

ZONING CHANGE REVIEW SHEET

CASE NUMBER: C14H-07-0029

HLC DATE:

October 22, 2007

PC DATE:

November 13, 2007

APPLICANT: Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church; City of Austin

HISTORIC NAME: Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church

WATERSHED: Shoal Creek

ADDRESS OF PROPOSED ZONING CHANGE: 1725 W. 11th Street

ZONING FROM: SF-3-NP

TO: SF-3-H-NP

SUMMARY STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends the proposed zoning change from single family residence, neighborhood plan (SF-3-NP) district to single family residence – Historic, neighborhood plan (SF-3-H-NP) combining district zoning.

HISTORIC LANDMARK COMMISSION ACTION: Recommended the proposed zoning change from single family residence, neighborhood plan (SF-3-NP) district to single family residence – Historic, neighborhood plan (SF-3-H-NP) combining district zoning. Vote: 6-0 (Bunton and Hansen absent; Leary ill).

PLANNING COMMISSION ACTION: Recommended the proposed zoning change from single family residence, neighborhood plan (SF-3-NP) district to single family residence – Historic, neighborhood plan (SF-3-H-NP) combining district zoning. Vote: 8-0-1 (Sullivan abstaining).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church is contributing to the Clarksville National Register Historic District.

CITY COUNCIL DATE: December 6, 2007

ACTION:

ORDINANCE READINGS: 1ST 2ND 3RD

ORDINANCE NUMBER:

CASE MANAGER: Steve Sadowsky

PHONE: 974-6454

NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION: Clarksville Community Development Corporation, Old West Austin Neighborhood Association

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

The ca. 1935 Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church is an excellent example of vernacular African-American church architecture, and has formed the spiritual center of the Clarksville community since its inception.

Architecture:

One-story rectangular plan front-gabled frame church building with a central square bell tower with wood louvers; central recessed vestibule on plain square wood posts; 6:6 windows. Sweet Home epitomizes vernacular African-American church architecture of the early 20th century with central recessed entry flanked by twin bays. Many churches of this period also feature twin towers on either side of the entry; Sweet Home has a more restrained central tower. The building was constructed by Clarksville resident W.S. Edmerson, and is said to have been based upon the plans for the West Austin Baptist Church.

Historical Associations:

The present church building dates from 1935; however, the Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church congregation has existed since the inception of the Freedmen's community in Clarksville. Organized by Rev. Jacob Fontaine in 1877, the congregation first met in the home of Mary Smith at the Haskell House, and in a brush arbor. The congregation purchased this property in 1882; the current building is the fourth on the site. The congregation has been served by a number of significant pastors, including Rev. Jacob Fontaine, who established several Baptist congregations in Austin, united African-American Baptist leaders, and founded "The Gold Dollar," the city's first African-American newspaper; Rev. Horace J. Carrington sparked the 1960s movement to preserve Clarksville.

PARCEL NO.: 01110301070000

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The east 65 feet of the north 162.5 feet of Lot 1 and the northwest 62.5 feet x 162.5 feet of Lot 2, Block 14, Maas Addition

ANNUAL TAX ABATEMENT: Not applicable

APPRAISED VALUE: Not applicable

PRESENT USE: Church

CONDITION: Good

PRESENT OWNER

Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church
1725 W. 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78703

