

Texas Historical Commission Staff (CW), 2/28/79

Official Texas Historical Building Marker to attach to wood
Harrison County (Order #5434)

Location: 510 West Burleson, Marshall

THE WIGFALL HOUSE*

THE OLDEST PORTION OF THIS HOUSE
WAS ERECTED ABOUT 1856. IT WAS
OCCUPIED SOON AFTERWARD BY THE
FAMILY OF LOUIS TREZEVANT WIGFALL
(1816-1874). A FLAMBOYANT POLITICAL
LEADER, WIGFALL STRONGLY ADVOCATED
SECESSION AND STATES' RIGHTS. HE
SERVED AS A STATE LEGISLATOR, UNITED
STATES SENATOR, AND CONFEDERATE
SENATOR. DURING THE CIVIL WAR (1861-
1865), CONFEDERATE OFFICERS OFTEN
STAYED AT THE WIGFALL HOME. LATER
OWNERS ENLARGED THE STRUCTURE
AND ADDED VICTORIAN FEATURES. **
RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 1979***

*1/2 inch lettering
**3/8 inch lettering
***1/4 inch lettering

FILE COPY. DO NOT REMOVE

APPROVED

Truett Latimer

Lynette Reed 3-21-79

5434

MARKER TITLE The Wigfall House [An Official Texas Historical JOB#
Building Medallion and Plate are wanted]

CITY Marshall

COUNTY Harrison

DATE 11/2/78

EVALUATION OF
APPLICATION FOR COMMEMORATIVE MARKER
TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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

Architectural Evaluation:

The Wigfall House appears as a Victorian House of the period toward the end of the 19th Century -- roof, windows, porch, asymmetrical plan and many other details -- and I have no trouble recommending it as a product usually associated with the later style. A Greek Revival house from the 1850s is very much different -- the four rooms may be there underneath it all, but it should be judged as a later structure, in my opinion.
J.R.W., 12/1/78

Substantive Evaluation: The rejection of the claim that the house existed in the 1850s may not be complete. Mr. Williams speaks only of the exterior as it appears in 1978. The documentation carefully researched by Max Lale, who is fully capable, associates the original house with Louis Trezevant Wigfall (1816-1874), and I think we had better stick with the evidences provided. The marker writer would do well to avoid attributing the style of the house to the time of Wigfall's tenure, however. Perhaps the text could concentrate on Wigfall and avoid stating that the house looks anything like it might have looked in the time to Wigfall. *J. Parmer, 12-1-1978*

Administrative Evaluation:

I see no problems in this. Recommend approval A Resd 12-3-78

RECOMMENDATION OF SMC MEMBER:

Signature, SMC Member

Date

THE WIGFALL HOUSE
510 West Burleson
Marshall, Texas

By Max S. Lale

Of the many splendid antebellum and early-postbellum homes along Generals Row in Marshall, by far the most distinguished for its historical associations is The Wigfall House at 510 West Burleson. Here for a time lived one of Texas' most colorful and flamboyant figures. Louis Trezevant Wigfall⁽¹⁸¹⁶⁻¹⁸⁷⁴⁾ was many things: firebrand stump speaker, duelist, Sam Houston nemesis, state representative, state senator, United States senator, first commander of Hood's Texas Brigade, Confederate States senator. But most characteristically of all, he was a petrel for whom the descriptive phrase "ill starred" might have been invented.

It was to this house that Wigfall returned some weeks after the War Between the States ended, a fugitive in the night, to consult with his family about his plans for hiding until they all might flee to England. It was from this house that he escaped his enemies before daylight the next morning.¹

Here, too, at various times during the war years while the Wigfall family was absent in Richmond, lived or visited many general officers of the Confederacy on whose shoulders rested the burden of virtually independent operations west of the Mississippi River. And here, in the Confederacy's dying days, occurred one of the most dramatic and controversial incidents of the war in the Trans-Mississippi Department, a near-mutiny against Kirby Smith, the department commander, by a group of his senior generals.

The house is a modest cottage located just outside the city's original 64-

block townsite on what then was the stage road to Gilmer. Originally four rooms in the usual East Texas floor plan of the period, to which a separate, fifth room was attached by a breezeway, the house certainly was constructed not later than 1856 and perhaps as early as 1854.² No record has been found to indicate the name of an architect or builder.

The Wigfalls' older daughter Louise (Mrs. D. Giraud Wright) left us a delightful description of the home and the community in which it was situated:

I remember, in the summer of 1858, sitting on the broad piazza in front of our home in Marshall, Texas, watching the great comet that hung in the heavens. I can see now the crepe myrtle bushes with their rose-colored blossoms, flanking the steps; feel again the warm, languorous air of the summer night, heavy with the odor of white jasmine, and honeysuckle; and hear again the voices, long stilled, as we talked together of the comet and its portent . . . The village of Marshall was not different from a thousand other little country towns throughout the South. The houses set back from the sandy street, with their front yards filled with roses and honeysuckles; the back yards with the servants' quarters and the wood piles; the well dug deep to reach the cool water; and in it the tempting bucket in which the luscious watermelon was sent down to its mysterious depths, and from which it emerged covered with a silver frost. 3

The first owner of the house would seem to have been Dr. Jefferson M. Saunders, the well-to-do head of a household which as shown by the federal census of 1850 included his wife, the former Mrs. Mary Ann Heard, to whom he was married June 7, 1845,⁴ and four children. These were G. Herd (sic), seven, obviously the child of Mrs. Saunders' earlier marriage; W. Saunders, also a seven-year-old male and equally obviously the child of an earlier marriage; and C. [Claiborne] Saunders, five, and J. [John] Saunders, two.⁵ Another child, Cora, was born subsequent to the 1850 enumeration.⁶ Whether Mrs. Saunders, the former Mary Ann Heard, ever lived in the house is unclear, however; on November 29, 1854, Jefferson M. Saunders was appointed guardian of Claiborne Saunders, John Saunders and Cora Saunders, "his natural children [who] have an estate descended

to them from their grandfather John J. Webster, deceased, of the value of about thirteen thousand dollars . . .⁷

By 1850 Saunders already was on his way to becoming a wealthy man. The Census of that year showed him to be a farmer, 30, who owned real property worth \$6,400, of which 180 acres was improved land. He owned 14 slaves and in 1849 had produced 11 bales of cotton on his land. That he also was a man of influence in the community is indicated by the fact that he was among those attending local political meetings on the sectional crisis of 1850.⁸

Ten years later, in the census of 1860, Saunders was shown to own real property worth \$16,000 and personal property, including 50 slaves, worth \$60,500. His improved acreage had increased to 1,000, on which he produced 159 bales of cotton in 1859. He was still involved in politics, as he was among those attending organization meetings of the Democratic Party in Harrison County in 1859.⁹ Given his wealth at this time, Saunders' voice must have been a powerful one, which raises intriguing questions about his business transactions with Wigfall, already the darling of radical Texas Democrats and the planter princes.

How Wigfall came into possession of the Saunders property is one of these questions. The abstract of title is silent on the subject.¹⁰ The first evidence of Wigfall ownership is a judgment entered March 30, 1860, by the district court of Harrison County in which the court found for the plaintiff, Jefferson M. Saunders, in a suit for debt against Wigfall, who by this time already had been elected to the United States Senate.¹¹ The court directed that the plaintiff recover "the sum of Thirty Three ^{Hundred} & ^(\$3300.06) 06/100 Dollars the debt and interest in plaintiff's petition named and all costs herein expended." By consent of the parties (Wigfall by an unnamed attorney) it was decreed that Saunders recover

the two tracts of land he had purchased from J. N. Jordan in 1856. It is an interesting sidelight that Saunders did not record his warranty deed from Jordan until January 4, 1860,¹² less than three months before the court entered its judgment.

This was not the first time, nor would it be the last, that Wigfall would lose property for debt. He actually was solvent only for brief periods during the remainder of his life.

