

**APPLICATION FORM FOR OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER**

**Texas Historical Commission  
Research and Markers Department  
P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711**

Title of marker (subject to revision by THC staff) Trail Drivers Park		
Marker location (street address or highway number; include name of cemetery, building, park, etc., if applicable; if on highway right-of-way or in a small community, briefly explain how to get there from the nearest town) Northeast 28th Street, 1700 block		
City or nearest city shown on Texas Highway Department road map Fort Worth	County Tarrant	
Distance and direction of subject from marker site For example, "Subject is 1/2 mile SW of marker site."	Surface to which marker will be attached (if not on post)	
Owner of marker site City of Fort Worth	Address 1000 Throckmorton	City, Zip Code Fort Worth, TX 76102
Sponsor of marker North Fort Worth Historical Society	Address 131 E. Exchange, #115	City, Zip Code Fort Worth 76106
Person to whom marker is to be shipped <i>Sue McCafferty</i> <i>NOTE: Freight companies cannot ship to route or box numbers. If street address is unavailable, please provide a phone number. If marker is to be placed on highway right-of-way, it will be shipped to your district highway engineer.</i>	Address Pres same as sponsor	City, Zip Code
Signature of County Chairman "I have reviewed the narrative for this marker and attest to its accuracy."	Address	City, Zip Code

Please consult the back of this page for specifications of the markers available. Check the items desired below. Approval of the application and narrative history *must* be obtained from the county historical commission, as indicated by the county chairman's signature on this form, before forwarding the material to the Texas Historical Commission. Please *do not* send payment if ordering subject or building markers; funds will be requested once the application has been approved by the State Marker Committee.

5% state sales tax must be added to the price, except if purchased by a tax-exempt organization.

**SUBJECT MARKERS**

- 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar) . . . . \$175 <sup>With tax</sup> \$183.75
- 27" x 42" subject marker with post . . . . . \$575 <sup>With tax</sup> \$603.75
- 27" x 42" subject marker without post . . . . . \$525 \$551.25
- 18" x 28" subject marker with post . . . . . \$325 \$341.25
- 18" x 28" subject marker without post . . . . . \$250 \$262.50
- I(We) request RTHL designation be considered for this marker.

**BUILDING MARKERS**

- 16" x 12" building marker with post . . . . . \$225 <sup>With tax</sup> \$236.25
- 16" x 12" building marker without post . . . . . \$175 \$183.75

Applications for building markers will automatically be considered for the RTHL designation. Please read carefully Texas Marker Policies 11 through 15, and indicate that you have done so by signing below.

*Sue McCafferty, Pres. N.F.W.H.S.*  
Signature of owner

**PAPERWEIGHTS**

Please indicate quantity desired.

- 3" x 4" plastic paperweight  
mounted with replica of marker . . . . . \$75 <sup>With tax</sup> \$78.75  
*Allow 2 months from completion of marker for receipt of paperweight.*
- Medallion paperweight . . . . . \$25 <sup>With tax</sup> \$26.25  
*Allows four lines of engraving; please indicate desired wording.*

**DIRECTIONAL SIGNS**

Please indicate quantity desired and give location(s) on form above:

- 24" x 24" Historical Markers In City sign . . . . . \$65 <sup>With tax</sup> \$68.25  
*These will be shipped to and placed on your town's city limits signs by the District Highway Engineer.*
- Black and White (for farm-to-market roads, state and U.S. highways)
- Green and White (for interstate highways)
- 18" x 22" Historical Marker directional sign . . . . . \$65 <sup>With tax</sup> \$68.25  
*In black and white only. For city and county roads. Applicant must supply post and be responsible for placement.*
- With arrow pointing straight ahead
- With arrow pointing left
- With arrow pointing right

**OTHER**

- National Register plaque . . . . . \$ 35 <sup>With tax</sup> \$ 36.75
- 12" x 6" supplemental plate . . . . . \$ 65 <sup>With tax</sup> \$ 68.25
- 16" x 12" building marker plate only (see policy 11) . . . \$110 <sup>With tax</sup> \$115.50
- Replacement medallion (see policy 11) . . . . . \$ 65 <sup>With tax</sup> \$ 68.25
- Bronze stars (for replacement on 1936 granite markers) . . . . . \$ 10 <sup>With tax</sup> \$ 10.50
- Bronze wreaths (for replacement on 1936 granite markers) . . . . . \$ 10 <sup>With tax</sup> \$ 10.50
- Bronze seals (for replacement on 1936 granite markers) . . . . . \$ 50 <sup>With tax</sup> \$ 52.50
- Bronze plates (for replacement on 1936 granite markers) . . . . . \$135 <sup>With tax</sup> \$141.75
- Certificates of commendation . . . . . 50¢ each





CURTIS TUNNELL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512)463-6100

DATE: August 28, 1991

RE: TRAIL DRIVERS PARK  
Tarrant County, Job #8430

Dear Applicant/County Historical Commission Chair:

In accordance with State Marker Policy #7, the above-mentioned application for an Official Texas Historical Marker has been terminated, and the application materials are being returned to the Tarrant County Historical Commission.

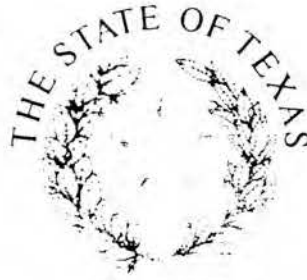
Should you wish to re-apply for a marker at a later date, please contact the staff of the Local History Programs office for information regarding State Marker Policies in effect at that time. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Beeman  
Historian  
Local History Programs (State Marker Program)

copies to: Joye K. Evetts, Tarrant CHC





CURTIS FUNNELL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Trail Drivers Park*

# TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512)463-6100

August 28, 1991

Joye K. Evetts, Marker Chair  
Tarrant County Historical Commission  
4404 Wedgemont Circle South  
Fort Worth, TX 76133

Dear Joye:

Thank you for your letter of August 22.

Enclosed is an official one-year extension for the "Ormer Leslie Locklear" application, as well as the official cancellations for the following:

DEVITT HOUSE  
ARNOLD GUERTLER HOUSE  
HARRIS HOUSE  
ZEBULON JENKINS HOUSE\*  
Site of MAJESTIC THEATRE  
WILLIAM B. MONNIG HOUSE  
TRAIL DRIVERS PARK

\* I need your assistance with one more matter, if you don't mind. According to our records, we have \$175.00 on account for the Zebulon Jenkins House application. The check was written by Clara E. Patrick, and her address in 1984 was Rt. 10, Box 96A, Fort Worth, 76135. Do you have any idea if she still lives there, or, if not, where we might contact her? We will need to obtain her social security number in order for the Comptroller to process a refund for the \$175.00. If we can't contact her at all, we'll have to begin the process of transferring the money to the state treasury. I'd appreciate any information you might be able to gather for me.

Thanks again for your quick response to my letter.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Beeman  
Historian  
Local History Programs





TARRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

August 22, 1991

Ms. Cynthia J. Beeman, Historian  
State Marker Program  
Texas Historical Commission  
P.O. Box 12276  
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Cynthia:

We have reviewed the status of all the pending marker applications listed in your letter of August 1.

We recommend cancellation of the following:

Devitt House (demolished)  
Arnold Guertler House  
Harris House  
Zebulon Jenkins House  
Site of the Majestic Theatre  
William B Monnig House  
Trail Drivers Park

Some of these may be re-submitted later.

The Ormer Leslie Locklear application has been researched further and is being rewritten. You will receive the revised application some time in September.

Thanks for asking about these. It prompted me to inspect the sites and to review all the old applications.

Sincerely,

Joye K. Evetts  
Marker Chairman

cc: Lela Standifer, Chairman





CURTIS TUNNELL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512)463-6100

August 1, 1991

Joye Evetts, Marker Chair  
Tarrant County Historical Commission  
P. O. Box 970  
Fort Worth, TX 76101

Dear Joye:

We are currently going through long-standing pending marker applications in our office, and have come across a number of applications from Tarrant County, some of which have been pending since 1985. Rather than try to write to each applicant at this point, I thought I'd first write to you and see if you could offer any assistance. Basically, what we need is either to get these applications moving (most by addressing previous requests for additional information), or to go ahead and cancel the applications.

I am enclosing copies of correspondence from the following files:

- |   |            |  |
|---|------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DEVITT HOUSE            |            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARNOLD GUERTLER HOUSE 2259 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HARRIS HOUSE            | Forward St | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ZEBULON JENKINS HOUSE      |
| ORMER LESLIE LOCKLEAR                                       |            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site of MAJESTIC THEATRE   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WILLIAM B. MONNIG HOUSE |            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRAIL DRIVERS PARK         |

It is important that we not let these files remain in pending any longer. If you can't help with this request, please let me know, and I will begin the formal notification process to the applicants (in which they will be allowed thirty days to answer the requests before we cancel the applications).

I really appreciate any help you can offer with these. If you have any questions about any of the applications, please let me know.

Sincerely,  
*Cynthia J. Beeman*  
Cynthia J. Beeman  
Historian  
State Marker Program

**RECEIVED**

**AUG 5 1991**

**EXECUTIVE**





CURTIS TUNNELL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
P.O. BOX 12276 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711 (512) 475-3092

June 12, 1985

Duane Gage  
TCJC NE Campus  
828 Harwood Road  
Hurst, TX 76054

Dear Duane:

Our staff has made a preliminary review of the Trail Drivers Park marker application. I am afraid the park would not qualify for a marker, since anything other than structures must be 100 years old or 2/3 the age of the community. In addition, the park would have to be judged on its history since the 1930s, and not because it was located on an old cattle trail.

I would like to suggest an alternative that I think would make an interesting marker. If additional research could be done, the marker might be entitled "EARLY TRAIL DRIVERS OF TARRANT COUNTY" or "TRAIL DRIVES THROUGH FORT WORTH." Either would concentrate more on the history of the cattle industry than on the park.

Let me know how you would like to proceed. I think a broader topic could be more informative and would have a better chance of approval by the State Marker Committee.

Sincerely,

Dan K. Utley, Director  
Research and Markers

DKU/lm

*Copies to Sue  
2 Janie*

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*





CURTIS TUNNELL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512) 475-3092

March 25, 1985

Duane Gage  
TCJC NE Campus  
828 Harwood Road  
Hurst, TX 76054

RE: TRAIL DRIVERS PARK  
27" x 42" Subject Marker with Post

Dear Mr. Gage:

This letter is to notify you that we have received the above referenced marker application.

The application first will be reviewed and evaluated by the Texas Historical Commission staff. Should additional information be needed, you will be contacted. After any deficiencies have been corrected, copies of the application will be sent to the members of the State Marker Committee, who will make the final determination of the topic's acceptability for marking.

You will be notified as soon as the committee makes its decision. If the topic is approved for marking we will request payment at the time of notification. If not approved, the application will be returned along with a letter of explanation.

Because of the variables involved in the marker process and because we must coordinate our orders with the schedule of a contracting foundry, we would ask that the dedication dates not be set until you have received notice that the marker has been shipped.

We appreciate your interest in preserving the history of Texas.

Sincerely,

Dan K. Utley, Director  
Research and Markers

DKU/cy

cc: City of Fort Worth  
North Fort Worth Historical Society

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

TRAIL DRIVERS PARK

8430

By Janie Reid  
5941 Tourist Dr.  
Fort Worth, Texas, 76117  
1984

Trail Drivers Park is situated in Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas, about 3 1/2 miles northeast of the Tarrant County Courthouse. It is located on the south side of N.E. 28th Street in the 1500 through 1800 blocks. It contains 39.61 acres of land in two sections extending southward to near the north bank of the West Fork of the Trinity River.

The shelter house of the park is located on a high hillside overlooking its valley below and the Trinity River, where thousands of head of cattle and horses had crossed during the cattle trail era. Looking south from the shelter house one can observe the City of Fort Worth's skyline, displaying the most picturesque view it has to offer. It is the only <sup>\*</sup> park in Texas named in honor of the pioneer trail drivers of Texas and it stands as a memorial to them.

*not  
documented  
PR 6/4/85*

The park site is situated on a tract of land out of the original headrights of Edmund Little. He received a certificate in 1850 awarding him 640 acres of land from the State of Texas for being a colonist in Peters Colony. Shortly afterwards he sold his acreage to William M. Robinson, who received a patent from the State of Texas in 1857 for the land as assignee.<sup>1</sup> In November, 1860, Mr. Robinson and wife, Ann Robinson, sold their 640 acres to Charles Turner. He retained this acreage for five years. In December, 1865, Mr. Turner sold all of the E. Little Survey north of Marine Creek and the West Fort of the Trinity River to H.G. Hendricks. In August, 1868, Mr. Hendricks and wife, Elizabeth Ann Hendricks, sold 446 acres off the west side of their land to Eli Mitchell; the remaining 56 acres was purchased by H.B. Fowler in November of 1870. In October, 1877, Mr. Mitchell sold to Peter McGovern and wife, Matilda McGovern, 258 acres off of the eastern portion of his 446 acre tract.



