

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker without post
for attachment to wood siding
Jefferson County (Order #6155)
Location: 575 Magnolia Avenue, Beaumont

THE CLUBHOUSE*
THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF BEAUMONT*

EARLY MEETINGS OF THE WOMAN'S READING CLUB, NOW
THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF BEAUMONT, WERE CONDUCTED IN
AREA HOMES, CHURCHES, AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS UNTIL 1909,
WHEN THIS TWO-STORY FRAME CLUBHOUSE WAS BUILT.
CONSTRUCTED DURING THE PRESIDENCIES OF MRS. JOHN B.
GOODHUE AND MRS. J. L. CUNNINGHAM, IT WAS DESIGNED BY
C. C. McDONALD. T. W. THAMES SERVED AS THE CONTRACTOR.
BECAUSE OF THE CLUB'S INTEREST IN PROMOTING THE
DEVELOPMENT OF AREA LIBRARIES, INTERIOR SPACE WAS
PROVIDED FOR CULTURAL COLLECTIONS. AN AUDITORIUM AND
STAGE WERE ALSO INCLUDED. ONE OF THE EARLIEST MEETING
HALLS IN THE AREA, IT WAS SHARED WITH A VARIETY OF
COMMUNITY GROUPS. THE FIRST CIVIC FUNCTION HERE WAS
THE 1909 BANQUET OF THE OIL PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION.
INTERIOR FURNISHINGS INCLUDE FOUR GRAND PIANOS FOR USE
BY THE CLUB'S PIANO ENSEMBLE, ORGANIZED IN 1932.
DURING WORLD WARS I AND II, THE CLUBHOUSE WAS USED
FOR RED CROSS ACTIVITIES. MEMBERS CONTRIBUTED TO THE
WAR EFFORT BY MAKING BANDAGES AND BY CONDUCTING
COLLECTION DRIVES FOR SUPPLIES. THE BUILDING HAS ALSO
BEEN USED FOR CIVIL DEFENSE CLASSES AND AS A RELIEF
SHELTER FOR VICTIMS OF AREA DISASTERS. **

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

(1981) ***

Incise in base:
MRS. GILBERT T. (VIOLA JOSS) ADAMS - HISTORIAN
AND RESEARCHER

APPROVED
Trustt Latimer
By Clara Williams
6-8-81

APPLICATION FORM FOR OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
P. O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711

61551

A written history, signed by the author, must accompany this form before it will be accepted.

Jefferson County
County

11/21/80
Date

1. The Club House, The Woman's Club of Beaumont, TFWC
Title of marker
2. The Club House, The Woman's Club of Beaumont, TFWC
Name of building, cemetery, public square, park, archeological site, etc., where marker is to be placed.
3. 575 Magnolia Avenue, Beaumont, Texas 77701
Marker site (street address or highway number)
4. Beaumont, Texas
City or nearest city. If marker is to be placed on a highway or in a small community, you must briefly explain how to get there from nearest town shown on a Texas Highway Department road map. For example, "Marker will be in Bastrop Beach, which is 6 miles south-east of Angleton on FM 523."
5. Marker placed at right side of front entrance on covered veranda of the Club House
Distance (miles, yards, feet) and direction (north, south, east, west) of subject from marker site. For example, "Subject is 1/2 mile southwest of marker site." *1/2 mile south of I-10 highway*
6. The Woman's Club of Beaumont, TFWC, 575 Magnolia Avenue Beaumont, 77701
Owner of marker site Address City
7. Mrs. Gilbert T. (Viola Joss) Adams, 995 Thomas Road Beaumont, 77706
Sponsor of marker Address City
8. Mrs. Charles Benckenstein, Jr., 1005 23rd Street Beaumont, 77706
County chairman Address City
"I have reviewed the narrative for this marker and attest to its accuracy."
9. Mrs. Herbert Slade 575 Magnolia Avenue Beaumont, 77701
Person to whom marker is to be shipped Street Address City
Note: If marker is to be placed on a highway right-of-way, it will automatically be shipped to your district highway engineer.
10. To wood siding on right side of front entrance on covered veranda of Club House
Surface to which marker will be attached (i.e., wood, brick, stucco over stone) if not on post.

ORDER FORM

Please consult page 7 for specifications of the markers available. Check the items desired below. Then mail this application and narrative history, together with a check made payable to the Texas Historical Foundation, to the address above. No applications will be accepted unless payment is included.

If marker application is cancelled after the inscription is written, the Texas Historical Foundation will deduct the cost of writing the inscription from the refund.