Saunders recovered title from Wigfall as the result of a sheriff's sale. In a filing January 9, 1861, the sheriff certified that

I did on the first Tuesday in January 1861, it being the first day of said month, having first duly advertised the same according to law, offer at public sale to the highest bidder for cash before the court house door in the town of Marshall the foregoing described tracts of land, and Whereas Jefferson M. Saunders being the highest and best bidder, bidding the sum of Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars for said tracts or parcels of land the same was knocked off to him as the purchaser thereof. 13

Still, the record is clear that the Wigfall remained in possession of the property until some months after the war ended. Louise (Mrs. D. Giraud Wright) Wigfall wrote in 1905 that

When my parents left home in the autumn of 1860 to go to Washington, they anticipated returning home in a few months. 14 We had a faithful woman, named Sarah, whose family had belonged to ours for two generations. Before our departure the silver was packed away and the key given to Sarah. For nearly four years we were absent. During that time the house was occupied by Generals of our army in command at Marshall, permission of course being given. Sarah, for the credit of the establishment, as she told us afterwards, produced the silver and had it constantly in use. When we returned, not a single piece was missing; though, in the meantime the War had ended, and she was free to come and go as she chose, and could easily, in the lawlessness of the time, have decamped with her prize, with none to gainsay her. 15

A Marshall newspaper reported in September 1862 that "Gen. Sibley has removed to the residence formerly occupied by Col. Wigfall."¹⁶ A year later, General E.

Kirby Smith sent his wife and baby from Shreveport "to the home of Senator Louis T. Wigfall at Marshall, Texas, to escape the yellow fever that was raging."¹⁷ Mrs. Wigfall and her daughters accompanied the senator to Texas in 1864 and apparently remained in Marshall during several months when her husband made frequent speeches around the state, two of them in the First Baptist Church at Marshall in August and November.¹⁸ The mutinous meeting of Trans-Mississippi generals was held in the Wigfall home in May 1865, concurrently with a governor's conference being held in Marshall at the same time.¹⁹ And finally, there was the report of a Marshall newspaper that "Mrs. Wigfall, wife of Senator Wigfall, with her elder son and other members of the family, reached this place on the 14th inst. [June], and is now living at her former family residence."²⁰

Here is a highly unusual set of circumstances. A wealthy planter, a member of the Democratic Party in a county dominated politically by Louis T. Wigfall and a county which had become known as the hotbed of states' rights sentiments, a county which had voted overwhelmingly for secession, obtains a judgment against a sitting senator of his own party and his own home town. Then, less than a year later, he recovers title to the senator's home at a sheriff's sale held while that official is in Washington battling for a philosophy of government and a way of life which his state would defend on the battlefield for four years. Yet the defaulting debtor remains in possession of the property until after the war has ended.

The best explanation seems to be that Jefferson M. Saunders died a short time after recovering title, setting off a long train of probate and guardianship proceedings, just as the war was beginning in a climate of ardent patriot-

ism, which would not end until 1878. Saunders' will, dated January 2, 1861 (exactly one week before the sheriff's sale), was filed March 26, 1861,²¹ and was ordered probated in the March term of the court. Letters testamentary were issued to E. C. Perry and others, and an order approving an inventory as returned by Perry was issued in the August term in what would seem to be an unusually rapid series of proceedings, given the climate of the times. Nevertheless, it would be 17 years before George F. Heard, Mary Ann Heard Saunders' son, would be able to deliver a guardian's deed to a buyer not involved in the conflicting claims of two sets of Saunders children.

However, all of this was in the distant future when Wigfall slipped away from his Marshall home in the dark of a summer night, perhaps never to return to it again. His biographer has written that Wigfall "went into hiding" and "evidently remained hidden in Texas, continually fearing capture and prison."²² It was a dolorous ending to what had been so hopefully begun in Marshall at least 16 years earlier.

Wigfall was a South Carolinian who loved his home state, but, like so many others, found good and sufficient reasons to seek a fresh start in Texas. His biographer noted that "he fell into two categories of migration to Texas -- those who were in debt and those who had killed someone."²³ Of good family, he was at once the product of the aristocratic traditions of the Tidewater and of the frontier influence of western South Carolina. His background was Episcopalian, the church of most of the upper class of the Old South, and he married a young woman, Charlotte Maria Cross, who was a second cousin on the Trezevant side and a member of a wealthy Rhode Island family who had spent much time in Charleston. Yet his extreme recklessness in social and financial af-

fairs had earned him a reputation as an irresponsible, self-assured hedonist. Professionally and financially, he found himself nearly ruined. He had wounded one man in a duel, and he had killed another as a consequence of a challenge. Finally, in May, June and July of 1846, the Wigfalls lost virtually everything they had in a series of sheriff's sales, during part of which time Wigfall was in custody of the sheriff for nonpayment of debt. Clearly the time had come to begin again.²⁴

Fortunately, Wigfall had contacts in Texas who could help him. His cousin James Hamilton, who had been governor of South Carolina, had moved to Texas some years earlier, and Hamilton was able to arrange a law partnership for his cousin with a promising young attorney named William B. Ochiltree in Nacogdoches before Wigfall left South Carolina. Thus it was that in the early fall of 1846, less than a year after Texas had been admitted as a state and about a year before the Mexican War was concluded, Wigfall boarded a ship bound for Galveston. Shortly afterward the Wigfall family was united in the new state.²⁵

Questions have been raised as to when Wigfall moved to Marshall, some authorities believing that he may have been living in Galveston as late as 1850. The preponderance of the evidence indicates, however, that he was living and practicing law in Marshall in 1848, as the HANDBOOK OF TEXAS asserts.²⁶ William Manning Morgan, in his monumental history of Trinity Episcopal Church in Galveston, where Wigfall is buried, asserts that "Wigfall settled at Marshall in 1848."²⁷ Wigfall's biographer records that "Soon after coming to Nacogdoches, Wigfall moved to Marshall and established his own law office. The rapidly growing town, seat of Harrison County, on the northeastern border of the state, was the homebase for Texans advocating states' rights and a strict interpre-

tation of the Constitution."²⁸ The biographer makes no mention of Wigfall's living (or visiting) in Galveston in 1850, as at least one authority has asserted, and it seems likely that any connection he had with Galveston in that year was for political or business reasons.

In any event, Wigfall was recorded in the 1850 census in Harrison County as living with his family in what appears to be rented quarters in a household headed by an M. Layne, a 40-year-old woman with two children and including an 18-year-old music teacher from Alabama. The Wigfall household at that time included Charlotte, his wife, and two children, F. H., six, a native of South Carolina, and S. L., three, born in Rhode Island.²⁹ was to serve some yea
later as a Halsey, who ~~served as a~~
 captain in the Confederate army, does not appear in the enumeration, perhaps because he was away from home in school. On Christmas day of the same year, Charlotte and Louis Wigfall were among 22 Episcopalians who met with the Rev. Henry Sansom and signed articles of association to organize Trinity Episcopal Church in Marshall. On January 4, 1851, after morning prayer, the organization of the parish was completed by the election of the following officers: Thomas Herndon, senior warden; E. G. Benners, junior warden; and W. P. Hill, Virgil Dubose and Wigfall, vestrymen.³⁰

Wigfall at this time was "struggling hard and with scant apparent hope of success" to establish the political career which later was to flourish so abundantly. In April 1861 a Marshall newspaperman indulged himself in a bit of personal nostalgia coupled with a reflection on the extent to which the political scene in Texas had changed during the years:

Some twelve years have elapsed since first we placed our feet on Texas soil, and inhaled its dry, salubrious atmosphere. The three bright particular stars were Houston, Rusk and Henderson. The first still lingers on the stage, though he has heard the prompter's signal to retire. The two last have gone to their final account, and their lives are rapidly fading from the memory of man. At that time Louis T. Wigfall was struggling hard and with scant apparent hope of success, to ascend the political ladder on his Southern Rights doctrine. But now how are things changed; he stands confessed the first orator and statesman in Texas, and among the first in the Confederate States. 31