The deed described the land by metes and bounds, referring to corners of Kelbold's tract, Gilmore's Branch and the Trinity River as landmarks. It also stated, "Reserving the free use of the spring near the mouth of said Gilmore's Branch."<sup>2</sup>

Peter McGovern retained the property for two years and sold it to W.J. Boaz and J.F. Ellis in June, 1870. Mr. Boaz sold his interest to Mr. Ellis in 1882. In May, 1883, Mr. Ellis sold to Isaac Kendall the 258 acre tract and in the same year Mr. Kendall sold to D.C. Martin. In February, 1884, Mr. Martin sold to Charles Cauthron 146 acres off of the west side of his 258 acre tract. In 1928 the City of Fort Worth purchased 37 acres situated in the above tract for a park site to be named Trail Drivers Park. In March, 1887, Mr. Cauthron sold the 146 acre tract to William Glen Walker. He also sold Mr. Walker another tract consisting of 25.64 acres adjoining west of the 146 acre tract, in October, 1887. In the deed for the 25.64 acre tract Mr. Cauthron made reservations as follows: "One acre at the stables and one half acre at the gin, on which gin is situated." A parcel of the one acre tract would be the site of the City Hall of Niles City, Texas, "the richest little city in the world," in 1912. Niles City, Texas existed from 1911 to 1923 when it was annexed by the City of Fort Worth.<sup>3</sup>

Previously, in February, 1887, W.G. Walker had purchased 203 acres adjacent to the east boundry line of the 146 acre tract, from W.H. Skinner. It consisted of 138 acres out of the original E. Little survey and 65 acres out of the original S.K. Smith's 308 acre survey to the east. In the latter part of 1887 Mr. Walker's 374 acre farm was given a name and became known as "Diamond Hill." In May, 1889 he issued a power of attorney to J.C. Terrell, Jr., an attorney in Fort Worth, and to his two sons, Gavin and William Glen Walker, Jr., giving them full power and authority to act in his name in transactions made involving his land holdings in the Diamond Hill farm land. He then returned to his home in England. In November, 1897, Mr. Walker deeded all of the

remaining acreage that had not been previously sold out of the farm land to his son William Glen Walker, Jr., thus giving him full authority to dispose of it as if it was his own. The deed was acknowledged by Mr. Walker before William H. Osborne, Consul General of the United States in London, England. However, the deed was not filed in Tarrant County Deed Records until July, 1902. A Quit Claim Deed was issued in August, 1902, from Mr. Walker and his wife, Eliza Kidston Walker, stating it was his intention to convey the whole of his Trinity River farm to William Glen Walker, Jr., and this deed was given to ratify and confirm the first deed dated November 12, 1897, in event of any error that might arise in the future, in securing the deed.<sup>4</sup>

In late 1902 another son, Herbert G. Walker, came from England to Fort Worth to assist in managing the family investments. On March 18, 1903, a plat, "Diamond Hill, Fort Worth, Texas", was filed in Tarrant County, for description purposes only, by W. Glen Walker, Jr. It consisted of 25.64 acres and a portion of the 146 acre-tract out of the original E. Little survey and was surveyed by Brooks Baker of Fort Worth. The plat was compiled by J.J. Goodfellow, surveyor of Fort Worth, Texas. In the same month the Freehold Property Company was incorporated. W. Glen Walker, Jr., served as its president and Herbert G. Walker, Manager and Vice-President. In June, 1903, W. Glen Walker, Jr., deeded all of the land owned in the E. Little 640 acre Survey and S.K. Smith 308 acre survey to the new company, except lots and blocks previously sold. On July 1, 1912, the company requested consideration of the Tarrant County Commissioners Court to approve an application to vacate the former plat, "Diamond Hill, Fort Worth, Texas", and a new plat was to be recorded. It was approved. On July 23, 1912 a new plat and dedication was filed by the Freehold Property Company of the "Diamond Hill" Addition to Fort Worth, Texas, composed of all the land owned by the company in the two surveys. It was surveyed and compiled by Brooks Baker, Surveyor of Fort Worth.<sup>5</sup>



On March 20, 1928, T.J. Chapman, representing the Diamond Hill Civic League, appeared before the Board of Park Commissioners of the City of Fort Worth stating a need for a park in the community and suggested it be located in a triangle of two or three acres located between Niles City and Diamond Hill. He was requested by the board to secure prices on several different pieces of land that might be suitable for park purposes and present them to the board at a later date. On May 1, 1928, as requested, Mr. Chapman submitted to the board a tract of land adjacent to Diamond Hill. A committee of one was appointed to confer with the owner in regards to acquiring the land.

Although the City of Niles was annexed by the City of Fort Worth in 1923 it remained as a distinct community. On May 29, 1928, a letter was read at the regular session meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of Fort Worth from Herbert G. Walker, Vice-President of the Freehold Property Company, in response to an inquiry of land in the Diamond Hill Addition for a park site. The land consisting of 37 acres was described in lots and blocks priced at \$13,000, with an option of three weeks. Mr. Walker stated another four lots might be available in one of the blocks mentioned, but did not quote a price. He continued, "The last two sales of this property were as follows: Fort Worth Power & Light, \$900. per acre, the Gulf Refining Co., \$1100., per acre, round figures." Terms were set at one-sixth cash and balance in five equal payments; the city taxes for the year of 1928 to be paid by the city. The board voted to offer the company the amount quoted for the property, subject to ratification of the City of Fort Worth.<sup>6</sup>

June 12, 1928, a second letter was received by the board from Mr. Walker advising them of the property available for the park site. He wrote, "We understand you have delayed accepting this offer desiring to secure four extra lots not included in the original price." He advised them that the lots in question were not available. Mr. Walker continued, "The offer made you on the

7th of May has expired but to keep the record straight, we again offer you the same property for the same price thirteen thousand dollars (\$13,000)." The same financial terms were quoted, and the offer would remain open for their written acceptance for an additional three weeks. The board voted to accept the amended proposition, subject to ratification of the Mayor and City Council of Fort Worth. They instructed Superintendent Clark to secure a contract for the property and have it properly executed. On June 19, 1928, the contract was ratified by the City Council of Fort Worth. On July 5, 1928, a deed was issued to the City of Fort Worth for the Diamond Hill Park Site by the Freehold Property Company and Fort Worth Trust Company. The site was, and still is, divided into two sections: the northern half, comprised of approximately twenty-two (22) acres; the southern half contained fifteen (15) acres. In the latter part of the following October, a crew of workmen began clearing the northern half. Weeds were cut and rubbish hauled away. By the end of November it was estimated that about 1,000 truck loads of rubbish had been removed from the site. A local newspaper reporting the progress of the work stated, "With the cleaning up of the property, the site will be one of the most beautiful park grounds in Fort Worth, officials declare. It is a little more than a block from the Diamond Hill School and will serve as a playground for more than 1,800 children."<sup>7</sup>

A letter was received by the Board of Park Commissioners from George W. Saunders, President of the Old Trail Drivers Association, dated November 24, 1928, suggesting a name for the park site. He wrote the following:

"Union Stock Yards,  
San Antonio, Texas  
Hon. Board of Park Commissioners,  
Fort Worth, Texas,

Gentlemen:

I understand that you have purchased a track of land in Diamond Hill to be used for a park. As 60% of the 10,000,000 cattle and 1,000,000 horses had been driven to northern markets during the trail driving period passed thru near Fort Worth, your city



was built on the cattle industry. You have the largest cattle market in the United States and it would be a token of great respect to the Old Pioneer Empire builders and the cattlemen of Texas to name the diamond tract "Trail Drivers Park," No other name would be more appreciated by the men that have done so much for your city and also the state. Please give this matter your consideration and let me know the result.

Yours Truly,

G.W. Saunders, Old Trail  
Drivers Association"

On December 12, 1928, a local newspaper reported, "Diamond Hill Park Acquired By The City, Named In Honor Of Trail Drivers." It furthered stated city park commissioners selected the name and Supt. Clark was in receipt of a letter from G.W. Saunders of San Antonio, President of the Old Trail Drivers Association, expressing gratitude for the naming of the park and promising at an early date to personally inspect the property. The article continued, "Plans for the beautification of the tract of land will be worked out by S. Herbert Hare of Kansas City, landscaping architect in charge of laying out the entire park system in Fort Worth. A topographical map of the land has been made by the City Engineering Department and forward to Hare." In late December, 1928, Mr. Hare designed plans for the park showing landscaping, ball field and tennis courts.<sup>8</sup>

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram, a local newspaper, began a series of articles pertaining to the beginning of the Fort Worth park systems in March, 1929. The first article appeared March 21st, reporting the history of parks in North Fort Worth. Of Trail Drivers Park it stated, "So far nothing but land designed for park purposes will, when improved, become one of the larger and more attractive parks of the city, made more attractive by its picturesque location and name. It was designated soon after its purchase last year as Trail Drivers Park." On July 11, 18<sup>9</sup>29, The secretary of the Board of Park Commissioners was instructed to write a letter to Mr. Saunders in behalf of the board, thanking him and ~~the~~ association for interest shown and

suggestion made in connection with the park. On September 17, 1929, George W. Saunders came to Fort Worth and viewed the park site and attended the meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners. He discussed a proposal of erecting an appropriate marker for the park with them. A committee was appointed to work out the details of the marker with Mr. Saunders and Wallace Simpson, an artist in Fort Worth.<sup>9</sup>

Throughout the minutes of the Board of Park Commissioners are references to the marker, from 1929 to 1938. The last account was entered on November 1, 1938; a letter had been written to the Old Trail Drivers Association in reference to the marker, but they had not replied.

On March 13, 1930, it was reported at the regular session meeting of the board that a strip of land with a maximum width of 13 ft. being off of the north boundary line of the park on 28th Street was needed by the City of Fort Worth and Tarrant County for major street improvements. It was approved and the board was authorized to execute the necessary deeds. A resolution was read from the Diamond Hill Civic League pertaining to the park. Superintendent Adams was instructed to reply to the league and to have the park cleared of all rubbish and plunder as early as practical.

On June 21, 1932, Asst. Supt. Maxon was authorized to get an estimate of cost for constructing a rock toilet in the park. By August 16th it was completed. Six years later (1938) it was discovered that the contractor had built on a lot which did not belong to the park site or the city, therefore the lot, 50 x 125, was purchased from Freehold Property Company for \$175.00 and became park property. On October 17, 1933, a request was presented to the board from Tarrant County for a portion of land off of the north side of Trail Drivers Park at 28th Street for the proposed extension of State Highway No. 15, now known as State Highway No. 183. It was granted and a deed was forwarded to Fort Worth City Council for ratification and execution.

On November 16, 1933, a special meeting was held by the board in which



the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

"Resolved that request is hereby made to the Civil Works Administration for the men, equipment and materials to complete the following projects as per plans of Hare & Hare, Landscape Architects of Kansas City, Missouri on the basis that the Board of Park Commissioners will furnish general supervision."

Trail Drivers Park was included in the projects named. It was requested for the park, 81 men for 60 days, and sum of \$1,975.00 for material. On March 21, 1934, the expenditure for installing a new baseball diamond in Trail Drivers Park was approved by the Fort Worth Recreation Board.

On August 7, 1934, a committee, composed of Mr. Bob Stanton, Mr. Jack Carter, Mrs. McIntyre and Mrs. Barton, representing the Diamond Hill Civic League, appeared before the Board of Park Commissioners to discuss improvements in Trail Drivers Park. At this meeting Mr. Hare of the firm of Hare & Hare discussed the plans for landscaping of the northern half of the park. The president of the board was to make application for funds to the Federal Emergency Administration Public Works for material and labor for improvements in several parks, including Trail Drivers Park.<sup>10</sup> On August 6, 1935, a letter was sent to Mr. Hare from the board requesting him to prepare complete working plans for the proposed shelter houses, including Trail Drivers Park. On September 12, 1935, a special meeting was called by the board for purpose of discussing application to be submitted to the Work Progress Administration. Supt. Adams informed the board of information he received from Mr. Dickey and Mr. Douglas with the W.P.A., stating \$253,300.00 had been tentatively approved by the Fort Worth office and a request had been made to Washington officials to approve this amount, pending filing of project applications. After studying the various park plans, the board authorized Mr. Adams to file application for development of several parks. He was to submit the application for Trail Drivers Park stating: Reclaim land near creek, build roads, excavate hill, put in shrubbery beds, build necessary walks, tennis courts, a shelter house and complete according to plan.<sup>11</sup>

On June 15, 1937 a committee from the Diamond Hill Civic League composed of Mmes. E.B. Thronton, F.M. Walker, B.Q. Barton, G.W. Grant and Mr. Norton was present at the regular session meeting of the board requesting improvements be made in Trail Drivers Park. Supt. Adams informed the committee and board that an application was ready to be submitted to the W.P.A. for complete development of the park, including a shelter building to be erected on the hill in the northeast section of the park site. On September 21, 1937, it was reported to the board that Mr. Hare had revised the plans for the shelter house in Trail Drivers Park in accordance with the desires of the board. After a discussion of the W.P.A. project of the park, Supt. Adams was authorized to proceed and carry the project through to completion, even though it had to be done at the sacrifice of maintenance and construction in other areas. On December 1, 1937, the project application was approved for the development of Trail Drivers Park by the Work Progress Administration Headquarters in San Antonio. It was announced that work on the improvements in Trail Drivers Park would begin January 4, 1938, but the starting date was then delayed until January 15th, due to unavailable equipment to be used. The W.P.A. Officials advised the Board of Park Commissioners, however, that many workers would be unemployed in the latter part of December. The project was then set to begin December 27, 1937. Fifty men were to begin the job doing manual labor in the park and other men would be added as machinery and equipment became available. On December 27, 1937, eighty men started work on the improvements of Trail Drivers Park. The project encompassed a \$40,000.00 shelter house and landscaping work. By October, 1938, the project was completed as planned.