HISTORICAL MARKERS

- 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar) \$175
- 16" x 12" building marker with post \$225
- 16" x 12" building marker without post \$175
- National Register plaque \$ 35
- 27" x 42" subject marker with post \$575
- 27" x 42" subject marker without post \$525
- 18" x 28" subject marker with post \$325
- 18" x 28" subject marker without post \$250

DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

- Please indicate quantity desired and location:
- 24" x 24" Historical Markers In City sign \$ 65
 - Black and white (for farm-to-market roads, state and U.S. highways)
 - Green and white (for interstate highways)
 - 18" x 22" Historical Marker in black and white only \$ 65
For city streets and county roads
 - with arrow pointing straight ahead
 - with arrow pointing left
 - with arrow pointing right

MARKER REPLICA PAPERWEIGHT

This item should be ordered at the same time marker is ordered. Indicate quantity desired. Allow six months from completion of marker for receipt of paperweight.

- 3" x 4" plastic paperweight mounted with replica of marker \$ 75

5% State sales tax must be added to above prices except if purchased by a tax exempt organization.

THE CLUB HOUSE

of

THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF BEAUMONT, TFWC

By Mrs. Gilbert T. (Viola Joss) Adams
995 Thomas Road, Beaumont, Texas 77706

When we preserve an important landmark of historic significance, we preserve its memory and inherent value - the most visible evidence of its cherished past.

Just such a local landmark of architectural and historic significance is the Club House of The Woman's Club of Beaumont, Texas, located at 575 Magnolia Avenue between Calder Avenue and McFaddin Streets and adjoining downtown Beaumont now officially designated as a historic area with its inclusion in the National Registrar of Historic Places.

The Club House of The Woman's Club of Beaumont is the oldest department club house in the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs in continuous use and maintenance since 1909.*

November 4, 1927, club minutes reflect that because The Woman's Club of Beaumont was the first club house owned and built by club members of Texas, request was made by the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs for a picture of the club house to be included in the December 1927 issue of "TFWC Federation News."

The President of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, Mrs. Harry Wagner, Jr., in letter dated February 2, 1978 to Mrs. Berbert Slade, president of The Woman's Club of Beaumont, stated: "Your club is unique! I do not know of any other club which owns four grand pianos - nor do I know of any other which can boast of ..trained pianists...There are few clubs which can claim as large a club house that was built for that purpose as early as 1909." (Documentation - Exhibit Book, page 51.

*This claim has not yet been confirmed by the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs. They are checking their records, C. Williams, 1/22/81

Building was underway and the cornerstones laid on February 1, 1909, when five determined and happy members of The Woman's Club of Beaumont began overseeing the construction of their long-dreamed for Club—House. The cornerstones read as follows:

1. "The Woman's Reading Club	2. "Organized	January	1895
Onward and Upward"	Federated TFWC		1899
	Federated GFWC		1901
	Chartered	March	1905
	Erected	February	1909"

(Documentation - Exhibit Book, page 7)

Plans for the building were drawn by C. C. McDonald, the architect, and the contract was given to T. W. Thames, the builder. Mrs. J. B. Goodhue was president of the club, and the building committee consisted of Mrs. Walter Crawford, Mrs. Julius Wilkerson, and Mrs. Howard N. Cole.

From "The History of The Woman's Reading Club" as it appeared in the Beaumont Journal, February 6, 1909, the following is quoted:

"On the 18th of January, 1895, at the home of Mrs. Hal Greer, who was then living on the river front, The Woman's Reading Club was organized. Miss Harriet Fisch Ferrand, now Mrs. Wallace McLeod of Los Angeles, was the first president and Mrs. Hal Greer, the vice president. The first constitution of the club was drawn up by Mrs. T. A. Lamb, Mrs. Florence Long, and Mrs. Greer.

"It has always been the hope of the club to have its own home, and in December, 1896, a Woman's Edition to the Beaumont Journal was issued to raise funds for this purpose.

"The necessity of having a centrally located club room is becoming more strongly felt, as it will enable the members to establish a library to which they can refer or data upon the varied subjects they wish to discuss and avoid the present inconvenience of searching individual libraries.

"Since this article was written, many changes have taken place, but through all the vicissitudes the aim for a club house and library has been the goal toward which all efforts were directed.

"From the proceeds of the edition of the Journal, the Club purchased a small lot on Liberty Avenue. Later this lot was sold and two lots on Magnolia Avenue were purchased.

"On March of 1905 the Club decided to incorporate under the laws of Texas and obtained their charter. In March 1908 the Club invited other clubs of the city to unite with it in forming a department club. The Shakespeare Club accepted its invitation, coming in as the Shakespeare Department; the Matinee Musical Club becoming the Music Department; and the former Woman's Reading Club taking the name of the Literary Department of The Woman's Reading Club.