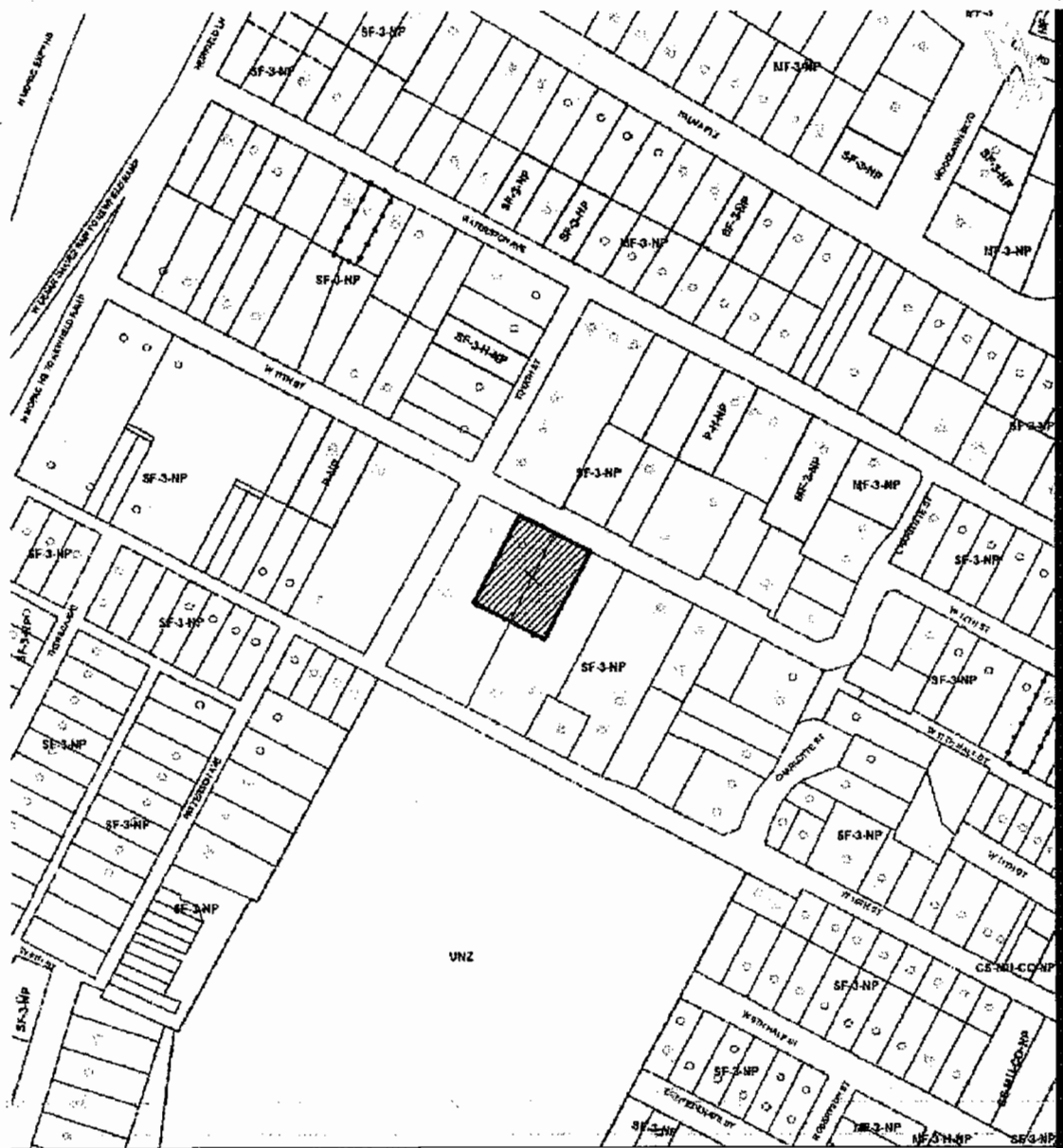
DATE BUILT: ca. 1935

ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS: Synthetic siding





ORIGINAL OWNER(S): Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church

OTHER HISTORICAL DESIGNATIONS: Contributing to the Clarksville National Register Historic District; site of the Clarksville Historical Marker

LOCATION MAP



HISTORIC ZONING

N   Subject Tract
 Zoning Boundary
 Pending Cases

ZONING CASE#: C14H-2007-0029
ADDRESS: 1725 W 11TH ST
SUBJECT AREA: 0.00 ACRES
GRID: H23 ..
MANAGER: S. SADOWSKY



1* = 200' OPERATOR: S MEEKS

This map has been produced by G. G. Services for the sole purpose of geospatial reference. No warranty is made by the City of Austin regarding specific accuracy or completeness.



SWEET HOME MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH
1725 W. 11TH STREET
CLARKSVILLE

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION (SUBDIVISION REFERENCE OR METES AND BOUNDS):

10a. LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The East 65 feet of the North 162.5 feet of Lot 1 and the NW 62.5 feet x 162.5 feet of Lot 2, Block 14, Maas Addition
PARCEL NUMBER: 0111030107
10b. METES AND BOUNDS (Attach two copies of certified field notes if subdivision reference is not available or zoning includes partial lots)

DEED REFERENCE CONVEYING PROPERTY TO PRESENT OWNER

11. VOLUME: 5531 **PAGE:** 1877 (1976)

OTHER PROVISIONS:

12. IS PROPERTY IN A ZONING COMBINING DISTRICT / OVERLAY ZONE? YES
TYPE OF COMBINING DIST/OVERLAY ZONE (NCCD, NP, etc) NP
13. LOCATED IN A LOCAL OR NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES
14. IS A TIA REQUIRED? NO (NOT REQUIRED IF BASE ZONING IS NOT CHANGING)
TRIPS PER DAY:
TRAFFIC SERIAL ZONE(S):

OWNERSHIP TYPE:

15. ☒ SOLE ☐ COMMUNITY PROPERTY ☐ PARTNERSHIP ☐ CORPORATION ☐ TRUST

If ownership is other than sole or community property, list individuals/partners/principals below or attach separate sheet.

