Texas Historical Commission staff (AD), 6/22/2010, rev. 7/7/2010

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post

Bexar County (Job #10BX06) Subject (Atlas) UTM: 14 530307E 3272937N

Location: Helotes, 15350 Scenic Loop Road

MARNOCH HOMESTEAD

SCOTTISH SURGEON DR. GEORGE FREDERICK MARNOCH (1802-1870) PURCHASED MORE THAN 1500 ACRES AT THIS SITE IN THE FALL OF 1858. IN JANUARY 1859, MARNOCH COMMISSIONED FAMED SAN ANTONIO ARCHITECT AND BUILDER JOHN M. FRIES TO CONSTRUCT THIS HOUSE NEAR HELOTES CREEK. PREVIOUSLY, FRIES HAD DESIGNED THE MENGER HOTEL AND CITY MARKET HOUSE IN SAN ANTONIO. DR. MARNOCH AND HIS WIFE ELIZABETH (WILSON) REARED SIX CHILDREN. BESIDES PRACTICING MEDICINE IN THE HELOTES AREA, DR. MARNOCH ALSO RAISED LIVESTOCK. UPON HIS DEATH, THE MARNOCH PROPERTY PASSED TO HIS CHILDREN.

GEORGE MARNOCH'S ELDEST SON, GABRIEL WILSON MARNOCH (1838-1920), WAS ALSO CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THE HOMESTEAD. GABRIEL, LIKE HIS FATHER, PRACTICED MEDICINE, AND WAS A NOTED NATURALIST AND RANCHER. HE WAS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY OF SAN ANTONIO, AN EARLY OBSERVER OF THE BALCONES ESCARPMENT, AND ALSO DISCOVERED TWO AMPHIBIAN AND TWO REPTILE SPECIES IN THE HELOTES HILLS. GABRIEL SERVED AS POSTMASTER OF HELOTES FROM 1904 UNTIL 1919. THE HOMESTEAD REMAINED IN THE MARNOCH FAMILY UNTIL 1947.

THE TWO-STORY RECTANGULAR PLAN HOUSE IS OF ROUGH COURSED LIMESTONE CONSTRUCTION, WITH BLOCKS ABOUT EIGHTEEN INCHES THICK, AND A HIPPED ROOF WITH GABLED DORMERS AND STONE CHIMNEYS. UNIQUE FEATURES INCLUDE TWO HALF-OCTAGON BAY TOWERS ON EACH SIDE OF THE HOUSE. BOTH FLOORS CONTAIN A CENTRAL HALL AND STAIRWELL FLANKED BY SINGLE ROOMS. ADDITIONAL DETAILS INCLUDE KEYSTONE ARCHES AND STONE LINTELS ABOVE DOORS AND WINDOWS, AND PINE FLOORS AND INTERIOR WOODWORK. IN 1914, AN EXISTING STONE KITCHEN BEHIND THE HOUSE WAS DISMANTLED AND REBUILT AS A REAR ADDITION WITH THE ORIGINAL MATERIALS.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 2010

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS: 2010 Official Texas Historical Marker Sponsorship Application Form

Valid September 1, 2009 to November 30, 2009 only

This form constitutes a public request for the Texas Historical Commission (THC) to consider approval of an Official Texas Historical Marker for the topic noted in this application. The THC will review the request and make its determination based on rules and procedures of the program. Filing of the application for sponsorship is for the purpose of providing basic information to be used in the evaluation process. The final determination of eligibility and therefore approval for a state marker will be made by the THC. This form is to be used for Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (building marker) requests only. Please see separate forms for either Historic Texas Cemeteries or subject markers.

Proposed marker topic (official title will be determined by the THC): Marnoch Homestead

County: Bexar

Town (nearest county town on current state highway map): Helotes

Street address of marker site or directions from town noted above: 15350 Scenic Loop Road

Marker Coordinates:

If you know the location coordinates of the proposed marker site, enter them in one of the formats below:

UTM Zone Easting Northing

Lat: Long: (deg, min, sec or decimal degrees)

Otherwise, give a precise verbal description here (e.g. northwest corner of 3rd and Elm, or FM 1411, 2.6 miles east of McWhorter Creek): At the intersection of Scenic Loop Rd. and Marnoch Road, fronting Scenic Loop Road, about .5 mi. N of Bandera Road intersection.