On February 17, 1948, a committee from the Diamond Hill Civic League requested that the Fort Worth Park Department make improvements needed in Trail Drivers Park. The committee was referred to the Fort Worth Recreation Department. On February 18, 1948, the delegation presented the request to the Recreation Department. Recreation Director Evans assured the committee



that Trail Drivers Park would share in the \$2,000.00 to be spent by the department for playground equipment. Of the park, Supt. Adams said, "Trail Drivers Park is far above the average of neighborhood parks."<sup>12</sup>

As seen in this history, the Diamond Hill Civic League was very instrumental in acquiring the park site in the community by the City of Fort Worth. Through the years they displayed pride and interest in the city's development and maintenance of Trail Drivers Park. In October of 1949 the league was given credit publicly by a local newspaper in an article titled, "Park for Diamond Hill Won by Civic League."<sup>13</sup>

The southern half of the park was never developed as designed by Hare & Hare. In 1962 a portion of it was converted to the Park Service Department. A public thoroughfare, Gunther Street, ran through the northern half of the park for many years, dividing the area containing the shelter house and ball field from the playground facilities. In July, 1970, the Park and Recreation Department requested closing Gunther as a through street and proposed to remove a 400-foot section to provide space for expanding of the lighted softball field. According to C.B. Campbell, Director of Parks, the field was the only lighted softball field, at that time, in the central North Side area and in constant use and still is today. In August, 1970, the street closing was approved by the City. Two parking lots, with turn arounds, were constructed at the north and south ends of the newly developed area from what once was a portion of Gunther Street. With this new development, the original design of the northern half of the park was altered. In September, 1970, the City of Fort Worth acquired three lots adjacent to the southwest part of the northern half of the park property and these lots were incorporated into the park. In Spring, 1981, the shelter house was renovated and in the Fall new playgrounds were equipped and picnic areas were developed.<sup>14</sup>

Gilmore's Branch, previously mentioned, is a small stream running through the park from the West Fork of the Trinity River, running north for

approximately two miles. This stream was called "Anderson's Branch" by several descendents of early pioneer settlers who settled in that section of Tarrant County. In the Tarrant County Deed Records the legal name of Gilmore's Branch was applied. The stream has a historical significance to the area. It is said to be the old swimming hole and playground of the children of the early pioneer families of Seaborne Gilmore, C.B. Daggett, J.B. York, Abraham Anderson and others. During the cattle drive years the stream served as a watering place for the cattle being herded northward to the mid-western markets and railheads.<sup>15</sup>

The park site was in the path of the cattle trail leading to the Chisholm and Western Trails in Indian Territory. Thousands of head of cattle driven up from Mexico, Central and South Texas passed through it on their way to the Red River to connect with these trails. The cattle forded the West Fork of the Trinity River at two crossings near the park, one a short distance to the southeast at what was known as Daggett's Crossing on the old Fort Worth and Birdville Road, later known as Cold Springs Road. In the 1880s Tarrant County constructed a bridge in the vicinity of the crossing. It is said to be the first county bridge to span the West Fork of the Trinity River.

The other crossing is located a short distance to the southwest of the park near where the Samuels Avenue Bridge is located today.

Herds fording these crossings sometimes were driven north to Denton County so other cattle could be picked up from ranchers and added to the herd, then proceed northward to the Red River Station Crossing to connect with the Chisholm Trail in Indian Territory. Other herds moved northwestward through Decatur to Wichita Falls then onward to the Red River connecting with the Western Trail in Indian Territory at Doon's Crossing. A daughter of C.B. Daggett recalled in 1937, that herds coming through these two crossings were so large that it would take an entire day for the cattle to swim across the river. The cattle would mill about for hours, covering the land that is now Trail Drivers



Park. Her father was an early pioneer settler of Tarrant County and  
Daggett's Crossing was named after him.<sup>16</sup>

After the cattle were bedded down and secured for the night the drovers would ride back to Fort Worth for lodgings, provisions and entertainment. The following day they proceeded northward on their journey to the Red River. The cattle trail that passed near Fort Worth and connected with the Chisholm and Western Trails in Indian Territory was known as the McCoy and/or Eastern Trail. By the early 1930s, however, it was commonly referred to as the Chisholm Trail, and still is today. During the Centennial year (1936) fourteen markers were placed indicating the route of the McCoy Trail through the City of Fort Worth. In the vicinity of the trail leading to the West Fork of the Trinity River, one of the markers was placed at Cold Springs Road between the M.K.T. and Rock Island Railway tracks; one at the intersection of Cold Springs Road and Denton Road; and one on the northwest corner of the bridge crossing the West Fork of the Trinity River on Cols Springs Road. Unfortunately this bridge is no longer standing.<sup>17</sup>

There are several other historical sites near Trail Drivers Park. A few hundred yards west of the southern half of the park is the site of the City Hall of Niles City, Texas, at 2358 Decatur Avenue, erected in 1912 to house the administrative offices and jail of "the richest little city in the world." In 1921 the city extended it's boundary lines and the land upon which the park is situated was brought within Niles City. Niles City was annexed by Fort Worth in 1923 and in 1951 Niles City Hall was sold by Fort Worth. The building was demolished in 1975 and was replaced by a parking lot. A Texas Historical Marker was dedicated in April, 1982, by the North Fort Worth Historical Society and Tarrant County Historical Commission to commemorate Niles City, Texas. It is located about one-half mile west of the park at the intersection of the 600 Block of East Exchange Avenue and Packers Avenue.<sup>18</sup>

A short distance west of the north boundary line of the park on N.E. 28th

Street is the site of an early pioneer cemetery, Mitchell Cemetery, also known as Niles City Cemetery. It is located behind the business at 2707 Decatur Avenue between the tracks of the Fort Worth and Denver and St. Louis Southwestern (Cotton Belt) Railways. The first burial here was in 1848, the small son of John B. York, second sheriff of Tarrant County. Sheriff York is also buried here along with his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Seaborne Gilmore, Tarrant County's first judge. Other members of early pioneer families of Tarrant County are said to be buried here. In October, 1984, a Texas Historical Marker was dedicated by the North Fort Worth Historical Society and Tarrant County Historical Commission.<sup>19</sup>

A short distance east of the southern half of the park is the site of the Gulf Oil Company's second refinery plant built in the United States. It was constructed in 1911 along with a pipeline plant; although the size of the plant has decreased, the company is still operating here.

Across the West Fork of the Trinity River about one-half mile to the south of the southern half of the park on Samuels Avenue is a small park, "Trader's Oak." It is the site of a general merchandise store or trading post established outside of the fort in 1849, to serve the early pioneer settlers and traders. It was known as Daggett and Leonard Store or Trading Post and continued to operate until 1854. Under a large Oak tree in Trader's Oak Park is a marker placed by the Tarrant County Historical Society stating the following:

"Henry Clay Daggett And Archibald Leonard Established A Trading Post On This Site in 1849. First Election In Tarrant County Was Held Under This Tree In 1850 And Birdville Voted The First County Seat."

In July, 1953, Fort Worth purchased several lots out of the Holloway Addition for this park.<sup>20</sup>

Trail Drivers Park contributed significantly to the community and surrounding areas, providing recreational facilities for the neighborhood children, church and family socials, organization functions, and school activities. The North Fort Worth Historical Society believe that this Trail



Drivers Park is deserving and most qualified for an official Texas historical marker. It was named as a memorial to those men and women who contributed so much to Texas history and made Texas known all over the world as the cattle state.

#### FOOTNOTES

1. ABSTRACT OF TITLE, Lot No. 25, Block 3, Diamond Hill Addition to City of Fort Worth, Texas, pgs. 5 and 7; File No. 1360, GENERAL LAND OFFICE OF TEXAS; SEVENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES, 1850 CENSUS TARRANT CO, pg 658; THE PETERS COLONY OF TEXAS, pg. 314; OLD NORTHWEST TEXAS, pg.735

From the files found in the General Land Office of the State of Texas shows that on May 10, 1850 Edmund Little appeared in Dallas County, Texas before Thomas Wm. Ward, Commissioner of Peters Colony, to claim 640 acres of land as a settler in the colony granted to Peters and others, and took and signed a oath declaring the fact to be true, that he solemnly swear that he emigrated to Texas, and entered the colony which was granted to Peters and others, as a Colonist prior to July of 1848 with his wife and children and that he had since continued and still remain a settler in Peters Colony, and had performed all the duties required of him as a good citizen, and that he had never received land from the Government of Coahuila and Texas, nor of the Republic or State of Texas, as an emigrant or Colonist. " So help me God", signed Edmund Little. Samuel K. Smith and John Little corroborated his affidavit and upon oath signed their names.

Thomas Wm. Ward stated that Mr. Little was entitled to 640 acres of land within the limits of Peters Colony and that he had emigrated to the Colony under the Second Contract. He further stated that the land claimed by Mr. Little had been surveyed by the Colony Contractors, but could not be designated because he did not have in his possession a map or field notes of the Colony. Therefore he stated Mr. Little was entitled to have his land surveyed by the County or District Surveyor on condition that his claim, "shall not be transferred."

Edmund Little is listed on the 1849 Tax List of Navarro County, and the 1850



Census of Tarrant County as a 45 year old farmer, born in Virginia and Maria, his wife and nine children. All the children were born in Missouri. His survey was known as Number 111C, located in the Robertson Land District and surveyed by A.G. Walker, Deputy Surveyor for Robertson Land District. In his field notes Mr. Walker described the survey as lying on the north side of the West Fork of the Trinity River about one and one half miles north of Fort Worth, made on application of Robertson by virtue of Edmund Little's Colony Certificate Number 575 Vol 2nd, issued May 10th, 1850 by Thomas Wm. Ward, Commissioner for Peters Colony. In the metes and bounds he speaks of the old Colony Line and Marine Creek as landmarks, but he only surveyed 590 acres. Mr. Walker stated he surveyed this land on July 31st, 1851 and compiled his field notes on October 8th, 1851, drawing a map of the plot and attached it to them. It was examined and found correct and filed for record on June 29th, 1852 by J.P. Philpott, District Surveyor for the District.

The 590 acre Survey was canceled and Mr. Little was given the full 640 acres he was entitled and a new survey issued but the dates stayed the same that Mr. Walker stated. This new survey and Field Notes was examined and found correct and was recorded December 3rd, 1853 by B.J. Chambers, District Surveyor, Robertson Land District. The 640 acre Survey of Edmund Little was corrected on the map in Denton District September 27, 1856.

On the 23rd of September, 1850 Mr. Little and his wife Maria appeared before Seborn Gilmore, Chief Justice of Tarrant County and signed a Bond of Deed contract with William M. Robinson of the county of Dallas for the sum of \$1,400.00 for his survey of 640 acres. A stipulation was made in the deed that they would issue "a good and sufficient deed in law" to the acreage as soon as he obtained a Patent from the Government of Texas or otherwise "come to said title which title he hereby binds himself to obtain at as early period

as possible. Then this obligation to be null and void otherwise to remain in full force and effect.". It was signed sealed and delivered by John Lynch and Lews G. Tinsley<sup>(SR)</sup> and recorded in the office of A.F. Leonard, County Clerk of Tarrant county at Daggetts Store on December 3, 1850. The property was known and designated as Township One (1) South Range Five (5) West , Section Nine (9) , lying and being in Tarrant County, Texas.

January 12, 1857, Seaborn Gilmore, Chief Justice of Tarrant county, would again affix his name and seal of Office in Fort Worth to the above deed.

November 1, 1854 a General Warranty Deed was issued to William M. Robinson by Peter Norbee, Attorney-In-Fact for Edmund Little. Acknowledgement was taken by B. P. Ayres, County Clerk of Tarrant county in the Town of Birdville, Texas. In this deed it speaks of the above discription of the property and further stated, " and more particulally discribed as the land upon which the said Edmund and Maria Little resided on the West Fork."

William M. Robinson, Assignee of Edmund Little, was issued a Patent dated January 23, 1857 from the State of Texas granting him the 640 acre Survey.

2. Abstract of Title pgs 9-13 .

September 1874 Eli M. Mitchell sold to William Klebold 24 1/8 acres of land located in the northwestern portion of the E. Little 640 acre Survey (Tarrant County Deed Record Vol 30, page 111.)

3. Abstract of Title pgs. 14-16, 21,23,27,29-38,41;

August 1883, Eli Mitchell sold to Charles Cauthron 200 acres off of the western portion of the E. Little 640 acre Survey. Gilmore's Branch and Klebold Tract was used as a landmark in the discription of land. In 1886 Mr. Cauthron sold a tract of 15 3/4 acres of this property on the north bank of the Trinity River. In 1891 a packing house would be constructed upon this acreage. July 1887 he sold 130 1/6 acres to the Fort Worth Union Stock Yards Company on which they erected their stockyards in 1889.



1902-1903 the two big packers, Swift and Armour, would construct their plants on a portion of the 130 1/6 acre tract. The 25.64 acre tract sold to Mr. Walker is out of the 200 acre tract and is adjacent to the east line of the stockyard property.