OWNER INFORMATION: N/A – Being filed by the City of Austin

16. OWNER CONTACT INFORMATION

SIGNATURE: *see below* **NAME:**
FIRM NAME: **TELEPHONE NUMBER:**
STREET ADDRESS:
CITY: **STATE:** **ZIP CODE:**
EMAIL ADDRESS:

AGENT INFORMATION (IF APPLICABLE):

17. AGENT CONTACT INFORMATION

SIGNATURE: *Steve Sadowsky* **NAME:** Steve Sadowsky, Historic Preservation Officer
FIRM NAME: CITY OF AUSTIN **TELEPHONE NUMBER:** 512-974-6454
STREET ADDRESS: 505 Barton Springs Road
CITY: Austin **STATE:** Texas **ZIP CODE:** 78704
CONTACT PERSON: **TELEPHONE NUMBER:**
EMAIL ADDRESS:

DEPARTMENTAL USE ONLY:

D. SUBMITTAL VERIFICATION AND INSPECTION AUTHORIZATION

SUBMITTAL VERIFICATION

My signature attests to the fact that the attached application package is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I understand that proper City staff review of this application is dependent upon the accuracy of the information provided and that any inaccurate or inadequate information provided by me/my firm/etc., may delay the proper review of this application.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NAME BELOW SIGNATURE AND
INDICATE FIRM REPRESENTED, IF APPLICABLE.

Steve Sadowsky 10-4-07
Signature Date

STEVE SADOWSKY
Name (Typed or Printed)

CITY OF AUSTIN
Firm (If applicable)

INSPECTION AUTHORIZATION

As owner or authorized agent, my signature authorizes staff to visit and inspect the property for which this application is being submitted.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT NAME BELOW SIGNATURE AND
INDICATE FIRM REPRESENTED, IF APPLICABLE.

Steve Sadowsky _____
Signature Date

STEVE SADOWSKY
Name (Typed or Printed)

CITY OF AUSTIN
Firm (If applicable)

E. ACKNOWLEDGMENT FORM

concerning
Subdivision Plat Notes, Deed Restrictions,
Restrictive Covenants
and / or
Zoning Conditional Overlays

I, STEVE SADDOWSKY have checked for subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions,
(Print name of applicant)

restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays prohibiting certain uses and/or requiring certain development restrictions i.e. height, access, screening etc. on this property, located at

1725 W. 11th ST.
(Address or Legal Description)

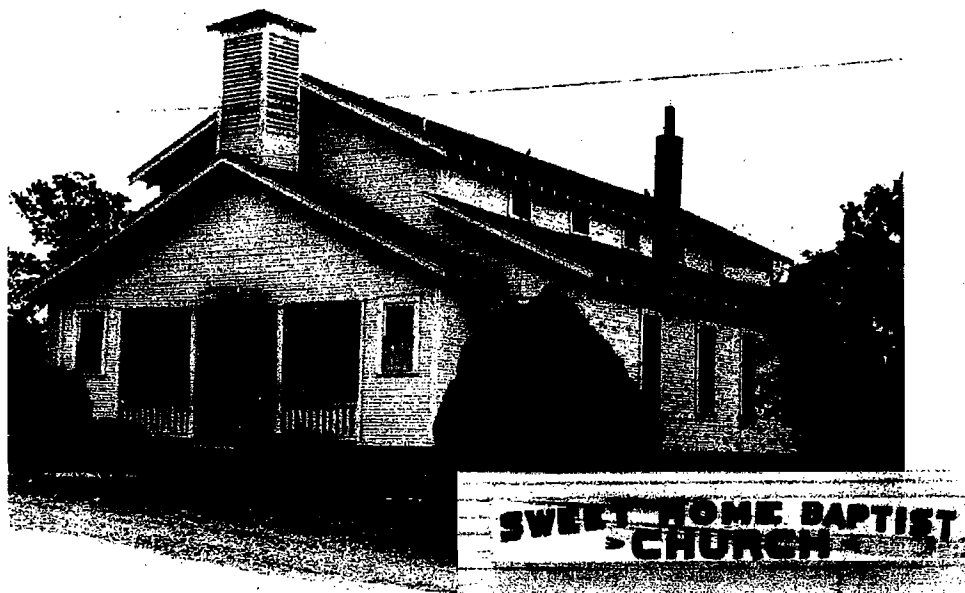
If a conflict should result with the request I am submitting to the City of Austin due to subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays it will be my responsibility to resolve it. I also acknowledge that I understand the implications of use and/or development restrictions that are a result of a subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlays.