NOTE: Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers must be placed at the structure being marked.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers definition: Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) markers are awarded to structures deemed worthy of preservation for their historical associations and architectural significance. RTHL is a legal designation and comes with a measure of protection; it is the highest honor the state can bestow on a historic structure, and the designation is required for this type of marker. The RTHL designation becomes effective upon approval by the THC. Official Texas Historical Markers signify the RTHL designation, which comes only through application to and approval by the THC and must include public display of an Official Texas Historical Marker. Owners of RTHL-designated structures must give the THC 60 days written notice before any alterations are made to the exterior of the structure. RTHL status is a permanent designation and is not to be removed from the property in the event of a transfer of ownership. Only the THC can remove the designation or recall the marker. The marker must remain with the structure and may not be removed or displayed elsewhere until or unless the THC gives express approval in writing for such action. Once designated as RTHL, properties are subject to provisions of Texas Government Code, Section 442.006(f).

Criteria:

- 1. **Age:** Structures eligible for the RTHL designation and marker must be at least 50 years old.
- 2. **Historical significance:** Architectural significance alone is not enough to qualify a structure for the RTHL designation. It must have an equally significant historical association, and that association can come from an event that occurred at the site; through individuals who owned or lived on the property; or, in the case of bridges, industrial plants, schoolhouses and other non-residential properties, through documented significance to the larger community.
- 3. **Architectural significance:** Structures deemed architecturally significant are outstanding examples of architectural history through design, materials, structural type or construction methods. In all cases, eligible architectural properties must display integrity; that is, the structure should be in a good state of repair, maintain its appearance from its period of significance and be considered an exemplary model of preservation. Architectural significance is often best determined by the relevance of the property to broader contexts, including geography. Any changes over the years should be compatible with original design and reflect compliance with accepted preservation practices, e.g., the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*.
- 4. **Good state of repair:** Structures not considered by the THC to be in a good state of repair are ineligible for RTHL designation. The THC reserves the sole right to make that determination relative to eligibility for RTHL markers.

Special National Register considerations for RTHL marker applications: If a structure has been individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under either Criterion A or B and Criterion C (Architecture), the historical text compiled as part of the National Register nomination process may be submitted as part of the marker process, provided it includes the required reference notes and other documentation. Acceptance of the National Register information for the purposes of the marker process will be up to the sole determination of the THC. Listing in the NRHP does not guarantee approval for an RTHL marker. See the THC web site at http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigs/madnrcrit.html for National Register criteria.

Check this box if the property is individually listed in the NRHP.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Any individual, group or county historical commission (CHC) may apply to the THC to request an Official Texas Historical Marker for what it deems a worthy topic. Only complete marker applications that contain all the required elements and are submitted online as required can be accepted or processed by the THC (for RTHL markers, the required elements are: sponsorship application form; narrative history; documentation; legal description of the property; site plan; floorplan; historic photograph; and current photographs clearly showing each side of the structure—please resize photographs to 1-2 MB, or approximately 1024 x 768 pixels).

- Completed applications must be duly reviewed, verified and approved by the county historical commission (CHC) in the county in which the marker will be placed.
- The sponsorship application form, narrative history and documentation must be submitted as Microsoft Word or Word-compatible documents and sent via email attachments to the THC by no later than November 30, 2009.
- Required font style and type size are a Times variant and 12-point.
- Narrative histories must be typed in a double-spaced (or 1.5-spaced) format and include separate sections on context, overview, significance and documentation.
- The narrative history must include documentation in the form of reference notes, which
 can be either footnotes or endnotes. Documentation associated with applications should
 be broad-based and demonstrate a survey of all available resources, both primary and
 secondary.

• Upon notification of the successful preliminary review of required elements by the THC, a non-refundable application fee of \$100 is required. The fee shall be submitted to the THC within ten working days of application receipt notification.

APPROVAL BY COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The duly appointed marker representative (chair or marker chair) noted below for the county historical commission will be the sole contact with the THC for this marker application. To ensure accuracy, consistency and efficiency, all information from and to the THC relative to the application—and throughout the review and production processes—will be via direct communication with the CHC representative. All other inquiries (calls, emails, letters) to the THC will be referred to the CHC representative for response. By filling out the information below and filing the application with the THC, the CHC representative is providing the THC with notice that the application and documentation have been reviewed and verified by the CHC and that the material meets all current requirements of the Official Texas Historical Marker program.

As chair or duly appointed marker chair, I certify the following:

Representatives of the CHC have met or talked with the potential marker sponsor and discussed the marker program policies as outlined on the THC web site. CHC members have reviewed the history and documentation for accuracy and made corrections or notes as necessary. It is the determination of the CHC that the topic, history and documentation meet criteria for eligibility.