4. Abstract of Title, pg. 42-72, pg. 77 ; Tarrant County Deed Records, Vol. 388, pg. 21; North Fort Worth News, Dec. 4, 1953; Morrison & Froumy City of Fort Worth Directory, 1888-1889, pg. 241, 1890, pg. 258; Tarrant County 1894 Map.
5. Plat Records Tarrant County, Vo. 106, pg. 82, Vol 388, pg. 21 ; Morrison & Fourmy City of Fort Worth Directory, 1907-1908, pg. 40 ; Abstract of Title , pg. 76-77, 80 ; Tarrant County Commissioners Court Minutes, Vol. 22, pg. 533.
6. Fort Worth Board of Park Commissioners Minutes 1928, pg. 15,27 and 33; History Of Niles City, 1981..
7. Fort Worth Board of Park Commissioners Minutes 1928, pg. 51-53, 85 ; Fort Worth City Council Minutes, 1928 pg. 439 ; Texas Writers Project, pg. 7114, 7228-7229.
8. Copy of letter from George W. Saunders to the Fort Worth Board of Park Commissioners; Fort Worth Star Telegram, Dec. 12, 1928, Blue Print Drawings of Trail Drivers Park, Dec. 1929.
9. Fort Worth Board of Park Commissioners Minutes, 1929, pg. 143, 145 and 151; North Fort Worth News, Nov. 27, 1953.
10. Fort Worth Board of Park Commissioners Minutes Vol. 1/7/30 thru 12/15/31, pg. 217, 39, Vol. 1/7/32 thru 12/19/33, pg. 136, 145, Vol. 1/2/34 thru 12/17/35, pg. 367,375,411, Vol. 1/4/38 thru 12/12/39, pg. 779; Fort Worth Recreation Board Minutes Vol. 1930-1934, pg. 121.
11. Fort Worth Board Of Park Commissioners Munites, Vol. 1/2/34 thru 12/17/35, pg. 465,483 ; Texas Writers Project, pg. 21379

12. Fort Worth Board of Park Commissioners Minutes, Vol. 1/7/36 thru 12/2/37, pg. 669, 717 ; Fort Worth Star Telegram, Dec. 2, 1937, Dec. 8, 1937, Dec 18, 1937, Dec. 28, 1937, Jan. 27, 1938 ; Letter from Asst. Director Facilities of Fort Worth Park & Recreation Dept., dated Feb 15, 1984 ; Texas Writers Project pg. 11451 ; Down Historical Trails of Fort Worth and Tarrant County, pg. 40; Fort Worth Star Telegram Feb. 18, 19, 1948.
13. Fort Worth Board of Park Commissioners Minutes, Vol 1928, pg. 15, 27 ; Vol. 1930, pg.217, Vol 1/2/34 thru 12/17/35, pg. 367, Vol. 1/7/36 thru 12/2/37, pg. 669, Vol 1/4/38 thru 12/12/39, pgs 767, 769 ; Fort Worth Recreation Board Minutes, Vol 1934-1938, pgs. 255, 256, 257 ; Fort Worth Star Telegram, June 16, 1937, Oct. 30, 1949.
14. Inter-Office Correspondance, Fort Worth Park and Recreation Dept.; City of Fort Worth, Texas Mayor & Council Communication; Files Fort Worth Park & Recreation Dept.; Texas Writers Project pg. 4983, 242, 234, 238,4983.
- \*Note: The project of 1970 was a part of the 1965-70 Bond Issue and Urban Beat-uification Program. The 1981 project was a part of the 1978-82 Bond Program. It was re-designed by the City of Fort Worth Park & Recreation Planning Dept., Design Section.
15. Tarrant County Deed Records, Vol G., pg. 365, Vol 30, pg. 111, Vol 46,pg. 358, Vol. 48, pg. 322, Vol. 182, pg. 598; Fort Worth Star Telegram, April 21, 1929, March 12, 1939, Oct. 30, 1949, Dec. 31, 1937 ; Down Historical Trails Of Fort Worth and Tarrant County, pg. 39; Manuscript ofRadio Talk Show, Oct 30, 1937.
16. Fort Worth Press, Dec. 12, 1928 ; fort Worth Star Telegram, Dec. 31, 1937; Fort Worth Daily Democrat, Nov. 11, 1877; Texas Writers Project, pg. 268, 106, 59, 539, 3277-78 ; The Old Cattle Trail, date unknown; A Ranger of



- Commerce Or 52 Years On The Road, pg. 204-206; Fort Worth Star Telegram Oct. 30, 1949; Fort Worth The Civilized West, pg. 48; Fort Worth- A Frontier Triumph, pg. 258, 269, 282, 283.
17. Fort Worth Star Telegram, Oct 30, 1949; Texas Writers Project, pg. 108-109, 3277, 59, 184-185, 106, 539 ; The Chisholm Trail, pg. VI, 43, 78, 88FF, 140, 195, 208, 216F, 230, 237, 240, 253 ; The Chisholm Trail- High Road Of The Cattle Kingdom, pg. 60, 131-136; Fort Worth-A Frontier Triumph, pg. 267-269, 313, 324 and Epilogue; How Fort Worth Became The Texasmost City, pg. 34-35; Fort Worth The Civilized West, pg. 50-52; A Ranger Of Commerce Or 52 Years On The Road, pg. 204-206; Down Historical Trails Of Fort Worth and Tarrant County, pg. 39; The Old Cattle Trail, date unknown; The Chisholm Trail, date unknown.
18. History of Niles City, Texas, 1980; Tarrant County Deed Records, Vol.361 pg. 520, Vol. 393, pg. 1 ; Tarrant County Tax Plat Card Records; Minutes of Niles City Council, 1911-1923.
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- \* Note:According to a personal letter dated Jun. 21, 1984 from a former student of Diamond Hill Schools and Fort Worth Public School Educator ,the Diamond

Hill football teams practice everyday in Trail Drivers Park from 1936 through 1951, when the new high school was completed. He wrote, " Those players were in good shape because we finished the day with wind sprints up the steep hill under the shelter house." he continued," That old park was mighty important to the community."



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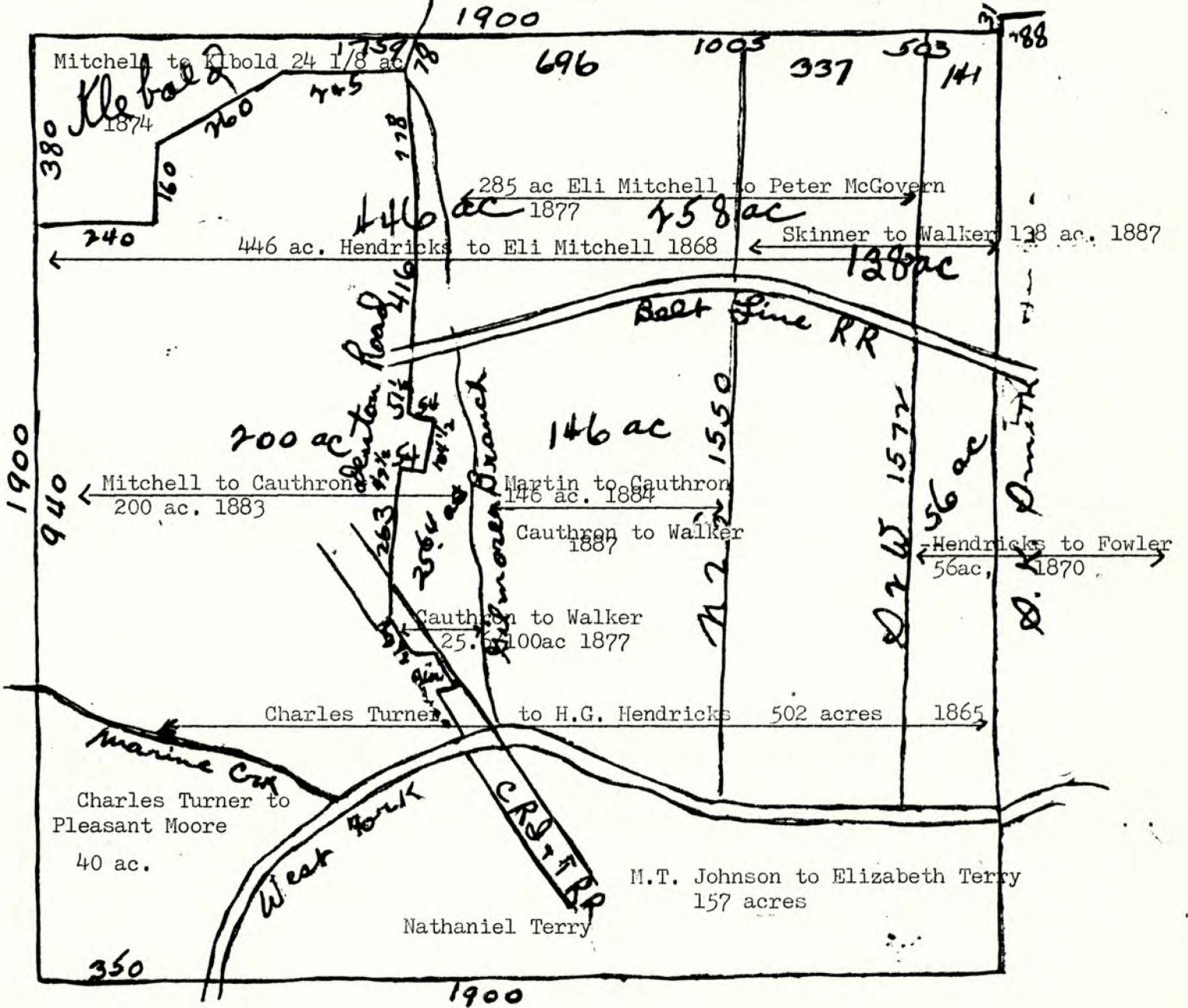
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Edmund Little 640 acres Peters Colony Certificate No. 575 Vol. 2 issued 10th, May 1850, designated as Township One(1) South Range Five (5) West, Section Nine (9), lying and being in Tarrant County, Texas. Patent by Wm M. Robinson, assignee, Jan. 23, 1857.



Nov. 1860 Robinson sold all of the 640 acre survey to Charles Turner .  
 Dec. of 1865 Turner sold all of the E. Little Survey north of Marine Creek  
 and the West Fort of the Trinity River.

\* See History of Trail Drivers Park Footnotes for Vol. and page number of  
 each property transaction, except that of Pleasant Moore and Nathaniel Terry .



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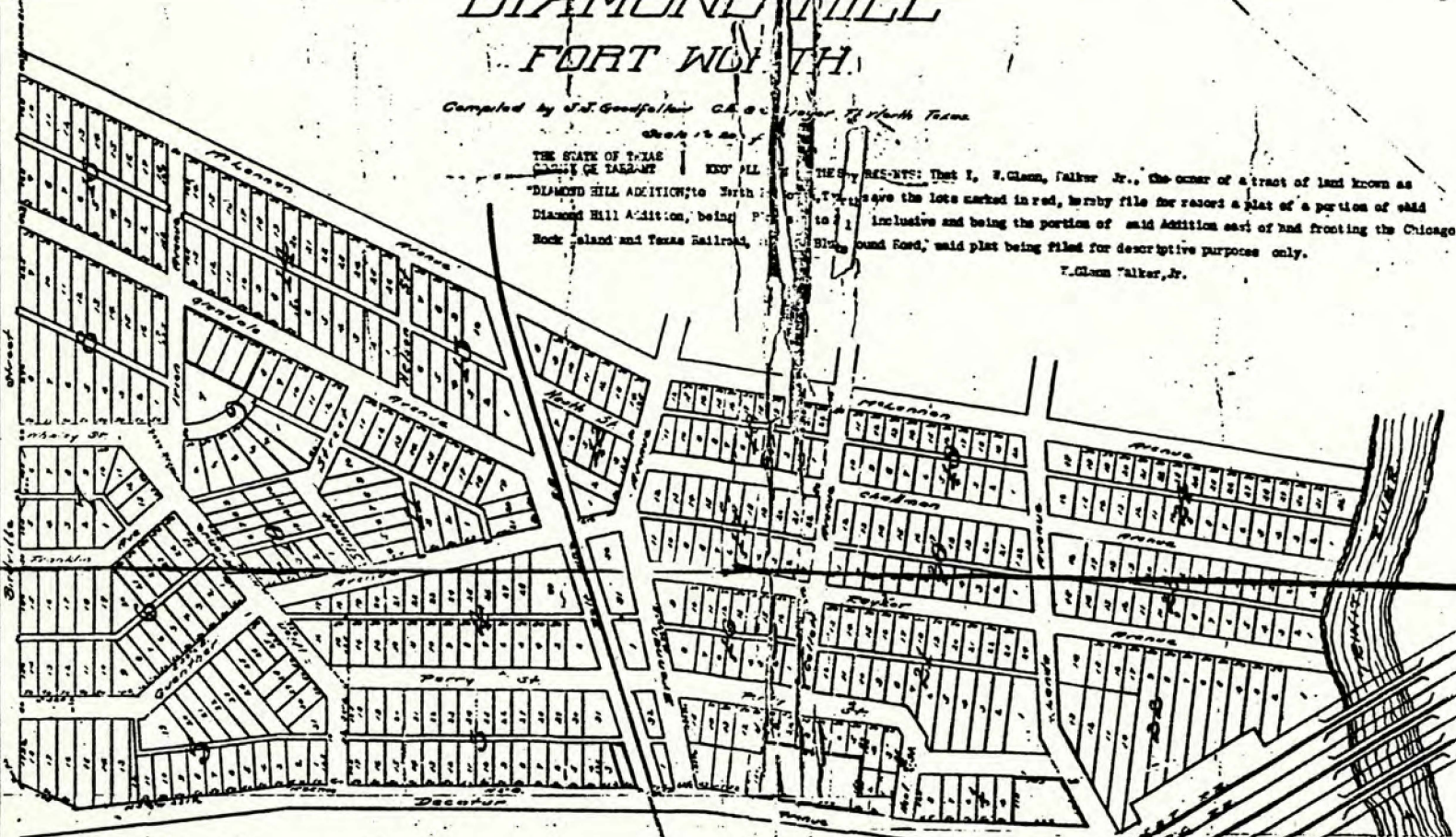
# DIAMOND HILL FORT WORTH

Compiled by J. J. Goodfellow, C.E., Surveyor of North Texas

THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF TARRANT

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: That I, W. Glenn Walker, Jr., the owner of a tract of land known as DIAMOND HILL ADDITION, do hereby file for record a plat of a portion of said Diamond Hill Addition, being the lots marked in red, hereby file for record a plat of a portion of said Diamond Hill Addition, being the lots marked in red, inclusive and being the portion of said Addition east of and fronting the Chicago Rock Island and Texas Railroad, said plat being filed for descriptive purposes only.

