Pat Morrison, July 10, 1970; Snc change 8.3.70
18" x 28" OTHM
Travis County (Job # 3129)
Location: at Nameless Church and Cemetery, 1.3 mi N, off Ranch Road 1431

3129

SITE OF COMMUNITY OF ***
NAMELESS *

FIRST SURVEYED IN THE 1850s, THIS AREA ATTRACTED NUMEROUS SETTLERS BY 1868. A COMMUNITY GREW UP, AND IN 1880 TOWNSPEOPLE APPLIED FOR A POST OFFICE. AFTER POSTAL AUTHORITIES REJECTED SIX NAMES, THE CITIZENS REPLIED IN DISGUST, "LET THE POST OFFICE BE NAMELESS AND BE D----D". THE IMPLIED "NAME" WAS ACCEPTED. ***

BESIDES THE POST OFFICE (1880-90), TOWN HAD STORE, MEAT MARKET, AND SCHOOL, WHICH ALSO SERVED AS A CHURCH. THE PRESENT SCHOOL WAS ERECTED IN 1909; CLASSES WERE DISCONTINUED IN 1945. TODAY ONLY SCHOOL, CEMETERY, AND RUINS MARK SITE OF ONCE-ACTIVE COMMUNITY. **

(1970) ***

FILE COPY-DO NOT REMOVE

RECEIVED
READY FOR
AUG 18 1970
SOUTHWELL ORDER
TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

* 3/4 " lettering
** 1/2 " lettering
*** 1/4 " lettering

APPROVED
Truett Latimer
by Bob Wakon
8-18-70

J. M. Owens
Research for Nameless

NAMELESS

Not many have heard of Nameless, Texas. It was a town on Big Sandy Creek in northwestern Travis County, and is still shown on the maps as Nameless. Not much remains there now except stone steps and fences from the old store and post office, high on a hill overlooking Big Sandy. Across the creek on the other side is the old church and school and cemetery. The records of the National Archives in Washington show that the Nameless post office was started on January 19, 1880, and discontinued on January 13, 1890. When the settlers requested a post office there, they submitted six names; and each was turned down because there were already post offices by the name suggested. Finally, they wrote to the post office department saying: "Let the post office be nameless, and be d-----d." So, the post office department accepted their suggestion. It was listed as Nameless, Texas.

Wording does not correspond to that in suggestion. Have written P.O. Dept. for correct quote. pm 7-1-70

When Bob Turner settled on the nearby Colorado River about a century ago, the land back of him on Big Sandy was reserved for his three children, that on the north side for Riley Turner, whose son, Nolan Turner, lived there. Another son, Bell Turner, received the land on the south side of the creek, and a daughter, Mrs. Pat Cook, had land further back. Bob Turner later carried the mail from Leander out to the little town; and he knew it when the church grounds were their meeting place, with week-long camp meetings and barbecues to which people came from miles away. At one of these camp meetings, while they were singing a church song, the elderly J. P. Corley, a postmaster there, died at the gathering in the brush arbor. The community was thickly settled then, and most of the postmasters lived either up or down the creek from Nameless. They were: Philip T. Stroud, appointed January 19, 1880; J. P. Corley, May 5, 1885; Mrs. Nancy H. Olds, August 19, 1885; Nancy H. Burns, November 1, 1886; John W. Cox, August 4, 1887; James P. Colley, December 29, 1889; Thomas B. Atterberry, February 19, 1889.

In this highland lakes area, the Colorado River winds through canyons and cliffs and coves. A nearby community to Nameless, called Volente, was partially submerged by the lake; presently Dodd City near there, has reverted to the old name of Volente. There, a young girl of fifteen, now Mrs. H. E. Hensel, carried the mail, by horseback, by buggy, from Cedar Park to her mother's home at Volente, where Mrs. Allie Annie Anderson was postmistress and kept the mail in a dishpan, on a wash-stand. Some of the old rail fences still stand in that neighborhood.

Just a few miles down the creek from Nameless and Volente is the site of Anderson's Mill. Miss Lucy Anderson, of Austin, remembers the stories her grandfather told of this. After the Civil War, this resourceful man modernized his place with irrigation, from a tank with a hand-made hydraulic ram, with pipe he brought from Brenham by oxen in the 1870's. His mill, near Nameless, was built in 1863, serving pioneers there and the Confederates during the war.