I understand that if requested, I must provide copies of any and all subdivision plat notes, deed restrictions, restrictive covenants and/or zoning conditional overlay information which may apply to this property.

Steve Sadowsky
(Applicant's signature)

10-4-07
(Date)

[16]

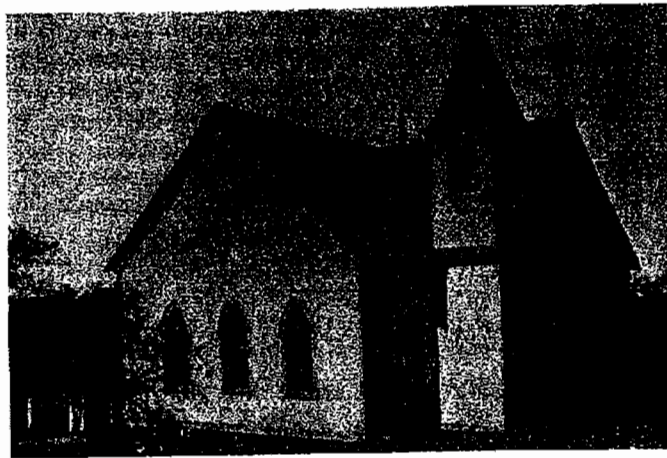


Austin History Center ★ Austin Public Library

[17]



CLARKSVILLE SCHOOL TWELVE YEARS AGO (1957)



Sweethome in 1925

12. SWEETHOME MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

The church was organized in the Haskell Homestead and the property where the present building sits was bought on July 1, 1882. Services were at first held in a brush arbor and later moved inside the first church that was built in the 1880's. The present building, the third, was built in 1935 by Clarksville resident W. S. Edmerson.

THE HANDBOOK OF TEXAS Online

[return to handbook view](#)

CLARKSVILLE, TEXAS (Travis County). Clarksville is just northeast of the intersection of the Missouri Pacific Railroad and West Tenth Street in west Austin, Travis County. The land, containing streams and steep hills, had previously been part of a plantation owned by Governor Elisha M. Pease.^{qv} It is said that Pease gave the land to his emancipated slaves with the vain hope that they would remain near his mansion and be available for further service. Clarksville was founded in 1871 by Charles Clark, a freedman who changed his name from Charles Griffin after emancipation. Clark bought two acres of land from Confederate general and former Austin mayor Nathan G. Shelley^{qv} and built a house on what is now West Tenth Street. He subdivided his land among other freedmen to start a community outside of Austin. Despite its isolation Clarksville came within the jurisdiction of Austin early in its history. Early Clarksville has been described by its older residents as a wilderness broken by an occasional dirt road and train tracks laid by the International-Great Northern Railroad in the 1870s. The Sweet Home Baptist Church served as the community meeting center. The church was organized in the home of Mary Smith on the Haskell homestead sometime before 1882, when the congregation purchased land on which to build a church. Rev. Jacob Fontaine^{qv} served as the first minister. Elias Mayes,^{qv} a black state legislator from Grimes and Brazos counties in the Sixteenth and Twenty-first legislatures, lived in Clarksville as early as 1875. He built a home on land purchased from Charles Clark in 1884. Many Clarksville residents worked in the cotton industry or farmed; others held jobs in surrounding communities. Leroy Robertson owned and operated a community store. In 1896 a school at Clarksville had an enrollment of forty-seven. In 1917 a new one-room schoolhouse was built and named Clarksville Colored School. It offered six grades.

Early in the twentieth century developers began to realize the land value of Clarksville, which lay near growing downtown Austin. Austin city policy aimed to concentrate the local black population in the east, and pressured black communities in west Austin, such as Clarksville and Wheatsville, to move. In 1918 the Austin school board closed the Clarksville school. Clarksville residents were later forced to use city services in east Austin or none at all. The 1928 master plan of the city of Austin recommended "that all the facilities and conveniences be provided the Negroes in this district, as an incentive to draw the Negro population to this area." Most Clarksville residents endured the lack of services, however, and refused to move. The community did experience two small emigrations to California, the first during World War I^{qv} and the second in 1943. Clarksville maintained its school, which enrolled sixty-nine students in 1924, sixty-six in 1934, and seventy in 1940. Sometime in the 1960s the school building was moved to O. Henry Junior High School. The Sweet Home Baptist Church was rebuilt for a third time in 1935.

