

# **A HISTORY OF AUSTIN CHURCHES**

**Rev. Bruno Schmidt**

Travis County Historical Commission  
November, 2000

## **Introduction**

The information contained in this document was transcribed from a presentation made to the Travis County Historical Commission on November 4, 1997 by the Rev. Bruno Schmidt, Pastor Emeritus, First Methodist Church of Austin, Texas. Additional information was added from the written transcript of an earlier presentation by Rev. Schmidt. Much of the material was obtained from the Austin History Center (formerly known as the Austin-Travis County Collection). Every effort was made to obtain permission to use the images in this document. We apologize to those that we have omitted.

Transcribed and compiled by Barbara S. Hankins, Travis County Historical Commission  
Reviewed by Jane Manaster, Travis County Historical Commission



The information I'm going to present to you was prepared for History Appreciation Week on November 5, 1980 and the topic for that particular History Appreciation Week was An Armchair Tour of Austin and Travis County. I was assigned the churches and I had a lot of pleasure doing it. I hope that what I will present here tonight will not be too inaccurate. I'm not sure I can watch the script and watch this too.

This is a picture of one of the six missions. It comes from the book by Mrs. John B. Godfrey, *Six Missions of Texas*.

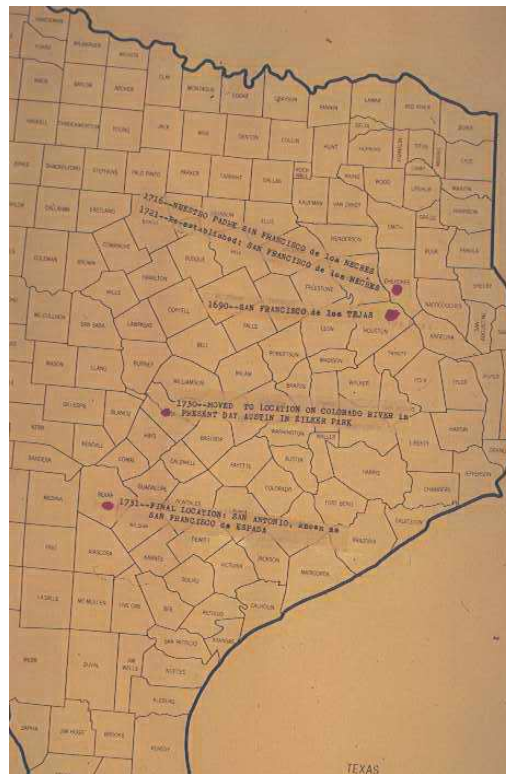


Mrs. John B. Godfrey, *Six Missions of Texas*

MISSION SAN FRANCISCO DE LA ESPADA, SAN ANTONIO TX

The six mission paintings are still to be found in the Archives Library just east of the Capitol and the story goes this way – in 1865, LaSalle mistook Matagorda Bay for the mouth of the Mississippi and he went on inland. It wasn't long before he got himself killed in a mutiny. But he got the Spanish all upset because the French had come into their territory so the Spaniards set up outposts in east Texas. The first mission was established in 1690 in what is now Houston County in a little place called Weches and it was called El Padre San Francisco de los Tejas. They ran it there for a while and then some years later, in 1716, they moved it across the Neches River to a little place that they now call Alto. They had it there for a number of years until, in the passing of the decades, they saw that those Indians that they were dealing with there were not like the more settled Indians they were dealing with down in Mexico. They were nomadic, so they figured it was better to take their mission down closer to their base at San Antonio and that's what they did. See that red spot down there – it's in Travis

County and they established the mission in what is now known as Zilker Park close to the powerful Barton Springs. That was in 1730 and, in 1731 they finally moved on down to San Antonio where this picture was taken and the painting was made.



Bruno Schmidt

#### LOCATIONS OF MISSION SAN FRANCISCO DE LA ESPADA

Now here is an occasion that happened also. This year happens to be just like it happened in 1980. This is when Sunday, the second of November, was El Dia los di Funtos or All Souls Day and the Saint Julia's Catholic Church was having a celebration here and I took this picture. Over there to the right under the tree (it's not too clear because I didn't have a flash) was the Reverend Leopoldo Reyes. He's now a monsignor or maybe more than that, and he was there doing the liturgy. After a while he took the holy water and sprayed it or sprinkled it on all of the graves that were to be decorated.



Bruno Schmidt

ALL SOUL'S DAY, ST. JULIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 1980

Here's a picture taken at Hornsby Bend of these people of Hispanic origin who are decorating a grave on that very day – All Soul's Day – El Dia de los Di Funtos. It was appropriate because the Mission was here for a short while in Travis County at the Barton Springs.



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DECORATING GRAVES ON THE DAY OF THE DEAD 1980



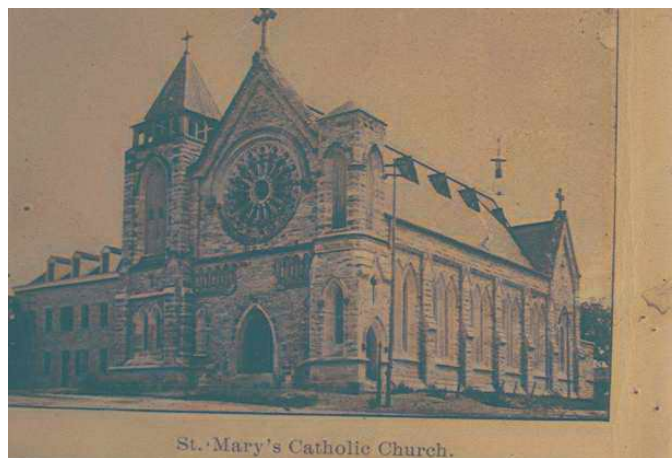
The next slide shows the first house of worship built in Austin after Texas became a state. This church was known as St. Patrick's and was begun in 1852, the same year that the old State Capitol, which later burned, was built.



PICA #02773, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH (1852-1884)

St. Patrick's was later demolished and Father Felton laid the foundation for a new church at the southeast corner of 10<sup>th</sup> Street and Brazos. It was dedicated as Saint Mary's church on April 20, 1884. It became the cathedral of the diocese

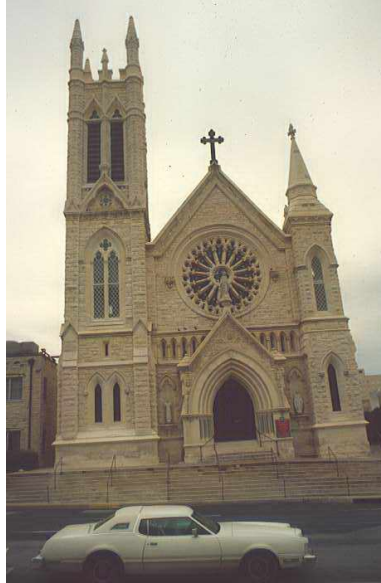


St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Permission granted by St. Mary's Cathedral

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH (1884- )

and the center of encouragement for the establishment of other parishes within the city as well as institutions of learning and two hospitals. The steeple was added later and here is a picture of it the way it looked after it was finished and after they did some sandblasting on it



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ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 1980

This is a picture of the Chancery where the Bishop has his headquarters at 16<sup>th</sup>



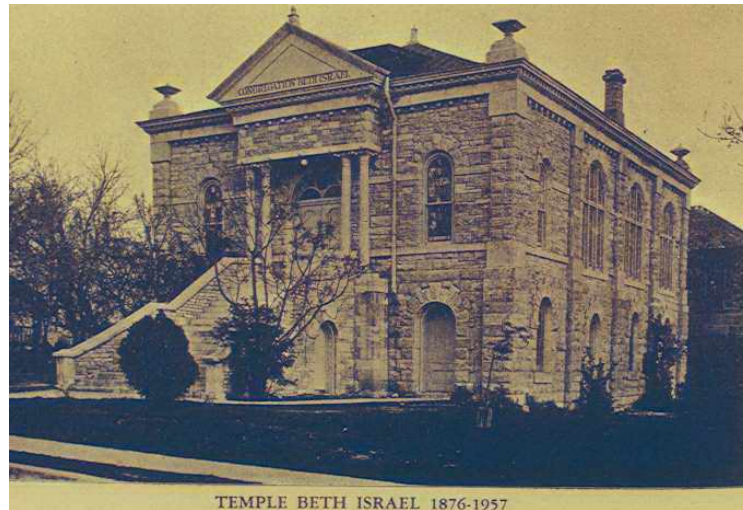
Bruno Schmidt

CATHOLIC CHANCERY

and North Congress. The Catholic Diocese of Austin covers twenty five counties. Leopoldo Reyes worked there. I don't know if he is still there or not.