Currently, many of the old communities in the highland lakes area are losing their identities and becoming supply points and recreation centers for hunting and fishing, but not Nameless. A few enterprising emigrants to the cattle country around there tried calling it Fairview for a while, but they were not successful. To its founding fathers who listed it as a post office in Washington, it was Nameless, and it will always be Nameless, Texas.

o O o

Note: The above from Pages 17, 18, 19 of History of Travis County and Austin, 1839-1899, by Mary Starr Barkley, published by the Texian Press, Waco, Texas, 1963.

o O o

NAMELESS. The old church and school and cemetery are there by the creek today, reminders of the community which was once called Fairview. The school was built on land donated by Bell Turner.

o O o

Note: The above from Page 153 of Mary Starr Barkley's History of Travis County and Austin, 1839-1899.

NAMELESS SCHOOL HISTORY

Jan Faubion
Research on Nameless

3129

"One of Travis County's first communities Nameless was settled before 1850" - note from Tony Proffitt's article in Austin American, April 12, 1964. No school is mentioned.

Perhaps the first authentic record is made in the Texas State Gazeteer and Business Directory, Volume 1, 1882. "Nameless has one church and school." This could have been established with the town in 1880. In volume 2, 1884 it is spoken of as a "district school."

"The house that stands now (1936) was erected in 1909 (under the supervision of Mr. Bell Turner) and is on the same tract of land as the first building. The tract was donated by Mr. Bell Turner." (Note from The Defender published in 1936). The accompanying picture indicates the same building that stands today (1965).

The earliest county school board records seem to be dated July 14, 1936 and the last July 2, 1945. During this time the school was known as Fairview. It was always a one teacher school.

In 1945 Fairview, Cypress, Round Mountain and Valenti common school districts of Travis County were grouped with Leander School district of Williamson County.

The Nameless School building was always used also for church services. Different denominations - Mr. Van Lohman recalls that the Baptists and the Christians (Campbellites) would hold revival meetings under an arbor where the Nolan Turner house now stands. Two of the preachers he remembers were Brice Milam from Bee Cave and Ben Frier a local minister from Big Sandy; also Mr. H. B. Ray, Church of Christ minister from Cedar Park.

The baptismal services were probably held further down the creek at the Yocum place - in the bend of Big Sandy south of Jonestown.

In 1935 the ground "one acre more or less" was bought by the Assembly of God from Nolan Turner. Mr. Turner bought it back in 1945 from this denomination. In this transfer of property no building is mentioned in the deed.

For the past twenty years the building has been used only occasionally as a meeting place by local organizations, and was in a very run down condition until the Lake Travis Home Demonstration Club took over its renovation in 1965 for the purpose of having a permanent meeting place.

RECENT HISTORY

The Lake Travis Home Demonstration Club was organized November, 1959. The club met in the homes of different members the first year, but the advisability of a permanent meeting place was always present. The Nameless School house on Big Sandy Creek was available, but in a discouragingly run down condition. However, it was chosen and with few exceptions has been used as the meeting place of the Lake Travis Home Demonstration Club since 1960.

As its main achievement project for 1965, the Lake Travis Home Demonstration Club adopted the complete renovation of the old Nameless School building. This Achievement Day, October 8, 1965, the club can view with pride and appreciation of what those members who spent so many hours on the project have accomplished towards making an attractive, inviting meeting place of the old building, known since 1880 as the Nameless School and church - also in the Travis County records from 1936-1945 as the Fairview School.

Much had to be done from the sagging gate at the entrance of the grounds to the leaking roof of the building. Commissioner N. L. Gault replaced the gate with a first class cattle guard.

A four foot wide bed for native plants outlined with honeycomb rocks surrounds the building. This together with new stone steps and a new door both at the front and side entrances, add up to a very attractive approach.

A new roof was added; the building painted inside and out; doors and broken windows replaced; protective wire mesh placed over windows; then the attractive finishing touch of white cafe curtains trimmed with aqua and orange braid was added. The rusty old box wood burning stove and pipe were polished; the old dilapidated blackboard was removed.

Nameless School History (cont'd)

How was all this work financed? It is interesting to know that the old community spirit which has been so evident through the years - eighty-five or more - still motivates people from Nameless even though they no longer live on Big Sandy. Mrs. Van Lohman, whose early life was spent here, raised over $200.00 for the renovation project by contacting old friends especially those who have members of the family buried in the old cemetery adjoining the school grounds.

Other friends of the club - among them Mr. Guy Smithson, Mr. Bobby Allday, and Mr. W. J. Kruger - helped with the heavier work.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

National Archives and Records Service
Washington, D.C. 20408

DATE: July 8, 1970

REPLY TO ATTN OF: NNR

SUBJECT: Post Office at Nameless, Texas

Mrs. Patricia S. Morrison
Research Assistant
Texas State Historical Survey Committee
P. O. Box 12276 Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

The records of the Post Office Department in the National Archives show that a post office was established at Nameless, Travis County, Texas, on January 19, 1880. It was discontinued on January 13, 1890. We have not been able to find any information about the reason for choosing that name for the post office.