Until 1930 Clarksville residents used kerosene lamps, and the community remained surrounded by woods. In later years Clarksville began to feel the pressure of Austin's expanding white community, which filled the surrounding area with spacious, middle-class homes. In 1968 Clarksville residents unsuccessfully protested a state and local plan to build a highway along the Missouri Pacific Railroad, which extended along the western boundary of Clarksville. The completed MoPac Expressway cut through the community, causing twenty-six families to be

relocated. Twenty-three families left of their own accord. The number of homes in Clarksville decreased from 162 in 1970 to less than 100 in 1976.

Residents of Clarksville began requesting Austin city funds for the improvement and preservation of their community in 1964, but dirt streets crossed the area until 1975, and a creek carrying sewage periodically flooded homes. In 1975 the Texas Historical Commission^{qv} designated a two-block-wide strip of Clarksville as a historic district, and the city paved the streets with asphalt. In 1976 the Austin City Council approved the use of \$100,000 from a federal housing and community-development grant to pave streets permanently, improve drainage, and expand the playground in Clarksville. Another \$100,000 was designated for housing rehabilitation. The same year Clarksville residents and supporters defeated a plan to build a thoroughfare through the community connecting Interstate Highway 35 and the MoPac Expressway. The Clarksville Neighborhood Center, the third community center in Clarksville's history, opened in 1976 to provide information and referrals to community members. The center, remodeled from an old home with volunteer labor, also served as a base for community-improvement projects.

Land values in Clarksville rose with the municipal improvements, and in 1977 a development company began buying lots and building houses that attracted a young, predominantly middle-class white population to the community. Rent costs subsequently increased for the older residents. The Clarksville Community Development Corporation, formed in 1978, worked to establish community services and low-cost housing in the area to retain its black population and promote the return of former residents.

Historical markers stand outside the Sweet Home Baptist Church and the Clarksville Community Center. Some historic buildings, such as the Haskell homestead, have been restored. Clarksville was included in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Betty Fine et al., *Clarksville* (Corpus Christi: Mission Press, 1969). John Henneberger, *Clarksville: A Short History and Historic Tour* (Austin: Clarksville Community Development Corporation, 1978). Jennifer Sharpe, *Clarksville: Whose Community?* (Austin: Bread and Roses, 1982). Vertical Files, Barker Texas History Center, University of Texas at Austin.

Nolan Thompson

The following, adapted from the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 15th edition, is the preferred citation for this article.

Handbook of Texas Online, s.v. "," <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/CC/hpc1.html> (accessed October 4, 2007).

(NOTE: "s.v." stands for sub verbo, "under the word.")

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ASSBU 41

A
HISTORICAL MARKER
FOR
CLARKSVILLE COMMUNITY
IN AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS

o o o

DEDICATION CEREMONIES
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1973

o o o

COLLECTED AND COMPILED
BY
MULKEY OWENS
MEMBER
TRAVIS COUNTY HISTORICAL
SURVEY COMMITTEE

o o o

Historical Marker Dedication Next Sunday

Black Church Honored

AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN, DECEMBER 9, 1973

By CANDY LOWRY,
Staff Writer

"Soon in the morning when I
'rise,
Soon in the morning when I
'rise,
Soon in the morning when I
'rise,
Give me Jesus,"

Was one of the many hymns sung each Sunday morning in the 1890's on the wooden porch of the Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church at 1725 W. 11th St., in the Clarksville settlement.

The church, rebuilt for the fourth time in 1935, is standing and operative — still the "sweet corporation where all people live for and with each other."

The edifice is a landmark in the only Austin black community existing west of IH 35, and its historical significance will be commemorated at a Texas Historical Survey Committee dedication to be held at the church, Sunday, Dec. 16, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Among those attending the ceremony will be Rev. Jacob Fontaine III, whose grandfather and namesake not only founded the First Black Baptist Church in the city, but was also the first minister at the Clarksville church.

"Religion was very important to the first freed slave settlers in Clarksville," said Dr. Reynell Parkins, a University of Texas professor who helped assemble a history on the settlement.

"People then knew they could survive the blows of life if they looked down the road, a road that would eventually lead them to heaven," he said.

Consequently, the name "Sweet Home" was chosen



Staff Photo by Ray Cobb

REV. FONTAINE, LEFT, REV. SOUTHERLAND, DR. REYNELL PARKINS
They discuss dedication ceremony of Sweet Home Church

for the church as a reflection of the faith binding the people together.

