

Application Form

Official Texas Historical Marker

Please complete both sides of form.

This marker is for (title or subject): OLD FISKVILLE

(Title subject to change by THC staff and/or State Marker Review Board.)

County: TRAVIS

Marker location (street address and city, or specific directions from nearest town on state highway map):
8830 LAMAR BOULEVARD North, AUSTIN, TX #02391603010000

Distance and direction of marker topic from marker site (if applicable): _____

Approval of County Historical Commission

The application and narrative history must be approved by the county historical commission before forwarding to the Texas Historical Commission.

Signature of CHC chair or Marker Committee* chair: Ernestine P. Thompson Date: 3-23-2004

Address: 1112 GAZANIA DRIVE, Pflugerville, TX 78660-2226

Phone: 512-251-6871 Fax: _____ Email: elt@ecpi.com

*Marker Committee chair signature accepted only if form signed by CHC chair is on file; call 512/463-5853 to request form.

The CHC chair or Marker Committee chair will automatically receive all copies of correspondence regarding this marker project.

Permission of owner for marker placement

Permission for placement of a marker must be obtained from the property owner. Please provide the name of a contact person if the owner is an institution, organization or public entity. Do not complete this section if the marker is to be placed on right-of-way maintained by the Texas Department of Transportation.

Name: CITY OF AUSTIN (PARKS + RECREATION DEPT.)

Contact person (if applicable): SARAH CAMPBELL, PLANNING DIVISION

Mailing address: 200 S. LAMAR BLVD. AUSTIN, TX 78704

Phone: 512-974-6765 Fax: 512-974-6774 Email: SARAH.CAMPBELL@CI.AUSTIN.TX.US

Owner's signature: Sarah Campbell

Do you wish to receive copies of all correspondence concerning this marker application? ☐ Yes ☐ No

To whom should the request for payment be addressed?

Name: NORTH AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Contact person (if applicable): BRIAN ALMON

Mailing address: 9502 STONEBRIDGE, AUSTIN, TX 78758

Phone: 936-7355 Fax: 836-6853 Email: almonb@SBCglobal.net

Does this person wish to receive copies of all other correspondence concerning this application? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Is there anyone else to whom all correspondence concerning this marker application should be addressed? (One additional name and address only, please.)

Name: LISA KERBER, THE ROOT CAUSE PROJECT

Mailing address: 1925 Rutland, SUITE N, AUSTIN, TX 78758

Phone: 512-339-2851 Fax: 512-339-3272 Email: LISA@SDSYS.ORG

For more information contact:

Texas Historical Commission, History Programs Division

P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276

512/463-5853, Fax 512/475-3122

www.thc.state.tx.us



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

(OVER)

Shipping Instructions

In order to facilitate delivery of the marker, neither post office box numbers nor rural route numbers can be accepted. If the marker is to be placed on the highway right-of-way, it will be shipped directly to the district highway engineer.

Name: LISA KERBER, THE ROOT CAUSE PROJECT

Street address: ~~1315~~ 1925 RUTLAND, SUITE N, AUSTIN, TX 78758

Phone: 512-339-2851

Type and Size of Marker Desired (Please check one only.)

Subject Markers

See Attached Page 3

Subject markers are solely educational in nature and convey no legal restrictions to the property. They are appropriate for topics such as church congregations, businesses, persons, events and institutions. These markers should not be attached to buildings. If the marker is to be attached to a surface other than the foundry-provided post, please provide the requested information in the space below.

- | | |
|---|---------|
| ☐ 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar) | \$275 |
| ☐ 27" x 42" marker with post | \$1,100 |
| ☐ 27" x 42" marker without post (see below) | \$1,000 |
| ☒ 18" x 28" marker with post | \$750 |
| ☐ 18" x 28" marker without post (see below) | \$700 |

If not on post, to what (block of granite, gatepost, etc.) will the marker be attached?

Type of material? (wood, stone, etc.)

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Markers

Markers conveying the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation are reserved solely for historic structures deemed worthy of preservation for their architectural integrity and historical associations. The RTHL designation does carry a measure of legal protection for the structure (see Marker Policies 13 through 18) and for that reason we must have a legal description (lot and block numbers) for the property to be designated. The most commonly used marker for conveying this designation is the medallion and plate (also referred to as a building marker); however, the 18" x 28" or 27" x 42" size marker may be ordered for those who wish a greater amount of historical information to appear in the marker text. Careful attention should be paid so as not to damage historic building material if the marker is to be mounted directly onto the structure. The THC staff can provide alternate ideas for mounting upon request.

- | | |
|---|---------|
| ☐ Medallion and 16" x 12" plate with post | \$450 |
| ☐ Medallion and 16" x 12" plate without post (see below) | \$400 |
| ☐ 27" x 42" marker with post | \$1,100 |
| ☐ 27" x 42" marker without post (see below) | \$1,000 |
| ☐ 18" x 28" marker with post | \$750 |
| ☐ 18" x 28" marker without post (see below) | \$700 |

If not on post, to what (building, gate, etc.) will the marker be attached?

Type of material? (wood, stone, etc.)

Legal description of property (lot and block number; metes and bounds):

ABS 29 SUR 58

APPLEGATE J ACR .97 (Greenbelt)

Before forwarding your material to the Texas Historical Commission, please check to make sure you've included the following items. Incomplete applications cannot be considered and may be returned to the applicant.

- ☐ completed application form signed by the county historical commission chair or marker committee chair
- ☐ narrative history with reference notes and bibliography
- ☐ photograph of the proposed marker location (do not use instant/Polaroid photos)
- ☐ map indicating marker location and other sites related to the marker topic
- ☐ historic photo of property and current photographs of all elevations (RTHL markers only)
- ☐ legal description of property (RTHL markers only)
- ☐ floor plans (RTHL markers only)
- ☐ site plan (RTHL markers only)

Mail completed applications to:

History Programs Division, Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276

Additional items, including directional signs and replacement parts for 1936 markers, are available. Please contact the History Programs Division for a separate order form.

TYPE AND SIZE OF MARKER DESIRED

■ SUBJECT MARKERS

Subject markers are educational in nature and convey no legal restrictions to the property. They are appropriate for topics such as church congregations, schools, towns, businesses, persons, events and institutions. These markers should not be attached to buildings; if the marker is to be attached to a surface other than the foundry-provided post, please provide the requested information in the space below.

- ☐ 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar)\$ 425
- ☐ 27" x 42" marker with post\$1,250
- ☐ 27" x 42" marker without post (for attachment to _____)\$1,150
- ☒ 18" x 28" marker with post\$ 850
- ☐ 18" x 28" marker without post (for attachment to _____)\$ 750

■ RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS

Markers conveying the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation are reserved solely for historic structures deemed worthy of recognition for their architectural integrity and historical associations. The RTHL designation carries a measure of legal protection (see Marker Policies 13 through 18), therefore a legal description (lot and block numbers) is required. The most commonly used marker for conveying the designation is the medallion and plaque (also referred to as a building marker); however, subject markers may also be used to provide more information. If the marker is to be mounted directly onto a structure, care should be taken to avoid damaging historic building material. Note that RTHL markers must go at the site for which the designation is given.

- ☐ Medallion and 16" x 12" plaque with post\$ 525
- ☐ Medallion and 16" x 12" plaque without post (for attachment to _____)\$ 425
- ☐ 27" x 42" marker with post\$1,250
- ☐ 27" x 42" marker without post (for attachment to _____)\$1,150
- ☐ 18" x 28" marker with post\$ 850
- ☐ 18" x 28" marker without post (for attachment to _____)\$ 750

Legal description of property (lot and block number; metes and bounds):

ABS 29 sur 58

Apple Gate J ACR .97 (Greenbelt)

■ HISTORIC TEXAS CEMETERY MARKERS

The purchase and display of a historical marker is not a required component of the Historic Texas Cemetery (HTC) designation, but the HTC offers options for those situations in which a marker will contribute to preservation or interpretation. Only cemeteries with the HTC designation are eligible for HTC markers, and the designation process must be complete before a marker application can be processed. Once the designation is awarded, no additional documentation is required for an HTC medallion or medallion with name and date plaque. For medallions with interpretive plaques, however, the same type of history and documentation required for subject markers and RTHL markers is necessary.

Medallions only and medallions with name and date plaques:

- ☐ Medallion only, without post (for attachment to _____)\$ 250
- ☐ Medallion only, with hardware to attach to existing state historical marker post\$ 300
- ☐ Medallion only, with post\$ 400
- ☐ Medallion and 12" x 6" name and date plaque, without post (for attachment to _____)\$ 500
- ☐ Medallion and 12" x 6" name and date plaque, with post\$ 600

Medallions with interpretive plaques:

- ☐ Medallion and 16" x 12" plaque, without post (for attachment to _____)\$ 650
- ☐ Medallion and 16" x 12" plaque, with post\$ 750
- ☐ Medallion and 16" x 24" plaque, without post (for attachment to _____)\$ 850
- ☐ Medallion and 16" x 24" plaque, with post\$ 950

When the application packet is complete, forward the required application form, historical narrative, footnotes/endnotes, bibliography, photos and maps to the county historical commission. Once the authorized CHC representative has signed this form and reviewed the packet, mail both to: History Programs Division, Texas Historical Commission, P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276.

For more information contact:
 Texas Historical Commission, History Programs Division
 P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276
 512/463-5853, Fax 512/475-3122
 www.thc.state.tx.us
 Rev. 3/2003



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

FISKVILLE

April 27, 2004

William McGarry, M.Ed.
Stephanie Neely
Sam Williams
Lisa Kerber, Ph.D.
Ernestine Thompson

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Brian and Gina Almon for their interest and continued support, Harvey Chappell for his insights and help, Tammie Smith, Mary Sue Prague Lyon, and Eve Williams for providing valuable information on Josiah Fisk and Fiskville, and Murray Robinson for photos of the Payton Gin.

St. David's Foundation's Root Cause Project, which works with community members in the area that was once Fiskville, partially funded this project.

Why a Historical Marker for Fiskville?

The neighborhood of the North Austin Civic Association (NACA) used to be a small, independent farming community called Fiskville. Community members are applying for a historical marker to commemorate the community of Fiskville on behalf of the residents NACA represents. The area of NACA is bounded by Kramer Lane on the north, Lamar Boulevard on the east, Highway 183 to the south, and Metric Boulevard to the west. Today, this area is characterized by high population density, racial and cultural diversity, low- to moderate-income housing, and rapidly changing demographics. Developed in the late 1970s as a bedroom community, little remains of what was once Fiskville.

A historical marker for Fiskville in the Heron Hollow Park at the corner of Payton Gin Road and North Lamar Boulevard would educate people on their shared history, stimulate neighborhood pride, and motivate people to further explore and document the history of Fiskville (see map and photos).¹ When the historical marker is in place, community members can develop educational materials to supplement the social studies curriculum in local schools, publish narratives and historical information on the NACA web site and in the monthly neighborhood newsletter, and create visual displays of the history for use at local schools, the Little Walnut Creek Library, and the annual Quail Creek Festival.

Locating Fiskville

Fiskville, founded in the early 1870s, evolved from the pioneer homesteads scattered throughout northern Travis County. According to land records in Travis County Court House, Josiah Fisk purchased many acres of land around Bull Creek and Fiskville from people owning headrights and sold the land to settlers.² The community of Fiskville was about six miles north of Austin on Little Walnut Creek, a westerly branch of Big Walnut

Creek, and what is now North Lamar Boulevard (see map of area).³ In the 1800s, Lamar was part of the Chisholm Trail, the cattle route that extended from Missouri to Kansas. It was also known as Upper Georgetown Road, the main thoroughfare running from Austin to Dallas. The center of Fiskville was near the intersection of Upper Georgetown Road and Burditt Mill Fiskville Road.⁴ The Fiskville Store, the first in the community, was located at today's Heron Hollow Park very near the corner of Payton Gin Road and North Lamar Boulevard (see map of Fiskville).⁵

In 1873, the year the post office was established, about 150 to 200 people lived in Fiskville.⁶ In 1895 the *Travis County Directory* listed 123 households in Fiskville, 20 percent of which were "Colored."⁷ Four years later, the *Directory* listed 124 households in the area, 21 percent of which were "Colored."⁸ In 1901, it listed 100 households (20 Black and 80 White) in Fiskville.⁹

Farms and Businesses

Fiskville was primarily a farming community extending east to Big Walnut Creek. Its white soil, called "Austin Chalk," grew pigmy cotton, two bolls to a stalk.¹⁰ At one time, there was a quail farm in Fiskville.¹¹ E.W. Holler owned a peach orchard. Holler owned land in Fiskville in 1866 and moved to his farm there from Austin in 1876. By the 1880s Holler had planted thousands of peach trees, and by the 1890s he was the most "extensive peach tree grower in Central Texas with about 6,500 trees in Fiskville."¹² In 1895 Holler reported owning 297 acres of land.¹³ A freeze killed the trees around 1890.¹⁴

Several businesses operated in Fiskville in the mid to late 1800s. Josiah Fisk built a log and stone structure that functioned as a stage coach inn and general store, and eventually, after Josiah left Fiskville, a post office. This log and stone building was near his home on

Upper Georgetown Road (now 8810 North Lamar). A fire burned several stores in the area in late December 1885 including Bengener's Boot Shop and Jones' Blacksmith Shop. The fire also burned the Fisk and Bowers' Store.¹⁵ According to the *Handbook of Texas Online*, Fiskville, in the mid-1880s, had a general store, a steam flour mill, and a cotton gin.¹⁶ There was also a blacksmith's shop, owned by W.E. Young, and a sorghum mill (for molasses), owned by John H. Mulkey. Zimmerman's store was the town's focal point and a favored gathering place along Walnut Creek. The store's first floor housed the post office and a saloon. The upper floor accommodated social affairs.¹⁷

According to the *Travis County Directory* (1895), the most common occupation among heads of households was indeed farming. An African American was listed as a teacher, and another was listed as a preacher. Among White heads of households, there were in addition to farmers, three teachers, two "sheep raisers" (both of the Well family), a blacksmith, carpenter, dairyman, fruit merchant, horseman, and merchant.¹⁸ In 1899, most people continued to describe themselves as farmers. One African American, George Washington (G.W.) Corzine, or Cazine, had two gins. Other occupations among Whites were blacksmith, merchant, and ginner.¹⁹ In 1901, in addition to farmers, there were two people who worked in dairy, a blacksmith, a carpenter, and a physician. In 1901, I.J. Deen, a White person, sold general merchandise and served as post master. Cazine continued to work as a ginner.²⁰ Cazine was a former slave and one of the largest landowners in Fiskville. He owned and operated the first gins. Cazine, an entrepreneur, invested in new technology from the North. He purchased a steam threshing machine and harvested wheat for Black and White farmers.²¹

In the early 1900s, according to Ethel Tisdale, a long-time resident, Fiskville “consisted of (a) general store, a blacksmith shop that shod horses and made farm implements, and (a) schoolhouse, but most of the citizens were farmers and dairymen who lived in the surrounding countryside.”²² The dairymen worked at three large dairies in or very near Fiskville.²³ The Harvey family operated the Meadowbrook Dairy Farm on land originally owned by Josiah Fisk.²⁴

The Andrew Payton Gin opened after George Washington Cazine’s gin and was located on the road now named for it, near the intersection of Lower Georgetown Road and Burdit Mill Fiskville Road. The Payton Gin was operating in 1906 and continued to operate until the 1930s when cotton prices fell (see photo of Payton Gin).²⁵ It was one of two gins operated by the Payton family. The second was located on the family’s second farm in the nearby community of Sprinkle. The Burditt family also operated a grist mill east of Upper Georgetown Road.²⁶

Streets in the area bear the names of some of the families (Kramer, Neans, Parmer, Payton, and Rundberg) who owned farms in Fiskville. The farms of Kramer and Neans were in the northern area of Fiskville in the 1930s, and the Robinson family farms extended west on both sides of Lower Georgetown Road.²⁷ The Kramer family farm raised milk and beef cattle, cotton, oats, wheat, and corn.²⁸

Stores and businesses continued to open and operate. The post office continued to operate, and an area telephone exchange opened in a home adjacent to Josiah Fisk’s building. The telephone exchange operated until 1952.²⁹ After the car became more popular in the area, a garage and a residence for mechanics were added to the rear, or west side, of the general store. In the 1930s and ‘40s, the parents and guardians of children who attended

schools in Fiskville Common District No. 11, which included Fiskville School and at least one “Colored” school, worked in the following occupations:³⁰

- book keeper
- brick mason
- butcher
- carpenter
- common laborer
- cook
- county road or highway worker
- dairy hand or dairy man
- domestic maid or housekeeper
- farmer or farm hand
- electrician
- grocer
- hospital attendant
- housewife
- iron helper
- janitor
- laundress
- matron
- mechanic
- minister
- plasterer
- plumber
- porter
- teacher
- trucker
- Work Project Administration (WPA) worker
- poultry hand
- salesman
- service station attendant
- stone mason
- stone sawyer
- store keeper
- tailor

Giles Lockhart started his business *Giles' Sheet Metal*, which still operates today as *Custom Sheet Metal*, in 1958. In the 1960s the general store and gas station sold general supplies, school supplies, and coal oil.³¹

Education, Schools, and Children's Activities

Fiskville School, along with other rural schools of Travis County, was in the Travis County Common School District. Urban schools, including Austin public schools, belonged to the independent school districts. According to the Superintendent of the Travis County Common School Districts who served in the 1930s, the common school district system “in the early days” was probably the quickest and only way to get a community school when little or no state money was available for schools and “met the needs of the people in Texas.” Local enthusiasm, subscriptions, and donations built the small schools on land donated for both church- and school-related purposes.³² Most schools had one teacher, but a few had as many as six. The Common School Districts in Travis County had separate schools for Whites (primarily German and Swedish immigrants), Hispanics, and African-Americans.³³ Many African American children went to classes held in “Negro tenant houses or churches which were inadequate...”³⁴