Step by step, Wigfall built politically on the radical climate he found in Harrison County. His first opportunity came in the 1849 gubernatorial campaign, when Sam Houston backed George T. Wood. Houston spoke in Marshall for Wood, but his speech was aimed mostly against Calhoun's call for a southern convention. Wigfall defended Calhoun. In the same year, Wigfall was able to win election to the state house of representatives to complete the term of an incumbent who resigned. Five years later, Wigfall once again led an attack on Houston because of his support for the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 and successfully eroded much of Houston's popular support. The rise of the Know-Nothing, or American, Party was to boost Wigfall's career immensely. After the 1856 election, Wigfall's reputation as a Know-Nothing (Sam Houston) fighter was made. Democratic statagists turned to him for advice on how to attack Know-Nothing candidates in the Texas elections of 1857, in which Wigfall was successful in winning election to the Texas Senate. The final boost to his career came, however, in the Runnels-Houston gubernatorial race, in which Wigfall was credited with defeating the Old Hero. Houston refused to speak from the same platform with anyone who opposed him, a tactic which Wigfall turned to his advantage. The Marshall politician followed Houston on the speaking circuit, speaking immediately afterward and attacking his arguments one by one. Houston reacted

in characteristic fashion, maligning his opponents. Wigfall, J. P. Henderson, W. S. Oldham, Francis Lubbock and others were all criminals who had fled to Texas, according to Houston. According to Wigfall's biographer, he was "the only man who ever bested Houston at this kind of rough-and-tumble."³³

By the end of 1857, the extreme states' rightists, or regular Democrats, were entrenched, and they had sent Henderson [another Marshall man] to the United States Senate to succeed Rusk, who had committed suicide. When Henderson died before serving a year of his term, Wigfall's influence in the party became stronger than ever. He was able to heal a breach between Marshall's Pendleton Murrah, a strong states' rights advocate, and John Reagan, a moderate. The stage thus was set, though the outcome still was uncertain, for Wigfall's bid in 1859 to become United States Senator himself. The balance between radical and moderate Democrats in the state legislature, where the election would be held, was precarious and unpredictable, and Sam Houston had won his race to sit in the governor's seat in Austin. It was only after Wigfall supporters had out-maneuvered his opponents in a lengthy, bitterly-fought parliamentary battle that the Marshall petrel won his senate seat. Wigfall's biographer wrote that "John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry triggered this dramatic shift in the trend of Texas politics," an analysis with which most historians have concurred over the years, though a recent writer has attempted, not altogether convincingly, to refute this contention.³⁴

In other areas of his life in Marshall, the years had been less kind. In 1853, Wigfall had scraped up enough money to buy 388 acres of Harrison County land but lost it when unprofitable railroad investments drained his resources.↓

Two years after he bought it, the land went for non-payment of debts, a story which would be repeated and re-repeated. According to his biographer, Wigfall never again would be solvent for more than a few weeks at a time.³⁶ Though 1857 would be a good year politically, it would bring another financial crisis. A court decided that he still owed an 1848 debt to William R. Smith of Galveston and ordered him to pay \$1,010 for the \$548 he had borrowed at 10 percent interest.³⁷

Nor was the loss of his Marshall home the final indignity which Wigfall heaped upon himself by his own irresponsibility. After leaving Marshall for service in the Confederate army and the C.S. Senate, debt, careless expenditures and an impulse toward self-destructive behavior continued to plague him. Rather than to ~~do~~ ^{do} deeper in debt, while at the same time risking capture, Wigfall and his family abandoned a plan to return to Texas in 1863. Merely living in Richmond was putting the Wigfalls in debt. In April 1863 their board alone was raised to \$240 a month.³⁸ A year later (and his financial straits apparently well known) Gen. John A. Wharton wrote from Texas that "You must come . . . this summer" and offered to lend the senator \$3,000 to finance the trip.³⁹ The Wigfalls did make the trip, as recounted earlier, and no doubt experienced a degree of euphoria when supporters in the state made the family a donation of \$6,000.⁴⁰ Displaying their new wealth, the family moved into the Spotswood Hotel when they returned to Richmond. They had not only the donations from Texans but also \$1,000 in gold which Mrs. Wigfall's mother had smuggled into the Confederacy to them from Rhode Island. The senator promptly converted the gold into Confederate bank notes, a patriotic gesture which some of his southern friends thought rather foolish that late in the war.⁴¹ The same pattern of

debt, defiance and desperation would continue through the remainder of Wigfall's life, from his arrival in England in 1866 to his return to Baltimore in 1872 and finally his move to Galveston in 1874, in the few remaining months of his life.

One might suppose that the fiery and impetuous Wigfall would have found the battlefield more congenial than the legislative chamber, especially after his theatrical performance at Fort Sumter, the opening scene of the war. There, as a volunteer aide-de-camp to Gen. P. T. Beauregard with the honorary grade of colonel (but without the little Creole's authority) and under the eye of the former Lucy Holcombe of Marshall, wife of Governor Pickens of South Carolina, Wigfall had himself rowed to the fort as artillery rounds still fell on the stronghold and in the waters surrounding it, and there accepted the surrender of the United States' Maj. Robert Anderson.⁴² The result was to make him an instant hero in his native state.

Nor was Wigfall unmindful of the opportunity afforded by military service for other dramatic gestures. On July 31, 1861, President Jefferson Davis presented its colors⁴³ to the First Texas Infantry in a ceremony at the Richmond fair grounds which left the Southern diarist Mary Boykin Chesnut breathless:

The President with his aids dashed by. My husband was riding with him. The President presented the flag to the Texans. Mr. Chesnut came to us [Mrs. Chesnut and Mrs. Wigfall, who had called for Mrs. Chesnut in her carriage] for the flag and bore it aloft to the President. We seemed to come in for part of the glory. We were too far off to hear the speech, but Jeff Davis is very good at that sort of thing, and we were satisfied that it was well done. Heavens! How that redoubtable Wigfall did rush those poor Texans about. He maneuvered and marched them until I was weary for their sakes. It was a hot afternoon, the thermometer in the nineties . . . At the Fair Grounds there was much music and mustering and marching, much cheering and flying of flags, much firing of guns and all that sort of thing; a gala day with a double-distilled Fourth of July feeling. ⁴⁴

For what seem apparent reasons, Wigfall was not popular with his Texas troopers, however. James Hendrick, a member of Marshall's Company E of the First Texas, commented in a letter to his mother dated July 20, eleven days before the colors ceremony, that "A good many of the company are dissatisfied with Col. Wigfall already because he keeps them too close. He won't allow any of us to go to town without first getting a permit from Capt. [Frederick] Bass and then going to him and getting him to sign it."⁴⁵ Writing to his own parents a day later, Robert Gaston of Tyler noted that "Old Wigfall has given our companies one cursing already. They say he is very austere & rigid with his men." Two days later, in another letter to Tyler, he added that ". . . he has one great fault. He loves whiskey too well. He has been drunk several times since we came here."⁴⁶

Wigfall's love affair with the bottle also was to cost him in respect and confidence later on, after he had transferred his talents to the Confederate Senate. His biographer comments at several points on his drunkenness and in one passage credits Jefferson Davis with saying he had withdrawn his confidence from Wigfall "because of his drinking."⁴⁷ Wigfall's personality was not an easy one to live with, even for himself!

Long after the salad days of Wigfall's army service, his home in Marshall became the setting for one of the most dramatic and mysterious events in the Confederacy's dying days.⁴⁸ Accounts of a meeting of generals in the house on May 13, 1865, to discuss plans for continuing the war in the west, and perhaps in Mexico, are cloaked in generalities, no doubt because of a concern for the manner in which history would record the event. Wigfall's biographer records

only that the generals' plans fell through when "Kirby Smith wisely refused to head the expedition."⁴⁹ Joseph H. Parks, in his biography of Kirby Smith, wrote in more detail of the strange meeting, though not without raising questions as to the credibility of a primary source of information about it. John N. Edwards, a member of General Joe Shelby's command, recounted the circumstances (as he apparently had them from Shelby, inasmuch as he himself was not present) in his book SHELBY AND HIS MEN, published in 1867, to which Parks added his own investigation into other documents bearing on the meeting.⁵⁰

Lee had surrendered, Johnston had surrendered, and Union General John Pope, commander of the military Division of Missouri, had arrived at the mouth of Red River with a demand for Kirby Smith's surrender. Wishing to establish with the civil authorities the position his remnants of the Confederacy's forces should assume, Kirby Smith held a number of meetings at his Shreveport headquarters, then asked the Trans-Mississippi governors to meet him in Marshall. According to the Edwards story, another meeting was held in Marshall, in the Wigfall home, while the governors were meeting at the Adkins House (later the Capitol Hotel). Present were General Alexander T. Hawthorne, General Shelby, General Thomas J. Churchill, General William Preston and Col. George Flournoy -- who was fearful of Kirby Smith's intentions -- and perhaps others. After much discussion, Shelby proposed that Kirby Smith be informed that "a change of commanders was necessary." Consequently he must turn over command of troops to General Simon Bolivar Buckner.