The building also served as a community meeting place, and the church itself was the focal point of the unity of the people, and the faith that provided the source of strength in their daily lives.

Presiding at next Sunday's dedication ceremony will be Rev. W. B. Southerland, who has been the pastor of Sweet Home for the last two years.

He is especially proud of his community and the awareness its residents have of its historical importance.

"We are a sleeping giant that has finally awakened to discover ourselves and our history — and the fact that it must be preserved and restored for our children," he said.

The very existence of Clarksville, which was founded by freed slaves shortly after the Civil War, has been threatened by a projected cross-town expressway slated to pass directly through it.

However, according to Rev. Southerland, this expressway plan is now a "dead" project. However, he fears that the dead issue might be like the boy downed in a fight — the boy who said, "I quit, but if you let me up again, I'll hit you," if community members do not continue to demand the preservation of their settlement.

"Rev. H. J. Carrington, the late and oldest living member of the Sweet Home Church began the movement to save Clarksville," said Southerland. "He didn't want to see the old folks who'd

lived here for years moved. He always said, 'it would be the last nail in the coffin for them — that they ought to be left in Clarksville in peace — in homes they'd known for a lifetime.'"

It looks as though Carrington's dream may come true. Certainly the dedication of the Sweet Home Church is a step in the right direction.

Its preservation will ensure Clarksville residents that each Sunday they will continue to hear hymns sung, like they were over 100 years ago, from the church's wooden porch.

Hymns like —
"Dark midnight was my cry,
Dark midnight was my cry,
Dark midnight was my cry,
Give me Jesus."

THE TRIBUNE, Thursday, December 13, 1973

Volume 4, Number 19



Sweet Home Church Sets Dedication Ceremony

THE TRIBUNE, DECEMBER 13, 1973

by Kirk Croucher

"Let there be Peace on earth, and let it begin with me..."

These words herald the cordial invitation of the assembly of the Clarksville Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church Community Center to their friends within the Austin area to attend the celebration, dedication and commemoration of this center as an outstanding achievement in Christian leadership and community inspiration under the guidance of the Reverend Willard B. Southerland, pastor, as a lasting example to the present and future members of our community upon the home-site, 1013 West Lynn, Austin, December 16, 1973.

The announcement and presentation of this fine work, the organized efforts of many, will be recognized in fellow-

ship of the structure as a living historical landmark, commemoration in memory of the founding fathers in the community center, through the pastoral direction of the late Reverend H. J. Carrington.

Welcoming of the guests by the Reverend Israel J. Fontaine III, Dr. Reynell Parkins, master of ceremonies, and Dr. Emma Lou Linn, County Chairman of the Travis County Historical Committee, will be highlighted by the special music of the Royal Lights Singers, under the directorship of Theo Thompson.

Introduction and recognition of honored guests by the Hon. Berl Handcox, Austin City Councilman, will include presentation of the Honorable Benjamin May and descendants of early settlers of Clarksville.

The commemoration ceremonies will be respectfully

enjoined with a scroll presentation to the congregation by the Board of Deacons, Squire Johnson, acting chairman.

The Honorable William P. Hobby, Lieutenant Governor of Texas, will give the dedicatory address, followed by the unveiling and reading of the permanent Texas historical marker by Mrs. Pauline Brown, Mrs. H. J. Carrington and Lambuth Fontaine.

The combined chapel choirs of St. Luke's Methodist Church and the Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church carry the day's activities into the benediction by the Reverend Wilson Wade, Pastor of the St. Luke's Methodist Church.

Ladies of Sweet Home will be joined by St. Luke's ladies in hosting a reception in the church basement following the dedication celebration assembly.



December 14, 1973

The Austin Citizen



Participating Sunday in ceremonies to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Clarksville will be Squire Johnson, chairman of the board of deacons of Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church, Mrs. Mary Baylor, director of West Austin Neighborhood Community Center and Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby. A marker will be placed in front of the church, 1725 W. 11th, by the Travis County Historical Survey Committee. Dedication ceremonies will start at 3 p.m.

THE VILLAGER
DECEMBER 14, 1973
Page 4



EXCITED- Children of Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church gather around their new Official Texas Historical Marker with Pastor W. B. Southerland. Sweet Home Baptist Church is a landmark in the only Austin black community existing west of IH 35 and its historical significance will be commemorated at a Texas Historical Survey Committee dedication to be held at the church Sunday, Dec. 16, from 3 to 5 p.m.



YOUTH CHOIR MEMBERS are excited about their Historical Marker and their part on program with Sweet Home Choir.