"During the year the club sold one of its lots on Magnolia Avenue, and work has now begun on the Club House which has so long been the dream of its members.

"The club now has about seventy-five members, just two of whom, Mrs. Hal Greer and Mrs. T. A. Lamb, were charter members.

Mrs. Cole, Secretary"

(Documentation - Exhibit Book - pages 9-11)

One of the great incentives for the building of a club house was that the members could establish a permanent library for their programs and studies in literature, history, art, music, et cetera. The establishment of club libraries and school and city libraries was one of the first projects of the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs. Mrs. Cunningham, former club president, and Mrs. Hal Greer, founder of the club, were active in the encouragement of Captain Tyrrell to buy the beautiful First Baptist Church building on Pearl Street for the establishment of the Tyrrell Public Library..so needed in the community.

After the Club became a department club in 1908 and the membership increased to seventy-five, it became necessary to build a more convenient place to meet rather than in homes, churches and public places.

The Woman's Club of Beaumont was cited as the first department club of Texas Federation of Women's Clubs to build and maintain its own clubhouse with an auditorium, stage, dressing room, drawing room with one fire place, parlor, foyer, kitchen, et cetera. *

This claim has not yet been confirmed. *C. Williams*

1-22-81

4.

Architectural drawing of the floor plan of the club house shows the inside dimensions to measure 4699 square feet. The over-all structure covered by the roof, including gallery and south portico, measures 5784 square feet. The inside dimensions and square feet of each room are as follows:

Auditorium (Seating Space)	54' x 34'	1846 sq. ft.
Stage & Dressing Rooms	13' x 34'	442
Drawing Room	25' x 31'	775
Foyer	28' x 18'	504
Hall	26' x 10'	260
Side Entry, Toilet, Stairwell	19' x 12'	228
Kitchen	30' x 11'	330
Butler's Pantry	30' x 6'	180
Coat Room	12' x 8'	96
Toilet	6' x 8'	<u>48</u>
		4699

The building has 12' ceilings. The second floor (ball room-never finished) is partially floored and is presently used for storage. (Documentation - Exhibit Book - page 21).

The Club House is a large rectangular two-story frame building of clapboard siding. Timbers of cypress and pine were used because they were available in this area. The hipped roof with six gables overhangs all sides and a transom and side lights flank the double doors at the front entrance.

The Club House was built high enough from the ground that a cellar was dug to accommodate a coal burning furnace and large ducts were installed for heating purposes. This is now filled in and the house has central heating and air-conditioning throughout. (Documentation - Exhibit Book - pages 35-36)

5.

The building has been recently re-roofed and repainted. Security doors and windows of iron grill work have been added. The kitchen has been remodeled twice and appliances added. (Documentation - Exhibit Book, page 30) A partition was removed in 1965 between the foyer and the parlor, thus enlarging the foyer. (Documentation - Exhibit book, page 27). There have been very few changes made since the house was built.

The members of The Woman's Club of Beaumont have kept their Club-House in good condition and maintenance since it was built in 1909, and pride themselves in taking care of their obligations and needs. The Club's By-laws require the appointment of a House Committee with each administration.

The intensive decor and furnishings in the club house are in good taste, and are attractively arranged. A beautiful crystal chandelier hangs in the foyer and another in the drawing room...both gifts from club presidents.

The treasured original reproduction of Raphael's "The Transfiguration" now hanging in the Vatican, was a gift to the club. (Doc. Exhibit Book, page 39)

The etagere (originally a Chinese lamp) made from three types of wood from the State Capitol grounds in Austin (oak, pecan and persimmon) graces a corner in the foyer. (Doc. Exhibit Book, page 39)

The antique petticoat table, Chinese Chippendale chair, prayer rug, and coffee table were gifts from former presidents. (Doc. Exhibit Book, page 40)

The President's Gallery in the Foyer displays a brief history of all past presidents' administrations, together with a picture of all but two of the presidents. (Documentation - Exhibit book, page 40).

The brass wall plaque of Shakespeare is a treasure of considerable interest. (Documentation - Exhibit book - page 40)

The French cabinet containing the original five cups and saucers used when the founder of the club, Mrs. Hal Greer, called together the four ladies and organized the club are special treasures on display. (Documentation - Exhibit book - page 41).

The French and Colonial sofas and chairs are an addition of charm to the drawing room and foyer.

The four grand pianos are the pride of the club and the joy of the accomplished pianists who render performances throughout the year. (Documentation - Exhibit book - page 50).

The miniature piano collection, the doll collection, and the collection of the Museum and Antique Department are of general interest. (Documentation-Exhibit Book - pages 45-48).

The library collection has been a source of special pride since the early days of the club. (Documentation - Exhibit book - page 49).