Shelby was sent to consult Buckner, from whom he apparently got a promise to take command and "fight the issue out." The entire group then called upon Kirby Smith, who, according to Edwards, was reduced to tears. He said he was

grieved that his soldiers no longer had confidence in him, that in spite of doubts cast upon him by others in an effort to hide their own cowardice, he had never seriously considered surrendering. Being assured that his patriotism and sincerity were not questioned but also that conditions within the army were such that a change was necessary, Kirby Smith thereupon turned to Buckner and directed a concentration on the Brazos and "relinquished all command by himself." Had later events taken such a turn, the meeting of generals would have become a successful coup, if not actually a seizure of command by mutiny.

But of course this was not how events did in fact turn out. Kirby Smith returned to Shreveport, after what must have been an exhausting experience with his governors and his generals, and resumed stalling for time in hope of making the best deal possible for an army which no longer was an effective fighting force. Writing before the official reports were available, R. W. Loughery, the never-day-die editor of The (Marshall) Texas Republican, commented that soldiers and civilians had "unbounded confidence in the patriotism of General Smith and the Governors," predicting that these men would weigh all the facts carefully and then arrive at a correct decision.⁵¹ Three weeks later, however, Loughery blamed Smith for the final failure, declaring that the troops "lost confidence in him and associated him with cotton speculation." Arkansas and Missouri troops stationed in and near Marshall were orderly and continued to remain loyal to the Confederacy, the editor wrote, but others, "influenced by Gen. Smith, were demoralized, and broke up in squads and went home."⁵² As Smith's biographer wrote, "Name-calling and speculation in 'ifs' become a favorite pastime among those who are unable to adjust themselves to the inevitable."⁵³

The history of The Wigfall House after the dramatic events with which it was associated during the war becomes more difficult to determine for the years which followed. As a pawn in a protracted probate and guardianship struggle, it seems likely the house was rented for a number of years, though there is no present indication as to who may have received the rents. There are reports handed down from previous generations⁵⁴ that occupants of the house at various times included Sam Houston's daughter Nettie Houston Bringhurst, whose husband was president of Marshall University,⁵⁵ and the same General Hawthorne who presumably took part in the near-revolt of the generals.⁵⁶ However, no conclusive evidence has yet been discovered which would establish either of these notables as residents of the house.

Title to the Wigfall property must be tracked through an abstract which is incomplete and confusing. Consisting of two tracts of an acre each when Jefferson M. Saunders won his suit against Wigfall in 1860, the one acre adjacent to The Wigfall House was severed later in the same year. On September 22, 1860, a "Mourning Love" sold this property to O. J. Womack,⁵⁷ though there is no indication in the abstract how she came into possession of it. The deed recites that it conveyed "all that certain tract or lot of land situated in the North West part of the town of Marshall in the County of Harrison aforesaid bounded on the North by the Gilmer Road, on the East by the premises occupied and claimed by L. T. Wigfall [emphasis added], on the South by the lot of land owned by O. J. Womack and on which he now resides, and on the West by the lot of land owned by George B. Adkins or Wm B. Ochiltree and Elizabeth Coley . . ."

The record on the Wigfall property is silent, however, until 1871, when during the October term of county court in that year George F. Heard was appointed guardian of Howard P. Saunders, Caldwell Saunders and Mary Jefferson Saunders, "minors, children of Jefferson M. Saunders, deceased, by his subsequent wife."⁵⁸ Later, Heard petitioned the district court for permission to sell the interest of his wards in two acres (apparently including the one acre which Mourning Love ostensibly had sold to O. J. Womack in 1860). This permission the court granted.⁵⁹ Then, during the February 1872 term of the court, John Saunders "and others" petitioned the court to direct Heard to sell the property "and retain in hand the proceeds."⁶⁰ Apparently acting under the authority of the court's permission to sell the property, Heard did so to Elam P. M. Johnson for \$3,000, a transaction which the court confirmed.⁶¹

An undated court order reproduced in the abstract for the Wigfall property directed that the proceeds of the Jefferson M. Saunders estate be partitioned equally between his first three children, C. W. Saunders, John H. Saunders and Cora Saunders Hill, and his last three, H. P. Saunders, C. C. Saunders and M. J. Saunders. The order stated that a previous court order dated November 23, 1871, had been issued but not executed.

In a document dated October 28, 1876, and filed the same day, Felix H. Johnson and John Crimmin agreed that whereas George F. Heard, guardian of three minor Saunders heirs, had sold the Saunders property to them jointly, Crimmin would receive The Wigfall House as his portion of the joint purchase.⁶² With a guardian's deed delivered to Crimmin October 21, 1878, The Wigfall House finally passed from an uncertain status in an estate in the hands of a private

⁶³
owner.

Crimmin lived to enjoy his ownership for less than a year, however. He died July 18, 1879. In a subsequent proceeding, the probate court found that "the said deceased had purchased from one George F. Heard the house and lot in the city of Marshall, Harrison County, Texas, known as the Wigfall Place [emphasis added] as a homestead," and owed \$240 including interest at the time of his death. Administrator R. Ballauf was ordered to extinguish the lien from the estate and to secure the homestead to Mrs. Crimmin and a minor child.⁶⁴

Mrs. (Lou A.) Crimmin subsequently married Joseph J. Heim on January 1, 1884.⁶⁵ Nine years later, J. J. Heim gave his wife Louisa a quit claim deed dated December 14, 1892, and filed July 4, 1893, which "for and in consideration of the love and affection which he hath and bears to the party of the second part" dismissed any claim of his to The Wigfall House⁶⁶ and a house next to it (512 West Burlleson).

After Heim's death on May 24, 1897, Mrs. Heim sold 510 West Burlleson, The Wigfall House, to A. J. McMillan for \$1,200 cash.⁶⁷

Clear title still was a sometime thing, however. A quit claim deed recorded in Vol. 49, page 352, Deed Records of Harrison County, from Cornelius B. Crimmin, only child of John Crimmin and Louisa A. Crimmin Heim, relinquished any claim to the property. The quit claim deed noted that Mrs. L. A. Heim had sold land in Marshall to R. P. Littlejohn and A. J. and Emma J. McMillan described in a deed from Mrs. Louisa A. Heim to R. P. Littlejohn dated July 5, 1889, and recorded in Record Book 24, page 314. The quit claim deed from Cornelius B. Crimmin noted also a deed from Mrs. Louisa A. Heim to A. J. and Emma J. McMillan, dated May 24, 1897, and recorded in Book 39, page 47, Deed Records of Harrison

County, as well as a deed from Mrs. Louisa A. Heim to R. P. Littlejohn dated April 26, 1899, recorded in Book 41, pages 288-299, Deed Records of Harrison County.

Emma J. McMillan, widow of A. J. McMillan, remained in possession of the house at 510 West Burluson until her death on December 6, 1922. Her will named her sister and brother, Louise Paye Lane and Wade J. Lane (niece and nephew of Walter P. Lane) executrix and executor of her estate.⁶⁸ The inventory of Mrs. McMillan's estate which was filed with the probate court placed a value of \$7,000 on her home, in which Louise Paye Lane and Wade J. Lane each were awarded half-interest by Mrs. McMillan's will.

