses in the county. The home has a unique beam and brace construction and is made of hewn pine logs 18 feet long and 10 inches thick.

The Medallion is awarded for structures of historical, architectural or cultural significance to the area in which they exist. The State of Texas places the Medallion, signifying the structure worthy of preservation.

"This old log cabin is tangible evidence of the lives of early pioneers," the committee said. "The state of Texas and its agency, The Texas State Historical Survey Committee, award the Medallion, hoping that the cabin will be preserved for future generations to see and learn first-hand of the history of this area."

Jeff Hancock of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee has been in Marshall recently and was accompanied by Mrs. Elizabeth Patterson who pointed out architectural features of historic homes and buildings which qualify for building medallions.

Among the places visited were Wyalusing, the Frazier, Adair (Dr. Granbery), Miss Marie Louise Barry, Attebery, (Williamson), First Methodist Church, Hobart Key cabin, and Oak Grove Plantation at Blocker. Among other places qualifying for the Medallion are William T. Scott home, Scottsville; Mimosa Hall, Leigh; Maplecroft and Edgemont.

Applications for building Medallions should be forwarded to Austin and all information and applications must be approved by Aug. 31, to be included on a map to be published soon.

Any places of historic, architectural or cultural interest should be reported at once. Seth Walton, president of the Harrison County Historical Society emphasized the importance of having such structures in the county marked.

APPLICATION FORM  
OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

5  
RECEIVE [ MAY 10 1965

TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY  
COMMITTEE

County Harrison Town Marshall Date May 5, 1965

This marker is for (Title or Subject) Key Log Cabin

Marker is to be located on outside of cabin wall, 301 Perry Drive, Marshall  
(BE SPECIFIC AS TO ADDRESS, LOCATION OF SITE)

Present Owner of Property Hobart Key, Jr. and Mrs. Hobart Key Jr.

Address 303 Perry Drive, Marshall, Texas

Who is responsible for Marker erection, Property maintenance? Mr. and Mrs. Hobart Key, Jr.

Who prepared the history? Hobart Key, Jr.

Address 110 1/2 E. Austin St., Marshall, Texas

Attach History with Reference Data for Authenticating this Subject (2-3 Pages)

**See previous correspondence**

Attach the Suggested Inscription for the Marker

(Copy must meet State requirements; the Texas State Historical Survey Committee reserves the right to change the suggested inscription.)

If this is an Application for a Building Medallion, enclose Picture of structure.

**See previous correspondence**

Do you desire to be contacted Re Final Inscription: Yes ☒ No ☐

Who is to be recognized as the Sponsor of this marker?

Name Mr. Hobart Key, Jr.

RECEIVED  
MAY 10 1965

Address 110 1/2 E. Austin St., Marshall, Texas

TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY  
COMMITTEE

This application has been submitted by:

Name Mr. Hobart Key, Jr.

Address 110 1/2 E. Austin St., Marshall, Texas

Date May 5., 1965

## KEY LOG CABIN

### Address:

301 Perry Drive, Marshall, Texas. Moved from a location on Trammel's Trace in Marion County, Texas, Antonio de Los Santos Coy Survey, to present location in October, 1938.

### Present Ownership:

Mr. and Mrs. Hobart Key, Jr., 303 Perry Drive, Marshall, Texas, - since October, 1938.

### General Designation:

"The Key Log Cabin" currently used as a private residence.

### Date Built:

Before 1842. Built of hand hewn squared logs, pine, average length 18 feet, width 16", average thickness 8", gum logs and white pipe clay chinking. Original doors of hand hewn split pine boards, no glazed windows, chimney of native stone and pipe clay cement. Floor of native stone. No nails were used. The roof was split oak and cypress shingles (boards) set on hand hewn rafters and pegged behind the sheeting with white oak pegs. The house was built prior to the issue of the Land Grant and is supposed to have been occupied for a time by some members of the Schluter family, early pioneers of Smithland, Marion County, Texas.

### Present Condition and Architectural Interest:

Moved to Marshall in 1938. Only one room of the original two room Dog trot house was capable of being used. The logs were re-assembled in their original order and a brick floor was put in over a native (iron ore) foundation floor, a composition roof was used and a kitchen and bedroom and bath added. The fireplace facing and mantle piece, roof beams and logs are original, the interior trim is new. The present structure has the one original room, 18 x 18, as living and reception room, a small front porch and the additions mentioned above. The logs have been treated to preserve them with creosote and the original gum log and pipe clay chinking gives a pleasing black and white effect. The new additions are board and batten and are stained light yellow, the front porch trim is white and the posts and bannister rails are from one of the old Victorian homes here in Marshall (the old Rains home). The house is presently

occupied by Mrs. Hammel, a descendant of Stephen F. Austin.

Of architectural interest is the Butterfly mortice used on the end ties of the log walls, as well as the roof beams (tees) and the mantelpiece made of pieces of same logs used in the walls. The fettings used are wrought iron, fashioned after ship fettings. The architect for this restoration work was Hobart Key, Jr., Naval architect and Naval Officer.