W. Glenn Walker, Jr.



THE STATE OF TEXAS  
COUNTY OF TARRANT

BEFORE ME; Ed K Collett, a Notary Public, in and for the County of Tarrant, State of Texas, on this day personally appeared W. Glenn Walker, Jr., known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged to me that he executed the same for the purposes and considerations therein expressed.

WITNESSED under my hand and seal of office this 17th day of March, 1903.

L.S.  
FILED FOR RECORD at 12:10 P.M. March 18, 1903.  
RECORDED April 23, 1903, at 12:30 P.M.

Ed K Collett, Notary Public, Tarrant County, Texas

R.L. ROGERS, County Clerk



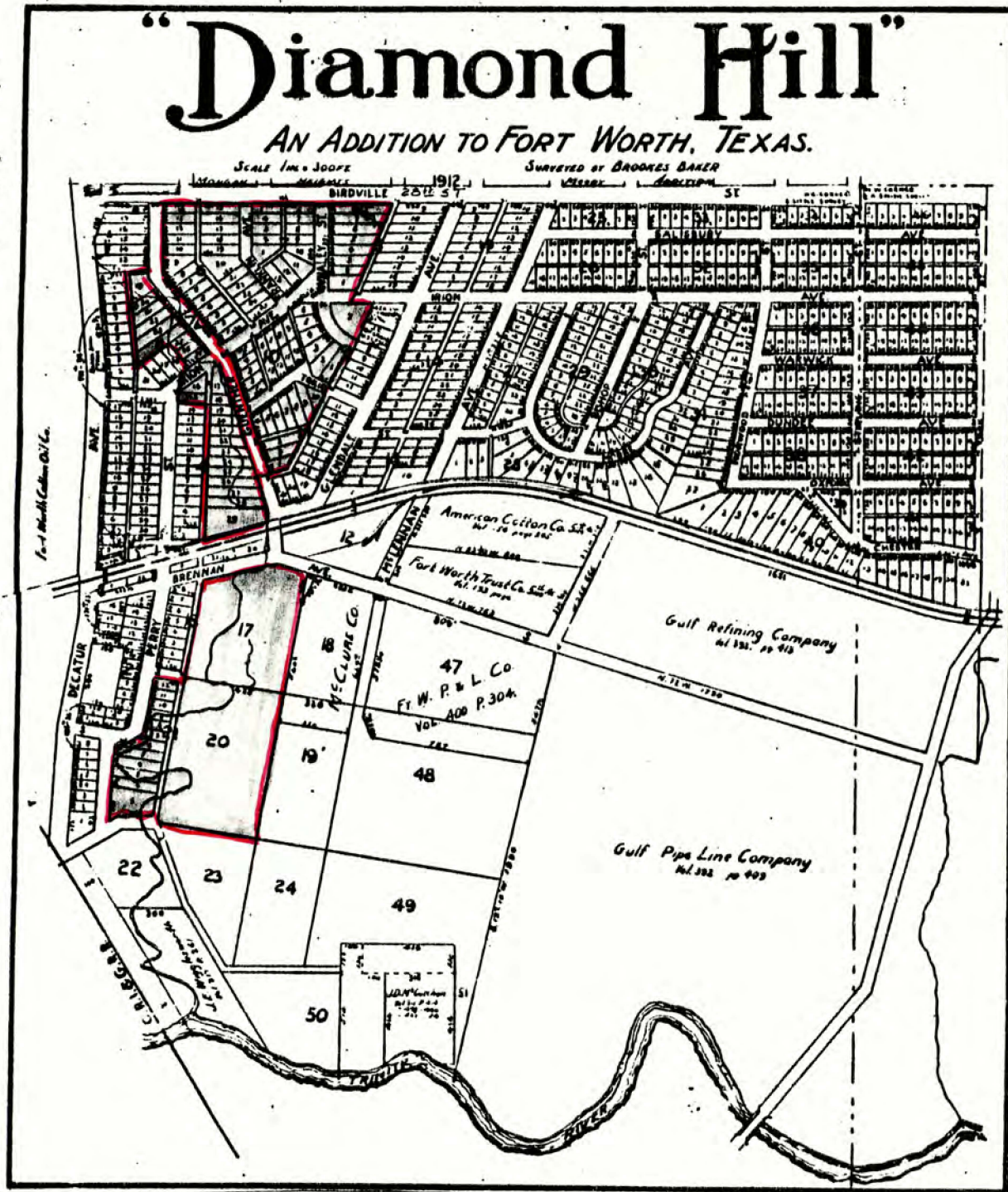
# "Diamond Hill"

AN ADDITION TO FORT WORTH, TEXAS.

SCALE 1 in = 300 FT

SURVEYED BY BROOKES BAKER

1912







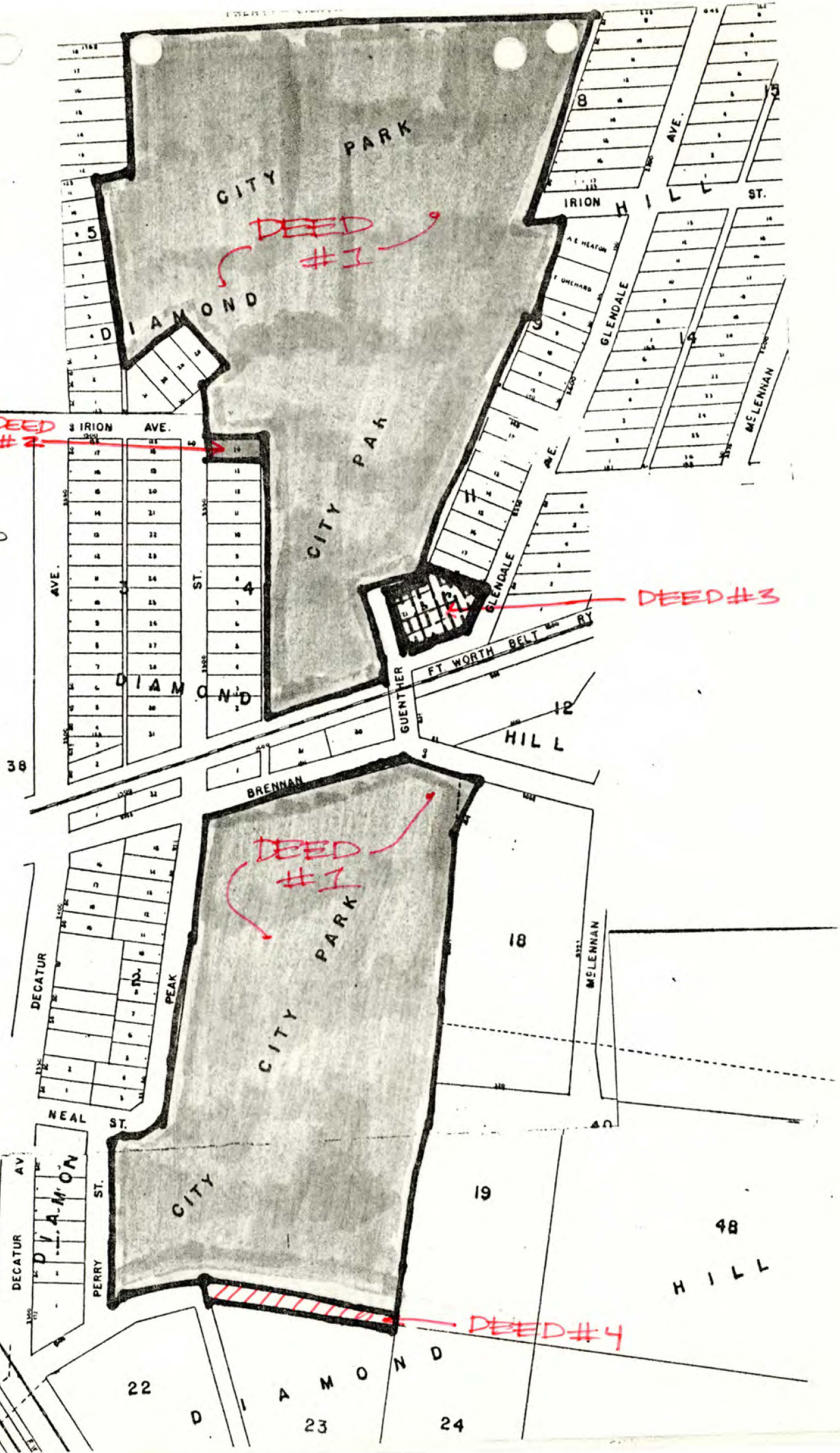
Lots and Blocks of Original Parksite Purchased in July of 1928  
 In Diamond Hill Addition, An Addition To Fort Worth Texas of  
 Trail Drivers Park.



TRAILDRIVERS  
PARK  
DEED INFO.

KEY

-  = DEED #1
-  = DEED #2
-  = DEED #3
-  = PORTION OUT OF TRACT ON DEED #4





TRAIL DRIVERS PARK, ~~NAMED IN HONOR OF THE PIONEER TRAIL DRIVERS~~  
~~OF THE STATE OF TEXAS - FORT WORTH, TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS~~

By Janie Reid  
5941 Tourist Dr.  
Fort Worth, Texas, 76117  
1984

Trail Drivers Park is situated in <sup>Fort Worth,</sup> Tarrant County, Texas, about 3 1/2 miles north-east of the <sup>Tarrant County Courthouse. It is</sup> ~~Business District in Downtown Fort Worth and~~ located on the south side of N.E. 28th Street in the 1500 through 1800 blocks.

It contains 39.61 acres of land in two sections extending southward to near the north bank of the West Fork of the Trinity River.

The shelter house of the park is <sup>located</sup> ~~situated~~ on a high hillside over <sup>the park's</sup> ~~looking~~ its valley ~~property~~ below and the Trinity River, where thousands of head of cattle and horses had ~~passed around its basic curves~~ <sup>crossed</sup> during the cattle trail era. Looking south from the shelter house one can observe the City of Fort Worth's skyline, displaying the most picturesque view it has to offer.

It is the only park in the State of Texas named in honor of the pioneer trail drivers of Texas and <sup>it</sup> stands as a memorial to them.

The park site is situated on a tract of land out of the original <sup>headrights</sup> ~~headrights~~ of Edmund Little. He received a certificate in 1850 awarding him 640 acres of land from the State of Texas for being a colonist in Peters Colony. Shortly afterwards he sold his <sup>certificate</sup> ~~acreage~~ to William M. Robinson, who received a <sup>patent</sup> ~~patent~~ from the State of Texas in 1857 for the land as <sup>assignee</sup> ~~assignee~~.

In November, of 1860, Mr. Robinson and wife, Ann Robinson, sold their 640 acres to Charles Turner. He retained this acreage for five years.

December, of 1865, Mr. Turner sold all of the E. Little Survey north of Marine Creek and the West Fort of the Trinity River to H.G. Hendricks.

In August, of 1868, Mr. Hendricks and wife, Elizabeth Ann Hendricks, sold 446 acres off the west side of their land to Eli Mitchell, and the remaining 56 acres was purchased by H.B. Fowler in November of 1870. →

In October, of 1877, Mr. Mitchell sold to Peter McGovern and wife, Matilda McGovern, 258 acres off of the eastern portion of his 446 acre tract. The deed described the land by metes and bounds, referred <sup>to</sup> corners of Kelbold's tract, Gilmore's Branch and the Trinity River as landmarks. It also stated, "Reserving the free use of the spring near ~~the~~ <sup>2.</sup> <sup>2</sup> near the mouth of said Gilmore's Branch."

(P) → Peter McGovern retained the property for two years and sold it to W.J. Boaz and J.F. Ellis in June, of 1879. Mr. Boaz sold his interest to Mr. Ellis in 1882. In May, of 1883, Mr. Ellis sold to Isaac Kendall the 258 acre tract and in the same year Mr. Kendall sold to D.C. Martin. In

February, of 1884, Mr. Martin sold to Charles Cauthron 146 acres off of the west side of his 258 acre tract.)

→ In 1928 the City of Fort Worth ~~would purchase~~ 37 acres situated in the above tract for a park site <sup>to</sup> and be named Trail Drivers Park. In

March, of 1887, Mr. Cauthron sold the 146 acre tract to William Glen Walker. He also sold <sup>to Mr. Walker</sup> another tract consisting <sup>of</sup> 25.64 acres adjoining west of the 146 acre tract, ~~to Mr. Walker~~ in October, of 1887.)

→ In the deed for the 25.64 acre tract Mr. Cauthron made reservations as follows:

" One acre at the stables and one half acre at the gin, on which gin is situated." A parcel of the one acre tract would be the site of the City Hall of Niles City, Texas, " the richest little city in the world," in 1912.)