According to a review of the *Texas Teachers' Daily Register* for the years 1934 to 1949 (see Appendix), Fiskville Common District No. 11 served children in primary level and 1st through 8th grades. During each of the school years represented in the *Register*, most classes at schools in District No. 11 had about 40 to 50 students. In 1937 five children from St. John's Orphanage, which served African Americans, went to a school in Fiskville Common District No. 11.³⁵

Fiskville's first school was built around 1867 on land originally owned by Josiah Fisk.³⁶ One teacher taught inside the one-room stone building, located on Upper Georgetown Road, between present day Deen Avenue and Elliot Street.³⁷ Fiskville School was open to White children. *The Travis County School Annual* (1906-1907) described the old rock school-building as “warm and roomy. (It) has a commodious vestibule, a feature that most

schools lack. Calcimining the walls and painting the blackboards would add much to the school-room's appearance and usefulness" (p.53). In 1907 Fiskville School received \$15 from a box supper. Proceeds were used to purchase new windows, a door, wire netting for windows and shades. Teachers and students washed the walls, floor, and windows and polished the stove. The Hawthorne Library Plan bought a 30 volume library for the school at a cost of \$10.³⁸

In 1906-1907, African American children in Fiskville District No. 11 went to Walnut Creek or St. Paul. According to *The Travis County School Annual* (1906-1907), "Walnut Creek and St. Paul schools should be consolidated. There is absolutely no sense in maintaining the two schools, in the same district, so close together, on \$200 a year, \$100 to each school" (p.71). In 1907 the Colored schools in District No. 11 received a new stove-pipe.³⁹

Around 1912-1914, Fiskville School added another classroom and a small entrance room, and two teachers taught class. The school's library was a bookcase with a few books and *Webster's Unabridged Dictionary* mounted on a stand. A shed near the school held the students' horses.⁴⁰ This first school burned in 1915 (see photo), and a three-room frame structure, known as Fiskville School, replaced it. In 1917, White students only attended grades one through seven at Fiskville School.⁴¹

The boys of Fiskville School formed a baseball team, which played in Fiskville and other communities.⁴² In the 1930s area school children often swam in the creeks and spent summer days in the Fisk house. "With its one-foot thick walls, it was the coolest place around."⁴³

In 1950 about 107 students in grades 1 to 6 attended Fiskville School. At that time, the school was in Fiskville District No. 11 but part of the Summit Consolidated Common School District. "It was brought into the Austin Public Schools" in 1951, the year the land was annexed by the City of Austin. Austin Public Schools paid to Summit Consolidated Common School District the sum of \$6,448.65 for the building and the 1.46 acres. In 1953, the school was remodeled to have three classrooms and a cafeteria.⁴⁴

The Fiskville School held its last class in May 1957 because a new school was set to open in September 1957. This new school, T.A. Brown, was to be a "modern brick building located on an extension of West Anderson Lane at about Guadalupe and Northwest Crest." What is now Brown Elementary at 505 West Anderson Lane originally consisted of eight acres and one building with twelve classrooms, a library, cafeteria, offices, and an air-conditioned visual education room.⁴⁵ According to Starr Barkley (1963), the Saint Michael's School for African Americans was located at the northeast corner of Rundberg and Lamar in the 1960s.⁴⁶

Religion, Churches, and Cemeteries

Many citizens of Fiskville attended Walnut Creek Baptist Church. R.H. Taliaferro served as the first pastor of Walnut Creek Baptist Church, which was organized June 28, 1856. The first services took place at the church building on Walnut Creek, now at 12062 North Lamar Boulevard, in May 1861.⁴⁷ Several families known to have lived in Fiskville (Abercrombie, Holler, LaRue, Neans, and Payton) are represented in the Walnut Creek Baptist Church Cemetery. The oldest known internment in this cemetery dates to January 1860, and the most recent dates to April 1998. It is possible that burials took place before

1860 as the church was established in 1856. Burials in this cemetery were limited to members of Walnut Creek Baptist Church.⁴⁸

Near Braker Lane, there were two “Colored” churches. Mount Salem was a Methodist Church. It faced a Colored Baptist Church, Mount Zion.⁴⁹ The Saint Paul’s Cemetery for African Americans was located to the East of Lower Georgetown Road. All of the headstones in St. Paul’s Cemetery and most records have disappeared.⁵⁰

Groups from churches in Austin sometimes held camp meetings in Fiskville. For example until the start of the Civil War, the First (United) Methodist Church, located at the northeast corner of Mulberry Street (now 10th Street) and Brazos Street in Austin, held camp meetings in Fiskville after harvest time that lasted from four to seven days. Church members from First Methodist held a camp meeting in late July 1859 near Fiskville, and in October 1860 near Walnut Creek, with Rev. J.W. Whipple.⁵¹ In 1857, Josiah Fisk, who was a Methodist, sold some of his land in Fiskville to be used for purposes related to the Methodist Episcopal Church South.⁵²

Fiskville Cemetery, which covers about five acres, is located just east of Big Walnut Creek and IH35, just south of Rundberg, and southwest of the future site of the Gustavo (Gus) Garcia Park. The cemetery sits on land previously owned by Jesse Burditt, who is interned at the cemetery.⁵³ In August 1854 Henry Crocheron gave the land to School Trustees (William Wilkes, Giles Burdett, and S.B. Moore) to be used as a public burial ground.⁵⁴

Currently, there are about 1,136 people buried in Fiskville Cemetery. There are a few grave sites marked for future burials, but the cemetery, except for a few grave sites, is unkept. About 316 surnames are represented in the Fiskville Cemetery, including Caswell,

Deen, Duval, Payton, and Robinson. The earliest known date of death among the graves in Fiskville cemetery belongs to Jesse Burditt (1788-1855).⁵⁵ The most recent date of death among the graves belongs to Drew A. Bradford (1902-1999).⁵⁶

Several families known to have lived in Fiskville (Dillingham, Fisk, Kramer, Parmer, Rundberg, Zimmerman) are not represented in Fiskville Cemetery or the Walnut Creek Baptist Church Cemetery. The Kramer family was Catholic, and its members were buried in Austin.⁵⁷

People of Fiskville

Josiah Fisk and Family

Fiskville was named for Josiah Fisk who built the first house in Fiskville and raised his family there.⁵⁸ Josiah Fisk was born on November 12, 1812 in Penfield, New York to Nathan Fisk (1775-1829) and Rebecca Canfield Fisk (1781-1853).⁵⁹ He had one sister and several brothers, including George Greenleaf (1807-1888) who eventually lived in Bastrop, Williamson, and Brown Counties.⁶⁰ Josiah lived with his mother, father, and siblings on a small acreage farm in Penfield, New York until he was 13 years old. When Josiah was 12 or 13, his father died, and Josiah left home to live with his father's brother on a farm in Massachusetts.⁶¹

In Massachusetts, Josiah worked on his uncle's farm and attended the district school and then Cummington Academy. Following Cummington Academy, he briefly taught school in Yates, New York. Then, Josiah joined one of his brothers and enrolled in Hanover College in Indiana.⁶² After graduating from Hanover College, Josiah taught school in Gallatin County, Kentucky for a year. He left Kentucky to complete a law course, taught by the Honorary Stephen A. Douglas, in Jacksonville, Illinois. On December 3, 1835, Josiah

passed the Illinois bar.⁶³ Later, he opened a law office in Hillsborough, Illinois. In Hillsborough, he was elected Justice of the Peace. In 1839, he served as a Representative from Montgomery County to the Legislature of the 11th General Assembly in Springfield, Illinois.⁶⁴

After hearing about the many opportunities in Texas from his older brother Greenleaf, Josiah moved there in 1845 or 1846. Greenleaf and Josiah floated to Mina (or Bastrop) via the Ohio and other rivers.⁶⁵ In 1846 Josiah enlisted and served as Corporal in the war against Mexico (1846-1848).⁶⁶ At the close of the war, he began again to practice law and locate and buy land.⁶⁷ He acquired a large tract of land about six miles north of Austin and established a residence. A large spring of cold clear water gushed from the ground on his estate, which was known as "Cold Water Farm." While in Fiskville, in addition to owning a farm, Josiah worked as an attorney. And as he specialized in land issues, he also worked as a reviewer for a road that ran from the north side of the capitol to the boundary between Travis and Williamson counties.⁶⁸ He also acquired and sold land.⁶⁹

His law office specialized in establishing land titles. Texas had operated under three distinct government administrations (Mexico, Texas, and the U.S.), there were overlapping land grants issued by each of the governments in the state.⁷⁰ Josiah eventually owned a lot of land because generally, clients who sought and obtained titles paid attorneys who specialized in these matters, like Josiah, some of the claimed tract.

On August 10th, 1848, in Travis County, Josiah married Narcissa L. White.⁷¹ Narcissa was born in Alabama in 1828 and was the daughter of a wealthy planter who possessed a lot of land and some slaves. According to Josiah Fisk's diary, Narcissa brought to the Fisk estate her maid Aunti Ede and Ede's two boys, George and Aaron. Josiah and

Narcissa lived in a two-story combination rock residence on the west side of Upper Georgetown Road (now very near 8810 North Lamar Boulevard). Their residence also served as the stage coach stop.⁷² Within a year of their marriage, when Josiah was about 32 and Narcissa was about 21 years old, Narcissa gave birth to Gideon Greenleaf (1849-1874). In 1850 the Fisk estate was valued at \$6,000. The Fisk household included Josiah, Narcissa, and one year-old Gideon, 59 year-old Elizabeth White from Alabama, perhaps Narcissa's mother, and two German laborers, one 15 and the other 35 years old.⁷³

Josiah and Narcissa had five more children together: Irene Rebecca (1851-1854), Josiah Nathaniel (1852-1872), Burr (1853-1854), Mary W. (1854-1858), and Narcissa (born 1858). Irene Rebecca, Burr, and Mary died before the age of five. Narcissa Fisk died while giving birth to little Narcissa on March 30, 1858.

In 1860 Josiah Fisk owned a total of 690 acres of land. His farm, including equipment and livestock, was valued at \$10,900. He had 4 horses, one mule, 12 milking cows, 4 working oxen, and 30 other cattle. His farm produced rye and Indian corn.⁷⁴ According to the 1860 Census, the Fisk household included 45 year-old Josiah, 11 year-old Gideon, 7 year-old Josiah Nathaniel, and 2 year-old Narcissa. Josiah Fisk owned one slave house and three slaves, most likely Ede and her two sons who had come to Fiskville with Narcissa.⁷⁵

In 1861, Josiah Fisk married Vashti Harkness.⁷⁶ He met Vashti through her brother, William Harkness. William Harkness, his wife, three children, his two sisters and two invalid brothers worked on Josiah's farm. Josiah and Vashti had one child, Wilbur, who was born on November 10, 1861.⁷⁷

In the early 1860s, citizens in Texas were holding public meetings where public figures were expected to speak for or against secession. Josiah Fisk argued for remaining in the Union.⁷⁸ Texas, of course, joined the Confederacy and began to raise an army. A committee was selected to obtain Josiah Fisk's enlistment. The committee found Josiah in his office and tried to persuade him to join the Confederacy. Josiah refused. When the authorities learned of his refusal, they sent a detachment from the army to his home, only to find Josiah in bed with a raging fever and dysentery. The soldiers told Josiah that he would be forced to join the Confederacy in two weeks. Sometime during the next two weeks, Josiah, with his nephew Roy Harkness, fled Fiskville.⁷⁹

Josiah and Roy traveled north but were unable to cross the line into Federal Protection. So, they turned back, intending to cross the Sabine River into Louisiana. On the way, Roy accepted the opportunity to haul cotton to the ports as a teamster. Somehow, he reached Brownsville, crossed the Rio Grande, and got passage to New York. Josiah crossed the Sabine River alone, entered Louisiana, and got a job as a teacher.

In New Orleans in the early 1860s, Josiah was an active organizer and leader in the Texas Loyalty League.⁸⁰ Its objective was to "unite Texans in the work of restoring the national authority, especially in Texas, and to give aid to loyal Texans who may arrive as refugees in (New Orleans)."⁸¹ In 1863 at a Loyalty League meeting, Josiah spoke out against slavery, wanting to "bring freedom and liberty to (God's) people of every color."⁸²

According to Josiah's diary, he taught for some time in New Orleans but became anxious because others who were sympathetic to the Union were being arrested. Josiah decided to flee Louisiana. He advised his students that there would be no class on Monday and left Friday at dusk. After a long, arduous, and dangerous journey, Josiah reached the

outposts of the Union army. Shortly after, he was sent to Washington D.C. and remained there until the close of the war.

After the war ended, he returned to Texas to reunite with his family, with whom he had corresponded little. He found devastation and ruin and was seen by many as a traitor, so he decided to leave. Josiah traded a large tract of land for a drove of horses, collected his family, and started off for Kansas.⁸³

The families of Fisk and Harkness had two covered wagons, a light carriage, and enough saddles for the boys to ride the horses. Traveling through Oklahoma, or "Indian Territory," was difficult and unsafe, particularly because drinking water was hard to find. Daniel and Jacob Harkness died during the journey. The group finally arrived in Elevenworth, Kansas and sold the horses. Most of the Harkness family immediately left for Pennsylvania where they made their permanent home. Mary Harkness, Vashti's youngest sister, married a Union soldier and moved to Iowa. Josiah, Vashti, and the two youngest children, Narcissa and Wilbur, visited Mrs. Fisk's sister, Mrs. Louisa Gray, in Philadelphia. While in Philadelphia, Josiah decided to settle in New Orleans.⁸⁴

Soon after returning to Louisiana, the younger children started school, and the older sons began to study law. Josiah Fisk was appointed attorney of St. Mary's Parish,⁸⁵ and so he, Vashti, the daughter Narcissa, and the youngest son Wilbur moved to St. Mary's. In St. Mary's the Ku Klux Klan was active against Blacks, Whites who sympathized with them, and members of the Republican Party. The Klan terrorized the Fisk family and forced them to return to New Orleans.

A Republican governor then appointed Josiah Fisk attorney for Jefferson Parish on the west side of the Mississippi River, but the family continued to reside in New Orleans,

where Josiah also ran a private practice during the week and preached on Sundays.⁸⁶ Josiah was licensed as a local Methodist preacher and eventually admitted into the Louisiana Conference.⁸⁷ From 1872 to 1880, Josiah also served as a public notary in New Orleans (see photo of Josiah Fisk). The majority of the notarized documents were land sales.⁸⁸ Josiah's eldest son, Gideon, became attorney for Jefferson City, formerly a part of Jefferson Parish and now a suburb of New Orleans.⁸⁹ In 1880 Josiah, Vashti, and Wilbur lived together in Carrollton (New Orleans), Louisiana. Wilbur was studying law.⁹⁰

While Josiah was attorney for Jefferson Parish, a Democrat became governor, and the government tried to force Josiah out of office by withholding his salary. Josiah Fisk brought suit against the authorities of the Parish. He won, but they refused to pay. Other legal battles ensued. Josiah and his family in the meantime moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa in 1881 where some years previously he had purchased a home.

In December 1885, Josiah brought three suits against Jefferson Parish, Louisiana in December 1885 for salary and fees due him when he worked for the parish of Jefferson as a district attorney from 1871 to 1874. The United States Supreme Court ultimately rendered a decision in Josiah's favor, ending the long legal controversy.⁹¹ On March 5, 1896, Josiah Fisk received notification that his claim against the city of New Orleans had been settled and he would receive about \$4,000.⁹²

"After the infirmities of age came upon him, (Josiah) took up his residence with his youngest son in Naperville (Chicago), Illinois."⁹³ Josiah died on May 19, 1901 in Naperville, leaving behind his daughter Narcissa Fisk Derby, his son Reverend Wilbur Fisk, and his wife Vashti.⁹⁴ He is buried with his wife, Vashti, who died in 1902, in Walnut Hill Cemetery, 1350 East Pierce, Council Bluffs, Iowa.⁹⁵

Edward Zimmerman and Family

The first post office in Fiskville was established in August 1873 with Edward Zimmerman as its postmaster.⁹⁶ Edward Zimmerman, a German immigrant, arrived in Texas in 1844 at the age of 27. Before coming to Fiskville, he lived in Fredericksburg and married Regina Reinhard of New Braunfels in 1850. Together, they made their home in Fiskville. In 1854, they built a house (at 9019 Parkfield) on the south bank of Little Walnut Creek on the wagon trail from Austin to Waco and moved in with their baby daughter, Floria(n).⁹⁷

Zimmerman worked to support his family by trading with neighbors, including local Indians, and travelers on the trail.⁹⁸ His business prospered and shortly, in 1856, he sold the house and built a larger home of more durable stone construction about one mile southwest at the present 1600 Payton Gin Road. In 1895, Zimmerman reported owning 173 acres of land.⁹⁹

According to the 1870 Census, Floria(n) Zimmerman, who was 17 years old, worked as a clerk at the Fiskville store. Zimmerman was the postmaster of Fiskville until his death on October 12, 1901. Miss Bonita Zimmerman taught at Fiskville School in 1906-1907.¹⁰⁰ Miss Icie Zimmerman taught at Fiskville School during the years 1914 to 1917.¹⁰¹

Thomas Owen Maxwell

Thomas Owen Maxwell (1853-1937) and his parents C.A. and Cynthia (Owen) Maxwell moved to Fiskville in 1871. Thomas, after graduating from Vanderbilt University in 1878, returned to Fiskville to practice medicine. He served as physician at the Austin

State Hospital and as superintendent of the Southwest Texas Hospital in San Antonio. He died at his home in Austin in 1937.¹⁰²

Dora Dieterich Bonham

Dora Dieterich Bonham (1902-1973), a businesswoman and historian, was born to Annie (Fulkes) Dieterich and Roy Ferguson in Watters, Texas. She attended schools in Fiskville and Austin before entering the University of Texas in 1921. She is buried in Walnut Creek Cemetery.¹⁰³

Historic Buildings

9019 Parkfield

Edward Zimmerman built a *fachwerk* house in Fiskville that is still standing at 9019 Parkfield. *Fachwerk*, a common German method of building, involved a light frame of timbers filled in with stone or brick and local materials. On the interior, the timbers and stone were often fully exposed. On the exterior, plaster or whitewash covered all but the timbers. Unlike English settlers in the area who usually built one-room or dog-trot log structures surrounded by additional single-purpose buildings, German settlers built roughly square one and a half story structures with pitched roofs and multiple rooms. Germans would often enlarge the structure as necessary, adding rooms, rather than erect separate out-buildings.¹⁰⁴ The house on Parkfield is the only *fachwerk* structure in Travis County.¹⁰⁵ not do =

George Washington Davis (1806-1884) originally owned the land on which the *fachwerk* house at 9019 Parkfield now stands. Davis and his wife, Emiline Wells, moved to Texas in 1835 and settled in Bastrop County in 1838. He fought for the Republic of Texas, and in 1841, the Republic of Texas deeded him the land. Davis and Emiline settled in

Austin, and he served the new government of the State of Texas. On June 24, 1854, Davis sold, "for \$1,000 in coin dollars..., 320 acres of land situated on the headwaters of the Southern Branch of Walnut Creek, about five miles North of the city of Austin..." to Edward Zimmerman.¹⁰⁶

In 1854, the same year the first State Capitol Building was constructed, Edward Zimmerman built the house at 9019 Parkfield. The Zimmerman family used the *fachwerk* house as a home and a trading post. It has limestone rock for fill and originally consisted of two small rooms—a small bedroom on the north and a larger kitchen and living area on the south. Later, the family added a room on the east side and extended the roof line so the house could be used as a trading post. When the Zimmerman family lived in the house, the attic, which had a door, provided storage space for the trading post. Currently, historians know of only three buildings in Austin at their original locations that pre-date the house on Parkfield: the French Legation at 802 San Marcos Street, a log farm house at 4811 Sinclair Avenue dating to the 1840s, and the farm house at Boggy Creek Farm, built in 1840-1841 and located at 3414 Lyons Road.