Yearbooks date back to 1898 and are filed on the second floor. Also press books, journals and receipt books are filed on the second floor.

The Club's inventory of legal matters regarding ownership of property are stored in a strong box at the bank.

Copy of Warranty Deed from George Adams to The Woman's Reading Club of Beaumont, filed for record 15th day of April 1905, is in the Documentation Exhibit Book, page 55; as well as copy of Spanish grant from the Mexican government to Noah Tevis dated 26th January 1835 (in Spanish). (Documentation Exhibit book, page 58.). Also included are Index to Abstracts from the original grant to date - pages 61-66; and attorney's opinion that good and merchantable title is vested in The Woman's Club of Beaumont - page 74.

Dated list of the Owners of the land from sovereignty, with pertinent data is as follows:

1/26/1835 GRANT (in Spanish) - Mexican Government to Noah Tevis.
Recorded Deed Records, Jefferson County, Texas, Book C. page 193.

Translated copy filed April 10, 1890, Deed Records, Jefferson County, Texas, Book 2, page 252.

Selected remarks from grant in Abstract of Title:

"Application of Noah Tevis for admission to colony of Lorenzo de Zavalla, and for grant of land he is entitled to as such colonist dated 13th Dec. 1834...

"Report of Empressario, that said Tevis is one of the colonists introduced by him etc. dated 16th Dec 1834..

"The tract of land, surveyed for the colonist, Noah Tevis, is situated on the West Bank of the Neches River and contains one half league of land...

"Order to extend title, dated 16th Jany 1835...

"Title of possession; Geo. Antonio Nixon, Special Commissioner of the State of Coahuilla and Texasm to issue the title to Colonists of the Colony of Lorenzo de Zavalla."

12/1/1836 Nancy Tevis appointed Administratrix of the Estate of Noah Tevis, who died leaving a "vacant estate." Probate Minutes, Jefferson County, Texas, Book A, page 21.

3/7/1838 AGREEMENT - Nancy Tevis to Wm. H. Irion. Deed Records, Jefferson County, Texas, Vol. A., pages 107-8

Selected remarks from Agreement:

"Nancy Tevis and William H. Irion has claim to a certain parcel or location of land for their headrights which claim has been in dispute between the aforesaid parties lying and being on the bluff on the river Neches known as the Tevis Bluff where the ferry crosses said river and on which land the town of Beaumont has been laid out...

"...William H. Irion obligates himself..to make over by deed all right title interest and claim to the location and remove his own headright from said land.."

TRANSFER - Wm. H. Irion to Administratrix Estate of Noah Tevis. Deed Records, Jefferson County, Texas, Vol. B, page 220.

8/26/1839 PETITION FOR DIVISION OF ESTATE of Noah Tevis granted. Probate Records, Jefferson County, Texas. Vol. A, page 51.

11/2/1843 ORDER appointing Commissioners to make division of property to Noah Tevis heirs. Probate Records, Jefferson County, Texas, Vol. A., page 173.

11/27/1843 INSTRUMENT FOR PARTITION to Noah Tevis heirs giving 1576 acres to Mrs. Mary (Gilbert) Stephenson. Probate Records, Jefferson County, Texas, Vol. A 26, pages 133, 414.

10/30/1847 WARRANTY DEED - Gilbert and Mary Stephenson to Luanza Calder. Deed Records, Jefferson County, Texas, Vol J, page 251.

10/20/1887 DEED OF CONFIRMATION - "Heirs of Alexander Calder to Luanza Calder" as separate property of Luanza Calder. Deed Records, Jefferson County, Texas, Vol. 7, page 216.

2/28/1890 INDENTURE & DEED OF PARTITION - concerning a part of the Noah Tevis Survey known as Calder Addition to Beaumont. Deed Records, Jefferson County, Texas, Vol. 2, page 116.