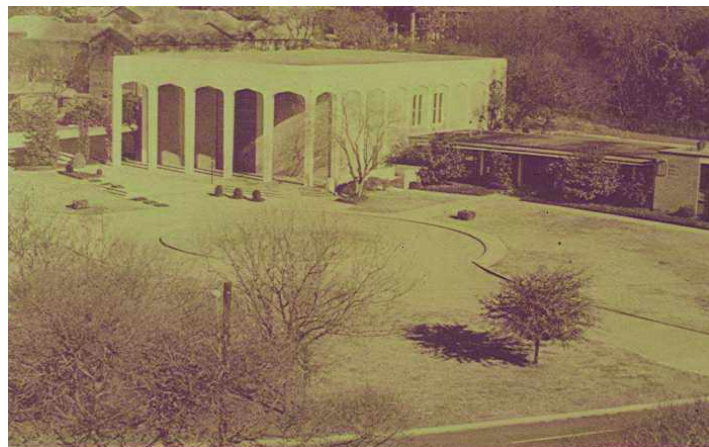
The Jewish community was present here in earlier days, too, and in 1876 they started this building on the northeast corner of 11<sup>th</sup> and San Jacinto where the La Quinta Inn is located now. For a long time they worshipped in the basement until it was finally completed in 1884 and they had that as a synagogue on East 11th and San Jacinto.



Permission granted by Temple Beth Israel

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL (1876-1957)

On September 23, 1956, ground was broken for a new temple facing 3901 Shoal Creek Blvd. which was not open to 38<sup>th</sup> Street when they first were there. This is a more modern picture of Temple Beth Israel.



Permission granted by Temple Beth Israel

TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL (1957 - )

This is a picture of the Congregation Agudas Achim . This particular synagogue was located at the north end of the block on which the last downtown main post office stood, This congregation separated off from the other Jewish congregation 1914. These were the Orthodox Jewish people and they had a house of worship down on Seventh Street and San Jacinto. In 1930 a building was erected at 10th



Permission granted by Congregation Agudas Achim

TEMPLE AGUDAS ACHIM (1930-1963)

and Trinity (later the site of the old post office). In 1963, Congregation Agudas Achim was moved to 4300 Bull Creek Road.



Permission granted by Congregation Agudas Achim

TEMPLE AGUDAS ACHIM (1963 - )

Here is a more modern picture of the same building which is near Westminster Manor.



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TEMPLE AGUDAS ACHIM.

And here is a picture of the sign at the Dell Jewish Community Campus. This will be the Jewish community center. It was an undeveloped ranch in there – between forty and sixty acres. I went out to look at it and here is a picture of the gate that leads into that particular parcel. It's off of Hart Lane when you go out on Far West in northwest Austin. If you go north on Hart Lane,



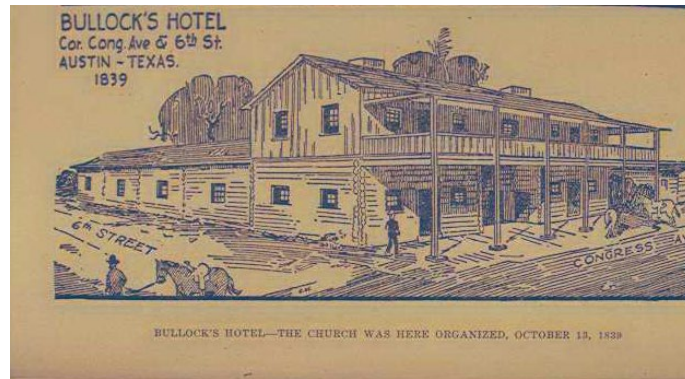
Bruno Schmidt

SITE OF DELL JUEWISH COMMUNITY CAMPUS, FALL, 1997



it's to your left. Congregation Agudas Achim plans to move to this campus.

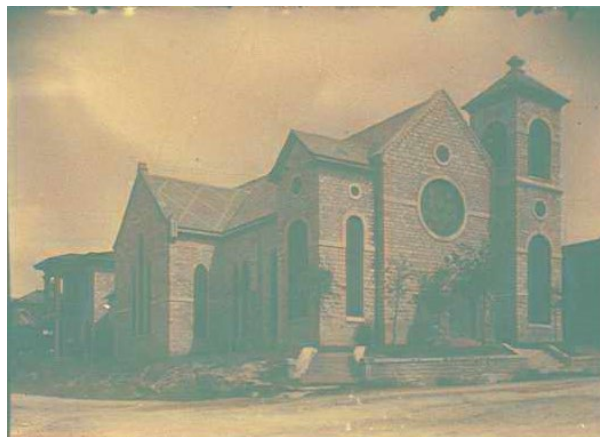
Now here is a drawing is of the old Bullock Hotel that used to be downtown. It was on a spot that was later occupied by the F. W. Woolworth Store and now is One American Center.



*Austin Statesman, Feb. 3, 1924*

BULLOCK'S HOTEL 1839

Things continued to change here in Austin and it was in this hotel, on October 13, 1839, that the Reverend William Youel Allen who was a seminary graduate from Princeton, organized a small group into what became later known as the First Southern Presbyterian Church. They, of course, later moved to other places.



Lawrence Smoot Photograph PICA #03939 Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

FIRST SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (1875-1953)

Within a short time, they had build themselves a church, and about 1842 or somewhere about there a tornado came and tore it up. And so Abner Cook who was quite an entrepreneur in town, help them to build another church which was called the "Cracker Box." The church was built on a new location on the northeast corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Brazos. The cornerstone was laid on March 15, 1873 and dedication followed in May, 1875.



Permission granted by Central Presbyterian Church

FIRST SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (1953 - )

This is the church they had built for them at 8th and Brazos in 1953 during the pastorate of John William Lancaster (1953-1961). It was always called the First Southern Presbyterian Church until in recent years, there was a merger of



PICA #03558 Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA (1851-1960)

Presbyterian bodies and it took the name of Central Presbyterian Church whereas the Presbyterian Church USA, which we have pictured above, kept the name and they moved finally to another place. The church was located on the northeast corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Lavaca which is now occupied by Gracy Title Company.

Their next location was north of Westminster Manor at Bull Creek and Jackson



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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA (1960-1978)

when Westminster Manor was still a Presbyterian institution. Then the First Presbyterian Church moved out to 8001 Mesa Drive in Northwest Austin. The beautiful art glass windows of the original church were incorporated into the latest building as a bit of nostalgia and as a source of great beauty.



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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA (1978 - )

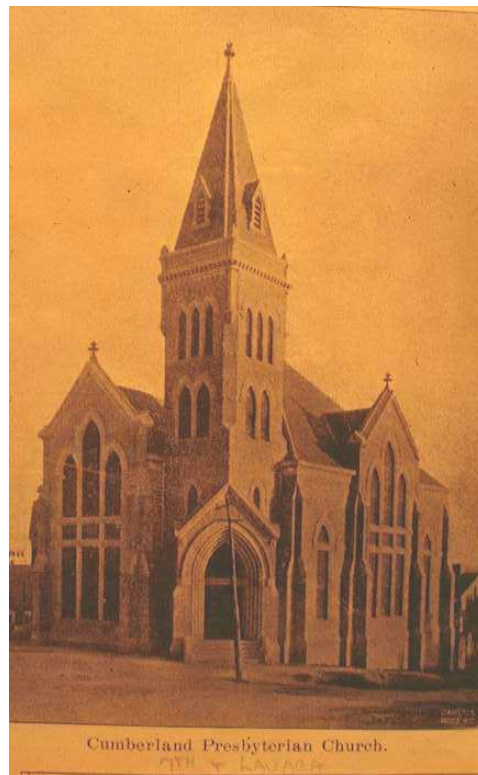


This was a somewhat foggy morning. I wanted to get another picture but all those trees in front have so grown up , you can't see that church from across the street where I took this picture. This is the sign though. I could get a good shot of it – to have something a little more modern of that church.



Bruno Schmidt

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA 1997



Permission granted by First Cumberland Presbyterian Church

FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (1892-1955)

And then we have a picture of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church which was located on the southeast corner – right across the street from the Presbyterian USA on 7<sup>th</sup> and Lavaca – on the southeast corner of the intersection.

The First Cumberland Presbyterian Church dates back to the early 1840's. In 1846, a small log church was erected on the site, and a large frame building replaced this smaller edifice some time later than 1890. The new building was planned in 1890 and erected in 1892. In 1906, that congregation merged with the First Presbyterian Church USA congregation and they sold their church to the Calvary Baptist. Within about a year, the Baptists decided that they didn't care for the church after all. These Cumberland Presbyterians always wanted to be remembered as Cumberland Presbyterians and they got together their more affluent brethren and they raised their money and they got that church back and moved in across the street. I remember Jim Harrison whom I knew in the Optimists' Club and who belonged to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. He said there were two powerful pulpits right across the street from each other.