In the 1950s when Haywood Reese, owner of Reese Lumber Company, and his wife, Zula, lived in the house, Parkfield Drive was known as Reese Road. There was a red barn by the creek, just west of the house, and a large garden outside the kitchen door. Haywood Reese added asbestos siding, electrical wiring, and indoor plumbing. Previous occupants of the house obtained their water from a spring located north of the creek. There was also a porch where Mr. and Mrs. Reese would sit and shoot doves in the front yard. Turkeys, sheep, chickens, guineas, and rabbits also inhabited the front yard.

In 1964 the Reese family made additional renovations when Mr. Reese's ailing mother moved into the house. They drilled a more reliable well south of the house, the remains of which are in the back yard of a duplex at 9017 Parkfield.¹⁰⁷ They covered interior walls with paneling, erected false ceilings several feet below the original high ceiling, enclosed the long covered porch on the north side to create a huge kitchen and utility room, and extended the 1856 addition to add another bathroom and additional living space.

In the 1980s the house changed hands several times. Glyn Durham, a local builder and the 15th owner of the house, began to convert it to a duplex. In the winter of 1984-1985, he removed the siding to repair pipes, saw the old walls, and notified the Austin Historical Society. Durham stopped remodeling the house and applied for historic zoning, which was granted by the Austin City Council granted on June 7, 1985. Durham later sold the house to Randy and Phyllis Fletcher.

The Fletchers began restoring the house and occupied it for a short time. They repaired damage caused by remodeling, installed new appliances, and refinished the exterior. In 1992, Phyllis Fletcher sold the property to Samuel Williams, the present occupant.

The Settlement Home at 1600 Payton Gin Road

Edward and Regina Zimmerman and their larger family moved from the house at 9019 Parkfield to a new solid stone house at 1600 Payton Road after their trading store prospered. They remained in this home, raising their three children, for many years.

The land at 1600 Payton Gin Road was originally part of a Mexican land grant from the state of Coahuila to Thomas Jefferson Chambers. The house has one-foot thick hand hewn cream colored walls made of stone from nearby hills. The milled wood came from Bull Creek Mills. In the center of the house is the front entrance and a porch with Victorian

trim. The entrance opens to a central hallway which runs the depth of the house. On the east side, is a large room with a fireplace. On the west side are two smaller rooms. A long hallway on the north side, which was eventually enclosed, leads down several steps to the root cellar, which was used to store food.

On June 1, 1964, the Settlement Club of Austin purchased the property. They carefully restored and now maintain the building, which serves as the office for the Settlement Home for Children. In 1967, the Texas Historical Survey Committee awarded a bronze medallion recognizing the building's historic value.

Farms Disappear and Fiskville Becomes Part of Austin

Opportunities available in Austin and elsewhere affected growth in Fiskville. According to Atkinson and Giles (1980), Sprinkle replaced Fiskville as Walnut Creek's most popular postal and shopping center. Zimmerman's store burned down and was not rebuilt. The community of Manor, formerly only a store, mushroomed with the arrival of the railroad.¹⁰⁸ Fiskville's post office closed in 1901. By the early 1930s the number of residents had fallen to 50.¹⁰⁹ The falling prices of cotton in Texas along with rising property taxes in the 1930s may have forced many farmers in Fiskville to sell their farms and leave the area.

After World War II the farming economy in Texas became more diversified. During this era of growth and development, farming became a highly mechanized business, and many farmers left their small farms and moved to larger towns. The part of Fiskville east of Lamar Boulevard was annexed to Austin in the 1950s, but Fiskville retained its identity as a separate community until the mid-1960s, when the portion west of Lamar was annexed to Austin.¹¹⁰ In 1967, IBM opened its plant site to north Burnet with 500 employees from

Lexington, Kentucky.¹¹¹ In the 1960s and 70s, many families sold their farms. Developers, such as Nash Phillips and Clyde Copus, created subdivisions with single-family homes and apartment complexes in place of the farms.

¹ Fiskville is an "underdocumented area of interest." See Riles, Karen. 2001. *African American Bibliography: Sources of Information Relating to African Americans in The Austin History Center of the Austin Public Library*, Austin, Tex.: Austin History Center, p. 50. Available: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/library/ahc/downloads/afambiblio.pdf>. September 2003.

² Bonham, Dora Dieterich. 1958. *Merchant to the Republic*, San Antonio, Tex.: Naylor Co., p. 188.

³ "Fiskville, Texas." *The Handbook of Texas Online*. Available: <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/FF/hvf23.html>. December 2003.

⁴ *Travis County Road Book II*, Bonham Collection, Box 3G219, Center for American History, University of Texas, Austin, Texas.

⁵ Bonham Collection, Box 3G219, Center for American History, University of Texas, Austin, Texas.

⁶ "Fiskville, Texas." *The Handbook of Texas Online*. Available: <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/FF/hvf23.html>. December 2003. Estimates of population vary. The above source also says that in the 1890s, the "population had grown to 120." According to the 1895 *U.S. Atlas*, Fiskville's population was 43. 1895 *Atlas* available: <http://www.livgenmi.com/1895/>. January 2004..

⁷ *Travis County Directory, 1894-1895*. Austin, Tex.: Albert Schutze.

⁸ *Travis County Directory, 1898-1899*. Austin, Tex.: Albert Schutze.

⁹ *Travis County Directory, 1901*. Austin, Tex.: Von Boeckmann, Schutze & Co.

¹⁰ Atkinson, M. Jourdan, and Eugene V. Giles. 1980. *Kingdom Come, Kingdom Go!* Burnet, Tex.: Eakin Press, p. 75-76.

¹¹ Interview with Giles Lockhart, conducted by William McGarry November 17, 1997 at his business Custom Sheet Metal, Austin, Texas, subject: his life and business experience in Fiskville, notes available through William McGarry.

¹² *History of Texas, Together with a Biographical History of Milam, Williamson, Bastrop, Travis, Lee, and Burleson Counties*. 1893. Chicago, Ill.: The Lewis Publishing Company, p. 296-7; cited in Starr Barkley, Mary. 1970. *A History of Central Texas*. Austin, Tex.: Austin Printing Company, p. 38.

¹³ *Travis County Directory, 1894-1895*. Austin, Tex.: Albert Schutze.

¹⁴ Starr Barkley, Mary. 1970. *A History of Central Texas*. Austin, Tex.: Austin Printing Company, p. 259.

¹⁵ Starr Barkley, Mary. 1963. *History of Travis County and Austin, 1839-1899*, Third Edition, August 1981, Austin, Tex.: Austin Printing Press, p. 231.

¹⁶ "Fiskville, Texas." *The Handbook of Texas Online*. Available: <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/FF/hvf23.html>. December 2003.

¹⁷ Atkinson, M. Jourdan, and Eugene V. Giles. 1980. *Kingdom Come, Kingdom Go!* Burnet, Tex.: Eakin Press, p. 75-76.

¹⁸ *Travis County Directory, 1894-1895*. Austin, Tex.: Albert Schutze.

¹⁹ *Travis County Directory, 1898-1899*. Austin, Tex.: Albert Schutze.

²⁰ *Travis County Directory, 1901*. Austin, Tex.: Von Boeckmann, Schutze & Co.

²¹ Atkinson, M. Jourdan, and Eugene V. Giles. 1980. *Kingdom Come, Kingdom Go!* Burnet, Tex.: Eakin Press.

²² Shields, Rana. "Urbanization Buries Fiskville Memories," *The Austin Citizen*, Saturday, November 15, 1975, p. 12. Interview with Giles Lockhart, conducted by William McGarry November 17, 1997 at his business Custom Sheet Metal, Austin, Texas, subject: his life and business experience in Fiskville, notes available through William McGarry.

²³ Blazek, Cathy. 1973. *Fiskville: The Misplaced Community*, unpublished manuscript that includes interview with Mrs. Dick Tisdale, interviewed by C. Blazek in November 1973, Fiskville File, Austin History Center, Austin, Texas. Interview with Giles Lockhart, conducted by William McGarry November 17, 1997 at his business Custom Sheet Metal, subject: his life and business experience in Fiskville, notes available through William McGarry. In 1957, Giles Lockhart found evidence of a blacksmith shop when he laid the foundation

for his sheet metal business at 8821 North Lamar Boulevard. "Fiskville, Texas." *The Handbook of Texas Online*. Available: <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/FF/hvf23.html>. December 2003. Interview with Fiskville resident Mary Belle Burris, conducted by William McGarry July 15, 1997 at Walnut Creek Library, Austin, Texas, subject: her family in Fiskville, notes available through William McGarry.

²⁴ Interview with Fiskville resident Mary Belle Burris (Harvey), conducted by William McGarry July 15, 1997 at Walnut Creek Library, Austin, Texas, subject: her family in Fiskville, notes available through William McGarry.

²⁵ Atkinson, M. Jourdan, and Eugene V. Giles. 1980. *Kingdom Come, Kingdom Go!* Burnet, Tex.: Eakin Press, p.170. Interview with Pauline Payton Johnson conducted by William McGarry April 4, 1997 at Johnson's home, subject: her family in Fiskville, notes are available through William McGarry. Interview with Murray Robinson conducted by William McGarry November 19, 1997 at Walnut Creek Library, Austin, Texas, subject: family and life in Fiskville, notes available through William McGarry.

²⁶ Interview with Giles Lockhart, conducted by William McGarry November 17, 1997 at his business Custom Sheet Metal, Austin, Texas, subject: his life and business experience in Fiskville, notes available through William McGarry.

²⁷ *Travis County Road Map*, 1902, Texas General Land Office, Archives, Austin, Texas. *Austin Street Guide*, 1964, Austin, Tex.: Miller Blue Print Co.

²⁸ Interview with Tommy Kramer, conducted by William McGarry and Gina Almon September 19, 1996 at Kramer's home, subject: family in Fiskville, notes available through William McGarry.

²⁹ *Austin Telephone Directory*. 1935. Austin, Tex.: Southwestern Bell, p. 20. Interview with Fiskville resident Mary Belle Burris, conducted by William McGarry July 15, 1997 at Walnut Creek Library, Austin, Texas, subject: her family in Fiskville, notes available through William McGarry.

³⁰ *Texas Teachers' Daily Register for Travis County Public Schools*, State Department of Education, State of Texas, Fiskville Common School District, No. 11, FP J5, boxes 3 and 4, Austin History Center, Austin, Texas.

³¹ Interview with Giles Lockhart, conducted by William McGarry November 17, 1997 at his business Custom Sheet Metal, Austin, Texas, subject: his life and business experience in Fiskville, notes available through William McGarry. Interview with Tommy Kramer, conducted by William McGarry and Gina Almon September 19, 1996 at Kramer's home, subject: family in Fiskville, notes available through William McGarry.

³² Felter, Rosalia. *The Administration of Rural Schools*, Chapter 1, Felter Papers, Literacy Productions, 1934-1936, Travis County School Superintendent Records, box 2, folder 17, Austin History Center, Austin, Texas.

³³ "History of Travis County School Superintendent Records," Travis County School Superintendent Records, AR.R.017, Austin History Center, Austin, Texas.

³⁴ Felter, Rosalia. *The Administration of Rural Schools*, Chapter 1, Felter Papers, Literacy Productions, 1934-1936, Travis County School Superintendent Records, box 2, folder 17, Austin History Center, Austin, Texas.

³⁵ *Texas Teachers' Daily Register for Travis County Public Schools*, State Department of Education, State of Texas, Fiskville Common School District, No. 11, FP J5, boxes 3 and 4, Austin History Center, Austin, Texas.

³⁶ Bonham, Dora Dieterich. 1958. *Merchant to the Republic*, San Antonio, Tex.: Naylor Co. See p. 30 on Bonham's book for deed from Travis County Land Records, Travis County Courthouse, Austin, Texas.

³⁷ Bonham, Dora Dieterich. 1958. *Merchant to the Republic*, San Antonio, Tex.: Naylor Co.

³⁸ *Travis County School Annual: A Circular of Information*, Vol. III, 1907. Austin, Tex.: Austin Printing Company.

³⁹ *Travis County School Annual: A Circular of Information*, Vol. III, 1907. Austin, Tex.: Austin Printing Company.

⁴⁰ Bonham, Dora Dieterich. 1958. *Merchant to the Republic*, San Antonio, Tex.: Naylor Co.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Interview with Tommy Kramer, conducted by William McGarry and Gina Almon September 19, 1996 at Kramer's home, subject: family in Fiskville, notes available through William McGarry.

⁴³ Interview with Fiskville resident Mary Belle Burris, conducted by William McGarry July 15, 1997 at Walnut Creek Library, Austin, Texas, subject: her family in Fiskville, notes available through William McGarry.

⁴⁴ *Austin's Schools, 1881-1954: Origin, Growth, Future*, Vol. II. 1954. Prepared by Centennial Committee on Instruction and Research, Austin, Tex.: Austin Public Schools, p.16.

⁴⁵ "Fiskville Looks Forward after Thanking Veterans." *The Austin American Statesman*, Sunday, May 19, 1957, Austin, Texas, A-7. "T.A. Brown: Dedication and Open House," Announcement, March 2, 1958, available through Brown Elementary, Austin, Texas, December 2003. Bonham, Dora Dieterich. 1958. *Merchant to the Republic*, San Antonio, Tex.: Naylor Co.

- ⁴⁶ Starr Barkley, Mary. 1963. *History of Travis County and Austin, 1839-1899*, Third Edition, August 1981, Austin, Tex.: Austin Printing Press, p. 151.
- ⁴⁷ Bonham, Dora Dieterich. 1958. *Merchant to the Republic*, San Antonio, Tex.: Naylor Co.
- ⁴⁸ *Inventory of Internments, January 1860-April 1998, Walnut Creek Baptist Church Cemetery*, Walnut Creek Baptist Church Cemetery Association, Austin, Texas.
- ⁴⁹ Atkinson, M. Jourdan, and Eugene V. Giles. 1980. *Kingdom Come, Kingdom Go!* Burnet, Tex.: Eakin Press, p. 88.
- ⁵⁰ Telephone interview with Deacon Horace Dixon, St. Paul's Baptist Church, conducted by William McGarry September 28, 1998, subject: St. Paul's cemetery and African Americans in Fiskville, transcription is unavailable.
- ⁵¹ *American Statesman*, March 26, 1939; cited in Starr Barkley, Mary. 1963. *History of Travis County and Austin, 1839-1899*, Third Edition, August 1981, Austin, Tex.: Austin Printing Press, p. 288.
- ⁵² Deed Records, Travis County, Texas, "Josiah Fisk to Trustees of Little Walnut Camp Ground," filed July 27, 1857, Book L, p. 512-513.
- ⁵³ Personal email communication with Glenda Black, descendent of Jesse Burditt and author of application for a Historic Designation for Fiskville Cemetery, copy of email available by contacting Lisa Kerber, December 23, 2003.
- ⁵⁴ Travis County Land Records, August 1854, cited in Bonham, Dora Dieterich. 1958. *Merchant to the Republic*, San Antonio, Tex.: Naylor Co., p. 31-32.
- ⁵⁵ Personal email communication with Glenda Black, descendent of Jesse Burditt and author of application for a Historic Designation for Fiskville Cemetery, copy of email available by contacting Lisa Kerber, December 23, 2003.
- ⁵⁶ *Travis County Cemeteries*. 1986. Austin, Tex.: Travis County Historical Commission. "Fiskville Cemetery, Austin, Texas." Austin Genealogical Society. Available: <http://www.austintxgensoc.org/cemeteries/fiskville.html>. October 2003. Wilke-Clay-Fish Funeral Home Records, February 4, 2002, Travis County Mortuary Records. Available: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~usgenweb/>. September 2003. About 95 percent of all grave sites in Fiskville Cemetery (n=885) include the full name of the deceased.
- ⁵⁷ Interview with Tommy Kramer, conducted by William McGarry and Gina Almon September 19, 1996 at Kramer's home, subject: family in Fiskville, notes available through William McGarry.
- ⁵⁸ Brown, Frank. *Annals of Travis County and of the City of Austin (from the Earliest Times to the Close of 1875)*, Chapter 27, Index 1868, "Josiah Fisk," p. 32-33.
- ⁵⁹ "Obituary of Josiah Fisk," *The Clarion*, Naperville, Illinois, May 22, 1901. *State of Texas Federal Population Schedules, 7th Census of the United States, 1850*, Vol. IV. 1969. Huntsville, Arkansas: Century Enterprises, p. 1887. *Travis County, Texas, The Five Schedules of the 1860 Federal Census*, compiled by Alice Duggan Gracy and Emma Gene Seale Gentry, November 1967, Austin, Texas. Udell, Marcia and Susan. 1995. According to these Censuses, Josiah Fisk was born in 1815 or 1817. *Noah Briggs of Allegan County, Michigan: His Ancestors and Descendents*, Marshall, Mich. Deed Records, Monroe County, New York, "Greenleaf Fisk and Josiah Fisk to Joseph Fisk," filed February 20, 1854, Deed Book 118, p. 271-272. Vital Records, Worthington, Massachusetts, Map. 32, New England Historic Genealogical Society library, Boston, Mass. Affidavit signed by Nathan Fisk, Nathan Fisk's death, August 1829, Surrogate Office, Town of Ogden, Monroe County, New York. See also National Society Colonial Dames XVII Century, Application for Membership, Rose Mary Fisk Smith, National No. 033677, October 3, 2001.
- ⁶⁰ Starr Barkley, Mary. 1970. *A History of Central Texas*. Austin, Tex.: Austin Printing Company, p. 38, 220; "Fisk, Greenleaf." *The Handbook of Texas Online*. Available: <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/view/FF/ffi25.html>. November 2003.
- ⁶¹ "Obituary of Josiah Fisk," *The Clarion*, Naperville, Illinois, May 22, 1901. Diary of Josiah Fisk, transcribed by Wilbur Fisk and Jan Muff, possession of descendant Bruce Muff, Auburn, California, not available to public at this time.
- ⁶² Ibid.
- ⁶³ Ibid.
- ⁶⁴ *Blue Book of the State of Illinois, 1917-1918*, "Roster of Members of the General Assembly from 1818 to 1918," p. 455, Louis L. Emmerson, Secretary of State (ed.), Danville, Ill.: Illinois Printing Company. Available: http://eli.sls.lib.il.us/00001_00/pdf/BB/1917/file62.pdf. January 2004. *Journal of the House of Representatives of the Eleventh General Assembly of the State of Illinois*, December 9, 1839, Springfield, Ill.:

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- ⁶⁵ Bryson, Gordon, or Pete Shady. 1964. *Culture of the Shin Oak Ridge Folk*. Austin, Tex.: Firm Foundation Publishing House, p. 214.
- ⁶⁶ Spurlin, Charles D. 1998. *Texas Veterans of the Mexican War: Muster Rolls of Texas Military Units*, Austin, Tex.: Eakin Press, p. 245.
- ⁶⁷ Pierce, Frederick Clifton. 1896. *Fiske and Fisk Family: Descendants of Symond Fiske, Lord of the Manor of Stadhaugh, Suffolk County, England, from the time of Henry IV to Date, including all the American Members of the Family*, Chicago, Ill.: W.B. Conkey Company.
- ⁶⁸ Minutes of the Travis County Commissioners Court, Vol. A, p. 1-2; cited in Starr Barkley, Mary. 1963. *History of Travis County and Austin, 1839-1899*, Third Edition, August 1981, Austin, Tex.: Austin Printing Press, p. 267.
- ⁶⁹ See Lucas, Silas Emmet Jr. 1979. *Some Early Travis County, Texas Records*, abstracted and compiled by Jane Sumner, Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press. Bonham, Dora Dieterich. 1958. *Merchant to the Republic*, San Antonio, Tex.: Naylor Co., p. 28-33.
- ⁷⁰ Diary of Josiah Fisk, transcribed by Wilbur Fisk and Jan Muff, possession of descendant Bruce Muff, Auburn, California, not available to public at this time. See also Deed Records, Travis County, "Josiah Fisk to Trustees of Little Walnut Camp Ground," filed July 27, 1857, Book L, p. 512-513.
- ⁷¹ *Marriage Records*, Travis County Courthouse, Austin, Texas, Vol. I, 1840-1857, p. 39, Josiah Fisk to Narcissa L. White, filmed by the Genealogical Society Salt Lake City, Utah, 1975.
- ⁷² Starr Barkley, Mary. 1970. *A History of Central Texas*. Austin, Tex.: Austin Printing Company, p. 38.
- ⁷³ *State of Texas Federal Population Schedules, 7th Census of the United States, 1850*, Vol. IV. 1969. Huntsville, Arkansas: Century Enterprises, p. 1887.
- ⁷⁴ *Travis County, Texas, The Five Schedules of the 1860 Federal Census*, compiled by Alice Duggan Gracy and Emma Gene Seale Gentry, November 1967, Austin, Texas.
- ⁷⁵ *Travis County, Texas, The Five Schedules of the 1860 Federal Census*, compiled by Alice Duggan Gracy and Emma Gene Seale Gentry, November 1967, Austin, Texas.
- ⁷⁶ *Marriage Records*, Travis County Courthouse, Austin, Texas, Vol. II, 1857-1870, p. 108, Josiah Fisk to Vashti Harkness, filmed by the Genealogical Society Salt Lake City, Utah, 1975.
- ⁷⁷ Diary of Josiah Fisk, transcribed by Wilbur Fisk and Jan Muff, possession of descendant Bruce Muff, Auburn, California, not available to public at this time.
- ⁷⁸ Ibid. See also Brown, Frank. *Annals of Travis County and of the City of Austin (from the Earliest Times to the Close of 1875)*, Chapter 27, Index 1868, "Josiah Fisk," p. 32-33.
- ⁷⁹ Diary of Josiah Fisk, transcribed by Wilbur Fisk and Jan Muff, possession of descendant Bruce Muff, Auburn, California, not available to public at this time.
- ⁸⁰ "Meeting of the Workingmen's Union National League of State of Louisiana, at Lyceum Hall" *The New Orleans Times*, Friday Morning, December 4, 1863.
- ⁸¹ "Texas Loyal League of New Orleans," *The New Orleans Times*, Wednesday Morning, February 24, 1864, p. 5, col. 2. "Texas Loyal League," *The New Orleans Times*, Tuesday, March 15, 1864, p. 5, col. 3.
- ⁸² *Minutes of the Loyal National League of Louisiana, Containing an Abstract of the Proceedings Held on Canal Street, New Orleans, Fourth of July, 1863: Speeches by T.J. Earhart, Maj. Dais Alton, Dr. Maas, Josiah Fisk, and Rev. James Keelan*, New Orleans, La.: H.P. Lathrop, 74 Magazine Street, p. 11.
- ⁸³ Diary of Josiah Fisk, transcribed by Wilbur Fisk and Jan Muff, possession of descendant Bruce Muff, Auburn, California, not available to public at this time.
- ⁸⁴ Ibid.
- ⁸⁵ *Louisiana 1870 Census Index*. 1987. ed. Ronald Vern Jackson, Salt Lake City, Utah: Accelerated Indexing Systems International, Inc. Pierce, Frederick Clifton. 1896. *Fiske and Fisk Family: Descendants of Symond Fiske, Lord of the Manor of Stadhaugh, Suffolk County, England, from the time of Henry IV to Date, including all the American Members of the Family*, Chicago, Ill.: W.B. Conkey Company. Diary of Josiah Fisk, transcribed by Wilbur Fisk and Jan Muff, possession of descendant Bruce Muff, Auburn, California, not available to public at this time.

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- ⁸⁶ Brown, Frank. *Annals of Travis County and of the City of Austin (from the Earliest Times to the Close of 1875)*, Chapter 27, Index 1868, "Josiah Fisk," p. 32-33.
- ⁸⁷ These two sources also refer to Josiah work as a minister. Brown, Frank. *Annals of Travis County and of the City of Austin (from the Earliest Times to the Close of 1875)*, Chapter 27, Index 1868, "Josiah Fisk," p. 32-33. *Record of Deaths*, 1897-1904, Pottawattamie County, Iowa.
- ⁸⁸ "Sale of Property, Leon Redon to Maria Michell, wife of said Leon Redon, No. 5, 1873," New Orleans Notarial Archives. Research Center, New Orleans, Louisiana. Available: <http://www.notarialarchives.org/Notaries/listef.htm>. March 2004.
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- ⁹⁰ *Census 1880*, "Schedule 1. Inhabitants in Carrollton, in the County of Orleans, State of Louisiana, June 3, 1880."
- ⁹¹ *Fisk vs. Jefferson Police Jury*, 116 U.S. 131 (1885), U.S. Supreme Court Records, submitted November 18, 1885, filed December 21, 1885. Available: <http://laws.lp.findlaw.com/getcase/us/116/131.html>. November 2003.
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- ⁹³ "Obituary of Josiah Fisk," *The Clarion*, Naperville, Illinois, May 22, 1901.
- ⁹⁴ Certification of Death, Josiah Fisk, No. 78-01-181, Department of Health, Division of Death, Iowa State Vital Records Office, Des Moines, Iowa. *Record of Deaths*, 1897-1904, Pottawattamie County, Iowa. *Burial Records*, Walnut Hill Cemeteries (Walnut Hill Sections 1-20), 1350 E. Pierce, Council Bluffs, Iowa, September 1997.
- ⁹⁵ *Burial Records*, Walnut Hill Cemeteries (Walnut Hill Sections 1-20), 1350 E. Pierce, Council Bluffs, Iowa, September 1997.
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- ⁹⁸ Ibid.
- ⁹⁹ *Travis County Directory, 1894-1895*. Austin, Tex.: Albert Schutze.
- ¹⁰⁰ *Travis County School Annual: A Circular of Information*, Vol. II, 1906-1907. Austin, Tex.: Von Boeckmann-Jones Company.
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- ¹⁰⁵ Personal communication between Samuel Williams and Dr. Terry G. Jordan, Geography Department, University of Texas, communication took place at 9019 Parkfield Drive, June 1992. No transcription exists.
- ¹⁰⁶ Abstract of Title, provided by Glyn Durham, owner of property at 9019 Parkfield from 1984 to 1985. Baker, Betty. 1984. *Application for Historic Zoning in the City of Austin*, includes "Survey form for Historic Landmark Inventory, City of Austin, Texas" for First Zimmerman Home, 9019 Parkfield Drive," City of Austin Historic Landmarks (not state recorded), Austin, Texas, File No. C14h-84-003, Parcel No. 2-4114-0508.
- ¹⁰⁷ Interview with Zula Reese, conducted by Samuel Williams and William McGarry in June 1998 at Reese's home, subject: her life and house in Fiskville, notes available through Sam Williams.
- ¹⁰⁸ Atkinson, M. Jourdan, and Eugene V. Giles. 1980. *Kingdom Come, Kingdom Go!* Burnet, Tex.: Eakin Press, p. 88, p. 135.
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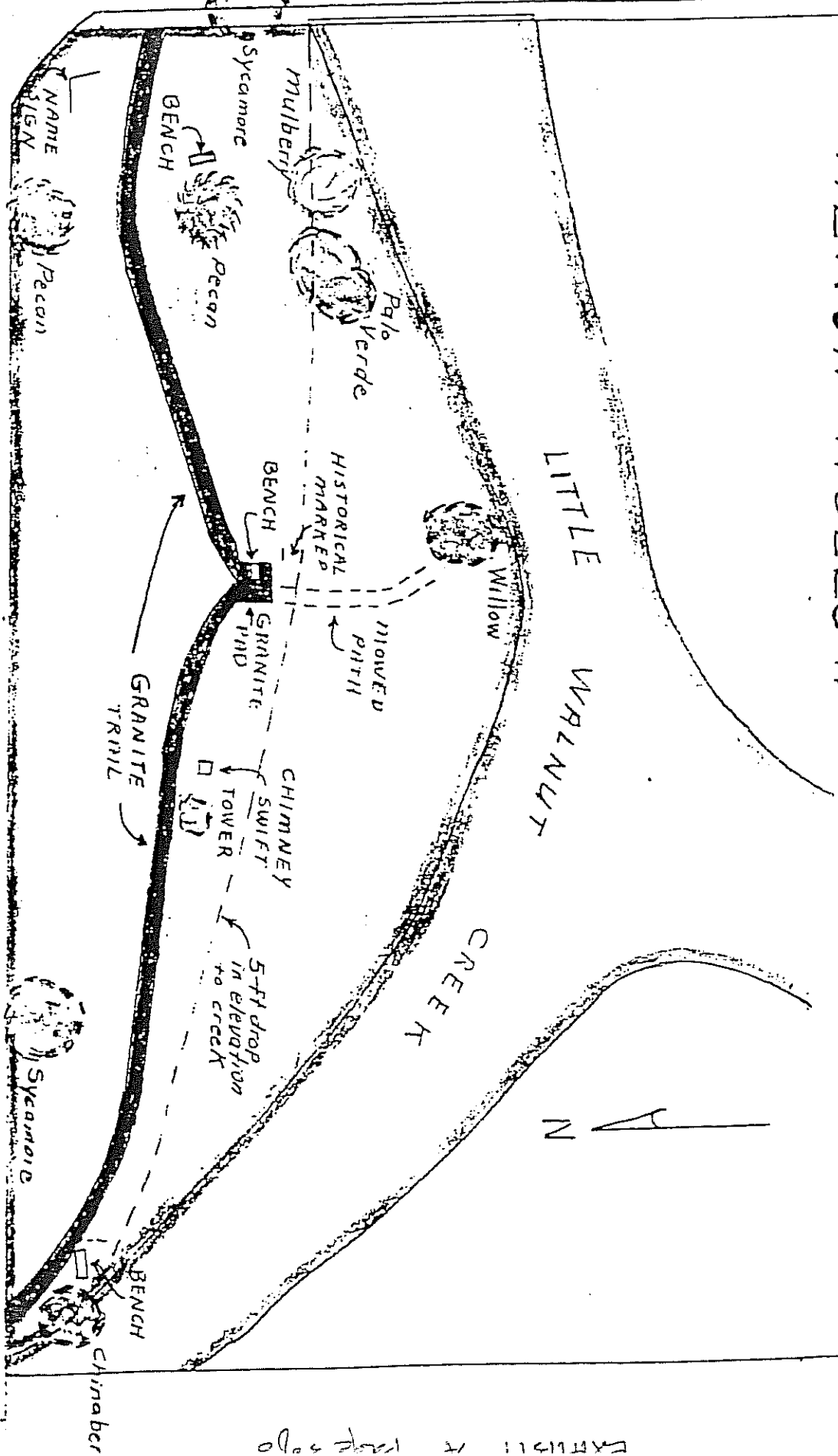
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8830 North LAMAR BLVD.