CHC comments or concerns about this application, if any:

Name of CHC contact (chair or marker chair): Dr. Felix Almaráz

Mailing address: 323 Inspiration Drive City, Zip: San Antonio, TX 78228

Daytime phone (with area code): 210-435-3305 **Email address** (required): falmaraz@utsa.edu

PERMISSION OF PROPERTY OWNER FOR MARKER PLACEMENT

Property owner: Frank & Carolyn Kennedy

Address: 14992A Scenic Loop Road City, state, zip: Helotes, Texas 78023

Phone:210-695-5545 Email address: ckennedy229@satx.rr.com

Legal Description of the property (metes and bounds, lot and block, etc.): CB 4524 P-5C ABS 645

Upon receipt of the application, the THC will provide the owner with a letter that outlines the legal responsibility of ownership under the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark statute. The letter must be signed by the owner and returned to the THC before the evaluation can be completed.

NOTE: The property owner will not receive any additional copies of correspondence from the THC. All other correspondence—notice of receipt, request for additional information, payment notice, inscription, shipping notice, etc.—will be sent via email to the CHC representative, who is encouraged to share the information with all interested parties as necessary. Given the large volume of applications processed annually and the need for centralized communication, all inquiries about applications in process will be referred to the CHC for response. The CHC is the sole liaison to the THC on all marker application matters.

SPONSORSHIP PAYMENT INFORMATION

Prospective sponsors please note the following:

- Payment must be received in full within 45 days of the official approval notice and must be accompanied by the THC payment form. The THC is unable to process partial payments or to delay payment due to processing procedures of the sponsor. Applications not paid in the time frame required may, at the sole discretion of the THC, be cancelled or postponed.
- Payment does not constitute ownership of a marker; Recorded Texas Historic Landmark markers and other Official Texas Historical Markers are the property of the State of Texas.
- If, at any time during the marker process, sponsorship is withdrawn, a refund can be processed, but the THC will retain the application fee of \$100.
- The Official Texas Historical Marker Program provides no means of recognizing sponsors or property owners through marker text, incising or supplemental plaques.

Marker sponsor (may be individual or organization): Cynthia Massey

Contact person (if applicable): Cynthia Massey

Mailing address: 10547 Rocking M Trail City, zip: Helotes, Texas 78023

Email address (required):cmassey2@satx.rr.com Phone: 210-695-5328

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

In order to facilitate delivery of the marker, neither post office box numbers nor rural route numbers can be accepted. To avoid additional shipping charges or delays, use a business street address (open 8 a.m.—5 p.m., Monday through Friday).

Name: Carolyn Kennedy

Street address: 15350 Scenic Loop Road City, zip: Helotes, Texas 78023

Daytime phone (required): 210-695-5545 Email (required): ckennedy229@satx.rr.com

TYPE AND SIZE OF RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS

As part of its review process, the THC will determine the appropriate size marker and provide options, if any, for the approved topic based on its own review criteria, including, but not exclusive of, historical significance, replication of information in other THC markers, relevance to the Statewide Preservation Plan and the amount of available documented information provided in the application narrative. In making its determination, however, the THC will also take into account the preference of the CHC, as noted below.

The sponsor/CHC prefers the following size marker:
27" X 42" RTHL marker without post* (\$1500)
☐ 18" x 28" RTHL marker with post (\$1000)
18" x 28" RTHL marker without post* (\$1000)
RTHL medallion and 16" x 12" plaque with post (\$750)

RTHL medallion and 16" x 12" plaque without post* (\$750)
*For an RTHL marker without post, indicate to what surface material it will be mounted:
wood
masonry
metal
other (specify)

SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION (via email required)

When the CHC has determined the application is complete, the history has been verified and the topic meets the requirements of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program, the materials should be forwarded to the THC via email at the following address: markerapplication@thc.state.tx.us.