LONGTIME SWEET HOME Members: Ms. Clara Stewart, Ms. Ura Carrington, the Willie Johnsons, Ms. Lenora May, the Richard Boldens, Ms. Mamie Harrison. Back row: Harold Blaine, John H. Allen, Squire Johnson, Emmett Jones.

SPECIAL DEDICATION COMMITTEE

Mrs. William B. Alderman, chairman, member, Travis County Historical Survey Committee; Mrs. Mary Freeman Baylor, director, West Austin Community Center; Mrs. Olive D. Brown, head librarian, Huston-Tillotson College; Mrs. Dorothy Hallman, chief clerk, Texas House of Representatives; Mrs. Rosemary Castleberry, Montopolis Community Center.

The TRAVIS COUNTY HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE is the volunteer arm of the TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION and TEXAS HISTORICAL FOUNDATION. Officers of TCHSC: Dr. Emma Lou Linn, chairman; Mulkey Owens, vice chairman; G. Harris Brush, Erik Stocker, Kilian Fehr, Jack Tisdale, Mrs. Milton McMurrey, Miss Ina Ray Smith, Mike Cox and Mrs. Herman P. Becker, treasurer.

CLARKSVILLE

HISTORIC BLACK NEIGHBORHOOD, SETTLED IN 1871 WHEN CHARLES CLARK, A FREEDMAN, BOUGHT TWO ACRES OF LAND ON PRESENT TENTH STREET; THIS FORMED THE NUCLEUS OF THE COMMUNITY THAT CLARK, ACCORDING TO TRADITION, WANTED TO START FOR HIS PEOPLE.

FOR YEARS CLARKSVILLE LAY IN A WILDERNESS ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF AUSTIN, CROSSED ONLY BY A FEW COUNTRY ROADS. GRADUALLY IT GREW INTO A CLOSELY KNIT VILLAGE, WITH ACTIVITIES CENTERING ON THE SWEET HOME BAPTIST CHURCH. AT FIRST MEMBERS MET IN THE HOME OF MRS. MARY SMITH. THEN, IN 1882, THEY PURCHASED THIS SITE.

RELIGIOUS FERVOR WAS STRONG IN THOSE DAYS, AND THE RESIDENTS OFTEN STOOD ON THEIR PORCHES AT DAWN TO BEGIN THE DAY WITH A HYMN. THE FIRST CHURCH BUILDING WAS ERECTED IN THE 1880s; PRESENT (FOURTH) ONE IN 1935.

AMONG CLARKSVILLE'S DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS WAS ELIAS HAYES, WHO SERVED IN THE TEXAS LEGISLATURE IN 1879 AND 1889. ONE OF THE FIRST MINISTERS OF SWEET HOME, THE REV. JACOB FONTAINE, WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN UNIFYING NEGRO BAPTIST CHURCHES IN AUSTIN AND STARTED THE FIRST NEGRO NEWSPAPER, "THE GOLD DOLLAR", IN THE CITY.

AS OF 1973, CLARKSVILLE ENCOMPASSED OVER 9 SQUARE BLOCKS, BOUNDED BY TENTH, WEST LYNN, AND WATERSTON STREETS AND THE MISSOURI-PACIFIC RAILROAD TRACKS. (1973)

Text prepared by the Texas Historical Commission Staff.

Honorable William P. Hobby, Lieutenant Governor of Texas: I understand there is only an hour of tape on this tape machine, so I'll cut my sermon down to about fifty minutes.

It is a great honor for me to be here this afternoon to join the distinguished citizens of Austin and of Texas in dedicating this historical marker to the Community of Clarksville. The presence of so many current residents and descendants of former residents of Clarksville is proof that the great abiding faith with which Clarksville was first created has not lessened with time.

In 1872, when Charles Clark settled in what became Clarksville, times were very different. Charles Clark had been a slave. Those he encouraged to settle around him had also been slaves. The establishment of Clarksville was largely an effort to create a home for the newly freed men and women and to give them the opportunity to direct their own lives with the support and encouragement of their friends.

The Civil War was only recently over and it is a tribute to the faith of man that these first residents of Clarksville believed so deeply in them-

selves and in their God that they could envision the creation of a new community based on hope and love. They set aside the dark memories of the past and looked only to a better future.