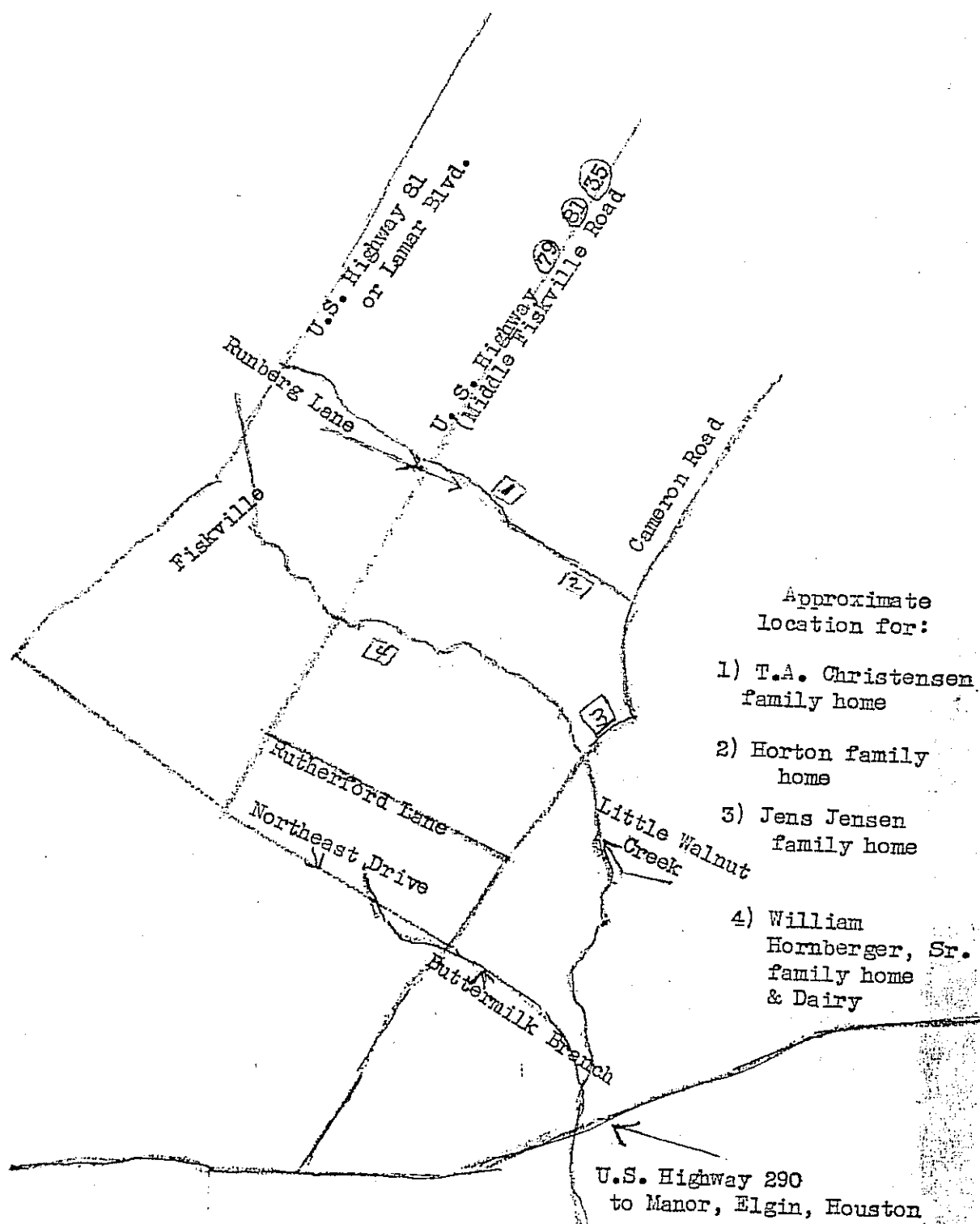
HERON HOLLOW

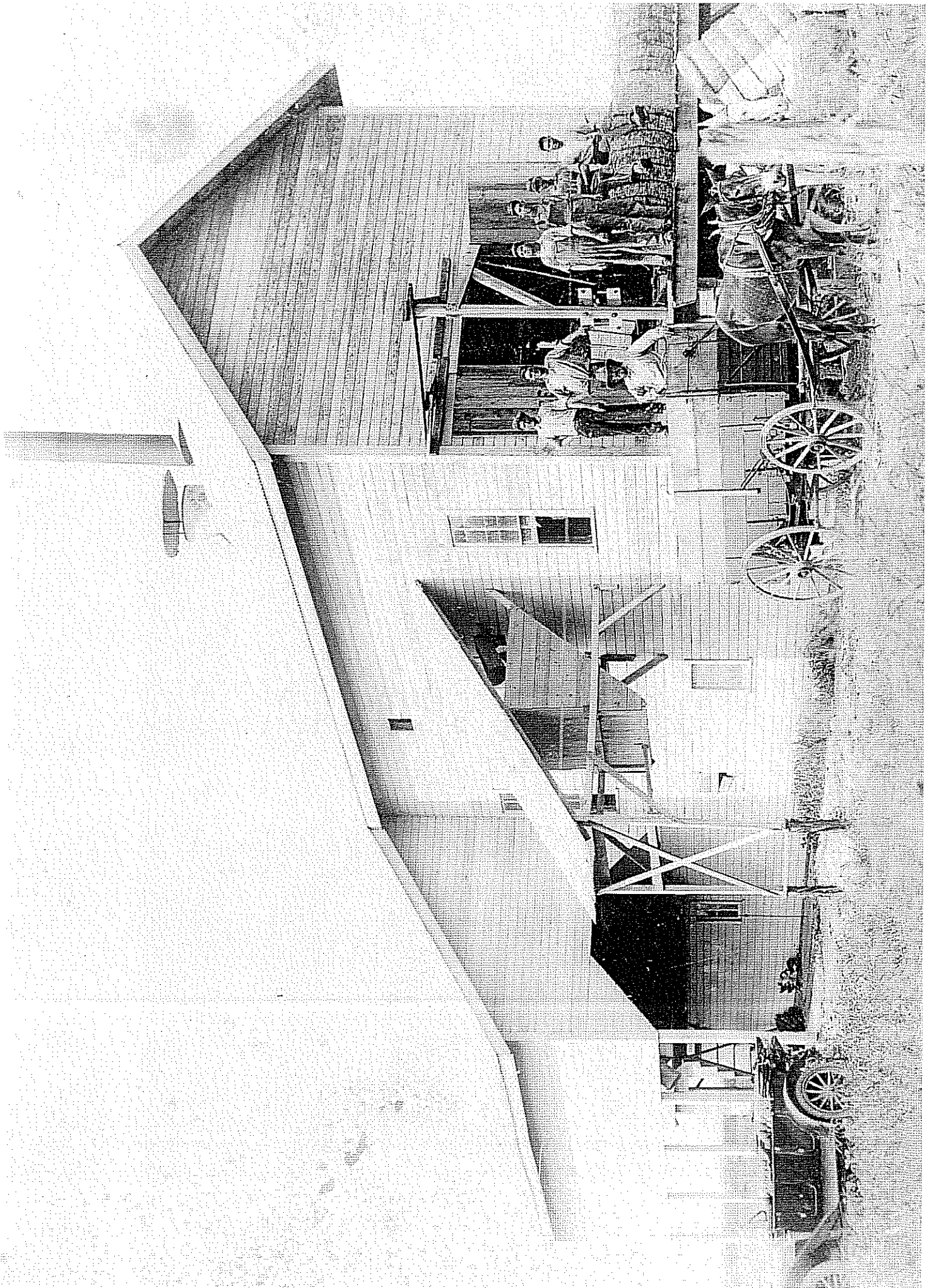


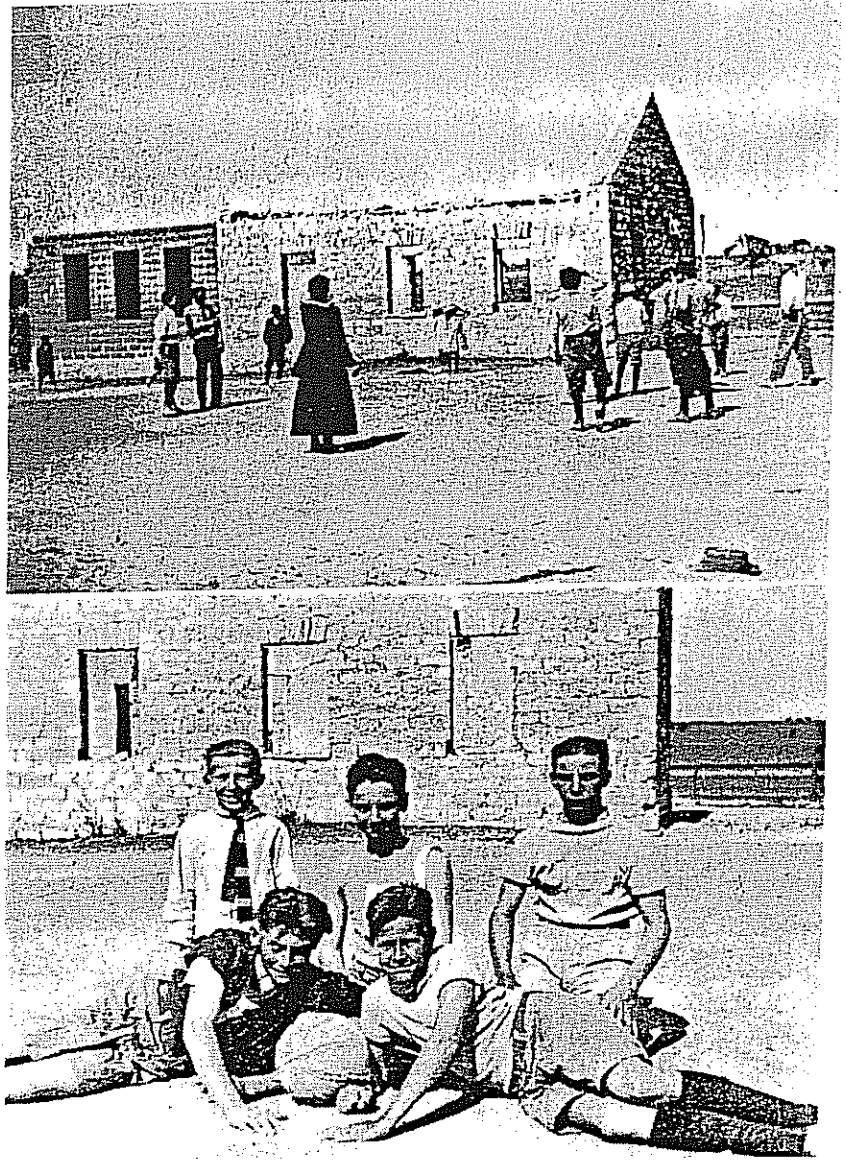
Trees are in place now.
Other items to be added by NACA

PAYTON GIN ROAD

1" = 40 ft.







Fiskville School students and teacher at recess
near walls of fire destroyed school

Source of photo: Bonham, Dora Dieterich. 1958. *Merchant to the Republic*, San Antonio, Tex.: Naylor Co. (located at Austin History Center)



Source of photo: Bruce Muff, descendent of Josiah Fisk,
Auburn, California.

22100



City of Austin

Founded by Congress, Republic of Texas, 1839
Municipal Building, Eighth at Colorado, P.O. Box 1088, Austin, Texas 78767 Telephone 512/974-2000

February 6, 2003

Ms. Ernestine Thompson
Travis County Historical Commissioner
1112 Gazania Drive
Pflugerville, Texas 78660

SUBJECT: OLD FISKVILLE HISTORICAL MARKER

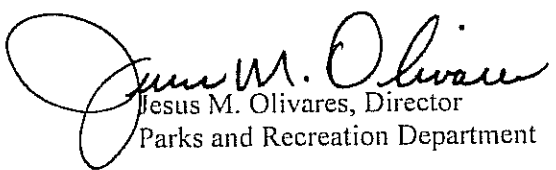
Dear Ms. Thompson,

My staff and I have been working with the North Austin Civic Association (NACA) and the librarian of the Little Walnut Creek Branch Library for about 2 years to allow NACA to improve and beautify the southwest corner of N. Lamar Boulevard at Payton Gin Road, known locally as "Heron Hollow". NACA's improvement plan includes the location of an Old Fiskville historical marker with granite gravel trails leading to it, as shown on the attached plan.

NACA has my permission to place the marker, as well as to make the other improvements, as part of our authorization agreement with the Association.

Should you need additional information, please call Sarah Campbell, Senior Planner, at 974-6765.

Sincerely,


Jesus M. Olivares, Director
Parks and Recreation Department

xc: Brian Almon, NACA

Attachment



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWERENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HISTORY PROGRAMS DIVISION
INVOICE

DATE: Nov 26, 2003

THC INVOICE NO.: HP-916

TO: Bill McGarry
11218 Scarborough Ct.
San Antonio, TX 78249

STAFF CONTACT: Dan K. Utley 512 475-2692

QTY. ORDERED	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	PER	AMOUNT
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47	Photocopies	\$.15	each	\$ 7.05
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			Postage	\$
--	--	--	---------	----

TOTAL PAID

\$ 7.05

Please make check payable to the **Texas Historical Commission** and refer to THC Invoice Number on memo line of check. Thank you.



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Rick Perry • *Governor*
John L. Nau, III • *Chairman*
F. Lawrence Oaks • *Executive Director*

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

TO:

BILL MCGARRY	Date:	November 26, 2003
11218 SCARBOROUGH CT	Name:	Dan K. Utley
SAN ANTONIO TX 78249	Re:	Email requests dated Nov. 24, 2003

COPIES	DESCRIPTION
1	Materials from Fiskville historical marker application file
1	Texas Administrative Code rule on marker application requirements

NOTE: This is in response to your email inquiries of November 24, 2003. As requested, we are providing a copy of all documents in the pending Fiskville historical marker file. Additionally, we are including a rule reference from the Texas Administrative Code that addresses the type of documentation and citations we require of all marker applicants.

Copy:	Reading File	Signed:	
	THC Web Site: www.thc.state.tx.us	Title:	Marker Program Coordinator Assistant Director, History Programs Division 512/475-2692; 512/475-3122 Fax dan.utley@thc.state.tx.us

To: mcgarry@concentric.net
From: Dan Utley <dan.utley@thc.state.tx.us>
Subject: Fwd: ORR-Fiskville marker application
Cc:
Bcc: Cynthia, Terry, 2
Attached:

Mr. McGarry:

As per your email requests of November 24, we have today mailed you copies of materials from the Fiskville marker file, as well as a copy of our rule on resource documentation. If we can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Thanks.

Dan

From: "Bill McGarry" <mcgarry@concentric.net>
To: <thc@thc.state.tx.us>
Subject: ORR-Fiskville marker application
Date: Fri, 21 Nov 2003 10:56:37 -0600
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 6.00.2800.1106

This is an open records request for all externally and internally generated TDH documentation (including staff review notes, phone calls, etc.) concerning the 2003 historical marker application filed by the North Austin Civic Association for the community of Fiskville. This should include communications with the Travis County Historical Association in this matter.

Thank you

Bill McGarry
11218 Scarborough CT
San Antonio TX 778249
(210)-690-4884

From: "Bill McGarry" <mcgarry@concentric.net>
To: <thc@thc.state.tx.us>
Subject: ORR-plagiarism
Date: Fri, 21 Nov 2003 13:07:37 -0600
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook Express 6.00.2800.1158

This is an open records request for ALL THC policies (published and

unpublished) concerning
plagiarism by historical marker applicants using both copyrighted and
non-copyrighted materials. Please send
citation/attribution stipulations, both internally and externally,
generated.

Thank you
Bill McGarry
11218 Scarborough CT
San Antonio TX 78249

Dan K. Utley, Historian
Assistant Director, History Programs Division
Marker Program Coordinator

Lisa Kerber, Ph.D.
St. David's Root Cause Project
1925 Rutland Dr., Suite N
Austin, Texas 78758
Phone: (512) 339-2851
Fax: (512) 339-3272
Email: lisa@sdsys.org

March 12, 2004

Ernestine Thompson
Research Marker Chair
Travis County Historical Commission
1112 Gazania Drive
Pflugerville, TX 78660

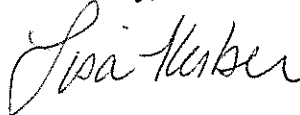
Dear Ms. Ernestine Thompson,

Attached is our application for a historical marker commemorating Fiskville. Please find:

- 1) Application form
- 2) Narrative *Fiskville*
- 3) Map and photos of Heron Hollow, proposed site of marker.
- 4) Map of area north of Austin including Fiskville
- 5) Map of Fiskville
- 6) Photo of Payton Gin
- 7) Photo of Fiskville School
- 8) Photo of Josiah Fisk
- 9) Appendix
- 10) Extended Bibliography.

I appreciate your involvement and look forward to getting your feedback. If improvements need to be made, please advise, and we can do them together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Kerber".

Lisa Kerber

Reply-To: <lisa@sdsys.org>
From: "Lisa Kerber" <lisa@sdsys.org>
To: <Dan.utley@thc.state.tx.us>
Subject: RE: Fiskville
Date: Wed, 8 Oct 2003 10:12:32 -0500
Organization: Root Cause Project
X-Mailer: Microsoft Outlook, Build 10.0.2627
Importance: Normal

Hi Mr. Utley,

Thanks for calling. Don't bother sending a hard-copy of an application. I'll check some out at the library. From your message, I understand that I need to complete each of the numbered items. I'll contact you if I have any questions.

Thanks,
Lisa

-----Original Message-----

From: Lisa Kerber [mailto:lisa@sdsys.org]
Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2003 2:35 PM
To: 'Dan.utley@thc.state.tx.us'
Subject: Fiskville

Dear Mr. Utley,

This is a follow-up to the phone message I left for you. Recently, I started working with some community members from NACA who submitted an application for a historical marker to commemorate Fiskville. I believe you wrote the comments to Ernestine Thompson concerning the things that needed to be improved (dated June 15, 2003). I understand your concerns and am in the process of cleaning up the application with regard to checking and writing citations.

My question to you is how detailed and complete must the application be? Is it possible to send me an example of a good one that was successful? I noticed successful applications are at the Austin History Center, so if it is difficult, and you don't have electronic copies, just let me know, and I'll look at them there.

I was going to rework the application to make it professional as far as research goes. One of the purposes, we think, of the marker is to encourage people in the neighborhood to do further research. So, I was

thinking of organizing the application in general, broad subjects such as church/religion and education/schools. In each of these subjects, I would like to find information on Black as well as White people. I thought if I did a little research on primary sources on a broad range of subjects, people might be encouraged to take it further on their own. And, I am hoping that this kind of broad examination would be sufficient for the Texas Historical Commission.

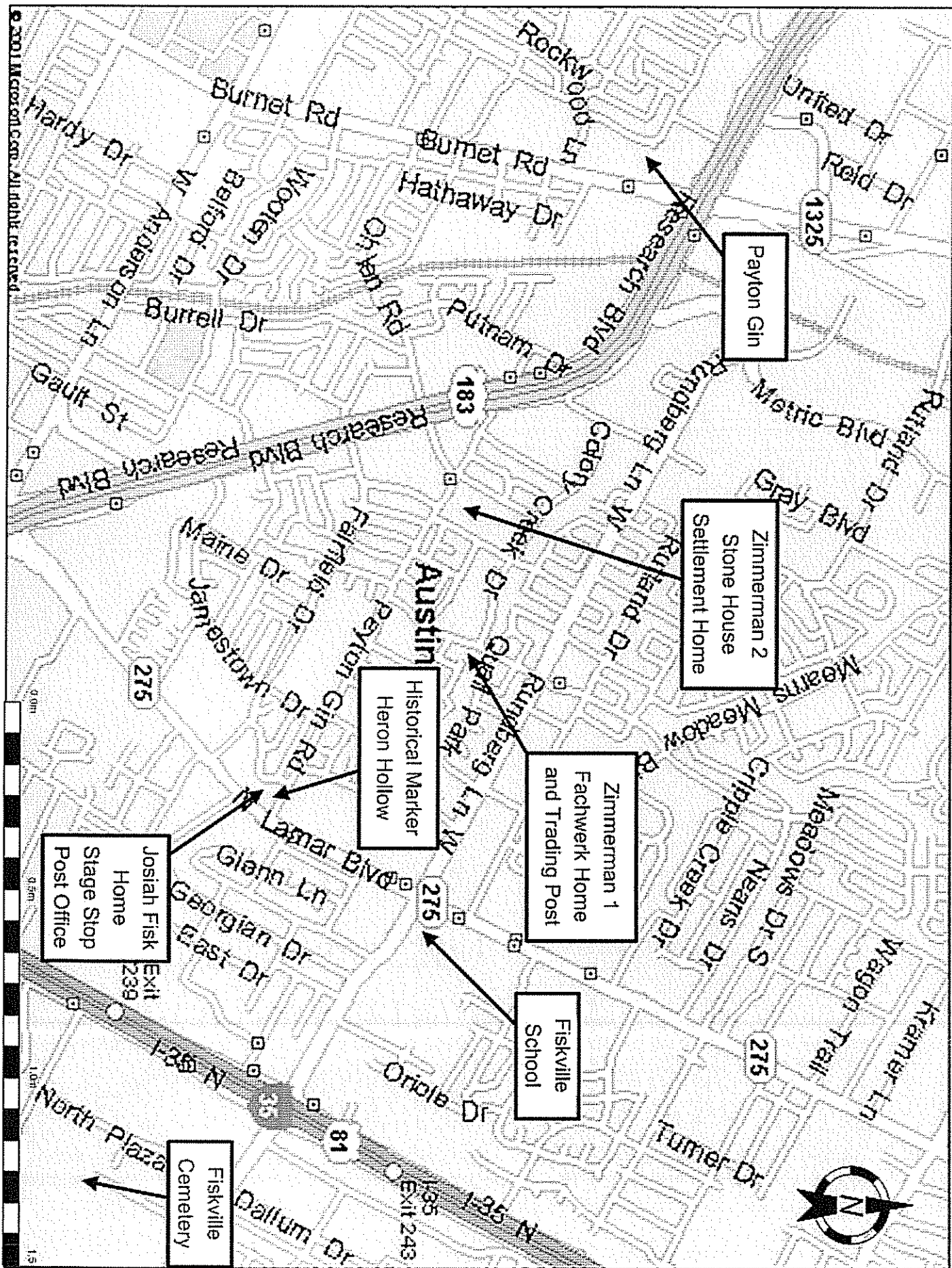
Or, I can go through the list that you noted on the letter to Ernestine. (I can fax you this list if you send me your fax number.) While some of things on your list are interesting to me, others are not. I wasn't sure if the instruction was to do everything on the list or most of it.