- 6/23/1891 CONTRACT - Luanza Calder, et al (Beaumont Development Co.), to Stegner Investment Co. "for purpose of laying off, establishing..and erecting improvements (including 120 lots owned by Luanza Calder out of the Noah Tevis Survey of Calder Addition - to build electric street car line, hotel, drain, and put in sewerage, donate a park for town site, and build a water works and electric light plant." Deed Records, Jefferson County, Texas, Vol. 2, page 288.
- WILL of Luanza Calder dated 9/16/1879, filed 2/22/1892 Jefferson County, Texas, left property to her heirs. L. J. Hebert named Executor of will.
- WARRANTY DEED - Estate of Luanza Calder to Sarah Lou Herring's Heirs by executor. Deed Records, Jefferson County, Texas, Vol. 7, page 171.
- 9/21/1892 JUDGMENT - J. F. Lanier, Administrator of P. S. Watts Estate vs. Calder Herring, seizing all of the interest of Calder Herring (grandson of Luanza Calder) in Blocks 1 through 14, Block 4, of the Calder Addition to Beaumont. Deed Records, Jefferson County, Texas. Vol. 4, page 471.
- 4/4/1893 SHERIFF DEED - Calder Herring by Thomas H. Langham, Sheriff, to W. A. Ives - Block 1 through 14 of Block 4, Calder Addition to Beaumont. Deed Records, Jefferson County, Texas, Vol. 7, page 164.
- 5/16/1895 DECREE - Leon R. Levy, et als vs. The Stegner Investment Co. - judgment by default against defendent cancelling June 1891 contract.
- 7/17/1893 QUITCLAIM DEED - W. A. Ives to H. C. Herring (property acquired at Sheriff's sale April 4, 1893). Deed Records, Jefferson County, Texas. Vol. 7, page 168.
- 7/19/1893 DEED PARTITION - R. L. Herring, et al, to R. L. Herring, Lots 1 and 2, Block 4, Calder Addition to Beaumont, Vol. 9, page 265, Deed Records, Jefferson County, Texas.
- 7/13/1897 WARRANTY DEED - Robert L. Herring by L. J. Hebert, attorney, to S. K. Stone - Lots 1 and 2, Block 4, Calder Addition to Beaumont. Deed Records, Jefferson County, Texas, Vol. 14, page 526.
- 3/5/1902 WARRANTY DEED - S. K. Stone and Susan L. Stone to George Adams - Lots 1 & 2, Block 4, Calder Addition to Beaumont. Deed Records, Jefferson County, Texas, Vol. 59, page 109.
- 3/30/1905 WARRANTY DEED - GEORGE ADAMS TO WOMAN'S READING CLUB - Lots 1 & 2, Block 4, Calder Addition to Beaumont. Deed Records, Jefferson County, Texas, Vol. 28.
- 10/10/1908 WARRANTY DEED - Woman's Reading Club to Emily Nulle - North half of Lots 1 & 2, Block 4, Calder Addition. Deed Records, Jefferson County, Texas, Vol. ____, Page ____.

9.

ABSTRACTS COVERING FOREGOING TRANSACTIONS:

1. Unnumbered Abstract of Title containing 50 pages from Sovereignty to 7/27/01.
2. Supplemental Abstract - 6 pages - from 3/5/02 to 3/13/05.
3. Abstract No. 34,508 from 5/15/05 to 5/15/78.

Upon completion of the Club House in April, 1909, it became the center of cultural life in the city. Possessing the only auditorium with a stage, it was much in demand for community affairs. The first big event held in the auditorium was a banquet for the Oil Producers Association, served by club members..in April 1909.

January 17, 1911, the Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet was held in the clubhouse...served by club members.

The Club allowed use of the clubhouse by Music Teachers NORMAL mornings from September - December 1925.

In 1932 the Club's Piano Ensemble was organized. Since that time they have held an Annual Spring Concert open free to the public.

In March 1978 the Club's Art Department held at the clubhouse its 42nd Annual Sabine Area Art Exhibit, with exhibits by Artists covering eight counties.

The Club's service to the Community during World War I and World War II was outstanding, and the clubhouse was so taken up with war work that some club meetings had to be held in homes.

WORLD WAR I - 1914-1921:

The Club voted to "give the children of the City use of the clubhouse auditorium on Saturdays for a Story Hour." Members served refreshments and a member was the Story Teller. (Club minutes 11/7/14).

During the war years the Gulf Hurricane of 1915 brought another disaster, and Woman Club members 'arose to new heights as they ministered to victims crowded into the City. The clubhouse was converted into a hospital for refugee children crowded out of the hospitals in town. Cots and other facilities, hot food, medicines, and needed materials of all kinds were provided by club members as they became angels of mercy..cooking and serving meals to crying children and their frantic parents as the clubhouse became a haven for many days to the unfortunate refugees." (ROMANCE OF JEWELS - A History of The Woman's Club - by Gertrude Stagg Carruth)

8755

The Club membership assumed the sales of War Savings Stamps from eight booths. "The Club rooms were tendered the Red Cross for classes in Surgical Dressing..." Members made "5000 compresses in May (1918) which were used at Headquarters of Red Cross for samples of neatness and finish work; our membership gave liberally and worked faithfully in all war work..Red Cross Liberty Loans, Y.W.C.A. Canteens, Soldiers Recreational Service, Etc." (REPORT: THE WOMAN'S READING CLUB OF BEAUMONT, May 1918 to May 1919, Mrs. E. L. Bradley, President).