W. J. Lane died on June 13, 1933, naming Louise Paye Lane in his will as his executrix and leaving his half-interest in the house at 510 West Burluson to another sister, Mrs. Lelia L. Sproule. Miss Lane and Mrs. Sproule thus became half-owners of the house. No doubt because Lane's death occurred at the trough of the Great Depression, the value of his half-interest in the house was placed in the inventory at \$1,500.⁶⁹

Miss Lane had lived with her sister Mrs. McMillan for some time after her own home burned in 1905. This home, built by W. R. D. Ward, had been the residence until his death of Walter P. Lane, Miss Lane's uncle and a veteran of San Jacinto, of the Mexican War, in which he was a major, and the Civil War, in which he was a brigadier general. In a letter written soon after the house burned, Miss Lane recalled "the way in which I came into possession, while quite young, of this beautiful old landmark. It was bought, and given to me to hold, by General Lane, in case he did not return from the war."⁷⁰ After the fire, in response to her sister's urging, Miss Lane recalled that "I repaired to her

home, which is built on the Louis T. Wigfall site, occupied by him as a resident of Marshall in former years. Almost opposite was once the home of Col. J. M. Clough, who lost his life at the siege of Ft. Donaldson (sic) . . . Nearby was the home of General M. D. Ector after the war."⁷¹

Miss Lane died November 28, 1933, leaving her half-interest in The Wigfall House to her sister Mrs. Sproule, who already owned the half-interest bequeathed to her by her brother W. J. Lane. Now the sole owner of the property, Mrs. Sproule sold it on December 29, 1933, to Lillie Fortune Rutherford.⁷²

From Lillie Fortune Rutherford, the house passed into the hands February 1, 1947, of Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Woodring, who paid \$5,000 for it.⁷³

Mr. and Mrs. James (Jim) Ammerman, a couple with longtime interest in historic properties, acquired the house from Mr. and Mrs. Rutherford on February 22, 1965,⁷⁴ and subsequently modernized its interior, removing several partitions and installing new kitchen and bathroom fixtures and appliances. By removing one partition, a double fireplace became free-standing and a focal point of interest for the entire lower floor of the house. Mr. Ammerman is a former county judge of Harrison County and currently is serving as a member of the Harrison County Historical Commission.

Sam Baxter, now the criminal district attorney for Harrison County, purchased The Wigfall House from Mr. and Mrs. Ammerman on February 11, 1976,⁷⁵ and is the current owner.

Although the house has been enlarged and its interior altered over the years, the house remains because of its exterior facade one of the most attractive homes on a street distinguished for its many historic structures. The interior of the original structure, despite its alterations, still retains the integrity given it by the high ceilings, period woodwork, square nails and

a hand-carved archway in the front hall with which its unknown builder designed it. Both of the double fireplaces with which it was furnished originally still are operable, and, in the words of a former owner, Jim Ammerman, "are paragons of craftsmanship, since they draw like bellows." The mortar with which the fireplace bricks were laid is the sand mixture typical of the period of its construction in the 1850s.

The Wigfall House was surveyed for the National Register of Historic Places during the first week in April 1978 by Stan Klein and Barry Wagner of the Texas Historical Commission.

Because of its antebellum construction and its location on a street of many similar homes, but especially because of its association with a number of important figures in Texas history, most notably Louis T. Wigfall, The Wigfall House at 510 West Burlison in Marshall is worthy of recognition as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark. Such a designation will contribute materially to an appreciation by future generations of the important role it once played in the history of Texas and indeed of the Confederate States of America.

Max S. Love
May 31, 1978

NOTES

1. Mrs. D. Giraud Wright, *A SOUTHERN GIRL IN '61*, The War-Time Memoirs of a Confederate Senator's Daughter, Doubleday, Page & Company, 1905, page 16. Mrs. Wigfall and several of her family members had arrived in Marshall from Richmond, after several arduous weeks of travel, on June 14, 1865. The (Marshall) Texas Republican, June 23, 1865. Mrs. Wright wrote that ". . . at last [emphasis added] tidings were brought to us that he [Wigfall] was in our neighborhood," so implying that it was a number of days or even weeks after the family's return that Wigfall reached Marshall. A garrison of Union troops had occupied Marshall not later than July 1, so it seems likely that Wigfall was well advised to use the cover of darkness for his reunion with his family. Max Lale, "The Military Occupation of Marshall, Texas, by the 8th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, U.S.A., 1865," Military History of Texas and the Southwest, Vol. XIII, No. 3, page 40.
2. J. N. Jordan bought adjoining one-acre tracts in August and November 1854, paying \$800 for one and \$300 for the other. Vol. N, pages 319 and 466, Deed Records of Harrison County. Jordan and his wife sold the two tracts to Jefferson M. Saunders on January 1, 1856, for \$2,000, almost double what he had paid only slightly more than a year earlier. Vol. S, page 66, Deed Records of Harrison County. This increase in price implies an increase in value represented by construction. For the chain of ownership of the property see Appendix A.
3. Wright, *A SOUTHERN GIRL IN '61*, *op. cit.*, pages 3-4, 11. Mrs. Wright did not mention a brick-lined cistern, in the shape of a chemist's flask, also on the property.
4. Vol. 1, page 134, Marriage Records of Harrison County.
5. This census information is from a mimeographed transcription in the archives of the Harrison County Historical Museum, "The State of Texas, Federal Population Schedules, Seventh Census of the United States, 1850," as transcribed by Mrs. V. K. Carpenter for Century Enterprises, Huntsville, Arkansas, 1969.
6. Cora, along with Claiborne and John, figured in an involved series of guardianship proceedings beginning in November 1854 as reflected in the abstract on the Wigfall property.
7. Vol. C, page 486, Probate Minutes of Harrison County.
8. Dr. Randolph B. Campbell, "Planters and Plain Folk: Harrison County, Texas, as a Test Case, 1850-1860," The Journal of Southern History, Vol. XL, No. 3, August 1974, page 394. Saunders' name is consistently misspelled Sanders in this work, an error easily enough made when transcribing names from the manuscript returns.
9. Ibid., page 397.

10. Sam Baxter, a lawyer and criminal district attorney for Harrison County who is the present owner of the property, is unable, after searching the records, to offer any explanation for the absence of a title transfer from Saunders to Wigfall. Jim Ammerman, also a lawyer and a former Harrison County Judge who is currently a member of the Harrison County Historical Commission, is equally at a loss to explain the omission.
11. Vol. G, page 520, District Court Minutes.
12. Vol. S, page 66, Deed Records of Harrison County.
13. Vol. 4, page 4, Deed Records of Harrison County. After purchasing the property and discovering the omission from the abstract of any title transfer from Saunders to Wigfall, the present owner of the property, Sam Baxter, searched the records of the district court clerk for the original documents connected with the court judgment and sheriff's sale. All are missing, whether from simple pilferage or an effort to expunge the record is unknown.
14. Wigfall's biographer confirms the accuracy of this statement: "When Wigfall answered the opening roll call for the second session of the Thirty-Sixth Congress, he was convinced that he would not be there for its close." Alvy L. King, LOUIS T. WIGFALL, SOUTHERN FIRE-EATER, Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, 1970, page 101. Wigfall had been at home in Texas for part of the summer and the entire fall of the year, among other reasons to participate in the election of August 3, 1860. King, page 99.
15. Wright, A SOUTHERN GIRL, op. cit., page 16.
16. The (Marshall) Texas Republican, reprinted in the Marshall News Messenger, September 30, 1962. This was the Henry Hopkins Sibley of the ill-fated Confederate expedition into the New Mexico and Arizona territories earlier in the war. A native of Natchitoches, Louisiana, he was graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1838. His later service in the war was under Richard Taylor and Kirby Smith in the Trans-Mississippi Department. HANDBOOK OF TEXAS, page 608. The newspaper had reported earlier in its account that "The companies comprising Gen. Sibley's Brigade are coming in. On Wednesday a very fine cavalry company paraded through town, and shortly afterwards, followed the splendid Val Verde battery captured from the enemy in Arizona. Other companies are arriving on Thursday."
17. Joseph Howard Parks, GENERAL EDMUND KIRBY SMITH, C.S.A., Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, 1954, page 328.
18. The (Marshall) Texas Republican, September 8, 1864; November 18, 1864.
19. King, LOUIS T. WIGFALL, op. cit., page 221; Parks, GENERAL KIBRY SMITH, C.S.A., OP. CIT., page 466.