Please contact me at your convenience. I look forward to submitting an application that will be interesting to read and well-documented. I welcome your input.

Thanks,
Lisa

Lisa Kerber, Ph.D.
Research Specialist
St. David's Foundation's Root Cause Project
1925 Rutland Drive, Suite N
Austin, TX 78758
Phone: (512) 339-2851
Fax: (512) 339-3272
Email: Lisa@sdsys.org

Fiskville



To: <Dan.utley@thc.state.tx.us>
Subject: Fiskville

Dear Mr. Utley,

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Thanks,
Lisa

Lisa Kerber, Ph.D.
Research Specialist
St. David's Foundation's Root Cause Project



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

June 15, 2003

Ernestine Thompson
1112 Gazania Drive
Pflugerville TX 78660

Dear Ernestine:

We have conducted a preliminary review of the Official Texas Historical Marker application for Fiskville. Before we can complete the evaluation, however, we will need some additional information.

1. The application form we were provided is a copy of a fax, which is not legible and not suitable for our purposes. We need the original application form, with signatures, so I am enclosing a new form which we will need to have completed and returned.
2. The narrative history, as presented, needs to be retyped since it has bolded areas and handwritten footnotes in the text, and the endnotes are on a half page. Please submit a clean copy, with typed footnotes and without the bolded sections.
3. The reference (bibliography) page should also be retyped, since it does not include full information on Mary Starr Barkley's 1970 book and on the Handbook of Texas (needs volume and page).
4. Since Mr. McGarry's research cannot be documented, it should not be listed as a source or noted in the text unless there is corroborating evidence--i.e. other sources should be used for the information he included in his articles.
5. We need additional information on the life of Josiah Fisk. Information on his brother, Greenleaf Fisk (see Handbook article and the related sources cited) may provide some clues. We need to know when and where he was born, when he came to Texas, how he served in the Texas Revolution, his wife's name, when he died, where he's buried, etc. Census records and genealogical resources may be helpful in that regard. Also, since his brother Greenleaf Fisk was so important to Georgetown and Brownwood, the libraries there may have vertical files on the family history. The State Archives or the San Jacinto Museum should have information on his military service.
6. Since so many sites are noted in the history, it would be helpful if we could be provided with a map (handdrawn would be sufficient) showing the various locations and distances in relation to the proposed marker site and current roads. The map should include the schools, Payton Gin, Fisk House site, commercial area, cemetery, churches, flour mill, etc.
7. The history notes a study was made of the early gravesites in the Fiskville Cemetery, but we need some elaboration. When were the earliest graves? Is the cemetery still used? Are Fisk family members buried there? What are general dates for the Germans and Czechs noted in the history?
8. We need more history on the St. Michael's school for African Americans. When did it begin, and when did it close?
9. We need more information on the decline of Fiskville. What were the principal factors in the decline? When did the town last show on county maps? When was the area incorporated into the Austin city limits? Etc.

Application for a Historical Marker to Commemorate the Fiskville Community

I am submitting this application on behalf of the North Austin Civic Association which represents the 22,000 residents of the area bounded by Kramer Lane on the north, Lamar Blvd on the east, Hwy 183 to the south and Metric Blvd to the west. NACA is engaged in a project to create a pocket park on a property owned by the City of Austin⁸. The property is located at the corner of Payton Gin Rd and North Lamar Blvd in an area of Austin characterized by high population density, moderate to low-income housing and rapidly changing demographics³. Developed in the late 1970's it is not a neighborhood most Austinites would consider to have any historical interest.¹⁰

The members of NACA hope that an historical marker gracing the proposed Heron Hollow park will stimulate neighborhood pride. With the historical marker in place they intend to proceed with a project to further document the history of the neighborhood, developing materials to be used to supplement the social studies curriculum in the local public schools, published on the NACA web page, and mounted as visuals for display at the Little Walnut Creek Library, the local schools and at the annual Quail Creek Festival.¹¹

I have attached a copy of the entry for Fiskville, Texas which appears in the Handbook of Texas Online.⁴ The following narrative draws liberally from that source as well as from Mary Starr Barkley's History of Austin and Travis County.⁶

Narrative

The area now included within the boundaries of the North Austin Civic Association was at one time a small, but independent farming community. Josiah Fisk who fought in the Battle of San Jacinto built the first home in this part of northern Travis County in the early 1850's⁹ (1850 census for Travis County). Fisk who served in the Texas Rangers in 1859 and in the Mexican War⁹ (Spurlin p. 245) was a surveyor and land speculator. **The 1850 census for Travis County shows that he lived in dwelling #273⁹ (at 8810 N Lamar) with his wife, two children, and another couple. This structure served as a stage coach stop as well as a home.⁹ (McGarry)**

The first post office was established in 1873¹ with Ed Zimmerman as its postmaster.¹⁰ **Zimmerman's home at 9019 Parkfield built in 1854 by George Davis is still standing and is one of the oldest buildings in Austin. It is unusual in that it is a "fachwerk" or wattle and daub house, few of which were constructed in Austin. Another notable surviving building is the rock house at 1600 Payton Gin Rd dating from approximately 1856-1857 which presently serves as the offices of the Settlement Home.² (Molineaux)**

The community was named Fiskville in honor of its founder.^{9, 10} **A study of early grave² sites in the Fiskville Cemetery by Anne Molineaux revealed a pattern of Anglo-Scottish and German settlement in the early days of the Fiskville community³ with later Czech additions.**

The area's first school was a one-room stone building⁹ built in 1857 on land owned originally by Josiah Fisk¹⁰. It burned and was replaced by a three-room frame structure known as Fiskville School¹. **A school for African-American children, the Saint Michaels (Fiskville)⁵ School was located at the northeast corner of Rundberg and Lamar in the 1960³s.**

Several streets in the NACA neighborhood, Kramer and Neans¹⁷ for example, bear the names of the families who once farmed the rich soil of the area. **Another street name of historical interest is variously spelled Peyton⁹ or Payton Gin Rd. A fine photograph of the Payton Gin taken in 1915 exists and can be viewed on the North Austin Civic Association's web page. (www.main.org/naca). It was located on the east side of Lamar.** Though primarily a farming community, Fiskville with its blacksmith shop, general store, and stage coach inn served as a convenient stopping-off place for travelers heading north to Waco on the Upper Georgetown Road¹⁰, the present North Lamar Blvd. By the mid-1880¹⁰'s the population had grown to 120 sufficient to support a union church and a steam flour mill as well (Handbook vol. 2 p. 1015)⁴.

Fiskville was a popular destination in the later years of the nineteenth century for Austin residents wishing to spend a day or an evening in the country. Mary Starr Barkley in her History of Austin and Travis County notes that a bicycle club made frequent excursions to Fiskville by moonlight⁵. (Barkley p. 326). E.W. Haller's peach orchard, the largest in Central Texas¹, which occupied the area west of the Payton Gin, Lamar junction until 1898 must have added considerably to Fiskville's charm. **Holler moved to Fiskville in**

not documented

1876. He harvested fruit from thousands of Alexander, Amsden, Beatrice, Early Rivers and Robert E. Lee peach trees. (Barkley p. 38) Just before the turn of the century Fiskville began to decline. The 1895 US Atlas lists a population of 43 for Fiskville. The post office was discontinued in 1901. The Fiskville County School District was consolidated with A.I.S.D. in 1959. (Handbook vol 2 p. 1015) Fiskville remained a separate community until annexed by Austin in the mid 1960's.

New Text Document

Foot Notes

- 1. Austin History Center, File A.F.1900;Fiskville, Travis County.
Fiskville School Class 1892, 1914,
Post Master & Post Office of Travis Co. Tx., 1846-1930 Glossary.**
- 2 The Austin Citizen,11-15-75,by Lena Shields.**
- 3. The Austin-American-Statesman,May 19,1957,Fiskville "Looking Forward".
Fiskville Community: "A Study of Early Days" by Anne Molineaux.**
- 4. The Handbook of Texas,by Webb,Walter Prescott,ed.,Dallas:The Texas State
Historical Association,1952.;Handbook Vol. 2,page 1015.**
- 5. Texas Post Office by County,1986;Germans, John J.& Janzen,Myron.
Barkley, Mary Starr, The History of Austin & Travis County,p.38;p326. Texan Press 1963.**
- 6. New Handbook of Texas,1996; Austin. Texas State Historical Association.**
- 7. Neans, A.J., Personal Interview ,11-24-73. Spurlin,Charles,Texas Volume,p.245.**
- 8. Travis County CAD Property Information.**
- 9. McGarry,Bill; History: NACA Neighborhood of Fiskville (4th series).**
- 10. Handbook of Texas On-Line, The General,V. E. Smyrl.
Pease-Graham-Niles; Family Papers 1952-1973.**
- 11. City of Austin Site Approval Letter-2-6-03.**

References

Barkley, Mary Starr (1967) History of Austin and Travis County 1839-1899

Austin, TX: The Steck Company

Barkley, Mary Starr (1970) A History of Central Texas

McGarry, Bill (1997-1998) Mr. McGarry wrote a series of 5 carefully-researched articles for the North Austin Civic Association's monthly newsletter relating the history of the NACA neighborhood. Unfortunately when Mr. McGarry moved out of the area and took his notes with him.

Molineaux, Ann Cultural Stamps on the Landscape of Part of North America: A small investigation of structures pertaining to mid to late nineteenth and early twentieth century life. This is an unpublished but well-documented report of research conducted in the Fiskville neighborhood in the mid 1980's.

New Handbook of Texas (1996). Austin: The Texas State Historical Association.

Spurlin, Charles D (1998). Texas Volunteers in the Mexican War. Austin, TX: Eakin Press.

POSTMASTERS & POST OFFICES OF TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS 1846 - 1930

/

FISKVILLE (Travis)

Zimmerman, Ed., 22 Aug 1873

Tipton, T. D., 26 Apr 1875

Zimmerman, Ed., 24 May 1875

Shannon, Robt. S., 15 Nov 1889 (C)

Deen, Irwin J., 11 Feb 1896

Christensen, Therkild A., 13 Feb 1901

Discontinued 31 Jly 1901; papers to Austin

<u>POSTMASTER INDEX</u>	<u>COUNTY INDEX</u>
<u>POST OFFICE INDEX</u>	<u>PERSONNEL RECORDS</u>

~ GLOSSARY ~

Note: Counties within parentheses following the name of the post office; e.g., "**ROADVILLE (Anderson, Houston)**" designate the lineage of that post office. That is, Roadville was originally located in Anderson County, but was changed to Houston County. (usually a result of county boundary changes)

To discern the complete lineage of such a post office, search all counties listed in the parentheses.

The date appearing after the postmaster's name is the date that he or she was appointed.

Acting postmaster

Served temporarily, or for another postmaster.

Ad int (Ad interim)

Refers to the tenure of an acting postmaster who serves until the regular postmaster returns from military service.

[Apparently re-established], etc.

Omissions by postal clerks are fairly common in the original postal registers -- especially in regard to the re-establishment date of a post office.

Bracketed entries reflect the compiler's speculations on these omissions.

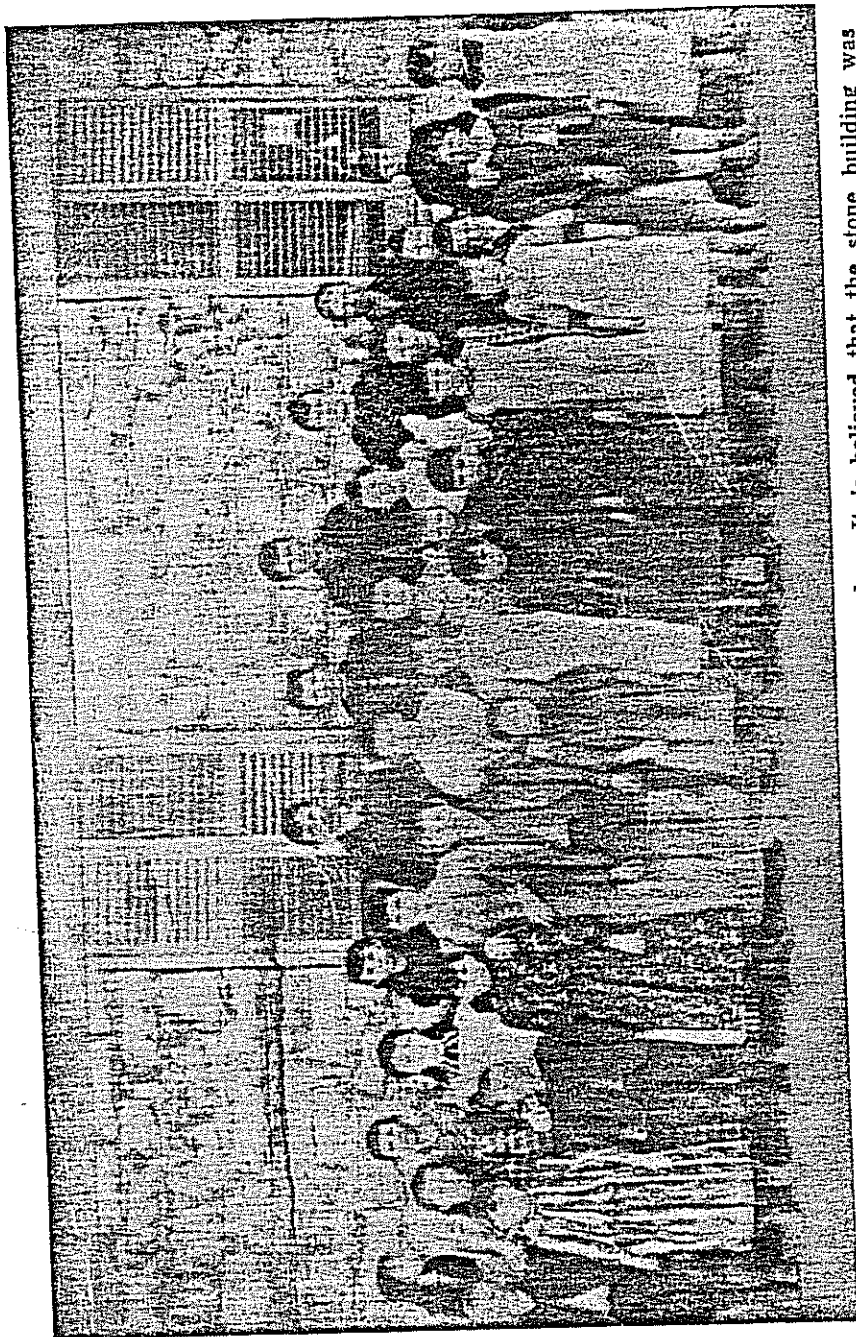
Cg'd (Changed)

The name of the post office was changed, or its site was moved to another location, though in some instances, when a name change occurred, the post office location was also changed.

Example: "Elizabeth," in Denton County was changed to "Roanoke," but the records do not indicate that Roanoke was, in fact, located approximately 3 miles southeast of Elizabeth.

(C)

Later commissioned. Notation in the postal registers that a postmaster



grades. It is believed that the stone building was gutted by a fire which so weakened the walls that they had to be torn down. The present frame building

This is the Fiskville School class of 1892. The teacher was Mrs. F. L. Shepherd, from Virginia. She taught

Old Fiskville

School Days

Remembered

Am. St. 12/27/64

Twenty-nine members of the old Fiskville community met recently in a local cafeteria for a lengthy session of "remember when . . ." in the days of 1904 to 1964.

Each guest was proud to tell of his relationship to the days of the old rock schoolhouse, the heart of the community in those days. They especially came to honor one of their teachers, Mrs. Annie Bonnor Marley, the widow of the late Brig. Gen. James P. Marley, who makes her home in Austin at 504-B Bellvue.

Participants recalled that the old schoolhouse was the setting for many romances. One teacher, with an average attendance of almost 70 children, taught all subjects ranging from grade school to high school . . . for a salary of \$40 per month.

The guests present varied in age from 50 to 90. Included in the list were some from Houston and others from San Antonio. They were Paul Hornberger, Mrs. Ethel Miles Jenkins, Acie Webb, Mrs. Ruby Fox Elliott, Mrs. E. R. Pils, Fleg Zimmerman, Mrs. Ada Deen, Mrs. Charlie R. Foster, Mr. and Mrs. Wylie Nichols, Leman J. Nichols, Rufus C. King, Martin Raven, Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Mussett, Mrs. Alma Bratton, Mrs. Annie Johnson Garrison, Mrs. Alice Mussett Ayers, Miss Ella Ayers, Mrs. Allie May Saunders Murphy, Mrs. Beulah Ashwood Cox and Mrs. Helen Dillingham Fox.

Also Monroe Fox, Mrs. Beulah Cox Dornwell Jr., Billie Cox, Mrs. Emma Zimmerman Evans, Mrs. Lois Davis Gartman, Charley Johnson and Mrs. Charley Anderson, another former teacher of Fiskville.



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TO: Ernestine Thompson, Sarah Campbell, Brian Almon, Stephanie Neely
FROM: Dan K. Utley
RE: Fiskville, Travis County
DATE: May 21, 2003

We have received your application for an Official Texas Historical Marker, and we look forward to working with you on the project. Please refer to your guidelines and application booklet, or check our web site (www.thc.state.tx.us) under "markers and designations," for information on the application process.