A geographical site location report of November 25, 1879, shows that the proposed name of the post office was "Cross Creek". This name is marked out and "Nameless" is substituted.

Richard S. Maxwell

RICHARD S. MAXWELL
Assistant Director
Social and Economic Records Division

Many P.O. records have been destroyed - so absence of data does not disprove origin of name. PM 7-10-70

State Office

APPLICATION FORM
OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

3129

County Travis Town Austin Date June 3, 1970

This marker is for (Title or Subject) NAMELESS

Marker is to be located At Nameless Church and Cemetery grounds located 1.3 miles north of Ranch Road 1431 in northwestern Travis Co.
(BE SPECIFIC AS TO ADDRESS, LOCATION OF SITE, MILES FROM CITY LIMITS, ETC.)

Present Owner of Property Lake Travis Home Demonstration Club.

Address Jonestown Texas

Who is responsible for Marker erection, Property maintenance? Lake Travis Home Demonstration Club, Jonestown, Texas

Who prepared the history? J. M. Owens (and Jan Faubion)

Address 4013 Ridgelea Drive, Austin, Texas, 78731

Attach History with Reference Data for Authenticating this Subject (2-3 Pages) (In the case of a Building Medallion, answer questions on pages 3 & 4)

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

If this is an Application for a Building Medallion, enclose current, glossy Picture of structure. (Application will NOT be approved, if picture is not included.)

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

Who is to be recognized as the Sponsor of this marker? To be paid for out of our Travis Co. funds in your office, if possible. Thank you. MSB

Name Lake Travis Home Demonstration Club,

Address Jonestown, Texas

RECEIVED
JUN 23 1970

This application has been submitted by:

TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

Name Mrs. Fred C. Barkley, Chairman, Travis County Historical Survey Comm.

Address 2203 Scenic Drive, Austin, Texas, 78703

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS: (Price of Marker Includes Freight)

RECEIVED
JUN 23 1970
TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE

SHIP TO Mrs. Fred C. Barkley

2203 Scenic Drive, Austin, Texas, 78703

_____, Texas

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ORDERING THIS MARKER FROM THE TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
BOX 12243 • CAPITOL STATION • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711 • PHONE GR3-3288

August 18, 1970

Mr. Bill Southwell, Jr.
The Southwell Company
P.O. Drawer 220
San Antonio, Texas 78206

NO. 3129

Mkr. Design A, 18" x 28", with post
Site of Community of Nameless
Near Austin
Travis County

Dear Mr. Southwell

Enclosed is an application for Design A, 18" x 28", with post. Site of Community of Nameless, for the City of Austin, Travis County.

We would appreciate a rubbing of this inscription.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jean Chandler
Executive Secretary

GHA/s

Enclosure

SHIP TO: Mrs. Fred C. Barkley
2203 Scenic Drive
Austin, Texas 78703

NAME OF MARKER Nameless 3129

TOWN Austin, Tex., COUNTY Travis

DATE 6-23-70

TO: TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE

FROM: TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

On this date the Texas Historical Foundation received a donation for a Design A 18" x 28" w/post. We ask to be advised by your Committee if the history is sufficient, the location satisfactory, and all other requirements set forth by the State have been met.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

Truett Latimer: Approved

T.L.
Initial

6-24-70
Date

Deolece Parmelee: (XM)
Category

This would be satisfactory if we knew the distance and direction of Nameless from Jonestown.

D. Parmelee, 6-23-70

TRAVIS
COUNTY

I approve of the inscription for Site of Community of Nameless

as sent to me August4, 1970.

RECEIVED
AUG 18 1970
TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE

M. Barkley
Signed

Aug. 15 1970
Date

TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE
P. O. BOX 12276 CAPITOL STATION AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711
TRUETT LATIMER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

July 1, 1970

Jane F. Smith, Director
Social and Economic Records Division
Office of the National Archives
Washington, DC 20408

Dear Miss Smith: RE: Nameless, Texas

We are in need of information of the community of Nameless, in Travis County, Texas. Specifically we would like to know the origin of the name of the post office which was established there in January 1880.

Local historians have informed us that community leaders in 1880 and earlier submitted six names to the Post Office Department in Washington, but all six were rejected because there were already Texas post offices with those names. In disgust, the citizens wrote, "Let the post office be nameless and be d----d." With unusual humor, the Post Office Department forthwith listed the community as "Nameless."

We would like to know if your records corroborate this story and, in particular, the exact wording of the community leaders' angry letter. We have several versions of it.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

(Mrs.) Patricia S. Morrison
Research Assistant

PM:s