→ Niles City, Texas existed from 1911 to 1923 when it was annexed by the City of Fort Worth. <sup>3</sup> →

(P) → ~~Mr. Walker~~ <sup>W. D. Walker had</sup> previously, in the ~~month~~ of February, 1887, purchased 203 acres adjacent to the east boundry line of the 146 acrea tract, from W. H. Skinner. It consisted



of 138 acres out of the original E. Little <sup>2</sup> Survey and 65 acres out of the original S.K. Smith's 308 acre <sup>2</sup> Survey to the east. *In*

The latter part of 1887 Mr. Walker's 374 acre farm was given a name and became known as "Diamond Hill." *In*

May, ~~of~~ 1889 he issued a <sup>a</sup> Power of Attorney to J.C. Terrell, Jr., an attorney in Fort Worth, and <sup>to</sup> his two sons, Gavin and William Glen Walker, Jr., giving them full power and authority to act in his name in transactions made involving his land holdings in the Diamond Hill farm land. He <sup>then</sup> returned to his home in England. *In*

November, ~~of~~ 1897, Mr. Walker deeded all of the remaining acreage that had not been previously sold out of the farm land to his son William Glen Walker, Jr., thus giving him full authority to dispose of it as if it was his own. The deed was acknowledged by Mr. Walker before William H. Osborne, Consul General of the United States in London, England. However, the deed was not filed in Tarrant County Deed Records until July, ~~of~~ 1902.

A Quit Claim Deed was issued in August, ~~of~~ 1902, from Mr. Walker and his wife, Eliza Kidston Walker, stating it was his intention to convey the whole of his Trinity River farm to William Glen Walker, Jr., and this deed was given to ratify and confirm the first deed dated November 12, 1897, in event of any error that <sup>might</sup> ~~may~~ arise in the future, ~~of requirements~~ in securing <sup>4.</sup> ~~of~~ the deed. <sup>4</sup>

*In late* The latter part of 1902 another son, Herbert G. Walker, came from England to Fort Worth to assist in managing the family investments. *or*

March 18, 1903, a plat, "Diamond Hill, <sup>2</sup> Fort Worth, Texas", was filed in Tarrant County, <sup>by</sup> W. Glen Walker, Jr., for description purposes only, →

It consisted of 25.64 acres and a portion of the 146 acre-tract out of the original E. Little <sup>2</sup> Survey and <sup>was</sup> surveyed by Brooks Baker of Fort Worth. →

The plat was compiled by J.J. Goodfellow, surveyor of Fort Worth, Texas.

*Jr*  
The same month and year (~~March, 1903~~) the Freehold Property Company was incorporated, W. Glen Walker, Jr., served as it's president and Herbert G. Walker, Manager and Vice-President. *Jr*

June, ~~of~~ 1903, W. Glen Walker, Jr., deeded all of the land owned in the E. Little 640 acre Survey and S.K. Smith 308 acre *P* Survey to the new company, except lots and blocks previously sold. *or*

July 1, 1912, the company requested consideration of the Tarrant County Commissioners Court to approve an application to vacate the former plat, "Diamond Hill, *Jr* Fort Worth, Texas", and a new plat <sup>*view*</sup> to be recorded. It was approved. *or*

July 23, 1912 a new plat and dedication was filed by the Freehold Property Company of the "Diamond Hill" Addition To Fort Worth, Texas, composed of all the land owned by the company in the two surveys. It was surveyed and compiled by Brooks Baker, Surveyor of Fort Worth. *S.*

*PH* → *On* March 20, 1928, T.J. Chapman, representing the Diamond Hill Civic League, appeared before the Board of Park Commissioners of the City of Fort Worth stating a need ~~of~~ *for* a park in the community and suggested it be located in a triangle of two or three acres located between Niles City and Diamond Hill. He was requested by the board to secure prices on several different pieces of land that might be suitable for park purposes and present them to the board at a later date. *or*

May 1, 1928, <sup>*as*</sup> requested, Mr. Chapman submitted to the board a tract of land adjacent to Diamond Hill. A committee of one was appointed to confer with the owner in regards *to* ~~of~~ acquiring the land.

*PH* → Although the City of Niles was annexed by the City of Fort Worth in 1923 it remained as a <sup>*distinct*</sup> community. *or*

May 29, 1928, <sup>*a*</sup> A letter was read at the regular session meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of Fort Worth from Herbert G. Walker, Vice-President of the Freehold Property Company, in response to an inquiry of land in the Diamond Hill Addition for



a park site.

The land consisting of 37 acres was described in lots and blocks, priced at \$13,000, and with an option of three weeks. Mr. Walker stated another four lots might be available in one of the blocks mentioned, but did not quote a price. He continued, "The last two sales of this property were as follows: Fort Worth Power & Light, \$900. per acre, the Gulf Refining Co., \$1100., per acre, round figures." Terms were set at one-sixth cash and balance in five equal payments, and the city taxes for the year of 1928 to be paid by the city. The board voted to offer the company the amount quoted for the property, subject to ratification of the City of Fort Worth.

June 12, 1928, A second letter was received by the board from Mr. Walker advising them of the property available for the park site. He wrote, "We understand you have delayed accepting this offer desiring to secure four extra lots not included in the original price." He advised them that the lots in question were not available. Mr. Walker continued, "The offer made you on the 7th of May has expired but to keep the record straight, we again offer you the same property for the same price thirteen thousand dollars (\$13,000)." The same financial terms were quoted, and offer would remain open for their written acceptance for an additional three weeks. The board voted to accept the amended proposition, subject to ratification of the Mayor and City Council of Fort Worth.

They instructed Superintendent Clark to secure a contract for the property and have it properly executed.

June 19, 1928, The contract was ratified by the City Council of Fort Worth.

July 5, 1928, A deed was issued to the City of Fort Worth for the Diamond Hill Park Site by the Freehold Property Company and Fort Worth Trust Company.

The site was, and still is, divided into two sections; the northern half, comprised of approximately twenty-two (22) acres; the southern half contained fifteen (15) acres.

*In the*  
Latter part of the following October, a crew of workmen began clearing the northern half. Weeds were cut and rubbish hauled away. By the end of November it was estimated *that* about 1,000 truck loads of rubbish had been removed from the site. →

A local newspaper reporting the progress of the work stated, "With the cleaning up of the property, the site will be one of the most beautiful park grounds in Fort Worth, officials declare. It is a little more than a block from the Diamond Hill School and will serve as a playground for more than 1,800 children." <sup>7.</sup> <sup>1</sup>

*(pp)* → A letter was received by the Board of Park Commissioners from George W. Saunders, President of the Old Trail Drivers Association, dated November 24, 1928, suggesting a name for the park site. He wrote the following:

" Union Stock Yards,  
San Antonio, Texas."

→ Hon. Board of Park Commissioners,  
→ Fort Worth, Texas,  
Gentlemen:

*Exhibit X  
Rough Span*  
I understand that you have purchased a tract of land in Diamond Hill to be used for a park. As 60% of the 10,000,000 cattle and 1,000,000 horses had been driven to Northern Markets during the trail driving period passed thru near Fort Worth, your city was built on the cattle industry. You have the largest cattle market in the United States and it would be a token of great respect to the Old Pioneer Empire builders and the cattlemen of Texas to name the Diamond tract " Trail Drivers Park," No other name would be more appreciated by the men that have done so much for your city and also the state. Please give this matter your consideration and let me know the result.

Yours Truly,  
G.W. Saunders, Old Trail Drivers Ass."



(MP) → *on*  
December 12, 1928, ✓ A local newspaper reported, "Diamond Hill Park Acquired By The City, Named In Honor Of Trail Drivers." It further stated <sup>City Park</sup> Commissioners selected the name and Supt. Clark was in receipt of a letter from G.W. Saunders of San Antonio, President of the Old Trail Drivers Association, expressing gratitude for the naming of the park and promised <sup>in</sup> at an early date to personally inspect the property. The article continued, "Plans for the beautification of the tract of land will be worked out by S. Herbert Hare of Kansas City, landscaping architect in charge of laying out the entire park system in Fort Worth. A topographical map of the land has been made by the City Engineering Department and forward to Hare." *In late December, 1928,*

~~The latter part of December,~~ Mr. Hare designed plans for the park showing landscaping, ball field and tennis courts. <sup>8.</sup> 8

(MP) →  
The Fort Worth Star-Telegram, a local newspaper, began a series of articles pertaining to the beginning of the Fort Worth <sup>P</sup> Park Systems in March, of 1929. →

The first article appeared March 21st, reporting the history of parks in North Fort Worth. Of Trail Drivers Park it stated, "So far nothing but land designed for park purposes will, when improved, become one of the larger and more attractive parks of the city, made more attractive by its picturesque location and name. It was designated soon after its purchase last year as Trail Drivers Park." *on*

July 11, 1929, ✓ The secretary of the Board of Park Commissioners was instructed to write a letter to Mr. Saunders in behalf of the board, thanking him and the association for interest shown and suggestion made in connection with the park. *on*

September 17, 1929, ✓ George W. Saunders came to Fort Worth and viewed the park site and attended the meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners. He discussed a proposal of erecting an appropriate marker for the park with them. A committee was appointed to work out the details of the marker with Mr. Saunders and Wallace Simpson, an artist in Fort Worth. <sup>9.</sup> 9

(MP) *Throughout*  
~~Spread~~ over the minutes of the Board of Park Commissioners <sup>on</sup> is reference, to the marker,

from 1929<sup>to</sup> 1938. The last account was entered on November 1, 1938; ~~It was reported that~~ a letter had been written to the Old Trail Drivers Association in reference to the marker, but they had not replied. ~~on~~

→ on March 13, 1930, <sup>it</sup> was reported at the regular session meeting of the board, <sup>that</sup> a strip of land with a maximum width of 13 ft, being off of the north boundry line of the park on 28th Street was needed by the City of Fort Worth and Tarrant County for major street improvements. It was approved and the board was authorized to excute the necessary deeds.

→ A resolution was read from the Diamond Hill Civic League pertaining to the park. Supt. Adams was instructed to reply to the league and to have the park cleared of all rubbish and plunder as early as practical. ~~on~~

→ on June 21, 1932, Asst. Supt. Maxon was authorized to get an estimate of cost for constructing a rock toilet in the park. By August 16th it was completed. Six years later (1938) it was discovered <sup>that</sup> the contractor had built on a lot which did not belong to the park site or the city, therefore the lot, 50 X 125, was purchased from Freehold Property Company for \$175.00 and became park property. ~~on~~

October 17, 1933, <sup>a</sup> request was presented to the board from Tarrant County for a portion of land off of the north side of Trail Drivers Park at 28th Street for the proposed extention of State Highway No. 15, now known as State Highway No. 183. It was granted and a deed was forward<sup>d</sup> to Fort Worth City Council for ratification and excution.

→ on November 16, 1933, <sup>a</sup> special meeting was held by the board in which the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

→ " Resolved that request is hereby made to the Civil Works Administration for the men, equipment and materials to complete the following projects as per plans of Hare & Hare, Landscape Architects of Kansas City, Missouri on the basis that the Board of Park Commissioners will furnish general supervision."



Trail Drivers Park was included in the projects named. It was requested for the park, 81 men for 60 days, and sum of \$1,975.00 for material. *on*

March 21, 1934, - ~~the~~ expenditure for installing a new baseball diamond in Trail

Drivers Park was approved by the Fort Worth Recreation Board. ~~on~~

*PP* → *on*  
August 7, 1934, <sup>*a*</sup> A committee, composed of Mr. Bob Stanton, Mr. Jack Carter, Mrs. McIntyre and Mrs. Barton, representing the Diamond Hill Civic League, appeared before the Board of Park Commissioners to discuss improvements in Trail Drivers Park. →

At this meeting Mr. Hare of the firm of Hare & Hare ~~appeared to~~ <sup>*ed*</sup> discuss the plans for ~~the~~ landscaping of the northern half of the park. )

→ The president ~~and~~ <sup>*to.*</sup> ~~supt.~~ of the board was to make application for funds to the Federal Emergency Administration Public Works for material and labor for improvements in several parks, including Trail Drivers Park. *on*

August 6, 1935, <sup>*a*</sup> A letter was sent to Mr. Hare from the board requesting him to prepare complete working plans for the proposed shelter houses, including Trail Drivers Park. *on*

September 12, 1935, <sup>*a*</sup> A special meeting was called by the board for purpose of discussing application to be submitted to the Work Progress Administration. →

Supt. Adams informed the board of information he received from Mr. Dickey and Mr. Douglas with the W.P.A., stating \$253,300.00 had been tentatively approved by the Fort Worth <sup>*had been*</sup> Office and a request made to Washington <sup>*to*</sup> officials to approve this amount, pending filing of project applications. )

→ After studying the various park plans, the board authorized Mr. Adams to file application for development of several parks. He was to submit the application for Trail Drivers Park, stating: Reclaim land near creek, build roads, excavate hill, put in shubbery beds, build necessary walks, tennis courts, a shelter house and complete according <sup>*to*</sup> to plan. //

*on*  
June 15, 1937 - A committee ~~from~~ *from* the Diamond Hill Civic League composed of Mmes. E. B. Thronton, F.M. Walker, B.Q. Barton, G.W. Grant and Mr. Norton was present at the regular session meeting of the board requesting improvements be made in Trail Drivers Park. Supt. Adams informed the committee and board that an application was ready to be submitted to the W.P.A. for complete development of the park, including a shelter building to be erected on the hill in the northeast section of the park site. *on*  
September 21, 1937, ~~it~~ *it* was reported to the board <sup>that</sup> Mr. ~~Hare~~ <sup>had</sup> ~~revised~~ the plans for the shelter house in Trail Drivers Park in accordance with the desires of the board. After a discussion of the W.P.A. project of the park, Supt. Adams was authorized to proceed and carry the project through to completion, even though it had to be done at the sacrifice of maintenance and construction in other areas. *on*

December 1, 1937, ~~The project application of Trail Drivers Park~~ was approved for the development of Trail Drivers Park by the Work Progress Administration Headquarters in San Antonio.