At this point, we have checked the application to be sure it includes all the required components. If items are missing, they will be noted below and should be submitted as soon as possible so we can proceed with our full evaluation once the application comes up for review in approximately 45 days. Please note that in order to be fair to all marker applicants, we review the applications in the order in which they are received.

Items needed:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☒ None; packet is complete. Thanks! | ☐ Site plan |
| ☐ Signature of authorized CHC member | ☐ Floor plan delineating any changes |
| ☐ Signature of marker site property owner | ☐ Current photos of all exterior sides |
| ☐ Type and size of marker requested | ☐ Historic photos |
| ☐ Photograph of the proposed marker site | ☐ Street address or directions to marker site |
| ☐ Documented narrative history | ☐ City/county map showing marker location |
| ☐ Bibliography of sources cited | ☐ Name, address, phone of marker recipient |
| ☐ Endnotes or footnotes | ☐ Name and address of person who will pay for the marker |
| ☐ Legal description of property | |

Additional notes:

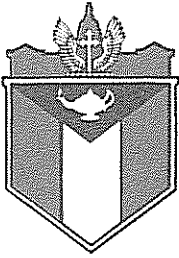
If you have questions at any point in the process, please call us. Thank you for your interest in preserving and recording Texas history.

Dan K. Utley
Marker Program Coordinator
512/475-2692
dan.utley@thc.state.tx.us

The Texas Marker Team:

Linda C. Henderson
Historian/Marker Writer
512/463-5851
linda.henderson@thc.state.tx.us

Egina Reyes
Office Manager
512/463-6063
egina.reyes@thc.state.tx.us



City of Austin

Founded by Congress, Republic of Texas, 1839

Municipal Building, Eighth at Colorado, P.O. Box 1088, Austin, Texas 78767 Telephone 512/974-2000

February 6, 2003

Ms. Ernestine Thompson
Travis County Historical Commissioner
1112 Gazania Drive
Pflugerville, Texas 78660

SUBJECT: OLD FISKVILLE HISTORICAL MARKER

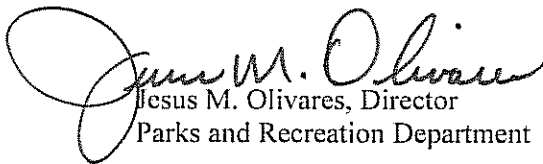
Dear Ms. Thompson,

My staff and I have been working with the North Austin Civic Association (NACA) and the librarian of the Little Walnut Creek Branch Library for about 2 years to allow NACA to improve and beautify the southwest corner of N. Lamar Boulevard at Payton Gin Road, known locally as "Heron Hollow". NACA's improvement plan includes the location of an Old Fiskville historical marker with granite gravel trails leading to it, as shown on the attached plan.

NACA has my permission to place the marker, as well as to make the other improvements, as part of our authorization agreement with the Association.

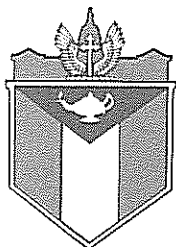
Should you need additional information, please call Sarah Campbell, Senior Planner, at 974-6765.

Sincerely,


Jesus M. Olivares, Director
Parks and Recreation Department

xc: Brian Almon, NACA

Attachment



City of Austin

Founded by Congress, Republic of Texas, 1839
 Austin Public Library, 800 Guadalupe, P.O. Box 2287, Austin, Texas 78768-2287
 Telephone 512 499-7300

Little Walnut Creek Branch Library
 835 W Rundberg Ln
 Austin, TX 78758
 Ph. 836-8976

Margaret Beamon
 Travis County Historical Commission
 314 W 11th St.
 Austin, TX 78701

Dear Ms. Beamon,

In December I submitted an application for an historical marker to be placed on the property at Payton Gin Rd and N Lamar Blvd in north Austin. The marker is to commemorate the historic community of Fiskville. I submitted the application on behalf of the North Austin Civic Association.

Mrs. Thompson reviewed the application. She contacted me in January and suggested that I add material to the narrative which I have done. For your convenience the additions to the original narrative are in bold type.

I appreciate the time you have devoted to this matter and I look forward to receiving your evaluation of the amended narrative in the near future.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Neely
 Managing Librarian
 Little Walnut Creek Branch Library

22703

THC use only

Official Texas Historical Marker Application Form

Please complete both sides of the form.

Proposed marker title: 011 Fiskville
 Title subject to change by Texas Historical Commission (THC) staff and/or State Marker Review Board

County: Travis

Marker location (street address and city, or specific directions from nearest town on state highway map):
8830 Tamar BV N Austin, TX #02391603010000

Distance and direction of marker topic from marker site (if applicable): _____

Approval of County Historical Commission

The application and narrative history must be approved by the county historical commission (CHC) before forwarding to the THC.

Printed Name of CHC chair or marker committee* chair: Ernestine L. Thompson Date: May 22, 2003

Signature: Ernestine L. Thompson

Mailing Address: 1112 Masamora Dr. Delugerville, TX 78660

Daytime Phone: 512 257 6871

Fax _____

Email: elt@ecpi.com

*Marker committee chair signature accepted only if form signed by CHC chair is on file; call 512/463-5853 to request form.
 The CHC chair or marker committee chair will automatically receive all copies of correspondence regarding this marker project.

Permission of owner for marker placement

Permission for placement of a marker must be obtained from the property owner. Please provide the name of a contact person if the owner is an institution, organization or public entity. Do not complete this section if the marker is to be placed on right-of-way maintained by the Texas Department of Transportation.

Name: CITY OF AUSTIN (PARKS & RECREATION DEPT)

Contact person (if applicable): SARAH CAMPBELL, PLANNING DIVISION

Mailing address: 200 S. LAMAR BLVD. AUSTIN, TX 78704

Daytime Phone: (512) 974-6765 Fax: (512) 974-6774 Email: sarah.campbell@ci.austin.tx.us

Owner's signature: Sarah Campbell

Do you wish to receive copies of all correspondence concerning this marker application? ☒ Yes ☐ No

To whom should the request for payment be addressed?

Name: North Austin Civic Association

Contact person (if applicable): Brian Almen

Mailing address: 9502 Stonebridge Austin, TX 78758

Daytime Phone: 936-7355 Fax: 936-6853

Email: brian.almen@pvc.state.tx

Does this person wish to receive copies of all correspondence concerning this marker application? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Is there anyone else to whom all correspondence concerning this marker application should be addressed? (Only one, please.)

Name: Stephanie Neely

Mailing address: Little Walnut Creek Library 835 W Rundberg Ln Austin 787

Daytime Phone: 836-2476 Fax: 835-0361 Email: Stephanie.Neely@ci.austin.tx

Shipping Instructions

In order to facilitate delivery of the marker, neither post office box numbers nor rural route numbers can be accepted. To avoid additional shipping charges and time delays, use business street address (open 8-5, Monday-Friday). If the marker is to be placed on the highway right-of-way, it will be shipped directly to the district highway engineer.

Name: Same as above

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

(OVER)

Type and Size of Marker Desired (Please check one only.)

SUBJECT MARKERS

Subject markers are solely educational in nature and convey no legal restrictions to the property. They are appropriate for topics such as church congregations, businesses, persons, events and institutions. These markers should not be attached to buildings. If the marker is to be attached to a surface other than the foundry-provided post, please provide the requested information in the space below.

- | | | |
|---|---------|---------|
| ☐ 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar) | \$ 425 | |
| ☐ 27" x 42" marker with post | \$1,250 | \$1,150 |
| ☐ 27" x 42" marker without post (see below) | \$ 850 | |
| ☒ 18" x 28" marker with post | | \$ 750 |
| ☐ 18" x 28" marker without post (see below) | | |

If not on post, to what (block of granite, gatepost, etc.) will the marker be attached? _____
 Type of material? (wood, stone, etc.) _____

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation markers are reserved solely for historic structures deemed worthy of preservation for their architectural integrity and historical associations. The RTHL designation carries a measure of legal protection for the structure (see Marker Policies 13-18), and for that reason a legal description (lot and block numbers) is required. The most commonly used marker for conveying this designation is the medallion and plaque (also referred to as a building marker); however, the 18" x 28" or 27" x 42" markers may be ordered for those who wish a greater amount of historical information to appear in the marker text. Pay careful attention not to damage historic building material if the marker is to be mounted directly onto the structure. THC staff can provide alternate ideas for mounting upon request.

- | | | |
|--|---------|---------|
| ☐ Medallion and 16" x 12" plaque with post | \$ 525 | |
| ☐ Medallion and 16" x 12" plaque without post (see below) | \$ 425 | |
| ☐ 27" x 42" marker with post | \$1,250 | \$1,150 |
| ☐ 27" x 42" marker without post (see below) | \$ 850 | |
| ☐ 18" x 28" marker with post | | \$ 750 |
| ☐ 18" x 28" marker without post (see below) | | |

If not on post, to what will the marker be attached (building, gatepost, etc.)? _____
 Type of material? (wood, stone, etc.) _____

Legal description of property (lot and block numbers; metes and bounds):

ABS 29 SUR 58

Applegate J ACR .97 (GREENBELT)

Before forwarding your material to the THC, please check to make sure you have included the following items. Incomplete applications cannot be considered and may be returned to the applicant.

- ☐ completed application form signed by the county historical commission chair or marker committee chair
- ☐ narrative history with reference notes and bibliography
- ☐ photograph of the proposed marker location (do not use instant/Polaroid or digital photos)
- ☐ city, county or USGS map (8½" x 11" format only) indicating marker location and other sites related to the marker topic
- ☐ historic photo of property and current photographs of all elevations — no Polaroid or digital images (RTHL markers only)
- ☐ legal description of property (RTHL markers only)
- ☐ floor plans (RTHL markers only)
- ☐ site plan (RTHL markers only)

Additional items, including directional signs and replacement parts for 1936 markers, are available. Please contact the History Programs Division for a separate order form.

Mail completed applications to the address below.

For more information contact:
 Texas Historical Commission, History Programs Division
 P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276
 Phone 512/463-5853, Fax 512/475-3122
 www.thc.state.tx.us



TEXAS
 HISTORICAL
 COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

P.O. Box 12276 • Austin, TX 78711-2276

OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER
EVALUATION FORM

Title: **Fiskville**

Address: 8830 N. Lamar
City: Austin

County: Travis

Job #: 22703

Size: 18" x 28" with post

Codes: SM, GT, PI

Year: 2004

Meets significance & documentation requirements: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments: The history originally submitted for this application need additional work, and several concerned citizens have participated together to provide the detailed history we now have for evaluation. Fiskville is a name that still shows on a local road and a cemetery, but there is no interpretation of what once was a vital agricultural settlement six miles north of Austin along Walnut Creek. The settlement is named for New York native Josiah Fisk, who trained as a lawyer in Illinois before coming to Texas in the 1840s. A veteran of the Mexican War, Fisk was a Unionist at the time of the Civil War, and feeling threatened for his beliefs, left the area. The settlement that bore his name prospered in the years before the turn of the twentieth century. It included a school, churches, stores, a cotton gin and other businesses. Many of the residents, both black and white, were involved in agriculture (cotton and fruit production primarily). Fiskville began to decline by World War II, and the school, part of the Summit district, merged with the Austin ISD in the 1950s and closed in 1957. Today, there are only a few vestiges of the settlement--streets named for families, the cemetery, an early house, etc.--and the area is now primarily a residential suburb.

Staff recommendation: ☒ approval ☐ rejection

Staff evaluation by: Dan K. Utley

Date: 4/25/2004



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 26, 2004

Brian Almon
North Austin Civic Association
9502 Stonebridge
Austin, TX 78758

RE: FISKVILLE
18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker w/ post
Job # 22703; Travis County

Dear Mr. Almon:

I am pleased to notify you that the Texas Historical Commission has approved the above-referenced topic for an Official Texas Historical Marker.

Payment for the marker, in the amount of \$850.00, is now due. Please complete and return the enclosed payment form at your earliest convenience. Once payment for the marker is received, your application will be placed in line to have the marker inscription written. The inscription will not be written until after funds have been received. When the text is prepared, a copy will be sent to you and any parties listed below for review and approval.

The Texas Historical Commission congratulates you on your efforts to record and preserve Texas history.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan K. Utley", written over a large, stylized flourish.

Dan K. Utley
Historical Marker Program Coordinator
History Programs Division
dan.utley@thc.state.tx.us

pc: Ernestine Thompson, Travis CHC
Sarah Campbell
Stephanie Neely

In

From: "Lisa Kerber" <lisa@sdsys.org>
To: "Dan Utley" <dan.utley@thc.state.tx.us>
Subject: RE: Fiskville--appendix

Hi Dan,
I'm embarrassed to say that I caught a mistake just now. The text in the narrative describes it correctly, but the title of the appendix is wrong. The table is for students in the Common School District, not only Fiskville School. I'm sending the whole file, but I only changed the first page--the title.

Sorry for the confusion.

Lisa Kerber

To: elt@ecpi.com, sarah.campbell@ci.austin.tx.us, lisa@sdsys.org
From: Dan Utley <dan.utley@thc.state.tx.us>
Subject: Fiskville
Cc:
Bcc: 2
Attached:

Congratulations! We have approved the marker application for Fiskville. A formal notice will go out soon, along with a payment form, but I wanted you to know in advance. Thanks for the good work on compiling the history.

For our records, there are a few minor points that still need clarification. Any information you can provide regarding the following items will be greatly appreciated:

1. On page 15, the history notes that Josiah Fisk returned to Texas after the Civil War and then gathered his family and went to Kansas and Pennsylvania before deciding to settle again in Louisiana. The history further notes he settled in Louisiana between 1860 and 1863, but those dates are not after the Civil War. Please clarify.
2. Pages 3 and 4 note a fire destroyed several Fiskville stores in December 1855, but the history indicates Fiskville didn't begin until the 1870s. We presume the date of the fire should be 1885. Is that correct?
3. Also on page 4, the history notes the Fisk home served as a post office, but it does not indicate when or even if Fisk was a postmaster. To the contrary, it appears the post office was in operation from 1873 to 1901, a time when Fisk was no longer in the area. Please clarify.

Thanks.

Dan

Dan K. Utley, Historian
Assistant Director, History Programs Division
Marker Program Coordinator

In

From: Hanklaugh@aol.com
Subject: Re: First Postmaster of Fiskville
To: dan.utley@thc.state.tx.us

Dan,

In 1873, Edward Zimmerman was appointed the first postmaster of Fiskville. Hope this helps.

Mariann Fisk Laughlin

When the Civil War broke out, Josiah was opposed to secession. He had to leave Texas to save his life. His property, which was quite valuable, was confiscated. He moved back to Indiana where he taught at Hanover College. His son, James Burr Fisk, joined the union army and was killed in the Civil War.

After the Civil War, Josiah, who had remained loyal to the union had friends in high places. As you remember, he had been a friend and student of Abraham Lincoln. He had also fought in the Mexican War with President Grant. He was, therefore, given an appointment to the Radical Reconstruction Government in New Orleans, Louisiana. He served as District Attorney for Jefferson Parish in New Orleans. During that time, he also practiced law in Louisiana.

He was a devout Methodist and while in Louisiana, he was licensed first as an exorter and then as a local minister. He was then admitted to the Methodist Conference in Louisiana with the understanding that his appointment would be nominal so that he could still practice law and then preach whenever called upon.

When the Constitutional Convention met to reorganize the state government, they met and elected officers. They had to elect a chaplain, as well. Several of the most eminent ministers in the US were living in the city at the time. The members were divided in their choice. A Mr. Wickliff, a delegate to the Convention, arose and moved that Josiah Fisk be elected chaplain, for he could make the "best prayer of any minister in the city. One delegate arose and said: "Mr. President, the gentleman has made a very bold assertion. I would like for him to prove it. Mr. Wickliff arose and stated: "Mr. Fisk can make the shortest prayer of any of the ministers here." That settled the question and he was unanimously elected. (I am reminded of my Papa Fisk who could say the quickest prayers before a meal. They were so quick that I could never figure out what he was saying. It was over before it began.)

Josiah was in office for 10 years during the Radical Reconstruction. During that time, he fought the Ku Klux Klan who were very active in that locality. He was very outspoken in his views against the Klan. He was advised by them to leave town but declined. Soon after that, a man who resembled Josiah was killed by the KKK. Josiah decided to leave New Orleans for good. He subsequently sued the city for his salary. Every effort was made to evade payment. (the damn Yankee!) Josiah got a judgement for \$9,500 and eventually settled for \$4,000 (about 80 thousand dollars in today's money). A Chicago newspaper printed an article as follows: "Council Bluffs, Ia., March 5, 1896—Josiah Fisk today received notification that his claim against the city of New Orleans had been settled, and he will receive \$4,000."

Josiah and Vashti moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa where he practiced law until his death on May 19, 1901 at the age of 89. (If you get the Fisk genes you live a long time under adverse conditions.) Vashti Fisk died a year later in 1902. They are both buried in the Walnut Hills Cemetery in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

by Mariann Fisk Oyer-Taughlin
Mariann

To: "Bill McGarry" <mcgarry@concentric.net>
From: Dan Utley <dan.utley@thc.state.tx.us>
Subject: Re: ORR -iskville cemetary ap
Cc:
Bcc: Egina, 2
Attached:

*Egina:
Please send the attached
materials*

Mr. McGarry:

We will put a copy in the mail this week.

Dan

At 11:58 AM 5/4/2004, you wrote:

Mr. Utley

During our research for the Fiskville community I understand an application for the Fiskville cemetery has been made. Can you send me a copy and any response you made have made to it.

I am looking forward to your official notice for Fiskville. Since my original work started in '96 it's been a long time coming and has been "a labor of love" since I lived on the original Zimmerman property near Payton Gin Rd from 90-96. Sam Williams & I spent many hours discussing the project and it's progress.