This Log House is thought to be the oldest house still standing either on or off its original site in Harrison County. Situated as it was on Trammel's Trace, it is probable that it was a stage or wagon stop on that road. It was also located favorably with relation to the old trade roads between Smithland, its steamboat landing and, later, Jefferson and the head of navigation on the Cypress and the North and West of Texas. In the late 1800's, with the decline of river traffic, the part of the county in which the house was located became de-populated as people moved west to more productive farms. The locality became remote and almost inaccessible so that the old house sat alone and undisturbed doing duty as a corn crib for more than 50 years. It is possible, too, that it had more than a little to do with the slave traffic at Monterrey Lake on Jeems Bayou in the northeast part of <sup>M</sup>arion County. Certain it is that the slaves and their escorts from Mexico passed by the door on the way to the Barracoons at old Monterrey.

COUNTY Harrison TOWN Marshall

NAME OF MEDALLION STRUCTURE Key Log Cabin

MEDALLION PLATE SIZE 12 " X 6 "

OUR SUGGESTED INSCRIPTION FOR PLATE:  
(please type or print)

Key log Cabin  
Built Prior To 1842 on  
Trummels Trce, Harrison Co. Tex  
Rebuilt on this site 1938



TEXAS STATE CAPITOL

NATION'S LARGEST STATE  
CAPITOL BUILDING, FINANCED BY  
EXCHANGE OF 3,000,000 ACRES  
OF PANHANDLE LAND. BUILT OF  
TEXAS PINK GRANITE 1882-88.

(Copy must meet State requirements; the Texas State Historical Survey Committee reserves the right to change suggested inscription)

DO YOU DESIRE TO BE CONTACTED RE FINAL INSCRIPTION? ☒ YES ☐ NO

AUTHORITY FOR THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE INSCRIPTION:

Deed Records Harrison County, Tex

WHO PREPARED THE INSCRIPTION?

(name) H. Key Jr (address) 303 Perry Drive

THE PLATE WILL BE AFFIXED TO Log Wall Marshall

PLEASE SHIP PLATE TO Hobart Key Jr Texas

303 Perry Drive  
Marshall  
Texas

RECEIVED  
DEC 21 1964

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY  
COMMITTEE

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

(name)

(address)



APPLICATION  
THE TEXAS HISTORICAL BUILDING MEDALLION

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AUG 25 1962

TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY  
COMMITTEE

County HARRISON Town Marshall Date of Application: Aug 31, 1962

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.)

303 Perry Drive  
Marshall, Texas

Present Owner: Hobert Key Jr

General Designation: Log Cabin -

~~Marshall, Texas~~ ✓

Date Built: 1842 near Smithland, Marion Co. Tex

Present Condition: Removed to Present location  
in Marshall in 1938

Interest: Architectural The best of the old log houses  
in the county

Historical The chief feature being a  
unique beam + brace construction

Organization or Individual Assuming Responsibility of Building:

Hobert Key Jr.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS BOX

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Approved,  
Rejected: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Ruling:  
OK. Willard Coon

Area Representatives: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Members:  
W. A.

No. Assigned 282

Date Mailed: \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Remarks: Originally a 2 room "log treat"  
only one room of which was found. Made of  
Hewn Pine Logs 18' long & 10" thick - flat to flat.

Sources of Information: Deed records Marion County, Tex. & Mr.  
J. M. Singleton, Jefferson Tex, H. Key Jr. Marshall Tex.

Hobert Key Jr. 110 1/2 E. Austin St  
Signature — Owner or Authorized Representative Address

Marshall, Texas

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:

Seth R. Walton Jr.  
Pres. Harrison County Historical Society  
10 Linwood Dr., Marshall, Texas  
County Chairman Address

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

*P. file*

JUNE 23, 1965

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

Dear Mr. Southwell:

Enclosed please find application and inscription for  
14" x 9" Medallion Plate for Key Log Cabin.

We would appreciate a rubbing on this inscription.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

George W. Hill  
Executive Director

by: Mrs. Thomas M. Keefe  
Research Assistant

BK/sl  
Enclosures

S-1--7/64

14" x 9" Metal Sign Plate  
Harrison County

TRAMMEL'S TRACE CABIN.  
\*\*\*  
BUILT BEFORE 1842. HAND-HEWN  
LOGS, CHINKED WITH PIPE CLAY.  
FOR STRENGTH HAS BUTTERFLY  
MORTISING ON LOG ENDS AND  
BEAMS WITH TEE-BRACES. WAS  
PART OF A 2-PEN DOG-TROT  
\*\*\*  
HOUSE. MOVED HERE, 1938, BY MR.  
AND MRS. HOBART KEY, JR. \*\*

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK, 1965. \*\*\*

\*\*3/8" lettering  
\*\*\*1/4" lettering

June 17, 1965

Re: Key log cabin

Mr. Hobart Key, Jr.  
First National Bank Building  
Marshall, Texas

Dear Mr. Key:

In accordance with your request to review the final inscription approved by the Marker Committee, we are enclosing same and ask that you let us know your approval at your earliest convenience.