20. The (Marshall) Texas Republican, June 23, 1865. Curiously, Wigfall's biographer implies, though he does not state, that the Wigfall family did not return to Texas: "Wigfall found conditions in the Trans-Mississippi Confederacy so bad that he did not ask his family to join him there." King, LOUIS T. WIGFALL, op. cit., page 221.
21. Vol. E, page 353, Probate Minutes.
22. King, LOUIS T. WIGFALL, op. cit., pages 222, 223.
23. Ibid., page 46.
24. Ibid., pages 9-35.
25. Ibid., page 47.
26. " . . . in 1848, he settled at Marshall and formed a law partnership with W. B. Ochiltree and T. J. Jennings." Pages 906-907.
27. William Manning Morgan, TRINITY PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GALVESTON, TEXAS, 1841-1953, A Memorial History, The Anson Jones Press, Houston and Galveston, 1954, page 773.
28. King, LOUIS T. WIGFALL, op. cit., page 49. If Wigfall migrated to Texas "Sometime in the early fall of 1846 . . ." and "Soon after coming to Nacogdoches . . . moved to Marshall . . .," the implication is strong that Wigfall perhaps arrived in Marshall as early as 1847 and certainly no later than 1848.
29. 1850 Population Schedules, op. cit., page 979.
30. Max S. Lale, AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING, Marshall, 1950, page 3.
31. The Marshall News Messenger, April 1, 1961, reprinting from a newspaper account of the same week a century earlier. The author undoubtedly was R. W. Loughery, editor of The (Marshall) Texas Republican, a spokesman for the planter interests and longtime advocate of the same states' rights doctrine which Wigfall expounded. Incidentally, the reference made in 1861 to "Some twelve years earlier . . ." places Wigfall in Marshall not later than 1849 and, with some latitude for inaccuracy due to the general nature of the statement, perhaps as early as 1848.
32. King, LOUIS T. WIGFALL, op. cit., page 55.
33. Ibid., pages 6-70.
34. Billy D. Ledbetter, "The Election of Louis T. Wigfall to the United States Senate, 1859: A Reevaluation," Southwestern Historical Quarterly, Vol. LXXVII, No. 2, October 1973, pages 241-254.
35. King, LOUIS T. WIGFALL, OP. CIT., page 50.
36. Ibid.

37. Ibid., page 67; Book A, page 441, District Court Clerk Records, Harrison County.
38. King, LOUIS T. WIGFALL, op. cit., page 168.
39. Ibid., page 197.
40. Ibid., page 199.
41. Ibid., page 200.
42. W. A. Swanberg, FIRST BLOOD, THE STORY OF FORT SUMTER, Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1957, pages 318-319.
43. There seems little question that Mrs. Wigfall sewed the unit colors, but the author has found no indication that she did so in the Wigfall home in Marshall, despite local stories to the contrary. There would have been no occasion to do so before the family left Marshall for Washington and the congressional session beginning in 1861, and she seems to have been with her husband thereafter in Washington, Montgomery and Richmond.
44. Mary Boykin Chesnut, A DIARY FROM DIXIE, edited by Ben Ames Williams, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1949, page 98.
45. Photocopy in the archives of the Harrison County Historical Museum.
46. THE WAR LETTERS OF ROBERT H. AND WILLIAM H. GASTON, COMPANY H, FIRST TEXAS INFANTRY REGIMENT, HOOD'S TEXAS BRIGADE, edited by Robert W. Glover, W. M. Morrison - Bookseller, Waco, 1960, page 5.
47. King, LOUIS T. WIGFALL, op. cit., page 158.
48. Ibid., page 221.
49. Ibid., page 222.
50. Parks, GENERAL KIRBY SMITH, op. cit., pages 460-468.
51. May 12, 1865.
52. May 26, 1865; June 2, 1865.
53. Parks, GENERAL KIRBY SMITH, op. cit., page 467.
54. "Inside the Museum," a column published in The Marshall News Messenger on April 12, 1970.
55. W. L. Bringham was president of the school from 1879 to 1882. If Sam Houston's daughter did indeed live in the house, it is one of the ironies

of history that it should have been the home of her father's bitterest political enemy.

56. Hawthorne was born in Alabama on January 10, 1825, but moved to Arkansas after college. As lieutenant colonel and colonel of the Sixth Arkansas Infantry he fought at Shiloh and at Fort Hindman during the attack on Helena, Arkansas. Promoted to command a brigade in Churchill's Arkansas Division, he fought at Mansfield, Pleasant Hill and Jenkin's Ferry in 1864 and continued to serve as a brigadier general until the end of the war. After the surrender he moved to Brazil but returned to the United States in 1874 and engaged in business in Atlanta. He entered the Baptist ministry in 1880 and lived in Texas until his death on May 31, 1899, at the home of a son in Dallas. HANDBOOK OF TEXAS. His first church assignment apparently was in Marshall. A Marshall newspaper reported the death September 26, 1880, of Mrs. T. J. Carlin, "sister of Mrs. Hawthorne, wife of Gen. A. T. Hawthorn (sic) of this city." Scrapbook of Ida Kate Hill Holmes, archives, Harrison County Historical Museum. Hawthorne's body was returned to Marshall and is buried in Greenwood Cemetery.
57. Vol. S, page 594, Deed Records of Harrison County.
58. Vol. J, page 290, Probate Minutes.
59. Vol. J, page 502, Minutes of the District Court.
60. Vol. J, page 616, Minutes of the District Court.
61. Vol. K, page 73, Minutes of the District Court.
62. Vol. 5, page 551, Deed Records of Harrison County.
63. Vol. 9, page 564, Deed Records of Harrison County.
64. Vol. F-2, page 10, Probate Minutes.
65. Vol. 8, page 616, Marriage Records.
66. Vol. 30, page 473, Deed Records of Harrison County.
67. Vol. 39, page 47, Deed Records of Harrison County.
68. Vol. X, page 1, Probate Minutes.
69. Vol. 9, 548, Probate Minutes.
70. Walter P. Lane, ADVENTURES AND RECOLLECTIONS OF WALTER P. LANE, A SAN JACINTO VETERAN, CONTAINING SKETCHES OF THE TEXAN, MEXICAN AND LATE WARS WITH SEVERAL INDIAN FIGHTS THROWN IN, News Messenger Pub. Co., Marshall, Texas, 1928, page 132.

71. Ibid., page 142.
72. Vol. 193, page 519, Deed Records of Harrison County.
73. Vol. 310, page 71, Deed Records of Harrison County.
74. File No. 1097, Deed Records of Harrison County.
75. File No. 958-A, Deed Records of Harrison County.

Appendix A

Chain of Ownership

- Field Notes John S. Ford, deputy surveyor, to Peter Whetstone, 25 labors of land, dated March 8, 1838, filed May 20, 1838, Vol. F, page 47, Surveyor's Records of Harrison County.
- Patent Republic of Texas to Peter Whetstone, 25 labors of land, dated August 13, 1845, filed June 16, 1847, Vol. F, page 160, Deed Records of Harrison County.
- Administratrix Deed Dicy Whetstone, administratrix, to G. W. Hart, 31.84 acres, \$242.78, dated February 21, 1846, filed March 12, 1846, Vol. E, page 91, Deed Records of Harrison County.
- Deed George W. Hart to G. A. M. Starkes, 31.84 acres, \$242.78, dated August 10, 1846, filed September 3, 1846, Deed Records of Harrison County.
- Deed George A. M. Starkes, et ux Francis C. Starkes, to John McGlover, 5.5 acres, \$32, dated October 13, 1846, filed October 20, 1846, Vol. E, page 338, Deed Records of Harrison County.
- Quit Claim Deed G. A. M. Starkes to George B. Adkins, 15.63 acres, \$197, dated January 16, 1847, filed April 1, 1847, Vol. F, page 35, Deed Records of Harrison County.