Thank you

Bill McGarry

11218 Scarborough CT

San Antonio TX 78149



**TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

Rick Perry • *Governor*
John L. Nau, III • *Chairman*
F. Lawrence Oaks • *Executive Director*

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

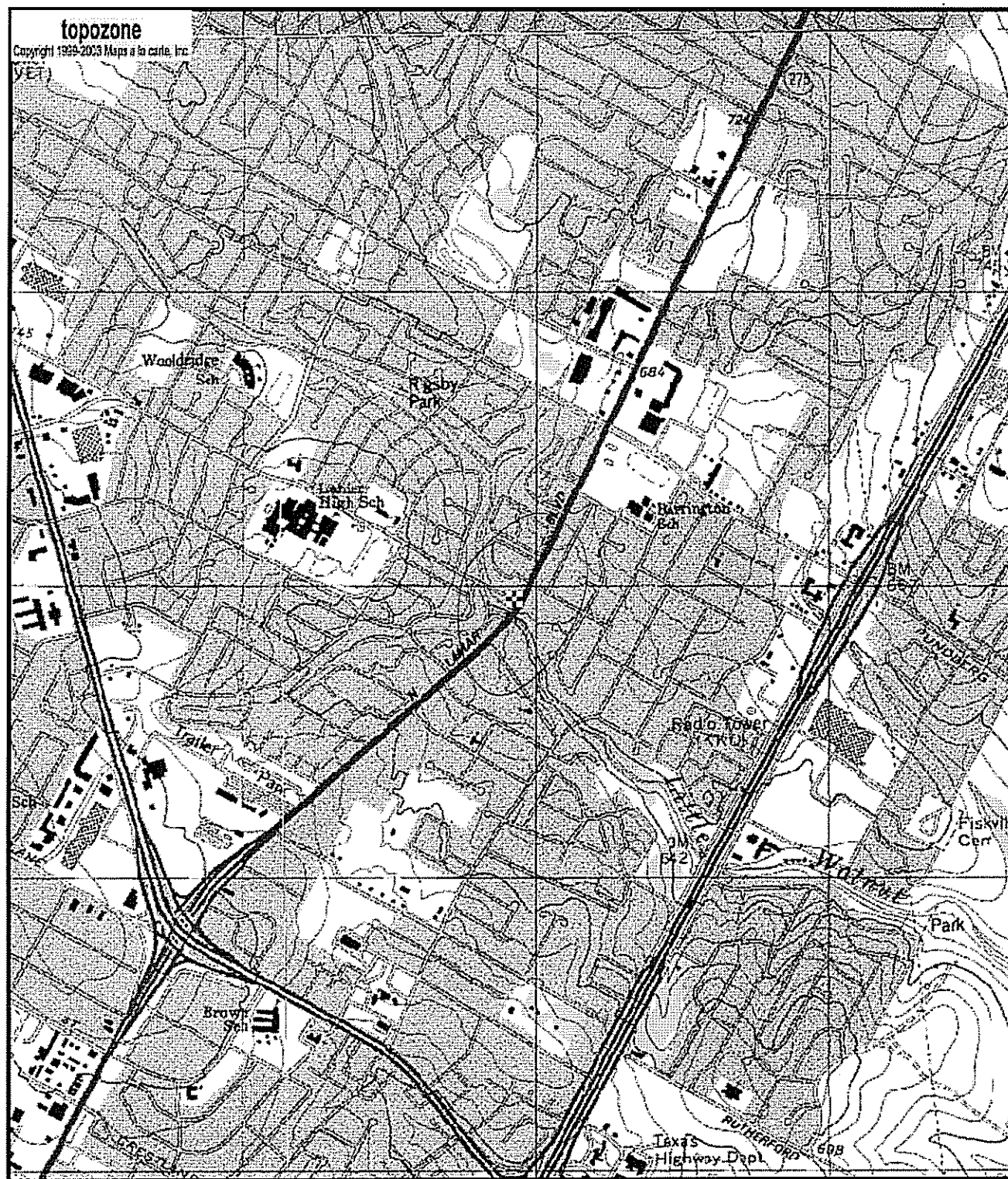
LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

TO: **TYPE: Email inquiry**

BILL MCGARRY	Date:	MAY 10, 2004
11218 SCARBOROUGH CT	Name:	Dan K. Utley
SAN ANTONIO TX 78149	Re:	FISKVILLE MARKER APPLICATION

COPIES	DESCRIPTION
1	Fiskville marker application historical narrative, application form and approval letter. Additional correspondence provided via emails.

Copy:	Reading File	Signed:	
	THC Web Site: www.thc.state.tx.us	Title:	Marker Program Coordinator Assistant Director, History Programs Division 512/475-2692; 512/475-3122 Fax dan.utley@thc.state.tx.us



Map center is UTM 14 624894E 3359161N (WGS84/NAD83)

Austin East quadrangle

Projection is UTM Zone 14 NAD83 Datum

M=5.458
G=0.657

Texas Historical Commission staff (LCH), 9/27/2004

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Travis County (Job #22703) Subject SM, GT, PI (Atlas 13095) UTM: 14 624894E 3359161N

Location: Austin, 8830 N Lamar

FIKSVILLE

TWO AREA PIONEERS WERE JOSIAH FISK, WHO ARRIVED IN 1846, AND EDWARD ZIMMERMAN, WHO CAME IN 1854; BOTH BROUGHT THEIR FAMILIES TO THE FARMING LANDS OUTSIDE AUSTIN. ZIMMERMAN BECAME THE FIRST POSTMASTER IN 1873, WHEN MORE THAN 150 PEOPLE LIVED IN FISKVILLE, A DISPERSED AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY ALONG LITTLE WALNUT CREEK. MOST RESIDENTS WERE FARMERS, BUT THE SETTLEMENT ALSO SUPPORTED SEVERAL BUSINESSES. THESE INCLUDED GINS BELONGING TO G.W. CORZINE (CAZINE), A FORMER SLAVE, AND TO ANDREW PAYTON. THE COMMUNITY AND ITS SCHOOLS EVENTUALLY BECAME PART OF AUSTIN. THE FISKVILLE CEMETERY, ZIMMERMAN'S 1854 HOME AND AREA STREET NAMES SERVE AS LINKS TO THE EARLY FARMING SETTLEMENT.

(2004)

RECEIVED

OCT 19 2004

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Check one and sign:

- ☒ I approve text as written. Proceed with order.
☐ I approve text with minor revisions as noted. Proceed with order.
☐ I request these revisions and a new copy of text.

Signed:

Ernestine L. Thompson Oct. 16 2004

Texas Historical Commission staff (LCH), 9/27/2004

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Travis County (Job #22703) Subject SM, GT, PI (Atlas 13095) UTM: 14 624894E 3359161N

Location: Austin, 8830 N Lamar

FISKVILLE

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(2004)

Check one and sign:

- ☒ approve text as written. Proceed with order.
☐ approve text with minor revisions as noted. Proceed with order.
☐ request these revisions and a new copy of text.

Signed: _____

Frank Campbell 10/21/04

Texas Historical Commission staff (LCH), 9/27/2004

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Travis County (Job #22703) Subject SM, GT, PI (Atlas 13095) UTM: 14 624894E 3359161N

Location: Austin, 8830 N Lamar

FISKVILLE

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(2004)

RECEIVED

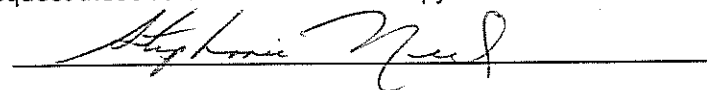
NOV 08 2004

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Check one and sign:

- ☒ I approve text as written. Proceed with order.
☐ I approve text with minor revisions as noted. Proceed with order.
☐ I request these revisions and a new copy of text.

Signed: _____



Telephone & Work Log for Linda Henderson

Salutation		3/21/2005	8:36 AM	Phone	936-7355
Name/Title	Brian Almon			Fax	
Organization				Cell	
Address				Email	
City/St/Zip		TX		☐ LEFT MESSAGE	

Project County

Regarding

Travis County

Fiskville marker

☐ RTHL ☐ marker ☐ replacement ☐ revision ☐ supplemental plaque

Find & Sort
Needs Action

They Did

Voice Mail

Needs Action

Find Mode

I Did

Email

Action Time

Job #

Priority ☐ *Urgent ☐ **High ☐ *Medium ☐ Low ☐ Radar

Notes He gave phone approval on text

RECORD # 1 1

Egina Reyes

From: Egina Reyes
Sent: Thursday, May 26, 2005 9:16 AM
To: Scott Southwell (scott@southwellco.com)
Subject: Marker Order - Job # 22703
Attachments: 22703.rtf

Date: May 26, 2005

Contract Item #: 3
Contract Price: \$ 730.00

Job #: 22703
County: Travis
Title: FISKVILLE
Size: 18" x 28" marker w/ post
Engraved #: na
Surface: na

RUSH: na

NOTES: na

SHIPPING ADDRESS:
Stephanie Neely
Little Walnut Creek Library
835 West Rundberg Lane
Austin, TX 78755
512/836-8976

Thank you.

Egina G. Reyes
Program Specialist
History Programs Division
Texas Historical Commission
512/463-6063
512/475-3122 Fax
www.thc.state.tx.us

5/26/2005



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR

JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIRMAN

F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

May 25, 2005

Anita Howard, Marker Chair
Travis CHC
1312 Ardenwood Road
Austin, TX 78722

RE: FISKVILLE
18" x 28" subject marker w/ post; Job # 22703
Shipment to: Stephanie Neely, Little Walnut Creek Library, 835 West Rundberg Lane, Austin, 78755,
512/836-8976

Dear Ms. Howard:

We have ordered the above-referenced marker for casting. It is currently taking 6 - 8 weeks for delivery from the foundry. **However, this is just an estimate; a final shipment date will depend on the foundry's workload.** A copy of the final inscription as it was sent to the foundry is enclosed for your files. According to our records, the marker should be shipped to the address above. If these instructions have changed during the marker process please let me know as soon as possible so that I may notify the foundry.

If you have not already done so, this would be a good time to begin planning the marker dedication ceremony. However, please avoid setting the dedication date until the marker is received. The estimated shipping date above does not take into account potential shipping problems or other unforeseen delays, and the best laid dedication plans could be upset if planned around this time estimate. We will notify you and all parties listed below once the marker has been shipped from the foundry.

A guide to planning a dedication ceremony is available from our office upon request. Since this is a state program, we suggest that your state senator and/or representative be included in the program, as well as your county judge and commissioners who have appointed your county historical commission. Also enclosed is a form which you may use to let us know your dedication plans; we maintain a list of all upcoming dedications which is distributed to agency commissioners and staff.

Again, please contact me at 512/463-6063 or e-mail me at egina.reyes@thc.state.tx.us if there has been a change in the shipping address, or if you would like a marker dedication guide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Egina G. Reyes".

Egina G. Reyes
Program Specialist
History Programs Division

pc: Sarah Cambpell
Brian Almon
Stephanie Neely

Egina Reyes

From: Egina Reyes
Sent: Thursday, June 09, 2005 10:01 AM
To: 'Scott Southwell'; 'Cathy Jones'
Subject: Shipping Change - Job # 22703

Date: June 9, 2005

Job #: 22703
County: Travis
Title: FISKVILLE

New Shipping Address:

Michael Abramov
Little Walnut Creek Library
835 West Rundberg Lane
Austin, TX 78758
512/836-8976

Thanks!

Egina G. Reyes
Program Specialist
History Programs Division
Texas Historical Commission
512/463-6063
512/475-3122 Fax
www.thc.state.tx.us

6/9/2005

Texas Historical Commission staff (LCH), 9/27/2004

18" x 28" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Travis County (Job #22703) Subject SM, GT, PI (Atlas 13095) UTM: 14 624894E 3359161N

Location: Austin, 8830 N Lamar

FISKVILLE

TWO AREA PIONEERS WERE JOSIAH FISK, WHO ARRIVED IN 1846, AND EDWARD ZIMMERMAN, WHO CAME IN 1854; BOTH BROUGHT THEIR FAMILIES TO THE FARMING LANDS OUTSIDE AUSTIN. ZIMMERMAN BECAME THE FIRST POSTMASTER IN 1873, WHEN MORE THAN 150 PEOPLE LIVED IN FISKVILLE, A DISPERSED AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY ALONG LITTLE WALNUT CREEK. MOST RESIDENTS WERE FARMERS, BUT THE SETTLEMENT ALSO SUPPORTED SEVERAL BUSINESSES. THESE INCLUDED GINS BELONGING TO G.W. CORZINE (CAZINE), A FORMER SLAVE, AND TO ANDREW PAYTON. THE COMMUNITY AND ITS SCHOOLS EVENTUALLY BECAME PART OF AUSTIN. THE FISKVILLE CEMETERY, ZIMMERMAN'S 1854 HOME AND AREA STREET NAMES SERVE AS LINKS TO THE EARLY FARMING SETTLEMENT.

(2005)



FISKVILLE

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the southwell co.

p. o. box 299 san antonio, tx 78291
ph. (210) 223-1831 fax (210) 223-8517

- ☒ approved (no corrections)
☐ approved as noted
☐ revise and resubmit

signed by: D/L

date: 6.13.05

PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN ONE (1) COPY.
FAILURE TO SIGN THIS PROOF WILL RESULT
IN RESUBMITTAL FOR YOUR SIGNATURE.

Thank You

CUSTOMER:

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

CAPITOL STATION

AUSTIN, TX 78711

SHIP TO:

MICHAEL ABRAMOV

LITTLE WALNUT CREEK LIBRARY

835 WEST RUNDBERG LANE

AUSTIN, TX 75758

18"



FISKVILLE

TWO AREA PIONEERS WERE JOSIAH FISK, WHO ARRIVED IN 1846, AND EDWARD ZIMMERMAN, WHO CAME IN 1854; BOTH BROUGHT THEIR FAMILIES TO THE FARMING LANDS OUTSIDE AUSTIN. ZIMMERMAN BECAME THE FIRST POSTMASTER IN 1873, WHEN MORE THAN 150 PEOPLE LIVED IN FISKVILLE, A DISPERSED AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY ALONG LITTLE WALNUT CREEK. MOST RESIDENTS WERE FARMERS, BUT THE SETTLEMENT ALSO SUPPORTED SEVERAL BUSINESSES. THESE INCLUDED GINS BELONGING TO G.W. CORZINE (CAZINE), A FORMER SLAVE, AND TO ANDREW PAYTON. THE COMMUNITY AND ITS SCHOOLS EVENTUALLY BECAME PART OF AUSTIN. THE FISKVILLE CEMETERY, ZIMMERMAN'S 1854 HOME AND AREA STREET NAMES SERVE AS LINKS TO THE EARLY FARMING SETTLEMENT.

(2005)

2" POST

DESIGN A WITH POST

18" W X 28" H

SCALE: 3/16" = 1"

JOB #: 22703
COUNTY: TRAVIS
RE: FISKVILLE

FILE 22703.CDR
DATE
SUBMITTED: 6.10.05

DRAWN BY: MARI HERNANDEZ

QUANTITY: ONE (1)
MATERIAL: CAST ALUMINUM
FINISH: BLACK BACKGROUND
SIZE: 18" WIDE X 28" HIGH
BORDER: SINGLE LINE
LETTERS: RIBBON (TEXT) & RUNIC (TITLE)

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Telephone & Work Log for Linda Henderson

Salutation		7/15/2005	4:07 PM	Phone	210/690-4884
Name/Title	William McGarry			Fax	
Organization				Cell	
Address				Email	
City/St/Zip		TX		☐ LEFT MESSAGE	

Project County

Regarding

Travis County	Fiskville marker
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☐ RTHL ☐ marker ☐ replacement ☐ revision ☐ supplemental plaque

Find & Sort
Needs Action

They Did Voice Mail

Needs Action

Find Mode

I Did Call

Action Time

Job # Priority ☐ *Urgent ☐ **High ☐ *Medium ☐ Low ☐ Radar

Notes he wrote the narrative history and wanted me to read the text to him. i also gave him contact info for CHC and others, because he wants to attend the dedication and invite lots of family and friends.

RECORD # 1

512/475-3122 fax
linda.henderson@thc.state.tx.us

From: Bill McGarry [mailto:b.mcgarry@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Wednesday, July 20, 2005 11:53 AM
To: Linda Henderson
Subject: Fiskville marker text

Hi Linda

It was great talking to you a few days ago about the Fiskville marker. Could you please email the text you read.

Thank you very much

Bill McGarry

7/21/2005

Linda Henderson

From: Linda Henderson
Sent: Thursday, July 21, 2005 3:33 PM
To: 'Bill McGarry'
Subject: RE: Fiskville marker text

Bill,

I've pasted the text below for the Fiskville marker. Note it won't look exactly like this—the foundry breaks the lines a little differently. Please let me know if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Linda

Travis County (Job #22703) Subject SM, GT, PI (Atlas 13095) UTM: 14 624894E 3359161N
Location: Austin, 8830 N Lamar

FISKVILLE

TWO AREA PIONEERS WERE JOSIAH FISK, WHO ARRIVED IN 1846, AND EDWARD ZIMMERMAN, WHO CAME IN 1854; BOTH BROUGHT THEIR FAMILIES TO THE FARMING LANDS OUTSIDE AUSTIN. ZIMMERMAN BECAME THE FIRST POSTMASTER IN 1873, WHEN MORE THAN 150 PEOPLE LIVED IN FISKVILLE, A DISPERSED AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY ALONG LITTLE WALNUT CREEK. MOST RESIDENTS WERE FARMERS, BUT THE SETTLEMENT ALSO SUPPORTED SEVERAL BUSINESSES. THESE INCLUDED GINS BELONGING TO G.W. CORZINE (CAZINE), A FORMER SLAVE, AND TO ANDREW PAYTON. THE COMMUNITY AND ITS SCHOOLS EVENTUALLY BECAME PART OF AUSTIN. THE FISKVILLE CEMETERY, ZIMMERMAN'S 1854 HOME AND AREA STREET NAMES SERVE AS LINKS TO THE EARLY FARMING SETTLEMENT.

(2005)

Linda Henderson, Historian
History Programs Division
Texas Historical Commission
PO Box 12276
Austin, Texas 78711-2276
512/463-5851 phone

7/21/2005