If we have not heard from you by July 1, 1965, we will consider the inscription approved.

We are enclosing a post card for your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Mrs. Thomas M. Keefe  
Research Assistant

BK:rkb

FROM: TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY  
COMMITTEE  
112 East 18th. Austin. GR7-6729  
August 27, 1962  
George W. Hill, Exec. Dir.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The first Texas Historical Building Medallion for Harrison County  
has been awarded for the old Key Log Cabin in Marshall. The announcement was made by Mr. Millard Cope, former Marshall resident, member of the Texas State Historical Survey Committee.

The cabin is owned by Mr. Hobart Key, Jr. It was built in 1842 near Smithland in Marion County. In 1938, it was moved to its present location and restored. The home has the distinction of being the last of the old log houses in the County.

The home has a unique beam and brace construction and is made of hewn pine logs 18 feet long, 10 inches thick.

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"This old log cabin is tangible evidence of the lives of early pioneers," Mr. Cope said. "The State of Texas and its agency, the Texas State Historical Survey Committee, award the Medallion, hoping that the cabin will be preserved for future generations to see and learn first-hand of the history of this area."

**HOBART KEY, JR.**  
CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION  
FIRST NATIONAL BANK BLDG.  
110 1/2 E. AUSTIN ST.  
MARSHALL, TEXAS

May 5, 1965

RECEIVED  
MAY 10 1965

TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY  
COMMITTEE

Mrs. D. M. Parmelee  
Director of Research  
Texas State Historical Survey Committee  
112 East 18th Street  
Austin, Texas

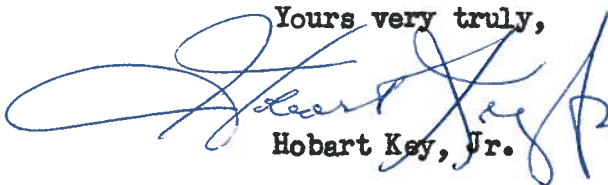
Dear Mrs. Parmelee:

I am enclosing a revised inscription for your approval in connection with the old log cabin formerly located on Trammel's Trace which is now in Marshall.

I am in sympathy with your idea that the wording of the medallion plaque would be insufficient, but I would like to suggest that we use the enclosed inscription on the outside of the cabin and I will type up a more detailed description treating the interior construction and background history in line with your suggestions, which Mrs. Cobb will place in a suitable frame inside the cabin.

I hope this compromise meets with your approval.

Yours very truly,



Hobart Key, Jr.

HK:mhk

Proposed inscription for Key Log Cabin:

One of the oldest wooden buildings in East Texas. Built on Trammel's Trace near Smithland, Marion County, Texas about 1842. Removed to the present site by Hobart Key, Jr. in 1938.

RECEIVED  
MAY 10 1965

TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY  
COMMITTEE

**HOBART KEY, JR.**  
CRUDE OIL PRODUCTION  
FIRST NATIONAL BANK BLDG.  
110 1/2 E. AUSTIN ST.  
MARSHALL, TEXAS

23 August 1962

Texas State Historical Survey Committee  
112 East 18th Street  
Austin, Texas

Gentlemen:

Enclosed herewith please find application for medallion on the old Key log cabin, now situated in Marshall, Texas. I trust that the certificate of application is in order and I am enclosing my check, together with photograph of the building, as per your request. Please send the medallion to me at the address on this letterhead and I will have it properly affixed to the building and notify you that this has been done.

The people shown in the photograph are my children, Albert Key and Mary Hobart Key.

With kindest regards.

Yours very truly,



Hobart Key, Jr.

HK:mc  
Encls.



April 22, 1965

Hobart Key, Jr.  
303 Perry Drive  
Marshall, Texas

Dear Mr. Key:

Thus far the State Marker Committee is consistently rejecting our efforts to compress the history of your cabin at 301 Perry Drive into the small confines of a 12" x 6" inscription. We are failing to do justice to the butterfly mortises, the beams, the survival factor of this cabin (as contrasted with the companion log-pen which did not survive), the abandonment into usage as a corncrib.

The efforts of Mrs. Key and you in behalf of Texas history have been very important. In the complex of your many achievements there is a great story. We felt when we were writing those inscriptions for plates over at Jefferson that the wordage was altogether too brief.

The cabin restoration has raised that same question. This is exceedingly complex. If we say the cabin once stood on Trammel's Trace, we have to identify Trammel's Trace and what it signified in Texas history. We need to tell when you moved the cabin. We must account for the creosoting of the logs. We must account for the porch off the old Rains home and for the added rooms.

Will you please meditate on the problem, then perhaps use the enclosed application form to order a larger plate?

Very sincerely,

Mrs. D. M. Parmelee  
Director of Research

/dp

Yes

I approve of the inscription for  
the Key Log Cabin  
as submitted to me by your office  
on June 17, 1965

Heard Hegler  
(Signed)

RECEIVED  
JUN 21 1965

Harrison  
(County)

TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY  
COMMITTEE