(Here there is an unexplained hiatus in the abstract)

- Warranty Deed Isaac Epperson to W. H. Dial, one acre, dated January 17, 1850, filed January 19, 1850, Vol. H, page 284, Deed Records of Harrison County.
- Warranty Deed George B. Adkins to George W. Vivian, one acre, \$450 cash, dated November 11, 1853, filed November 17, 1853, Vol. M, page 461, Deed Records of Harrison County.
- Warranty Deed George W. Vivian to John N. Jordan, one acre, "\$800 to me in hand paid," dated August 10, 1854, filed August 11, 1854, Vol. N, page 319, Deed Records of Harrison County.
- Warranty Deed J. N. Jordan, et ux Carrie P. Jordan, to Jefferson M. Saunders, two tracts of one acre each, \$2,000, dated January 1, 1856, filed January 4, 1860, Vol. S, page 66, Deed Records of Harrison County.

- Marriage License Jefferson M. Saunders to Mrs. Mary Ann Heard, dated June 7, 1845, filed July 11, 1845, Vol. 1, page 134, Marriage Records of Harrison County.
- Guardianship Jefferson M. Saunders was appointed guardian for Claiborne Saunders, John Saunders and Cora Saunders, "his natural children, have an estate descended to them from their grandfather John J. Webster, deceased, of the value of about thirteen thousand dollars," Vol. C, page 486, Probate Minutes. Filed November 29, 1854.
- Guardianship John B. Webster was appointed guardian for Claiborne Saunders, John J. Saunders and Cora J. Saunders, minors, vice J. M. Saunders, deceased, approved June 24, 1860, Vol. E, page 361, Probate Minutes.
- Guardianship Claiborne W. Saunders was appointed guardian for John Saunders and Cora Saunders, undated in abstract, Vol. F-1, page 332, Probate Minutes.
- (An unexplained hiatus in the abstract of title leaves in question how Louis T. Wigfall came into possession of the property.)
- Judgment J. M. Saunders vs. Louis T. Wigfall, dated March 30, 1860, recorded in Vol. G, page 520, District Court Minutes. "It is therefore considered by the court that the plaintiff recover of the defendant the sum of Thirty Three Hundred & 06/100 Dollars the debt and interest in plaintiff's petition named and all costs herein expended. And by consent of the parties it is further ordered adjudged and decreed by the Court that the following described lots or parcels of land, to-wit . . .:" One acre and another tract commencing at the NW corner of said acre, W with said Gilmer Road 88 Feet, S 370 feet, E 370 feet, N 370 feet to the place of beginning.
- Sheriff's Deed Louis T. Wigfall by sheriff to Jefferson M. Saunders, dated January 9, 1861, filed February 25, 1861, Vol. T, page 4, Deed Records of Harrison County. Same two tracts as in judgment above. "I did on the first Tuesday in January 1861, it being the first day of said month, having first duly advertised the same according to law, offer at public sale to the highest bidder for cash before the court house door in the town of Marshall the foregoing described tracts of land, and Whereas Jefferson M. Saunders being the highest and best bidder, bidding the sum of Seven Hundred and Fifty Dollars for said tracts or parcels of land, the same was knocked off to him as the purchaser thereof."

Will

J. M. Saunders, dated January 2, 1861, filed March 26, 1861, Vol. E, page 353, Probate Minutes. J. B. Webster was one of two witnesses. John B. Webster filed proof of will dated March 26, 1861, filed March 26, 1861, Vol. E, page 347, Probate Minutes. Court issued letters testamentary to H. P. Perry, J. B. Webster, E. C. Perry, Mary R. Saunders and others. Order approving inventory was issued in the August 1861 term of court as returned by E. C. Perry. Inventory of the estate was not shown of record or found among original papers.

Warranty Deed

Mourning Love to O. J. Womack, dated September 17, 1860, filed September 22, 1860, Vol. S, page 594, "all that certain tract or lot of land situated in the North West part of the town of Marshall in the County of Harrison afore said bounded on the North by the Gilmer Road, on the East by the premises occupied and claimed by L. T. Wigfall, on the South by the lot of land owned by O. J. Womack and on which he now resides, and on the West by the lots of land owned by George B. Adkins or Wm B. Ochiltree and Elizabeth Coley, containing one acre more or less."

Guardianship

George F. Heard was appointed guardian of Howard P. Saunders, Caldwell Saunders and Mary Jefferson Saunders, minors, children of Jefferson M. Saunders, deceased, "by his subsequent wife," October term of court, Vol. J, page 290, Probate Minutes.

George F. Heard petitioned to sell the interest of his wards in two acres, beginning at the northwest corner of John A. Boone's residence, then west with the Gilmer Road 241 feet to the northeast corner of Mrs. Rachel Womack's home place, south 370 feet, east 100 feet, north 38 feet, east 131 feet, north 332 feet. The court granted permission, Vol. J, page 502, Minutes of the District Court.

February 1872 term of court, John Saunders and others vs. George F. Heard, petition that Heard sell and retain "in hand" the proceeds of sale of above described tract. Vol. J, page 616, Minutes of the District Court.

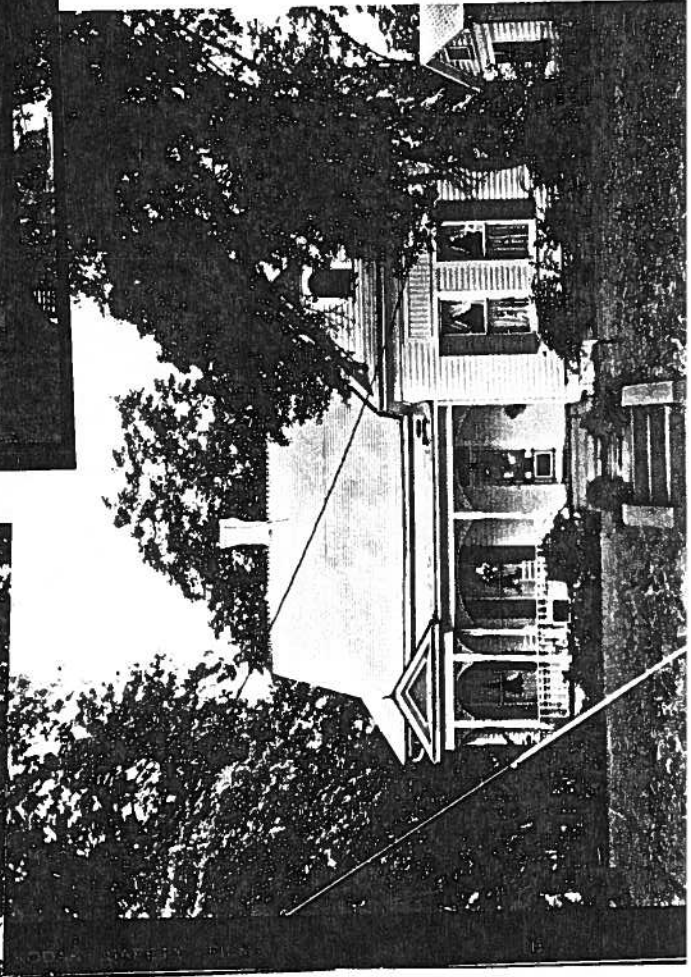
Elam P. M. Johnson bought the above described tract on November 1, 1872, for \$3,000 as noted in Vol. K, page 73, Minutes of the District Court, and the court ordered the sale confirmed.

