

Montopolis Negro School/Church of Christ Timeline

circa 1891	School is established as Colorado School No. 34
1897-1903	St. Edwards Baptist Church moves to donated land at 408 Montopolis Drive. The new building is constructed out of recycled materials from the original building built in 1868.
ca 1891-1935	The school and church serve as important community centers and are used for civic functions such as annual Juneteenth celebrations, baseball games and BBQ's.
1935	The original one room school building located on Bastrop Highway is destroyed by a storm. When Travis County refuses to build a replacement school, St. Edward's Baptist Church donates 1.82 acres of land located next to the church on Montopolis Drive. An old Army barracks building from Camp Swift is procured to serve as a replacement school.
1952	City of Austin begins annexing Montopolis
November 1952	Colorado School District No. 36 transfers the school to the Austin Free Public Schools
1952-1955	The school building is renovated and supplied with new equipment and a new room is added to the building that serves as a classroom and lunchroom. The new room also has toilets and showers obviating the need for an outhouse.
1955	The Austin Free Public Schools opens Allison Elementary School
March 1962	Austin ISD (formerly the Austin Free Public Schools) officially ceases operating the Montopolis School
1963-1964	Instead of donating the school and land back to St. Edward's Baptist Church, Austin ISD places the Montopolis School up for auction and starts receiving bids
August 1967	Austin ISD accepts the bid of O.A. Willhoite for the school property. The winning bid was \$5,102.
December 1968	David Willhoite deeds the property to the Montopolis Church of Christ with Ross and David Willhoite as Trustees
November 1970	The City of Austin secures road easements through the property
January 1987	The City of Austin uses eminent domain to take the church property (Resolution Number 870122-03). The church moves to its present location at 702 Montopolis Drive. The old property, currently addressed as 400 Montopolis Dr. is now owned by David Willhoite with portions owned by Marion Sanchez.
August 1987	Ross and David Willhoite deed .740 acres of the original 1.82 acre tract to the City of Austin
1990	The City of Austin destroys St. Edward's Baptist Church
March 2015	David Willhoite sells property to KEEP Investment Group
2016-2017	The Montopolis community organizes and seeks historic landmarking for the school

St. Edward's Baptist Church is the oldest African-American Baptist congregation in Travis County!

The Austin City Council CONDEMNED the church to build a road, and then NEVER built the road!



Rev. Admiral DeWitty

870122-03

ST. EDWARDS BAPTIST CHURCH

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Austin has found that public necessity requires street improvements for the Grove Boulevard Improvement Project; and,

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City has found and determined that public necessity requires the acquisition of the hereinafter described tract of land for right-of-way to permit said street improvements; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Austin has negotiated with the owner of said land and has been unable to agree with such owner as to the fair cash market value thereof; Now, Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN:

That the City Manager be, and he is hereby authorized and directed to file or cause to be filed by the City Attorney against the owners, lessees, and lienholders, if any, a suit in eminent domain to acquire fee simple title to the hereinafter described tract of land for said Grove Boulevard Improvement Project, and to take whatever other actions deemed appropriate to economically effect needed right-of-way acquisition; said tract of land being more particularly described as follows:

All that certain tract, piece, or parcel of land lying and being situated in the County of Travis, State of Texas, described in EXHIBITS "A" and "B" attached hereto and made a part

hereof for all purposes, to which reference is here made for a more particular description of said property.

ADOPTED: January 22, 1987. ATTEST: James E. Aldridge
James E. Aldridge
City Clerk

22JAN87
RW:mtc
St. Edwards/CM1/COND2

EXHIBIT "A"

St. Edwards Baptist Church
to
The City of Austin
(For Street Purposes)
(Grove Boulevard)

FIELD NOTES

DESCRIPTION OF 0.428 OF AN ACRE, MORE OR LESS, OF LAND AREA IN THE SANTIAGO DEL VALLE GRANT IN AUSTIN, TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS BEING A PORTION OF THAT 1 ACRE TRACT OF LAND CONVEYED IN A DEED FROM SERENA DELONY TO ST. EDWARDS BAPTIST CHURCH DATED NOVEMBER 29, 1899 AND RECORDED IN VOLUME 163 PAGE 56 OF THE TRAVIS COUNTY DEED RECORDS, AND BEING A PORTION OF THAT 0.2 OF AN ACRE TRACT OF LAND RETAINED IN A DEED FROM ST. EDWARDS BAPTIST CHURCH DATED MARCH 12, 1935 AND RECORDED IN VOLUME 520 PAGE 380 OF THE TRAVIS COUNTY DEED RECORDS AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED BY METES AND BOUNDS AS FOLLOWS:

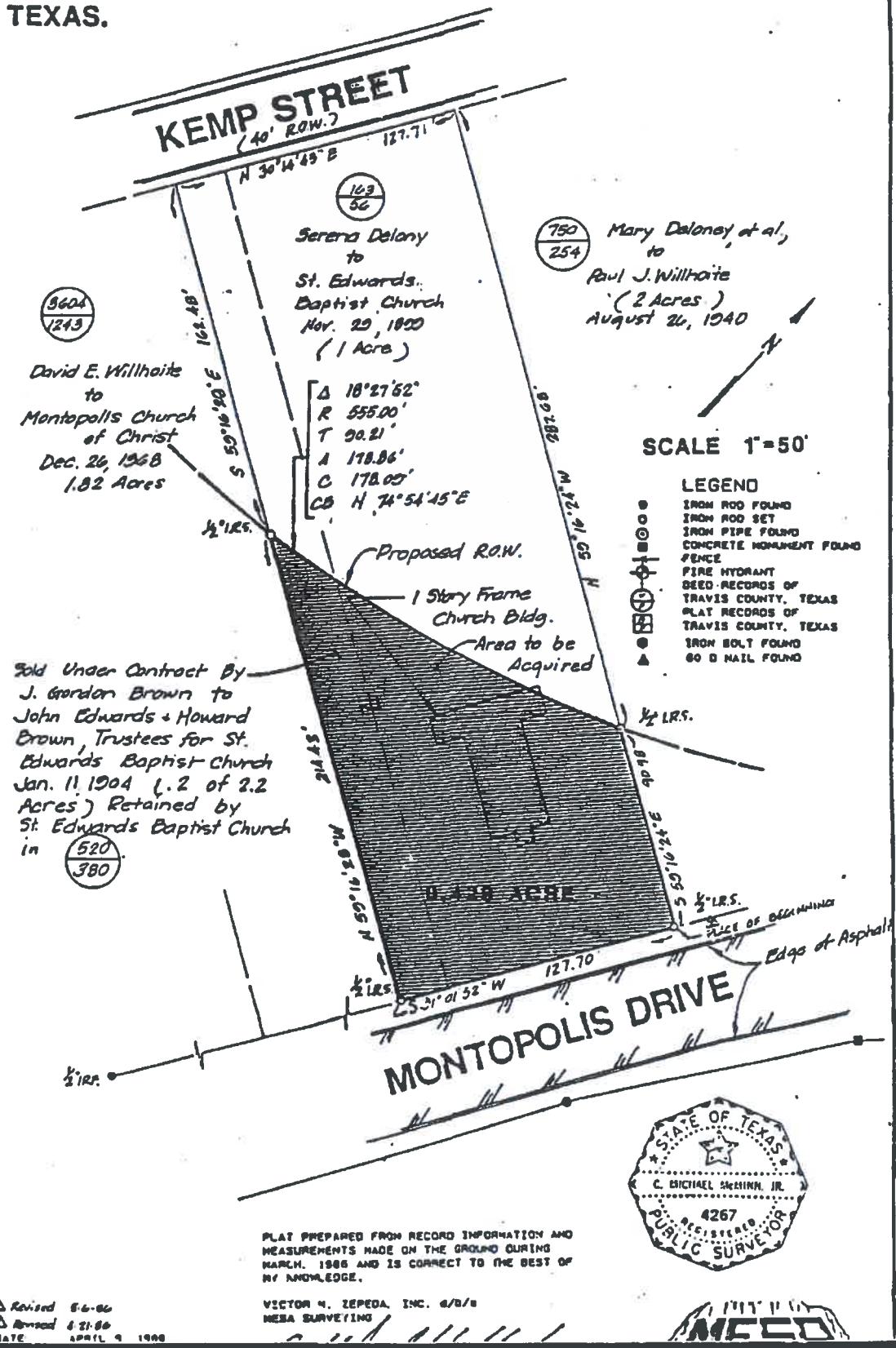
BEGINNING at a 1/2" rebar set on the existing northwest line of Montopolis Drive, for easterly corner of the aforementioned St. Edwards Baptist Church tracts, and for the southerly corner of that 2 acre tract of land conveyed in a deed from Mary Deloney, et al, to Paul J. Willhoite dated August 26, 1940 and recorded in Volume 750 Page 254 of the Travis County Deed Records, for the easterly corner of the herein described tract of land;

THENCE leaving the PLACE OF BEGINNING and the aforementioned Willhoite tract with the existing northwest line of Montopolis Drive S31° 01' 52"W 127.70 feet to a 1/2" rebar set for the southerly corner of the St. Edwards Baptist Church tracts, and for the easterly corner of that 1.82 acre tract of land conveyed in a deed from David E. Willhoite to Montopolis Church of Christ dated December 26, 1968 and recorded in Volume 3604 Page 1243 of the Travis County Deed Records, for the southerly corner of the herein described tract of land;

THENCE leaving Montopolis Drive with the common line of the St. Edwards Baptist Church tracts and the aforementioned Montopolis Church of Christ tract N59° 16' 28"W 214.43 feet to a 1/2" rebar set for the westerly corner of the herein described tract of land;

EXHIBIT "A"

THE SANTIAGO DEL VALLE GRANT, IN TRAVIS COUNTY,
TEXAS.



Acquisition Map

EXHIBIT "D"
EXHIBIT "B"