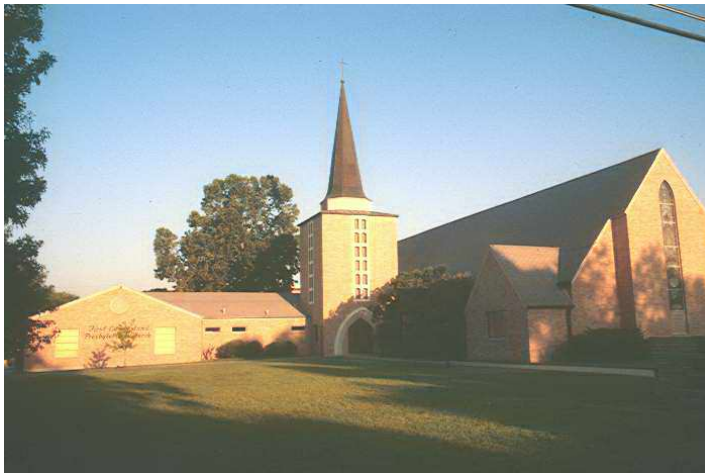
I need to explain this picture a little bit more. This is a picture taken back in the '50s when this church was being demolished and right here you see a corner of what is now known as the Claudia Taylor Johnson building of the University of Texas. It was the downtown post office when I first moved here in 1964.



PICA #03564 Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN UNDER DEMOLITION 1955

And this is where the that Cumberland Presbyterian Church is now located, at 6400 North Woodrow in north Austin.



Bruno Schmidt

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (1955 - )

There are some other Cumberland Presbyterian Churches in town also.

And this, now, is the Christian Church down on lower Congress. In 1847, they had a little log cabin for a church. but later on, in 1853, the Methodists sold (through Abner Cook) their first building to the Christian Church which was then called the Church of Christ. It was at the northwest corner of Colorado and 8th where the Federal Courthouse now stands.



Permission granted by Central Christian Church

CHURCH OF CHRIST (CENTRAL CHRISTIAN) (1847-1853)



PICA #00177 Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

CHURCH OF CHRIST (CENTRAL CHRISTIAN) (1853-1867)

In 1867, the congregation bought the lot on the Northwest corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Colorado Streets, now occupied by the Federal Court House. Here two successive houses of worship served this congregation. The stones from the first building were used in the second.



PICA #08214 Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH (1898-1929)



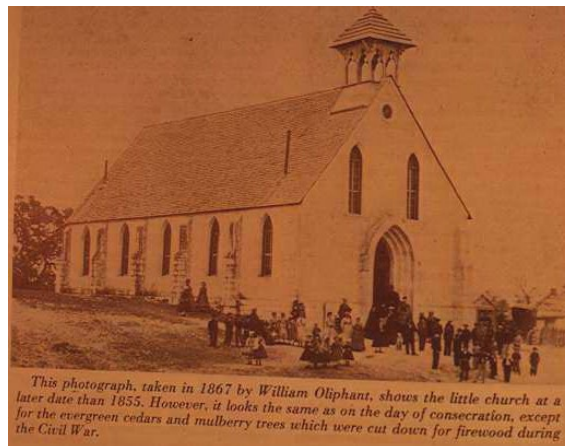
In 1929, they dedicated this building on Guadalupe and 12<sup>th</sup> Streets.



Bruno Schmidt

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH (1929 - )

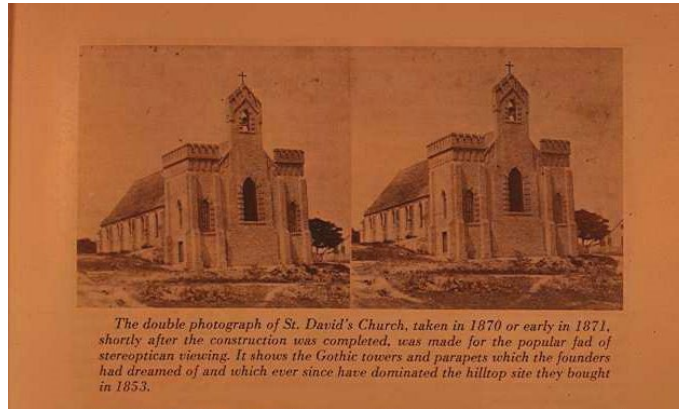
Here we have an early picture of St. David's Episcopal church built prior to the Civil War as early as 1855. If you look at it there, you can see people are just walking on up to it.



PICA #03349 Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH PRIOR TO THE CIVIL WAR

A tremendous erosion has taken place and the streets have been cut down. This is a picture of that church showing where they added a church tower to it in 1870 and the whole sanctuary was remodeled in 1884 to give it more of the appearance of a certain old church over in England. This, of course, is one of those stereoptican type pictures that they had in their record book which I



Permission granted by St. David's Church

#### ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

photographed. At one time, the old rafters of the original part of the building were replaced with steel supports, since they had become unsafe. The Grace Chapel and Education building were erected in 1966. This is a more modern picture that I took one Sunday when everyone had gone home or was out to eat and here over on the left is the main sanctuary. In between is the education building and over to the extreme right there is the Fontaine House. It was once the rectory



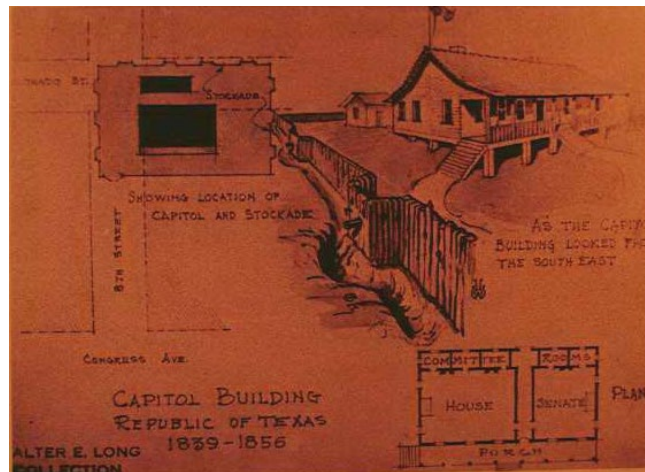
Bruno Schmidt

#### ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1997

and now still is used partly for Sunday School purposes. The lower floor has been used by the Caritas organization for assistance to the needy.



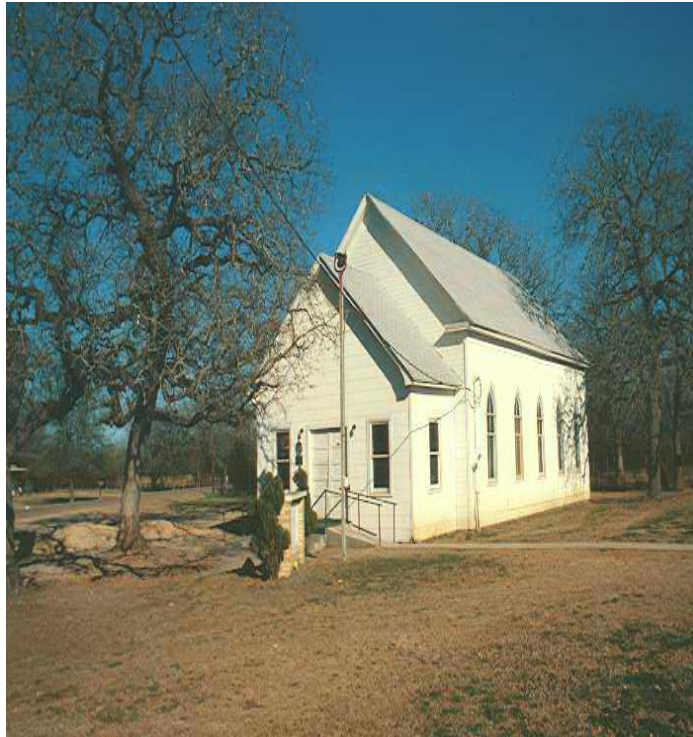
This photo shows the old log cabin Capitol Building of Texas. It was here and in other temporary locations that services were held by John Haynie and his successor, Josiah Whipple, for the First United Methodist Church. Haynie came here as kind of a businessman and preacher, and he was even chaplain for the Congress of the early Republic of Texas for a while. That was back in the days of 1840 and maybe even a little bit before. The church was actually one of the points on the Austin Circuit as we call it.



Texas State Library and Archives Commission

FIRST CAPITOL OF THE REPUBLIC OF TEXAS (1839-1853)

Here is part of that Austin Circuit. It's the Haynie Chapel out at Garfield. This church really precedes our First United Methodist Church by about a half a year. And it was that Austin Circuit which was served by the Reverend Haynie.