- Court Order The court directed that the proceeds of the Jefferson M. Saunders estate be partitioned equally between his first three children, C. W. Saunders, John Saunders and Cora Saunders Hill, and his last three children, H. P. Saunders, C. C. Saunders and M. J. Saunders. It was noted that a previous court order dated November 23, 1871, had been issued but not yet executed. The order for partition was issued after petition by the first three heirs. No date.
- Agreement Felix H. Johnson and John Crimmin to each other, dated October 28, 1876, filed October 28, 1875, Vol. 5, page 551, Deed Records of Harrison County. Whereas George F. Heard, guardian of Howard P. Saunders, C. C. Saunders and Mary Saunders, minors, had sold to Johnson and Crimmin jointly a piece of property which included the Wigfall property, Crimmin would receive the Wigfall property.
- Guardian's Deed George F. Heard, guardian, to F. H. Johnson et ux Bettie M. Johnson, dated October 20, 1876, filed October 30, 1876, Vol. 5, page 551, Deed Records of Harrison County, \$325 for the interest of C. C., H. P., and M. J. Saunders.
- Guardian's Deed George F. Heard, guardian, to John Crimmin, dated October 21, 1878, filed October 22, 1878, Vol. 9, page 564, Deed Records of Harrison County, the remaining portion of two acres.
- Court Order John Crimmin having died July 18, 1879, the court found that "the said deceased had purchased from one George F. Heard the house and lot in the City of Marshall, Harrison County, Texas, known as the Wigfall Place as a homestead," and owed \$240 including interest at the time of his death, administrator R. Ballauf was ordered to extinguish the lien from the estate and secure the homestead to Mrs. Crimmin and a minor child.
- Marriage License Joseph J. Heim and Mrs. Lou A. Crimmin, January 1, 1884, Vol. 8, page 616, Marriage Record of Harrison County.
- Quit Claim Deed J. J. Heim to Louisa A. Heim, dated December 14, 1892, filed July 4, 1893, "for and in consideration of love and affection," properties at 510 and 512 West Burleson. Vol. 30, page 473, Deed Records of Harrison County.

- Warranty Deed Louisa A. Heim, a widow, to A. J. McMillan, dated May 24, 1897, filed June 18, 1897, \$1,200, Vol. 39, page 47, Deed Records of Harrison County.
- Probate Proceedings Emma J. McMillan died December 6, 1922. Her will named Louise Paye Lane and Wade J. Lane executrix and executor. Filed December 17, 1922, Vol. X, page 1, Probate Minutes. Inventory included house on West Burleson valued at \$7,000. W. J. Lane died June 13, 1933, naming Louise Paye Lane as his executrix. Lane left and undivided half-interest in 510 West Burleson to his sister Mrs. Lelia L. Sproule. Will filed July 5, 1933, Vol. 9, page 548, Probate Minutes.
- Warranty Deed Mrs. L. W. Sproule, a feme sole, to Lillie Fortune Rutherford, dated December 29, 1933, filed December 29, 1933, Vol. 193, page 519, Deed Records of Harrison County. Miss Louise Paye Lane, Mrs. Sproule's sister, had died November 28, 1933, leaving her half-interest in 510 West Burleson to Mrs. Sproule.
- Warranty Deed Lillie Fortune Rutherford to C. G. Woodring, et ux Roberta Ruth Woodring, dated February 1, 1947, filed March 24, 1947, Vol. 310, page 71, \$5,000, Deed Records of Harrison County.
- Warranty Deed C. G. Woodring et ux to James H. Ammerman, et ux Dolores Ammerman, dated February 22, 1965, filed March 15, 1965, File No. 1097, Deed Records of Harrison County.
- Warranty Deed James H. Ammerman et ux Dolores Ammerman to Sam Baxter, dated February 11, 1976, filed February 16, 1976, File No. 958-A.

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- Federal Population Schedules, Seventh Census of the United States, 1850.
- Mrs. D. Giraud Wright, A SOUTHERN GIRL IN '61.
- Alvy L. King, LOUIS T. WIGFALL, SOUTHERN FIRE-EATER.
- Joseph Howard Parks, GENERAL EDMUND KIRBY SMITH.
- THE HANDBOOK OF TEXAS.
- William Manning Morgan, TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, GALVESTON, TEXAS, 1841-1953.
- Max S. Lale, AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING.
- W. A. Swanberg, FIRST BLOOD, THE STORY OF FORT SUMTER.
- Mary Boykin Chesnut, A DIARY FROM DIXIE.
- THE WAR LETTERS OF ROBERT H. AND WILLIAM H. GASTON, COMPANY H, FIRST TEXAS INFANTRY REGIMENT, HOOD'S TEXAS BRIGADE, edited by Robert W. Glover.
- Walter P. Lane, ADVENTURES AND RECOLLECTIONS OF WALTER P. LANE, A SAN JACINTO VETERAN, CONTAINING SKETCHES OF THE TEXAN, MEXICAN AND LATE WARS WITH SEVERAL INDIAN FIGHTS THROWN IN.



5434

MARKER NAME The Wigfall House JOB# _____

TOWN Marshall COUNTY Harrison DATE 11/2/78

Medallion 16" x 12" marker without post \$125.00

MARKER SIZE _____ PRICE _____

PROCEDURE FOR MARKER APPLICATION

INITIAL	DATE	
AG	11/2/78	1. Application checked and dated
AG	11/2/78	2. Check deposited
<i>hmm</i>	<i>11-6-78</i>	2a. Receipt of application acknowledged
<i>DP</i>	<i>11-14-78</i>	3. Folder checked and approved
	<i>12-1-78</i>	4. Additional information sent for
<i>Out</i>	<i>12-8-78</i>	4a. Sent to SMC for subject matter approval
<i>1-17-79</i>	<i>UW</i>	5. Letter of approval sent, permanent record and DSA recording, labeling, listed & filed in current marker work
<i>2-7-79</i>	<i>CW</i>	6. Checkout to inscription writer
<i>JT</i>	<i>2-1-79</i>	7. Sent for State Marker Committee approval
<i>HW</i>	<i>3-7-79</i>	8. Inscription submitted for County approval
		9. Highway permission secured (if necessary)
<i>HW</i>	<i>3-22-79</i>	10. Order sent to Southwell
<i>UW</i>	<i>4-23-79</i>	11. Rubbing checked
<i>AW</i>		12. Stencil cut
<i>UW</i>	<i>5-2-79</i>	13. Recorded for Marker Guide
<i>HW</i> ✓	<i>5-4-79</i>	14. News release sent, w/copy to THC President (Recorded Landmark Certificate sent, if necessary) <i>certificate sent</i>
<i>HW</i>	<i>5-2-79</i>	15. Notice of shipment sent <i>4-3-79</i>
<i>CW</i>	<i>5-10-79</i>	16. Extraneous material deleted, folder given to architectural historian
<i>CW</i>	<i>5-10-79</i>	17. Folder placed in completed marker file

Appl. rec'd: *11/2/78*
 Check No.: *420*
 Check dated: *10/30/78*
 Amt. of check: *\$125*
 Check signed by: *Sam Baxter*



Texas Historical Commission

Box 12276, Capitol Station,

Austin, Texas 78711

Truett Latimer

Executive Director

March 7
~~January~~ 1979

Mr. Max Lale
3704 Fitzgerald
Marshall, TX 75670

RE: The Wigfall House
Medallion and plate without 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:

Anice Read
Director of Programs

AR:ljm

cc: Sam Baxter

Harrison County

I approve of the inscription for:

The Wigfall House

as sent to me on March 7, 1979

Sam Baxter
signed

3-15-79
dated

Harrison County

I approve of the inscription for:

The Wigfall House

as sent to me on March 7, 1979

RECEIVED
MAR 19 1979

Max S. Lee
signed

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

3-15-79
dated

TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

BOX 12243 • CAPITOL STATION • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711 • PHONE 475-3259

March 22, 1979

Mr. Bill Southwell, Jr.
The Southwell Company
P.O. Drawer 159
San Antonio, Texas 78206

NO. 5434

#1802

RE: Medallion, 16" x 12" building
marker without post to be attached to
wood.
The Wigfall House
Harrison County

Dear Mr. Southwell:

Enclosed is an application for Medallion, 16" x 12" building marker without post to be attached to wood, The Wigfall House, Marshall, Harrison County, Texas.

We would appreciate a rubbing of the inscription.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Henrietta Williams

hw

SHIP TO: Sam Baxter
510 W. Burleson
Marshall, TX 75670