Club minutes reflect that at the January 5, 1918 meeting letter was read "thanking the Woman's Reading Club for use of their clubhouse for the Red Cross Benefit."

A Red Cross Surgical Dressing Unit was established at the Clubhouse... (Club minutes - 5/11/18). However, even before America entered the war, members worked regularly around the clock aiding the Red Cross by bandage rolling in its mission to war victims, and in Red Cross County Sewing Units.

In October 1918 the INFLUENZA BAN closed all meetings. The Club "offered the Clubhouse to the Mayor as a temporary hospital." (Club minutes - 10/5/1918).

WORLD WAR II - 1941-45

Five hundred Seventy Five women were registered as making 17,000 dressings, which were packed and shipped from the clubhouse during the months of July and August 1942. One hundred and fifty flags were made and used in the Red Cross drive. Members helped with the 10,800 Christmas boxes which were packed in our club rooms for shipment to soldiers overseas. (ROMANCE OF JEWELS - A History of The Woman's Club by Gertrude Stagg Carruth).

Minutes of The Woman's Club of Beaumont Reflect the Following:

- 3/1/40 Red Cross Sewing Group formed.
- 6/12/40 One day a week set to sew at clubhouse for Red Cross.
- 1/2/42 Club to "offer drawing room and auditorium of clubhouse to Red Cross.
- 10/2/42 Voted to serve breakfast for servicemen; also to make a donation to service men's Recreational Center.
- 6/5/43 Clubhouse again tendered Red Cross for making surgical dressings.
- 3/1/44 Clubhouse offered for Service Men's dance.
- 5/12/44 Arranged for weddings for service men.
- 6/9/44 Voted to grant request of Red Cross for use of Clubhouse for packing Christmas packages for soldiers; and that we make this a club project for the summer.

The Civil Defense Institute of 1958 sponsored by The Woman's Club of Beaumont was recognized by President Eisenhower, and cited in the Congressional Record (Appendix A 5324 - 6/11/58).

The Club has a full-time paid housekeeper.

The Club House of The Women's Club of Beaumont has been in continuous use, and has been a source of great pride to the membership since its erection, and has been admired by all who enter its portals.

Designed and built during the first decade of the famous Spindletop era by women of great cultural ideals and spiritual strength, The Club House of The Women's Club of Beaumont has shared its culture with our community through four generations of families and friends.

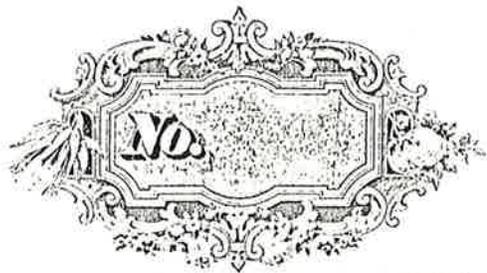
Texas Federation can be proud to honor it as the oldest clubhouse built by a departmental club in continuous use and maintenance. *

Mrs. Herbert Slade

MRS. HERBERT SLADE, President
The Woman's Club of Beaumont
1976-77

Mrs. Gilbert T. Adams
MRS. GILBERT T. (Viola Joss) ADAMS
Historian for Historical Markers

*This claim has not yet been confirmed by the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs. They are checking their records. C. Williams, 1/22/81



ABSTRACT OF TITLE

TO

Lots Nos 1 and 2 in block No. 4, of the Calder
Addition to the City of Beaumont.



PREPARED FOR Mr. Geo. Adams.

by the



JOHN H. BROOKS, PRES.

W. R. BLAIN, Secy.

KEITH BUILDING.

BEAUMONT, TEXAS.

Mexican Government

to

Noah Tevis.

(Grant.-- (In Spanish.)
 Dated 26th January 1835.
 Filed. 15th Jany 1839.
 Record Book C. Page 193
 Translated copy
 Filed 10th April 1890
 Record Book 2 page 282

--Description & Remarks. --

Application of Noah Tevis for admission to colony of Lorenzo de Zavalla, and for grant of land he is entitled to as such colonist dated 13th Dec 1834

Order of Commissioner, that Empresario of said colony, certify to above application dated 15th _____ 1834.

Report of Empresario, that said Tevis is one of the colonists introduced by him, etc, dated 16th Dec. 1834.

Decree and order or survey presented and admitted.

Commissioner directs Arthur Henrie to survey league of land as designated by said Tevis, dated 17th Dec. 1834.