Bruno Schmidt

HAYNIE CHAPEL, GARFIELD, TEXAS

He was succeeded by a man named Josiah Whipple but toward the end of Brother Whipple's stay here, the Indian raids began to be strong again in Austin. They had the Archives War, too, and there was a general disturbance and people left. So a third man, Homer S. Thrall, was appointed pastor here and he wasn't appointed to the Austin Circuit, he was appointed to the Austin Station. But when he came to Austin, so many people had left town because they were afraid of things, he had a hard time finding any Methodists to preach to but he did the best he could and preached in the Legislative Halls. He was here one year and was reappointed the next year. The Quarterly Conference selected three trustees and a church was built. It opened for worship on December 19, 1847. This is a concept of that church done by the artist Miss Llerona Friend, Some of you may remember her, she was a teacher at the University of Texas. She and a group



Robert Thom, artist. Texas Medical Association

FIRST CHURCH EDIFICE OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF AUSTIN

THE GATHERING OF THE DOCTORS FOR THE ORGANIZING OF THE TEXAS MEDICAL ASSN. 1853

of others carried out research on behalf of the Texas Medical Association because it was organized in that little church in January, 1853. This image shows the arrival of the various different doctors there. The one there just a little bit to the right of center was George Thayer who later on became Governor of Texas. Over here to the left, you see the triangle that they used to use for calling the people to the church. At any rate, we have a picture and it was dreamed up by Llerena Friend and Robert Thom who had been commissioned by the Medical Association for this particular picture. One interesting thing about it is that the man on the extreme right, riding a horse, represents the man who came the farthest. He rode all the way from Beaumont so they elected him the first president of the Texas Medical Association. A man by the name of John W. Phillips, who was the pastor of the Methodist Church, took part. He had the invocation, I think, for four different sessions. In other words, one doctor who was a preacher also gave the invocation for the fifth one. At any rate, under the leadership of John W. Phillips, a new property was bought.

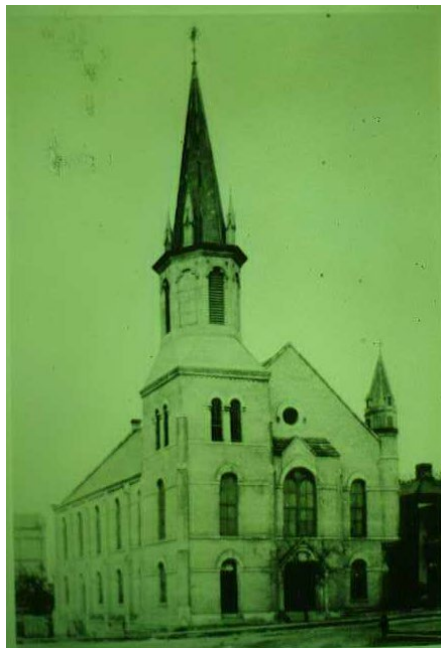
This picture was photographed out of a detail bird's eye view picture map that we have here in the Austin History Center, and just above that number 14 is the picture of the first Methodist Church to be built on that property. It is said that they tried to be as faithful as they could to the appearance of the building and that's the only picture we have of the church that stood there from about 1854 until 1883 when another was erected. That was the one the old timers still remember as Tenth Street Methodist Church.



Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

TENTH STREET METHODIST CHURCH (1854-1883)

It faced over right across 10th Street from St. Mary's Cathedral. We have an historical marker there to show that that building stood there.



Permission granted by First United Methodist Church

TENTH STREET METHODIST CHURCH (1883-1923)



The congregation then moved, under the pastorate of Edward R. Barcus, in 1923, and they had an opening of the basement section of the church. Now I'm glad they didn't follow through with the architect's dream there that was shown in the *Austin American Statesman* because that would have been quite a monstrosity to have on the corner of 12th and Lavaca!



*Austin American Statesman*, Fall, 1923

AUSTIN AMERICAN STATESMAN CONCEPTION OF FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

Down in the lower corner of the picture below, you can see where the First United Methodist Church worshipped until December 16, 1928 when the

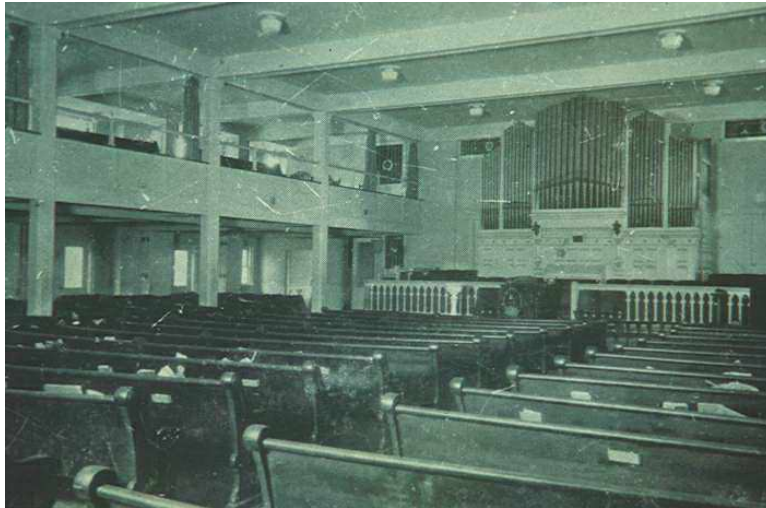


Permission granted by First United Methodist Church

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (1923-1928)

present sanctuary was first opened and to the right of it is the parsonage. Then on the northeast corner is where the Trial Lawyers have their building now but the rest of the property is owned by the First Methodist Church. There are other things we can call attention to there. There is a lone little Ford roadster in the intersection. This is somewhere between 1923 and 1929. This was the interior of that basement at that time where the people worshipped – where the pipe

organ is. That's all been changed now. A good portion of this space now is called Wesley Hall but it's been partitioned up quite a bit.



Permission granted by First United Methodist Church

BASEMENT SANCTUARY, FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (1923-1928)

Here's a picture of the church in a more modern time. This is an older picture but it shows the church - I'm glad we have the type of dome in the center rather than what was shown on the previous picture.



Permission granted by First United Methodist Church

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (1923 - )



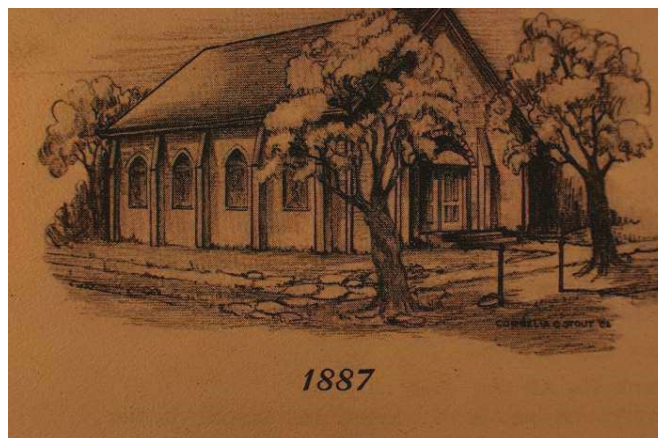
The Methodist Church bought the old Oettinger furniture store and erected a family life center there, (Transcriber's note: the Family Life Center was named the Schmidt-Jones Family Life Center.)



Bruno Schmidt

FAMILY LIFE CENTER, FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 1998

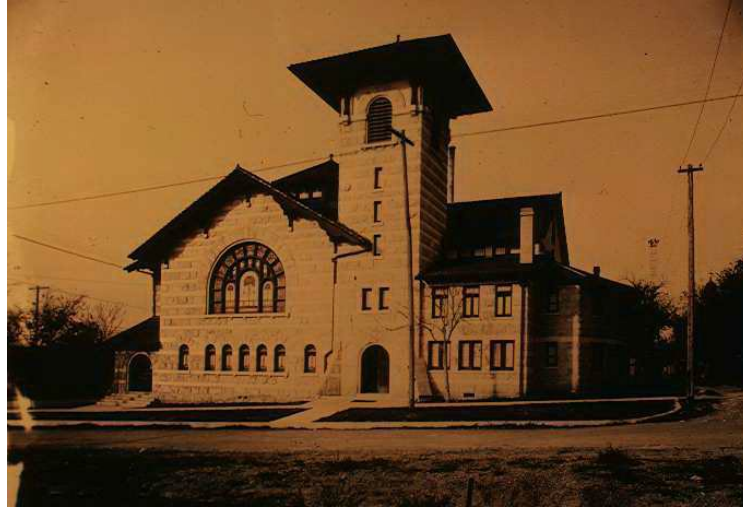
This is a picture of Honey Chapel which used to belong to the English speaking Methodists from the northern United States on the Northeast corner of 24<sup>th</sup> Street and Whitis Avenue, but they had moved to another place. This was the place where the University Methodist Church was organized in 1887. They didn't call themselves that at the time.