*that*  
It was announced work on the improvements in Trail Drivers Park would begin January 4, 1938, ~~but~~ *but the starting date was* then delayed until January 15th, due to unavailable equipment to be used. The W.P.A. Officials advised the Board of Park Commissioners, ~~that however, that~~ many workers would be unemployed in the latter part of December. The project was then set to begin December 27, 1937. ~~It was stated that~~ *it* ~~fifty men would begin~~ *were to* the job doing manual labor in the park and other men would be added as machinery and equipment became available. *on*  
December 27, 1937, ~~Eighty~~ *Eighty* men started work on the improvements of Trail Drivers Park. The project encompassed a \$40,000.00 shelter house and landscaping work. *By* October, ~~of~~ 1938, the project was completed as planned.

*on*  
February 17, 1948, ~~a~~ *a* committee from the Diamond Hill Civic League requested ~~the~~ *that* the Fort Worth Park Department make improvements needed in Trail Drivers Park. The committee was referred to the Fort Worth Recreation Department. *on*

February 18, 1948, ~~the~~ *the* delegation ~~made~~ *presented* the request ~~of~~ *to* the Recreation Department.



Recreation Director Evans assured the committee <sup>that</sup> Trail Drivers Park would share in the \$2,000.00 to be spent by the department for playground equipment. Of the park, ~~Park~~ Supt. Adams said, "Trail Drivers Park is far above the average of neighborhood parks." <sup>12.</sup>

As seen in this history, the Diamond Hill Civic League was very instrumental in the acquiring of the park site in the community by the City of Fort Worth. Through the years they displayed pride and interest in the city's development and maintenance of Trail Drivers Park.

In October of 1949 the league was given credit publicly by a local newspaper in an article ~~entitled~~, "Park For Diamond Hill Won By Civic League." <sup>13.</sup>

The southern half of the park was never developed as designed by Hare & Hare. In 1962 a portion of it was converted to the Park Service Department.

A public thoroughfare, Gunther Street, ran through the northern half of the park for many years, dividing the area containing the shelter house and ball field from the playground facilities. In July, of 1970, <sup>the</sup> Park and Recreation Department of ~~the City~~ of Fort Worth requested closing Gunther as a through street and proposed to remove a 400-foot section to provide space for expanding of the lighted softball field. According to C.B. Campbell, Director of Parks, the field was the only lighted softball field, at that time, in the <sup>the</sup> Central North Side Area and in constant use and still is today. <sup>In</sup> August, of 1970, <sup>the street closing</sup> it was approved by the City of Fort Worth.

Two parking lots, with turn arounds, were constructed at the north and south ends of the newly developed area <sup>from</sup> of what once was a portion of Gunther Street. With this new development, ~~it changed~~ the original design of the northern half of the park <sup>was altered.</sup>

In September, of 1970, the City of Fort Worth acquired three lots adjacent to the southwest <sup>part</sup> of the northern half of the park property and these were incorporated <sup>lots</sup> as ~~such~~ <sup>into the park</sup>.

In ~~the~~ Spring, of 1981, the shelter house was renovated and in the Fall new play grounds were equipped and ~~picnic~~ <sup>picnic</sup> areas were developed. <sup>14.</sup>



MP → Gilmore's Branch, previously mention<sup>ed</sup>, is a small stream running through the park from the West Fork of the Trinity River, ~~being its mouth,~~ and runs <sup>north</sup> north for approximately two miles. This stream was called "Anderson's Branch" by several descendants of early pioneer settlers who settled in that section of Tarrant County. In the Tarrant County Deed Records the legal name of Gilmore's Branch was applied. The stream has a historical significant<sup>ce</sup> to the area. It is said to be the old swimming hole and playground of the children of early pioneer families of Seaborne Gilmore, C.B. Daggett, J.B. York, Abraham Anderson and others.

During the cattle ~~years~~<sup>DRIVE</sup> the stream served as a watering place for the cattle being herded northward to the mid-western markets and railheads.

MP → The park site ~~stood~~<sup>was</sup> in the path of the cattle trail leading to the Chisholm and Western Trails in Indian Territory. Thousands of head of cattle driven up from Mexico, Central and South Texas passed through it on their way to the Red River to connect with these trails.

The cattle forded the West Fork of the Trinity River at two crossings near the park, one a short distance to the southeast at what was known as Daggett's Crossing on the old Fort Worth and Birdville Road, later known as Cold Springs Road. In 1880's Tarrant County constructed a bridge in the vicinity of the crossing. It is said to be the first county bridge to span the West Fork of the Trinity River.

PP → The other crossing is located a short distance to the southwest of the park ~~in the~~<sup>near</sup> vicinity of where the Samuels Avenue Bridge is located today.

PP → Herds fording these crossings ~~might be~~<sup>sometimes were</sup> driven north to Denton County so other cattle could be picked up from ranchers and added to the herd, then proceed northward to the Red River Station Crossing to connect with the Chisholm Trail in Indian Territory. ~~They might be herded~~<sup>other herds moved</sup> northwestward through ~~the Town of~~ Decatur to Witchta Falls then onward to the Red River ~~and swim across at Doan's Crossing~~ connecting with the Western Trail in Indian Territory ~~at~~<sup>at Doan's Crossing,</sup>



A daughter of C.B. Daggett recalled in 1937, <sup>that coming</sup> herds ~~came~~ through these two crossings were so large <sup>that</sup> it would take an entire day for the cattle to swim across the river. The cattle would mill about for hours, covering the land that is now Trail Drivers Park. Her father was an early pioneer settler of Tarrant County and Daggett's Crossing was named after him. <sup>16.</sup>

After the cattle <sup>were</sup> ~~was~~ bedded down and secured for the night the drovers would ride back to Fort Worth for lodgings, provisions and entertainment. The following day <sup>they</sup> proceed northward on their journey to the Red River.

The cattle trail that passed near ~~the Town of~~ Fort Worth and connected with the Chisholm and Western Trails in Indian Territory was known as the McCoy and / or Eastern Trail. However <sup>however, it was commonly</sup> by the early 1930's, ~~it was~~ referred to as the Chisholm Trail, and still is today.

During the Centennial year (1936) fourteen markers ~~(14)~~ were placed indicating the route of the McCoy Trail through the City of Fort Worth.

In the vicinity of the trail leading to the West Fork of the Trinity River, one <sup>of the markers</sup> was placed at ~~the~~ Cold Springs Road between the M.K.T. and Rock Island Railways tracks; one at the intersection of Cold Springs Road and Denton Road; and one on the ~~N.W.~~ <sup>northwest</sup> corner of the bridge crossing the West Fork of the Trinity River on Cold Springs Road. Unfortunately this bridge is no longer standing. <sup>17</sup>

There are several OTHER HISTORICAL SITES NEAR TRAIL DRIVERS PARK. <sup>(small case)</sup>

A few hundred yards west of the southern half of the park is the site of the City Hall of Niles City, Texas, <sup>at 2358</sup> on Decatur Avenue, ~~(2358)~~ erected in 1912 to house the administrative offices and jail of "the richest little city in the world". In 1921 the city extended its boundary lines and the land upon which the park is situated <sup>was</sup> brought <sup>and in</sup> <sup>Niles City</sup> <sup>Niles City Hall</sup> became within Niles City. The city was annexed by Fort Worth in 1923 and the building became its property. In 1951 it was sold by Fort Worth. The building was demolished in 1975, and <sup>was</sup> replaced by a parking lot.



A Texas Historical Marker was dedicated in April, ~~of~~ 1982, by the North Fort Worth Historical Society and Tarrant County Historical Commission to commemorate Niles City, Texas, and ~~It~~ is located about one-half mile west of the park at the intersection of the 600 Block of East Exchange Ave. <sup>18.</sup> and Packers Ave. <sup>18</sup>

⑫ → A short distance ~~to the~~ west of the north boundary line of the park on N.E. 28th Street is the site of an early pioneer cemetery, Mitchell Cemetery, also known as Niles City Cemetery. It is located behind the business at 2707 Decatur Avenue between the tracks of the Fort Worth and Denver and St. Louis Southwestern (Cotton Belt) Railways. The first burial here was in 1848, ~~of~~ the small son of John B. York, second sheriff of Tarrant County. <sup>Sheriff York</sup> ~~He~~ is also buried here along with his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Seaborne Gilmore, Tarrant County's first judge. Other members of early pioneer families of Tarrant County are said to be buried here. In October, ~~of~~ 1984, a Texas Historical Marker was dedicated by the North Fort Worth Historical Society and Tarrant County Historical Commission. <sup>19.</sup>

⑬ → A short distance ~~to the~~ east of the southern half of the park is the site of the Gulf Oil Company's second refinery plant built in the United States. It was constructed in 1911 along with a pipeline plant; although the size of the plant has decreased, the company is still operating here.

⑭ → Across the West Fork of the Trinity River about one-half mile to the south of the southern half of the park on Samuels Ave. <sup>is</sup> is a small park, "Trader's Oak." It is the site of ~~the first~~ <sup>a</sup> general merchandise store and ~~for~~ trading post established outside of the fort, ~~at the~~ in 1849, to ~~serve~~ <sup>serve</sup> the early pioneer settlers and traders. It was known as Daggett and Leonard Store ~~and~~ <sup>for</sup> Trading Post and continued to operate until 1854.

*Trader's Oak Park*  
Under a large Oak tree in ~~the park~~ is a marker placed by the Tarrant County Historical Society stating the following:

→ "Henry Clay Daggett And Archibald Leonard Established A Trading Post



~~On~~ This Site In 1849. First Election In Tarrant County Was Held Under

This Tree In 1850 And Birdville Voted The First County Seat." *In*

July, <sup>20.</sup> ~~of~~ 1953, Fort Worth purchased several lots out of the Holloway Addition for this  
park ~~site.~~ <sup>20</sup>

*PP* → Trail Drivers Park contributed <sup>significantly</sup> ~~eminently~~ to the community and surrounding areas,  
providing a ~~place, with,~~ recreational facilities, for the neighborhood children  
and others, church and family socials, organization functions, and school activities.)

*Trail Drivers Park*  
We, ~~the~~ North Fort Worth Historical Society, believe, that this ~~sixty six year old~~  
park is deserving and most qualified for a <sup>an official</sup> ~~State of Texas~~ Historical Marker. It was  
named as a memorial to those men and women who contributed so much to ~~the State of~~  
Texas history and made Texas known all over ~~the United States and~~ the world as the  
cattle state.

We pray that the Texas Historical Commission agree, ~~and~~ <sup>It</sup> would be a great honor to  
the memory of those pioneer trail drivers and to the City of Fort Worth if granted  
and awarded a Texas Historical Marker.

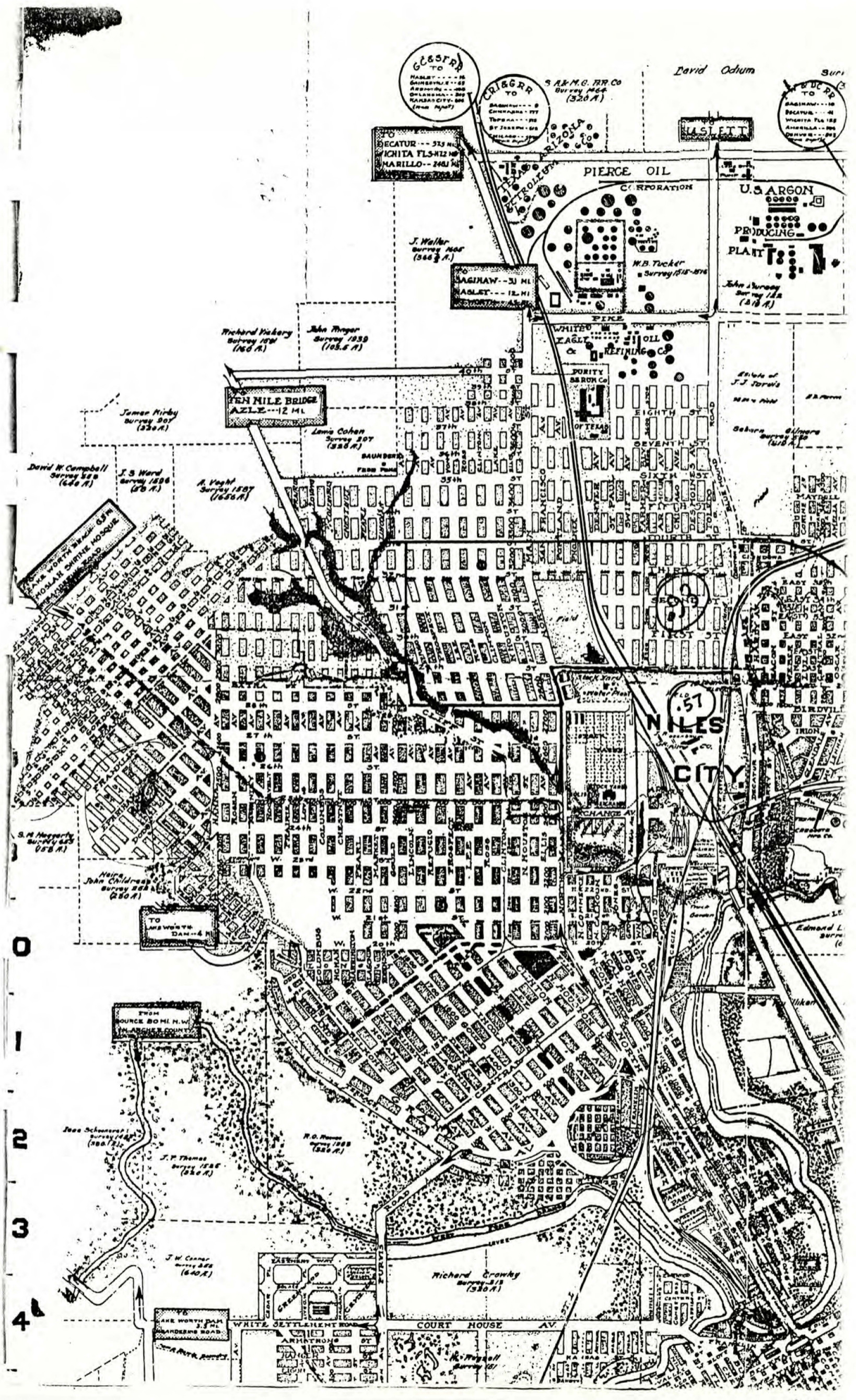


## TRAIL RIVER PARK

Only Park in the World Dedicated to the Old Trail Drivers

Out of the thousands of persons who visit Fort Worth annually, and local residents as well, only a relatively few know that the City has the only park in the world honoring the Old Trail Drivers of Texas who drove vast herds to northern markets before the days of more adequate transportation. This park, known as Old Trail Drivers' Park, located on 28th Street, just east of Decatur highway (once known as the old Decatur Road) is situated on a beautiful hillside adjacent to the historic Trinity River, and it overlooks one of the most picturesque of the City's skylines. This is a timely and well-deserved memorial to those early day cattlemen who blazed trail when the blazing was hard, a citizenry that laid the foundation of a great industry. The park, built during the "Depression Years", was a Works Progress project, and was suggested to the Fort Worth Park Department by the late George W. Saunders, of San Antonio, at that time President of the Old Trail Drivers' Association of Texas. It marks the site over which the herds once travelled on their northern trek after fording the nearby Trinity River.