Filed notes and surveyors reports, . The tract of land surveyed for the colonist, Noah Tevis, is situated on the West bank of the Neches River and contains one half league of land, the first corner was established below his dwelling house, for corner a pine 20 in in diameter bears North 40 deg. West 10.4 varas dist., thence West 6258 vars, second corner was established, thence North 1930 avrs 3rd corner was established, from which a water oak 12 insches in diameter brs north 84 deg. East 5.6 varas, dist, a hickory 9 in in diameter brs South 8 deg. East 3.2 varas, thence East 4840 vrs 4th corner was established, thence north 570 vars 5th cor. was established thence East 503 vrs and the 6th and last corner was established on the bank of Tevis Creek, from which Gum tree bears South 27 deg. West 1.6 vrs dist and a line 10 in in dia. bears South 64 deg. West 15.6 varas dist. thence following down said creek with its meanders to said Neches River, the meanders of which were like wise following down to intersect the first corner completing the half league, etc. dated 16 th Jany 1835.

Arthur Henrie.

Order to extend title, dated 16th Jany 1835.

Title of possession; Geo. Antonio Nixon, Special Commissioner of the state of Coahuilla and Texas to issue the title to Colonists of the Colony of Lorenzo de Zavala.

By virtue of the fact that said Noah Tevis has been admitted as a colonist of said colony, that he is married and has a family of 8 persons and is legally qualified under the law etc, in the name of the State does grant and transfer unto said Noah Tevis and place him in personal possession of one half league of land, it being all the vacant land found in the locality where he has his house and field on the west bank of the Neches River, the boundries thereof are described on the map and filed notes returned by the surveyor Arthur Henrie-as seen in these proceedings etc.

--Signed-- George Antonio Nixon. Commissioner

continued.

Republic of Texas.

County of Liberty.

to the Hon. Judge of the Municipality of Liberty. -

The petitionm of the subscribed humbly shows that Noah Tevis of the Municipality of Liberty, town of Beaumont, decd, on the 6th day of Dec. 1835, leaving a vacant estate and noperson authorized to administer the same. Your petition would further state that, the same is liable to waste and damage for the want of such person, Your petitioner is the widow of said Noah Tevis and as she is informed legally entitled to administer the same.

Wherefore, the premises considered, your petitioner prays you would authorize her to administer on the said estate and as in duty bound will ever pray.

Nancy Tevis.

Recorded Probate Minutes. A. Page 21.

Republic of Texas.
County of Liberty.

Know all men by these presents, that I, Wm Hardin Judge of the County of Liberty has this day and do hereby appoint Nancy Tevis Administratrix of the Estate of Noah Tevis decd. she hereby having fully power and authority to do nd perform any and all acts as Administratrix aforesaid according to law, she first giving bond and security as the law requires.

Done in the town of Liberty this 1st day of Dec. 1836.

Wm Hardin. Judge.

Recorded Minute Book. A. Page 21.

Nancy Tevis

-to-

Wm. H. Irion

Instrument-- Agreement
Dated-- March 7th. 1838
Filed-- April 18th. 1838
Recorded Vol A page 107-8
Consideration-- see below

"This agreement made and entered into this 7th day of March one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight between Wm H. Irion of the town of Beaumont County of Jefferson, Republic of Texas of the second part does covenant and agree for themselves their executors and assigns for the true and faithful condition in the penal sum of \$800 that whereas; the said Nancy Tevis and William H. Irion has claim to a certain parcel or location of land for their headrights which claim has been in dispute between the aforesaid parties lying and being on the bluff on the river Neches known as the Tevis Bluff where the ferry crosses said river and on which land the town of Beaumont has been laid out.

Therefore the said William H. Irion obligates himself his heirs and executors administrators and assigns to make over by deed all the right title interest and claim to the location and remove his own headright from said land whenever the said Nancy Tevis Administratrix of the estate of Noah Tevis shall make a good and lawful title in warranty to said William H Irion to certain lots of ground in the town of Beaumont to-wit:- (property not herein abstracted) and further more Henry Millard and Joseph Grigsby Proprietors with the said Nancy Tevis in said town do agree by these presents to make themselves parties to said contract and to relinquish to Mrs Nancy Tevis all such vacant lots for the purposes of enabling her to effect the above contract

(Signed) William H. Irion
Nancy Tevis
Henry Millard
Joseph Grigsby

Republic of Texas)
County of Jefferson)

Personally came before me John C. Read Dept County Recorder in and for the County of Jefferson the parties whose names are assigned to the above instrument and acknowledged signing the same and request the same to be admitted to record.

Given under my hand and seal this 7th day of March 1838
John C Read Dep C.R.

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Sale of lot To Apply on erection of club house

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Irby, Smith & Ives

Real Estate, Loans, Investments and Rental Agency

Rents Collected. Taxes Rendered
and Paid. Estates Managed, Etc.