Cover of University Methodist Church 75th Anniversary Brochure  
Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

HONEY CHAPEL 1887

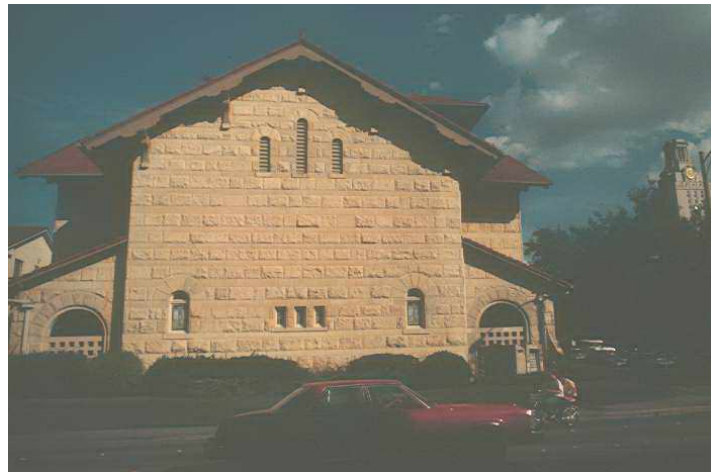
This is a picture of their sanctuary when it was new back in 1909. It has been served by various prominent pastors of the Southwest Texas Conference.



PICA #03528 Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

UNIVERSITY METHODIST CHURCH 1909

This is a view of that same church from the west side showing the tower of the University to the right.



Bruno Schmidt

UNIVERSITY METHODIST CHURCH circa 1980

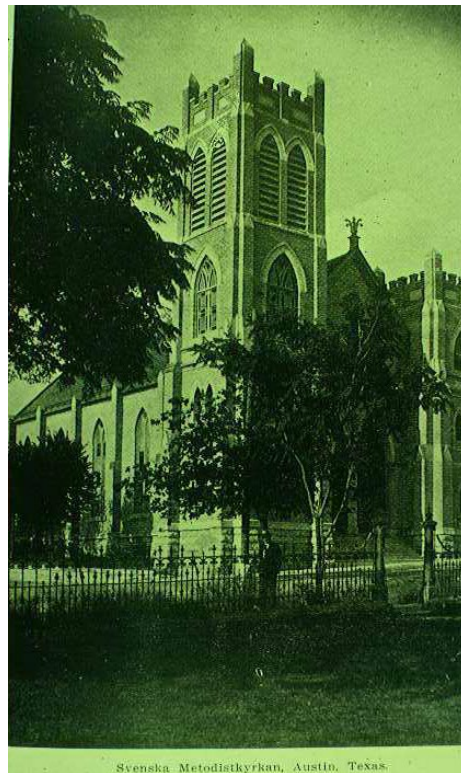
Now this is a picture of the first church of the Swedish Methodists here in Austin as well as the first in Texas. It was located at Fifteenth and Red River. The Rev. Carl Charnquist had that church as his pastorate. The photo was taken in 1873.



*Swanskarne in Texas*

SWEDISH METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH 1873

The old English speaking northern Methodists built this church northwest of the Capitol at 13<sup>th</sup> and Colorado Streets and it was called Central Church. By some strange coincidence, there was book that someone had borrowed from the University Library and I had hold of it and on the inside I found a little program of the dedication. Somebody had used it for a bookmark. And we have that in our possession in the archives of our church. It was dedicated in the fall of 1882. But the Church closed because people kept joining the mainline ME (Methodist Episcopal) Church, South. The Board of Church Extension of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the Northern church kept it and Brother Olander who was then pastor of the Swedish Methodist Church took this church in 1899 and the congregation bought it, and it was theirs until a little bit over 35 years ago when the State bought the building and they moved out to what is now Memorial Church.



Svenska Metodistkyrkan, Austin, Texas.

*Swenskarn In Texas*

CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH (1882 – 1957)

Here is an aerial view of the Capitol taken in 1927. Here is the Central Church, the one that the Swedish people took over. Over here is the Gethsemane Lutheran Church – this right here, I believe. And, then over here, you'll find on what they called Peach Street (present day 13<sup>th</sup> Street), the first Lutheran St. Martin's Church structure.



Fairchild Aerial Surveys, Dallas TX, PICA #01188  
Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

AERIAL PHOTO OF CAPITOL AREA, 1927



This is, of course, the continuation of that Swedish Church that I talked about a little while ago. The Central Church moved out now and is called United Methodist Memorial Church, and still some of its constituency has a Swedish background. They're out on Berkman Drive in north Austin.



Bruno Schmidt

MEMORIAL METHODIST CHURCH (1957 - )

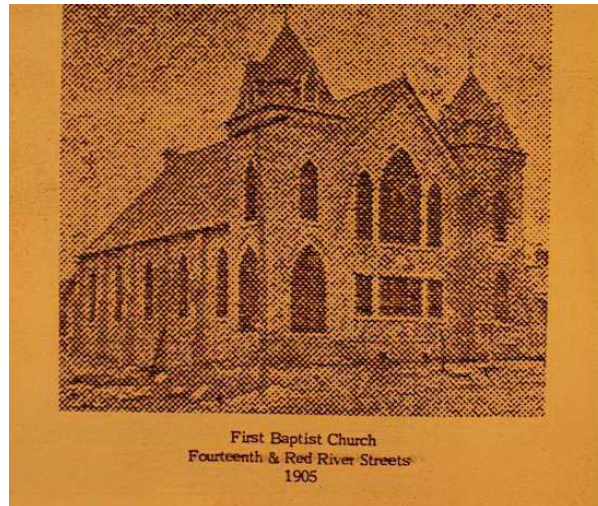
This is a picture of a map, again, and you have three churches there on the block where the main Library Building and the Austin History Center building now stand.



PICA #30047 Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

HALF BLOCK OF WEST 9<sup>TH</sup> BETWEEN SAN ANTONIO AND GUADALUPE STREETS

Over on the extreme left is the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The next one in the center is the Gethsemane Lutheran Church and over on the far east of them is the first black Baptist church. They have all moved. The first one to move was the first Baptist church of the Black community and they moved to 14th and Red River Streets. It was close to what is now Brackenridge Hospital.



First Baptist Church 100th Anniversary Booklet  
Austin History Center Austin Public Library

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH AT 14<sup>TH</sup> & RED RIVER STREETS (1905)

Later on, when Brackenridge expanded, they moved to 1405 Heflin Lane.



First Baptist Church 100th Anniversary Booklet  
Austin History Center Austin Public Library

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH , 1405 HEFLIN LANE

The Travis County Historical Commission, on September 27, 1981, dedicated a marker representing 114 years of service of that old church. I still remember that occasion.

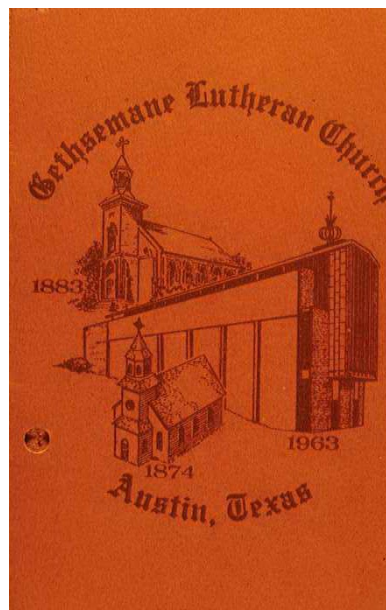
And here is the Ebenezer Church which, I think it was in 1975, celebrated their hundredth anniversary. The next year our Commission dedicated a marker for them.



Bruno Schmidt

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH (THIRD BAPTIST) 1975

Here is a program from the Gethsemane Lutheran Church. It was another of the

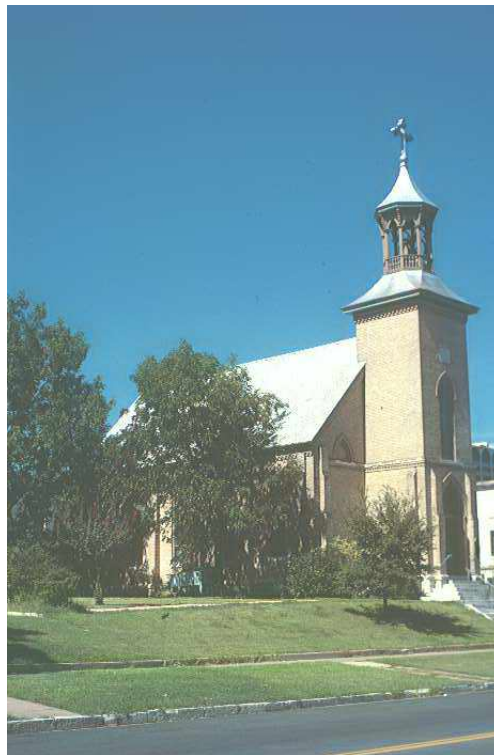


1963 History, Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

#### GETHESMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

three churches on that ancient map. The tiny marker on that program shows how that church looked in this particular area. At the top you see an image that represents the church on the southwest corner of 16<sup>th</sup> and Congress, north of the Capitol in 1883. The new one is at 200 West Anderson Lane and has been in service since 1963. It's right across – not too far from where the Red Lobster restaurant stands.