It's hard to believe that Clarksburg¹ was then on the outskirts of the City of Austin when we see how the city has enveloped it. It must have been very much like the Utopian communities of the philosophers - secluded, self-contained, but filled with life. Certainly the founding principle of Clarksville was the religious faith of it's people. The life of the community was deeply involved in Christian worship and fellowship, and it is not surprising that the residents soon organized the Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church. Life in the Sweet Home Church began when Mrs. Mary Smith started holding prayer meetings in her home. The land for the church was bought in 1882 for fifty dollars. The first church building was built in the 1880's with this - the fourth one to be built - was put up in 1935. The church was the center of community life. It was the instrument through which residents of Clarksville expressed their concern for each other and from which they drew their strength. They were baptized

here, married here, buried from here.

I wish we could be transported back in time so that we could stand here and listen as Mrs. Smith would step out on her porch and begin a hymn which would be rapidly picked up and carried throughout the community. What an inspiring way to begin that day a century ago.

The early residents of Clarksville distinguished themselves as have their descendants. They became respected citizens - recognized for hard work and honesty. They were loyal friends. They raised their offsprings to be like themselves. We've already heard of the accomplishments of Elias Mayes who was - had the dubious honor of being a member of the Legislature in 1879 and '89, and, of course, we've honored his son, Ben.

Life was not easy. Because they had been slaves, they had little education. They made most of their living by the use of their physical strength. Cotton pickers earned forty cents for a hundred pounds of cotton - seventy-five cents for going over the already picked bushes. They could pick about six hundred pounds a day. Often the whole family worked. The Carrington family, represented here today, as a whole made four-

teen dollars a week to support thirteen children.

People produced much of their own food and made their own cures. They raised chickens and hogs and kept milk cows on the property until a 1940 law outlawed all but the keeping of chickens. They canned and stored fruits and vegetables. They cured meat in their smokehouse.

For social life, the early settlers of Clarksville relied on quilting bees, picnics, baseball games, candy pulling parties. Annual Christmas parties were held on the Pease Estate for the children. People were proud of their homes and kept their lawns well manicured. Clarksville was a beautiful place in which to live.

It is proper that this historical marker be placed here at Sweet Home Baptist Church because the Church, from the first, was the symbol of the unity of these early settlers. The bible was read daily. Each life was dedicated to Christian living. Ministers of the Sweet Home Church have always been leaders in the community. The Rev. Jacob Fontaine was instrumental in unifying Austin Negro Baptist Churches and started the first Negro newspaper - The Gold Dollar. The Rev. J. H. ~~Warin~~ conducted his baptisms in Town Lake

or the Colorado River. The Rev. W. T. Holland helped to organize a day-care center in the Henry Harrison home in the late 1950's.

Clarksville's school was very important to the community. It linked the people to the rest of Austin through organized education, and was recognized in Travis County records for 1940. The school building was later moved to stand within O. Henry Junior High.

Today Clarksville comprises about nine square blocks bounded by Tenth, West Lynn, Waterson and the Mo-Pac tracks. The Community of Clarksville was and is unique in Texas history. It is proper that it be honored by this historical marker. It is also proper that all the people of this State should come to recognize the presence, within our borders, of this community which represents the courage, the faith, the hope, and the deeply-felt religion of the black people who have contributed so much to the success of this State and her people.

Thank you. (Applause).

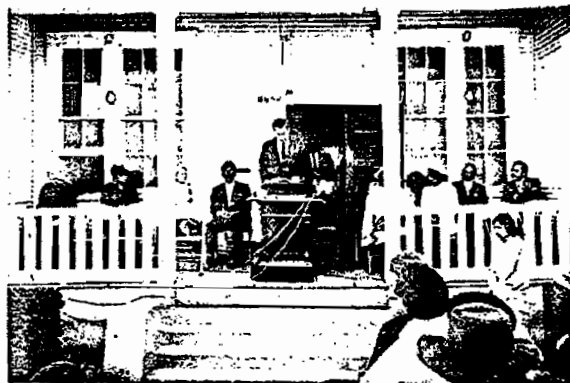
Dr. Parkins: Thank you, sir. At this time we'll ask Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Carrington and Mrs. Fontaine to do the unveiling and the reading of the marker. (Mrs. Brown, Mrs. Carrington and Mrs. Fontaine walked over and unveiled the marker). (Applause).



REV. ISRAEL J. FONTAINE, III, GIVING
THE INVOCATION AT THE DEDICATION OF
THE HISTORICAL MARKER FOR CLARKSVILLE



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR WILLIAM P. HOBBY
GIVING THE DEDICATORY ADDRESS FOR A
HISTORICAL MARKER FOR CLARKSVILLE.



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR WILLIAM P. HOBBY MAKING
THE DEDICATORY ADDRESS FOR THE CLARKSVILLE
HISTORICAL MARKER.



MRS. PAULINE BROWN READING THE TEXT ON THE
HISTORICAL MARKER.