REFERENCES

First National Bank of Beaumont, Texas
Gulf National Bank of Beaumont

100, 110 and 111 Threadneedle Court
Old Phone 734
New Phone 47

Oil Land, Rice and Pine Lands, City
Lots for Residence and Business
Lots for Stores and Factories
Improved and Unimproved Farm Lands
in Texas and Louisiana.
Homes Built in City and Sold on Easy
Payments
Prompt Attention Given to all Inquiries

BEAUMONT, TEXAS, Nov. 7-1903.

Woman's Reading Club,
City.

Ladies:-

We have finally closed up all details connected with sale of the North half of your two lots at corner of Magnolia Ave and McFaddin Avenue to Mrs. Emily Nulle (through Prof. Henry Tiedeman) for the sum of \$2750.00 cash, and beg to submit the following statement with our check for \$2005.10 to balance;

Oct. 13	Paid George H. Johnson balance on note secured by deed of trust, Principal \$550.00 interest 2 months from Aug. 14- to Nov. 14-03-\$10.00 - - - -	\$560.00
"	14 Paid County Clerk recording release deed of trust from Geo. H. Johnson and A. M. Britton, trustee, - -	1.00
"	17 Paid Texas Abstract Co for supplement to old abstract bringing title down to date - - - - -	5.00
"	21 Paid City taxes for year 1903 - - - - -	22.50
Nov. 4	Check issued for County taxes 1903- -	14.45
"	7 To our commission on sale, \$2750.00 @ 5% - -	137.50
"	" To our check on Gulf National bank enclosed to balance	<u>2005.10</u>
		\$ 2750.00

In connection with the above we herewith hand you the following documents:

- 1- Main abstract made by Jefferson County Abstract Co.
- 2- Supplemental abstract made by Texas Abstract Co.
- 3- Original note for \$2500.00 secured by deed of trust given Mrs. Frances H. Clarke, showing balance of \$560.00 paid to George H. Johnson the last owner of the note - - -
- 4- Release of the deed of trust from George H. Johnson and A.M.

W.R.C. # 2.

Britton to Womans Reading Club, which has been duly recorded.

- 5- Tax receipt for City taxes 1908.
- 6- Contract executed by Henry Tiedeman and Carl Nulle and wife, Emily Nully pertaining to construction of building on lot.
- 7- Copy of agreement made by Womans Reading Club to Mrs. Emily Nulle with reference to use of abstract when wanted.
- 8- Receipt from Texas Abst Co for making supplemental abstract.

The above list represents all vouchers and papers to be delivered to you in closing up the transaction with the exception of the receipt for County taxes year 1908 which can not be issued until Collector gets books ready to receive the taxes. The check for these taxes has been issued to the Collector and receipt will be issued early part of next week.

You will observe in the foregoing statement that we have charged you the regular full commission of 5% on the sale, amounting to \$137.50, but in this connection we herewith hand you our check for \$62.50 as a donation towards the fund for construction of your new building.

Trusting that the foregoing statement meets with your entire approval, and wishing your Club continued success and popularity, and most of all thanking you sincerely for your many courtesies in this transaction, we remain, Yours very respectfully,

Irby, Smith & Yes, Agents,

per W. P. Smith

STATE OF TEXAS,
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON

Whereas, by deed of conveyance of this date, the Woman's Reading Club of Beaumont, Texas conveyed to Mrs.

Emily Nulle, wife of Carl Nulle, the North half of lots One (1) and Two (2) in Block No. Four (4) of the Calder Addition to the City of Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas, located at the corner of Magnolia Avenue and McEaddin Avenue; and as a part of the consideration considered in the sale of said property, and as an inducement offered to said Woman's Reading Club to sell same, the said Mrs. Emily Nulle and Henry Tiedemann gave their assurance and obligated themselves that said property was being purchased for the purpose of building a musical studio thereon, and gave the assurance and obligated themselves that they would, within six (6) months after the execution of the deed of conveyance to said property, erect thereon a substantial structure for a music studio, which should cost not less than \$4000.00;

Now therefore, we, Mrs. Emily Nulle, joined by her husband, Carl Nulle, and Prof. Henry Tiedemann, in consideration of the premises, do hereby agree and obligate ourselves, jointly and severally, to erect upon said property a substantial structure for a music studio to cost not less than \$4000.00, and erect the same within Six (6) months from this date, said structure to have a front entrance on Magnolia Avenue.

Witness our hands at Beaumont, Texas, this 10th day of October, 1908.

Emily Nulle
Henry Tiedemann
Carl Nulle

STATE OF TEXAS,
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON

R. P. Lenth, a Notary
Before me.



FRONT (facing East)



SOUTH SIDE



BACK



NORTH SIDE



WOMEN'S CLUB OF PORT ARTHUR (RTHL)