Now, this was the church north of the Capitol. Some of the stones from the old first Capitol that had burned from its foundation were used in its foundation. Also, I might point out this, that the Gethsemane Lutheran Church was really the first Swedish Lutheran Church in Texas and they had sent – when they needed their first pastor – they had gotten in touch with the Bishop of Sweden and he turned it over to Augustana Synod up in the North and a man by the name of Lindahl came here to be their first pastor when they had that little building there between all those other two churches.



Bruno Schmidt

GETHEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH (1883 –1963)



This, of course, is part of the interior view of the current church.



Bruno Schmidt

INTERIOR OF CURRENT GESTHEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Congress Avenue church has been placed on the National Historical Register and it is now under the jurisdiction and custody of the Texas Historical Commission which uses it as the Commission Library. They try to leave some things that keep in harmony with what this building once was used for.



Bruno Schmidt

GETHSEMENE LUTHERAN CHURCH (1963 - )

Next is the church out on Anderson Lane. Eugene Wukasch, a former member of the Travis County Historical Commission, was the architect so we have some more connections with this building.

This is a picture of the African Methodist Episcopal Church that was also in this block. It is now at 1105 East 10th Street. It is called Metropolitan AME (African Methodist Episcopal) Church and is one of several churches here in Texas of that denomination. The denomination goes back well before the Civil War when it was first organized.



Bruno Schmidt

METROPOLITAN AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH 1980

This is a picture of the Wesley United Methodist Church. It began as a place of worship for the slave members of First United Methodist Church here in Austin. While they were still meeting in that little building (that was by number 14 that I showed you a little while ago), after the Civil War, the Freedmen's Bureau came down here after the Civil War and won them all over to the Northern Methodist Episcopal Church but they continued holding their meetings in the basement of that little church. We still have minutes in the archives of the First United Methodist Church – about eight pages long – telling about the negotiations. They finally went out on their own. Brother Phillips was the pastor when First United was first started and he knew what the former slaves had given in time and money toward the building of that church. So, at any rate, they were paid off with, I think, about \$200 plus the pews and the pulpit and they moved on out and they started their own church. And that was the nucleus and the beginning of the Wesley United Methodist Church of which now, Sylvester Chase, is the pastor. He was preceded in the pastorate by Fred Dixon, Senior. Sylvester is a good

friend of mine. He served in our church, First United Methodist Church, as an intern, and now is carrying on with the pastorate here.



Bruno Schmidt

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

This is a picture of the Emmanuel United Methodist Church which is a Spanish speaking congregation situated on Cesar Chavez and Brushy Streets. It traces



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EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

its beginnings to the year 1891. Previous sites were at 4<sup>th</sup> and Nueces and 9<sup>th</sup> and East Avenue. And this is also a picture of that church when it was in its organizational stage.



Permission granted by Emmanuel United Methodist Church

EMMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH – EARLY DAYS

And here is a picture of another of the United Methodist Churches where Hispanics worshipped. It stands on Springdale. It is the Govalle United Methodist Church.



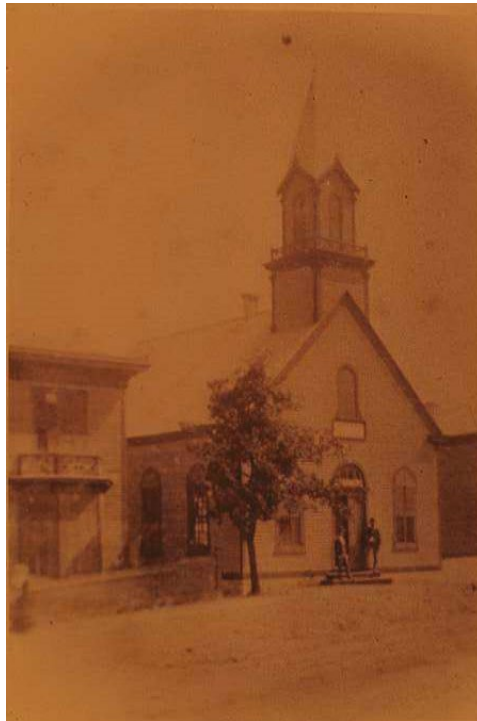
Bruno Schmidt

GOVALLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



The work undertaken by the Spanish speaking Methodists in Texas and New Mexico is well told in *History of the Rio Grande Conference of the United Methodist Church* by Alfredo Nanez in both the Spanish and English versions of this book.

This is an old church also. It has kind of a special meaning to me because it was of the old Southern German Conference. It was established in 1870, lasted until 1916 when they no longer had any members coming into it. It was located at 303 East 9<sup>th</sup> Street. They had no debts but it was closed out then. My grandmother belonged to that church as an immigrant girl. She was sixteen years old and attended that church when its minister was a man named Rudolph Brueck. In 1879, Grandpaw came along and they got married in Brenham by a minister by the name of E. F. Stroeter, and lived in Industry where I've spent some time working just lately.

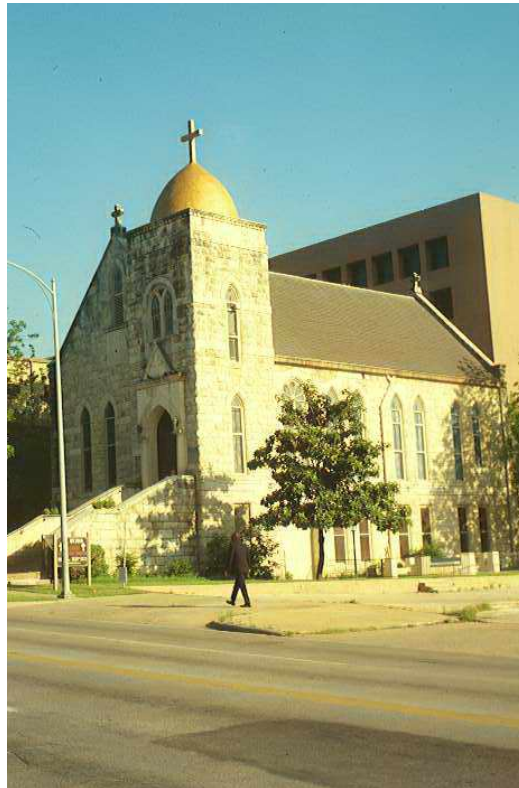


PICA #03503 Austin History Center,  
Austin Public Library

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE SOUTHERN GERMAN CONFERENCE (1870-1916)

This is a picture of the Santa Elias Antiochian Orthodox Church. The stones from this building came from the demolished Central Christian Church that stood

on the site of the Federal Courthouse. There were some men there including M. D. Hage, Robert Balagia, and Tom Attal who saw the need for the Lebanese people and they established this church. It is under the jurisdiction of the Archdiocese of New York and all of North America. There was a liturgy developed in this church that was the translation of the Eastern Orthodox by a woman by the name of Lorene Michaelopolous. This church was known for a long time for the fine Lebanese foods that they prepared annually for a Mediterranean festival.



Bruno Schmidt

ST. ELIAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

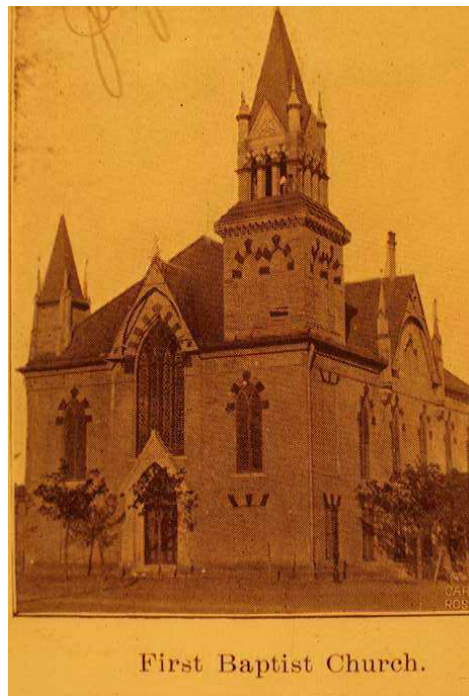
Here is a picture post card, and you can see the First Baptist Church which is to the left, the frame building, and over to the right is the old Texas Capitol. The First Baptist Church was first organized in 1847 and next is a picture taken in 1857.