- The CHC or marker chair should send an email containing the following attachments (see attachment function under file menu or toolbox on your computer):
 - This application form
 - The narrative history (including documentation)
 - Legal description of the property
 - Detailed floor plan for each floor of the structure
 - Detailed site plan of the property
 - At least one historic photograph
 - Current photographs clearly showing each side of the structure

RECORDS RETENTION BY CHC: The CHC must retain hard copies of the application as well as an online version, at least for the duration of the marker process. The THC is not responsible for lost applications, for incomplete applications or for applications not properly filed according to the program requirements. For additional information about any aspect of the Official Texas Historical Marker Program, see the Markers page on the THC web site (http://www.thc.state.tx.us/markerdesigs/madmark.html)

Texas Historical Commission History Programs Division P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276 Phone 512/463-5853 history@thc.state.tx.us



THE MARNOCH HOMESTEAD

CONTEXT

The town of Helotes in northwest Bexar County was incorporated in 1981; however, the area has a long history of occupation. Reports of archeological excavations revealed evidence of nomadic tribes as far back as 5000 BC. More recently, the area was mentioned in a 1723 Spanish report to the then governor of the province, describing an Indian attack that occurred at el Puerto de los Olotes (Corncob Pass), 20 miles northwest of the Presidio San Antonio de Béxar. The town's name is derived from the Spanish word *elotes*, which means corn-on-the cob.

In addition to the constant Indian attacks, the political and sometimes violent struggle for control of Texas between Mexico, Spain, France, and the United States also prevented more than spotty colonization. After Texas became part of the Union in 1845, the federal government authorized a network of forts through the Comanche frontier to protect settlers. By the mid-1850s, immigrants began their trek to the Helotes settlement.

Often referred to as the town "where the Texas Hill Country begins," Helotes possessed a rich natural resource of creeks and springs. When Dr. George Frederick Marnochⁱⁱ saw the rolling hills and fertile valleys, he said the landscape reminded him of his homeland of Scotland.ⁱⁱⁱ In the fall of 1858, he purchased more than fifteen hundred acres from county surveyor Francois Giraud and a few months later commissioned the building of his family home on land fronting Helotes Creek.

The Marnoch Homestead, built in 1859 along Helotes Creek, a half mile north of the creek's intersection with Bandera Road, is the oldest residence in the town of Helotes. The homestead, a unique Anglo-American adopted Georgian style box house with two

half-octagon bay towers, was built by John M. Fries. A home for Helotes's founding family, it also served as an early school and a post office. iv

Although Scottish surgeon Dr. George Frederick Marnoch was the original owner, the house is most associated with his son, frontier naturalist Gabriel Wilson Marnoch, who discovered two amphibian and two reptile species in the limestone cliffs that predominate in the Helotes hills, including the Cliff Chirping Frog, *Eleutherodactylus* (*Syrrhophus*) *marnockii*, named after Marnoch. A founding member of the Scientific Society of San Antonio, Marnoch is also credited with discovering the Balcones Fault near Helotes in 1884.

Gabriel married Carmel Treviño, daughter of a local rancher, in 1882. They raised nine children in the homestead, which served as the town's post office from 1904 until 1919, with Gabriel serving as postmaster. The house stayed in the Marnoch family until 1947 when it was sold to a developer. It became a rental property, and for a short time in 1969 was loaned to the Helotes Historical Society as a museum. In 1970, Lucy Perkins Brown, editor and founder of the town's newspaper, the *Helotes Echo*, purchased the Marnoch homestead and operated her newspaper business there with husband Charles O. Brown, publisher. In 1990, long-time Helotes residents Frank and Carolyn Kennedy purchased the house from the estate of Lucy Brown. The couple spent three years restoring the house. In 1993, the San Antonio Conservation Society honored the house with an award for exterior restoration.

OVERVIEW

On October 5, 1858, Dr. George F. Marnoch purchased three large parcels of land, the bulk in the Helotes settlement: John Ross Survey No. 222 (320 acres), John

Ross Survey No. 223 (555 acres) and San Antonio and Mexican Gulf Rail Road Company Land Certificate #40, Surveys 222-1/2 and 354-1/2 (totaling 640 acres); these parcels were adjacent to each other and totaled 1,515 acres. Marnoch paid \$1,393.75 for the land. vi

On January 24, 1859, Marnoch commissioned John M. Fries "to do the masonwork of a certain building to be erected on the Hilotes [sic], according to a plan and the specifications accepted and signed by both parties..." The house, on John Ross Survey No. 223, was to be "... two stories high with a passage or hall in the middle, and a room on each side." It was completed on April 27, 1859.

Fries was an architect and builder who designed and constructed numerous buildings and residences in and around San Antonio, including the Menger Hotel in 1859. Fries also served as a contractor for the construction of the State House in Austin in 1854.

Marnoch purchased his Helotes property from Giraud, whose signature and professional appellation, "T. E. Giraud, Archt," appears on two documents within the case file certifying the measurement of stonework and cost of the work. He also appeared as an expert witness at both trials involving this case.