6657R  
TO  
SICATON  
NICHITA  
MARILLO

CRIGGR  
TO  
SAGINAW  
ASLET

S.A.M.C. TRR Co  
Survey 164  
(320 A)

David Odum

TO  
SICATON  
NICHITA  
MARILLO

SICATON -- 37.5 MI  
NICHITA FLS-112 MI  
MARILLO -- 240 MI

SAGINAW -- 31 MI  
ASLET -- 12 MI

Richard Vickers  
Survey 107  
(160 A)

John Meyer  
Survey 183  
(105.5 A)

J. Walker  
Survey 166  
(365 A)

U.S. ARGON  
PRODUCING  
PLANT

John Survey  
Survey 12  
(818 A)

TEN MILE BRIDGE  
AZLE -- 12 MI

Louis Cohen  
Survey 207  
(320 A)

James Kirby  
Survey 907  
(320 A)

David W. Campbell  
Survey 58  
(640 A)

J.S. Ward  
Survey 186  
(50 A)

A. Voght  
Survey 187  
(650 A)

51  
MILES  
CITY

FROM SOURCE BOMI N.W.  
M. ARCHE COUNTY

Jess Schuster  
Survey 144  
(300 A)

J.P. Thomas  
Survey 158  
(240 A)

R.O. Pomeroy  
Survey 188  
(520 A)

J.W. Conner  
Survey 288  
(640 A)

Richard Crowley  
Survey 313  
(530 A)

LAKE WORTH DAM  
WARDENS ROAD

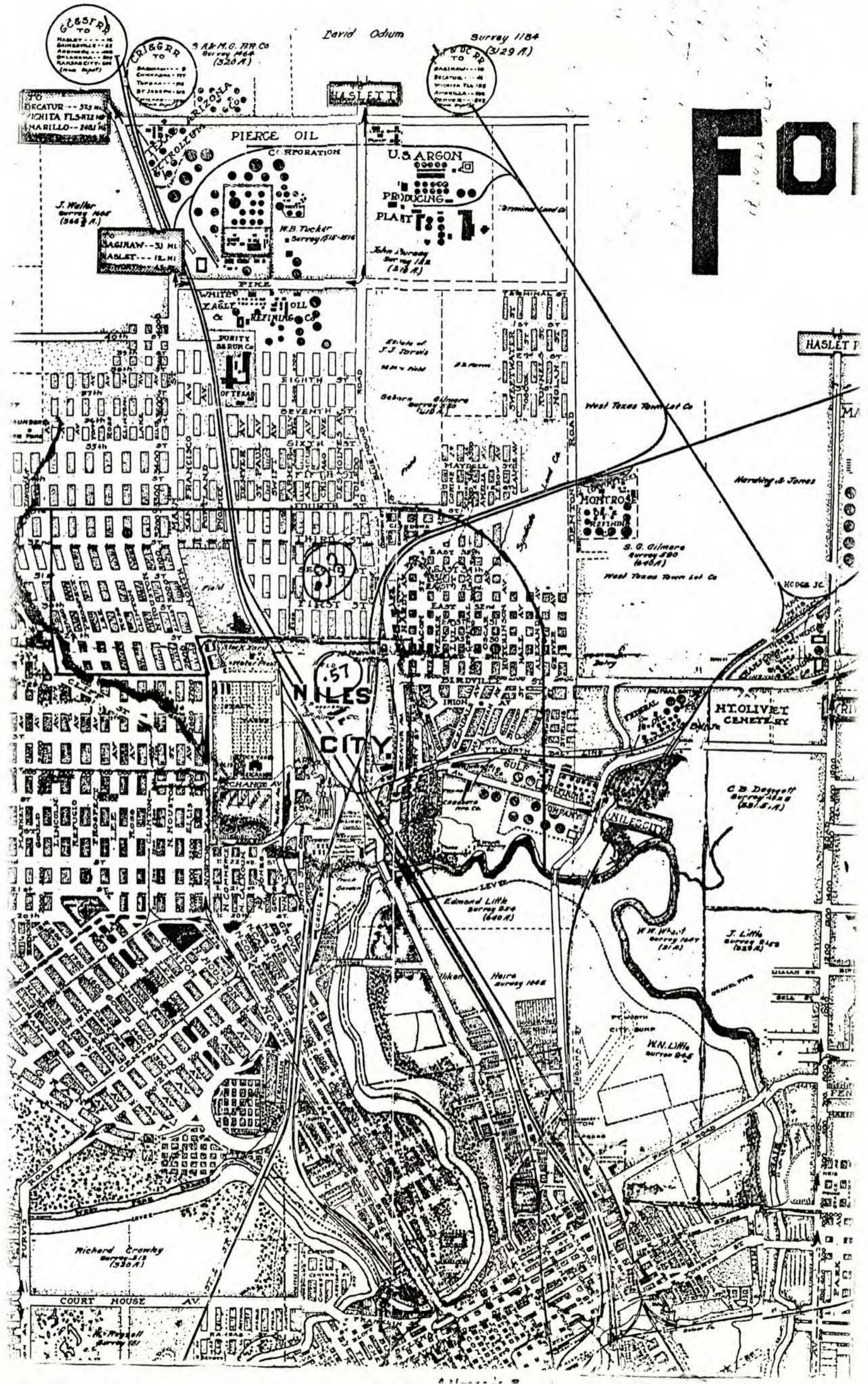
WHITE SETTLEMENT ROAD  
ARMSTRONG

COURT HOUSE AV

0  
1  
2  
3  
4



# FOI



David Odum

Surrey 1184  
(3129 A)

TO  
HABLET  
TO  
SURREY  
TO

TO  
SURREY  
TO

S.A.M.C. TRR Co  
Surrey 1064  
(326 A)

TO  
SURREY  
TO

TO  
SURREY  
TO

TO  
SURREY  
TO

W.B. Tucker  
Surrey 1015-1016

John Murray  
Surrey 1184  
(3129 A)

J. Waller  
Surrey 1064  
(326 A)

5.1  
MILES

CITY

Edmond Little  
Surrey 094  
(640 A)

Hairs  
Surrey 1064

J. Little  
Surrey 018  
(228 A)

H.N. Little  
Surrey 045

Richard Crowley  
Surrey 118  
(320 A)

COURT HOUSE AV

W. Mitchell  
Surrey 101

HASLET

Harding & Jones

West Texas Town Lot Co

S. G. Gilmore  
Surrey 800  
(646 A)

West Texas Town Lot Co

HOLIVET  
CEMETERY

C.B. Duggell  
Surrey 1048  
(227.5 A)

NILES CITY

H.N. Little  
Surrey 045

MILAN ST

BELL ST

GRANVILLE

WORTH

CITY BUMP

WORTH

WORTH

WORTH

WORTH

WORTH

WORTH

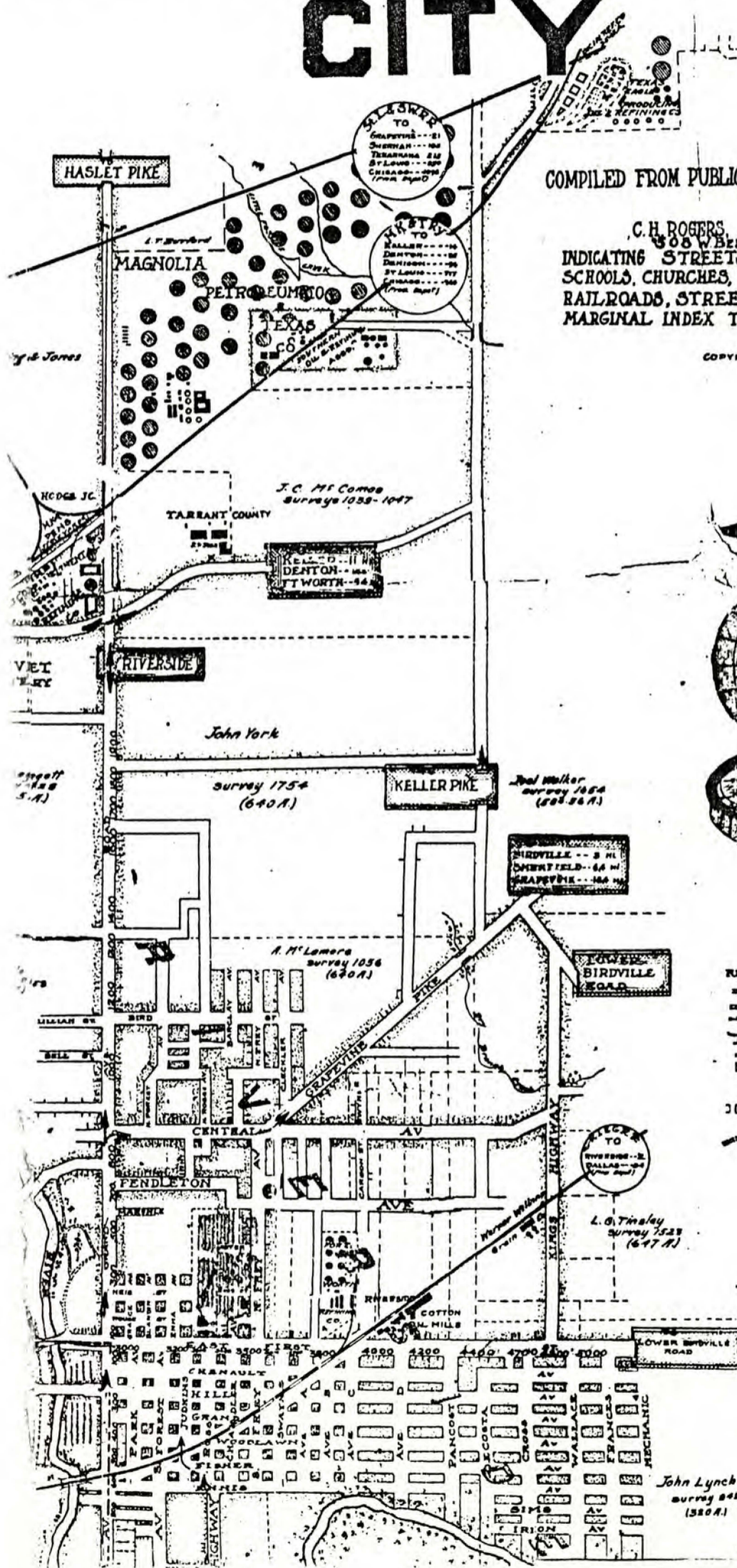
WORTH

WORTH

WORTH



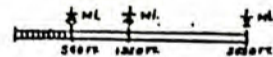
# GREATERT ORT WORTH CITY



COMPILED FROM PUBLIC RECORDS AND SPECIAL SURVEYS  
BY

C. H. ROGERS, FT. WORTH, TEXAS.  
308 W. BELKNAP ST. PHONE L 3746  
INDICATING STREETS, HOUSE NUMBERS, BUILDINGS,  
SCHOOLS, CHURCHES, INDUSTRIAL PLANTS, PARKS,  
RAILROADS, STREET CAR LINES, AUTO ROUTES,  
MARGINAL INDEX TO STREETS AND ADDITIONS  
ETC.

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## LEGEND

- RELATIVE SCALE 1000 FEET = 1 INCH
- RAILROADS
  - INTERURBAN LINES
  - STREET CAR LINES
  - PRINCIPAL AUTOMOBILE EXITS
  - CITY BOUNDARIES
  - RIVER LEAVES
  - BUILDINGS WITHIN BLOCKS
  - SCHOOLS
  - CHURCHES
  - INDICATES RESIDENCE-STREET NUMBERS
  - MARGINAL LETTERS LOCATE POINTS ON MAP
  - ROAD TRAILS

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14