Excerpt from anniversary postcard  
PICA #03189 Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 1857

Here is a picture of another of the First Baptist buildings. This was the structure that was used before I came here.



Permission received from First Baptist Church

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

This was the First Baptist Church when I arrived here in 1964. Reverend William Denham was the pastor, and he had been preceded by Carlyle Marney a man of great fame among the Baptist preachers.



Excerpt from anniversary postcard  
PICA #03189 Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The new church is now on Trinity and Ninth just east of where the main downtown post office stood.



Bruno Schmidt

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 1980



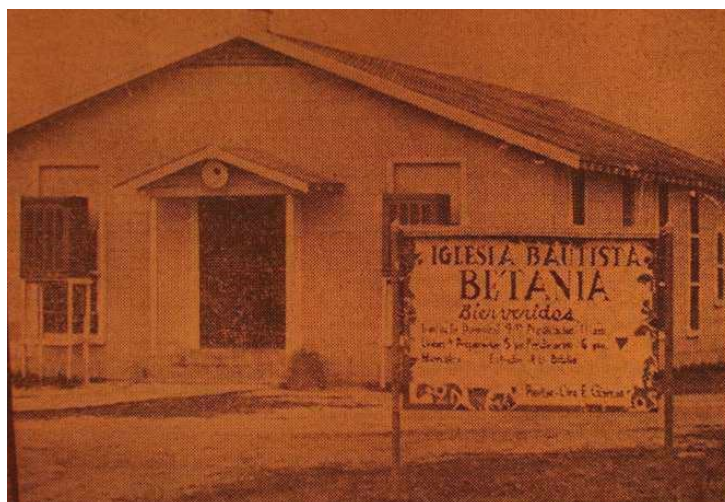
Here's another view of their bell tower with the sanctuary in the background.



Bruno Schmidt

BELL TOWER, FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 1980

Here is something I just happened to run into in the files. It is the Iglesia Bautista Betania, the Bethany Baptist Church. It had its beginning in a vacation Bible school conducted by the young people of Hyde Park Baptist Church in 1959. A congregation was soon active and an abandoned building from Onion Creek was moved into Austin to Berger and Elbert Streets. The Rev. Ciro E. Gardia was called to be the first pastor.



IGLESIA BAUTISTA BETANIA

The church is now located at 1117 Tillery Street where they have this very fine church.



Bruno Schmidt

IGLESIA BAUTISTA BETANIA 1980

This is a picture of what is now known as the Presbyterian Church of El Buen Pastor but it used to be the Ward Memorial Methodist Church and it was the second Methodist Church that was established here in Austin. It was remodeled back in the twenties. The windows came from the old Tenth Street Church and they're still in this particular building. Ward Memorial Church, however, moved to Parker Lane and is now the Parker Lane United Methodist Church. El Buen Pastor Presbyterian Church was organized in 1910 and first owned property on the west side of Austin. During the 1930's, it moved to the corner of 8<sup>th</sup> and Navasota before establishing itself in the current location, the northeast corner of Willow and Waller Streets, one block south of Cesar Chavez St. in the building of the former Ward Memorial Methodist Church.



Bruno Schmidt

EL BUEN PASTOR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (1959 - )  
FORMERLY WARD MEMORIAL METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

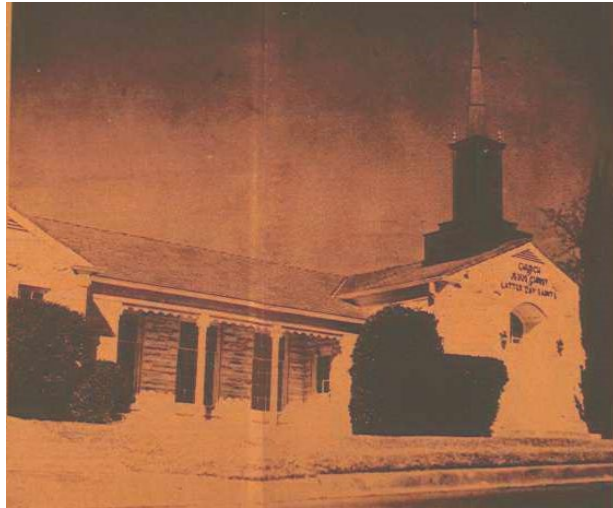
This is a picture of the former Ward Memorial United Methodist Church, at its present location on Parker Lane.



Bruno Schmidt

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ON PARKER LANE

This is a picture of the Church of Latter Day Saints that used to be on Red River. The old building is still standing there but the congregation has also moved out to Parker Lane.



CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

And here is the Church of the Reorganized Latter Day Saints on Bluebonnet Lane in south Austin.



PICA #03174 Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

CHURCH OF THE REORGANIZED LATTER DAY SAINTS



Here is St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church the way it looked back in the old days. I still remember Miss Birdie Moore (wife of Eldridge Moore, who owned a pharmacy near Austin High School). She was a flower girl at a wedding in that church when she was three years old. Some of you may remember her. This church took its name back in 1883 which happened to be the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther's birth date and they called themselves the St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church. St. Martin's held its early services in the First Presbyterian Church. It was called Deutsch Evangelische Lutherische St. Martin's Kirche as its congregation was largely German immigrants. This edifice was built in 1884 at 106 East 13<sup>th</sup> Street, then known as Peach Street.



Permission granted by St. Martin's Lutheran Church

ST. MARTIN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (1883-1929)

When the old Presbyterian Sanitarium that was north of the Capitol burned down



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ST. MARTIN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (1929-1959)

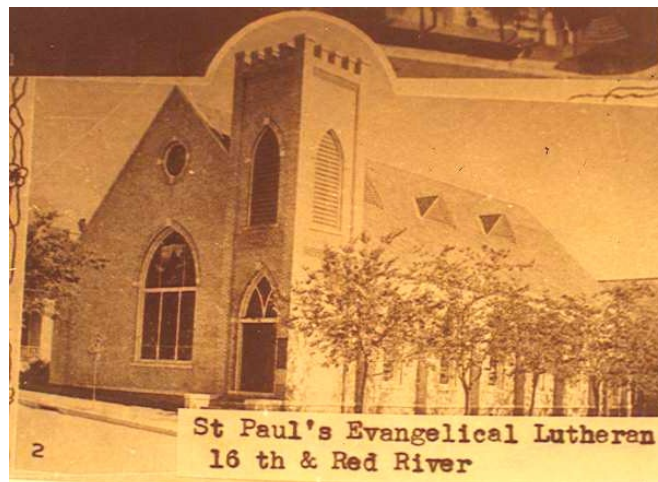
in 1918, lots opened there and they bought and erected this beautiful Austin stone church in 1929 which they used for some thirty years and then the government wanted to expand to the north and that building was dismantled in 1959. Now the congregation has a lovely church, the St. Martin's Lutheran Church, on 15<sup>th</sup> and Nueces.



Bruno Schmidt

ST. MARTIN'S LUTHERAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH (1959- )

Here is a picture of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church. Organized in 1891, in keeping with the general education policy of the Missouri Synod, a Parish School was established at 14<sup>th</sup> and Red River. Some time later, when a new church was erected at 16<sup>th</sup> and Red River, the school was relocated to that



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ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (16<sup>TH</sup> & RED RIVER)

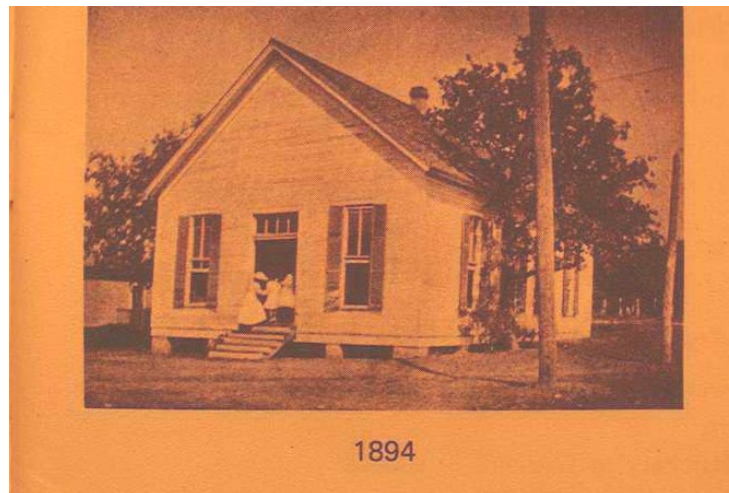
address. The present church, school and gymnasium are at 3501 Red River. The relocation began in 1950 and was completed in 1959. The church is at the northern end of what used to be called Concordia College but is now Concordia University sponsored in Austin by the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.



Permission granted by St. Paul Lutheran Church

ST. PAUL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (1959 - )

This is a picture of the Church of Christ group that split off from the Central Christian Church in 1888. There was some controversy at that time over the use of music in the worship service, the method of doing mission work and whether the Bible should be legalistically or spiritually interpreted. And so they bought this building at 14th Street and San Bernard and occupied it for a time.

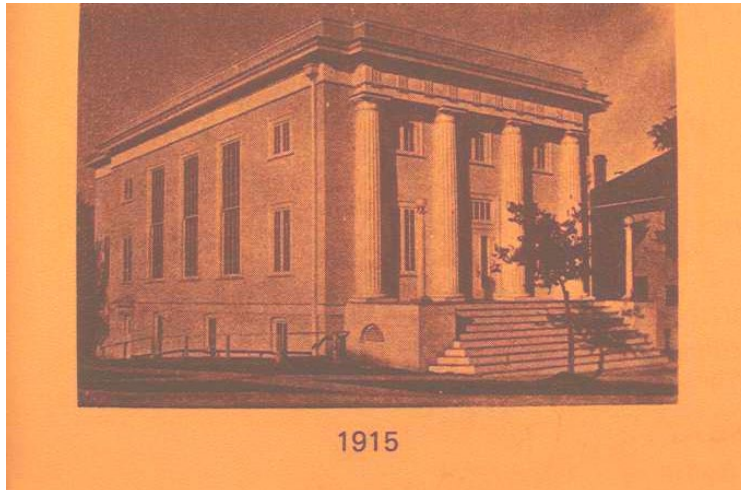


Permission granted by University Avenue Church of Christ

CHURCH OF CHRIST - 1894



In 1915, the church attained its ambition of finding a central location and built a place of worship at the present site at University Avenue and Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and this building was obtained and remodeled for church purposes.



Permission granted by University Avenue Church of Christ

UNIVERSITY AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST (1915-1963)

On September 25, 1949, opening services were held in the building. Further expansion has been undertaken since then to meet the need for a growing student body and Bible Chair work. This is their headquarters as it is today. The University Avenue Church of Christ has been quite an influence as far as Churches of Christ are concerned and has been involved in establishing more than ten Churches of Christ within the city.

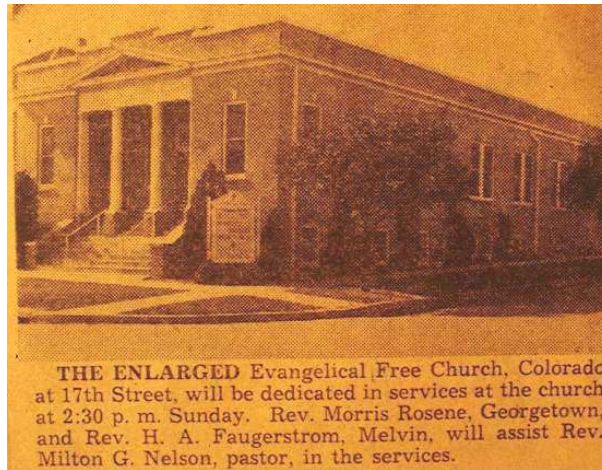


Permission granted by University Avenue Church of Christ

UNIVERSITY AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST 1980



This is a picture of the Evangelical Free Church on Colorado and 17<sup>th</sup> Streets. It



THE ENLARGED Evangelical Free Church, Colorado at 17th Street, will be dedicated in services at the church at 2:30 p. m. Sunday. Rev. Morris Rosene, Georgetown, and Rev. H. A. Faugerstrom, Melvin, will assist Rev. Milton G. Nelson, pastor, in the services.  
Newspaper article, August 16, 1925  
Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

#### EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH (1923 – 1962)

grew out of the nucleus of Evangelical Free Church pioneer believers organized in the Decker community in 1892 and of a similar group in El Roy, organized in 1902. A decision to build an Evangelical Free Church in Austin was agreed to at a meeting held in the Blomdahl home in October 1923. Two lots were purchased at 17<sup>th</sup> and Colorado Streets, upon which the original church and parsonage were built. After meeting in a Baptist church, the first service was held at the new church on May 16, 1925.

The expansion of the State government to the north required selling this property. This is their new church on 45<sup>th</sup> and Red River, the First Evangelical Free Church. The first services were held in this building in 1962.



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#### FIRST EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH (1962 - )

This image shows the First English Lutheran Church at Thirtieth St. and Whitis Avenue which was founded by a small handful of enthusiastic people led by Reverend Fred Kern. He felt that there should be a Lutheran church near the University campus that would be affiliated with the United Lutheran Church in America, the largest body of Lutherans in the United States. It was the first Lutheran congregation in Austin to use the English language exclusively from the start. That's why it was named the First English Lutheran Church. It has persisted, and is now in its fourth pastorate.



PICA #03389, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library.

FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN CHURCH

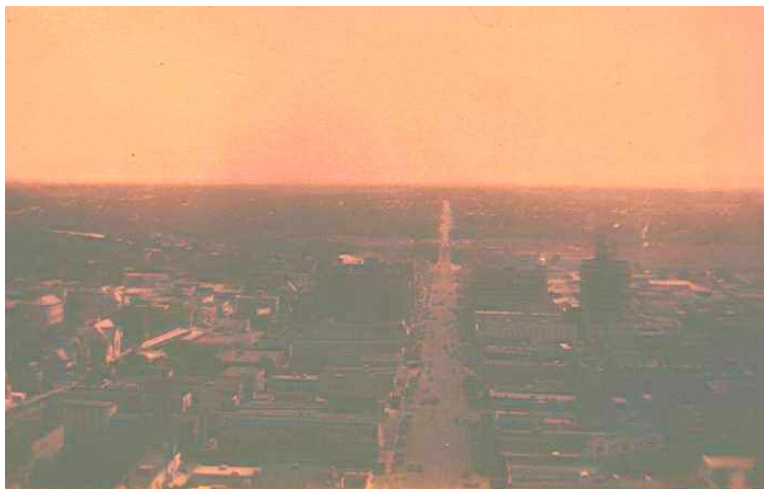
Here are some pictures just at random that I want to show you. When I was a youngster, about seventeen years old, I took a picture with a box camera from the top of the Capitol. I photographed it and it shows the old University Main Building there.



Bruno Schmidt

AUSTIN TO THE NORTH FROM THE CAPITOL 1928

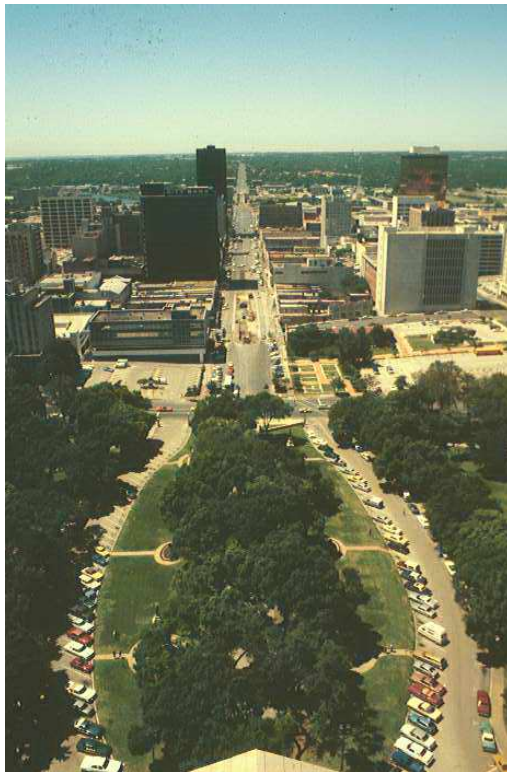
Now we're looking to the South on that same day.



Bruno Schmidt

AUSTIN TO THE SOUTH FROM THE CAPITOL TOWER 1928

and here is another one, a picture I took later, in May, 1979.



Bruno Schmidt

AUSTIN TO THE SOUTH FROM THE CAPITOL 1979



Bruno Schmidt

AUSTIN TO THE NORTH FROM THE WESTGATE TOWER 1979



But this is already out of date and so when all those skyscrapers had been built down along Congress Avenue, we were having the Goddess of Liberty removed from the top of the Capitol and I didn't have a right at that time to go the top of the Capitol so I sent my camera up with a friend who did these and here is a picture that he took. The weather wasn't nice that day and he didn't get a nice bright picture like I had on the others. But it shows how Austin has been expanding and we're back again where we started.



Bruno Schmidt

AUSTIN TO THE SOUTH FROM THE CAPITOL 1985

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