Giraud was a San Antonio civil engineer and architect who served as a city engineer, city surveyor and mayor of San Antonio. He is credited with designing and building St. Mary's Church, early structures of St. Mary's University, and Ursuline Academy (now the Southwest Art and Craft Center in downtown San Antonio). He also furnished plans for the reconstruction of San Fernando Cathedral.

Dr. Marnoch paid \$1,189 for the stonemason work. On April 6, Mr. Fries presented a Bill of Extra Work for cut stones over the front door and over second story

windows and two cut stone chimneys. The bill was for \$100, which Dr. Marnoch refused to pay, prompting a lawsuit.

At the first trial on June 11, 1859, the jury found for the plaintiff, Mr. Fries, for the sum of \$100. Marnoch filed a writ of certiorari for a review of the case in a lower court. The review resulted in a new trial on April 21, 1860, which Marnoch again lost; however, this time he was ordered to pay only \$37.25.

Despite its inauspicious beginning, the Marnoch homestead has withstood the test of time. Following is an architectural analysis of the house proved by architect Guy

"Sited on a gently sloping rise along Helotes Creek the Marnoch House is simple in plan, but unique in character. Each floor contains the central entry hall and stairwell, flanked on either side with 15x20 ft. rooms. Remarkable to this Anglo-American adopted Georgian style box house are the two half-octagon bay towers extending the building's full height with windows located at the end of each bay. Each stone tower is capped by a multi-hipped roof returning to the main hip. The tower roof framing is exposed on the second floor interior increasing the ceiling height (with exception of alterations by the current owners for an upstairs bath).

The two gabled dormers on the roof extend out from the ridge not perpendicular to the ridge, but in-line with its north-south long axis. These unusual gabled dormers contain windows and the attic is floored with original plank. A ship's style ladder (replaced) provides access to a ceiling hatch. The interior attic space has a ridge height of 8 feet.

Eighteen inch-thick walls are 16 feet tall on the ground floor and 14 feet on the second floor. The slightly wider perimeter stone foundation wall is two feet above ground in the front making the stone wall height 33 feet on the west, front elevation. Stone steps lead to the front door. The masonry is roughly coursed rubble-limestone with a flush mortar made from caliche, sand and lime. Some

pointing has been accomplished by the owner with a matching mixture. The interior stone walls are plastered and painted.

Double stone-fireplaces and chimneys are located on the two interior stone partition walls opposite the bays.

The pitched hipped roof is standing seam galvanized metal installed by the current owners. The roofing also appears to be a light colored metal in the earliest photos from circa 1900. There are no overhangs or porches.

A single-storey kitchen of similar stone construction was added to the rear wall of the house on the northeast in the early 1900's. A stone chimney with a stepped cap remains above the roof on the east from a likely stove vent now removed.

On both floors double-hung 6+6 windows are located symmetrically and centered in each room along the front and rear walls and in each bay tower providing natural light and air from three directions in every room. The windows are replacements by the current owners, however early photos also indicate the presence of "hung" windows although the division is not discernable.

Stone lintels over the doors and windows were the subject of a payment dispute between Dr. Marnoch and the mason and are of three distinct types. The first floor windows lintels in the two main rooms have radial patterned stones in a flat bottom arch or "Jack Arch." The bay windows on the ground floor have large rectangular stone lintels with a tooled or hewn face. All second floor window lintels including the bays are large rectangular stones with a smooth or flat face - cut stone lintels. (The claim of "extra work".)

The front door massive cut stone lintel is tooled and carved with a distinctive floral pattern. The front door and frame are recessed and located flush with the interior face providing some protection at the entry. The rear door lintel is also cut-stone tooled but not quite as tall as the front. Its top (height) extends above the floor of the stair landing on the interior and is exposed in the wall – leading to speculation that the stair design was altered from straight to the existing U-design with a landing.

Incorporated in the stone wall above the rear door and at second floor framing height is a wood ledger board seemingly supporting the design change theory. The stair treads and risers are painted wood. The handrail, turned balusters and newel posts are mahogany and original.

The Dining Room ceiling is beaded board (not original). The Parlor and its bay ceilings are embossed tin. The stairwell ceiling is in original condition with exposed ceiling framing and plank attic floor. Upstairs bedrooms and bays have beaded board ceilings, which were added by the owners.

Flooring is pine boards on wood framing. The upstairs and attic is thought to be original, while the downstairs framing and long leaf pine floor is recent. The kitchen floor is stone.

Three of the bays were open to the interior rooms. The first floor left-side (Dining Room) or north, bay is closed with a four-panel wood door and frame. Interior doors typically have transom frames above. The first floor north room (Dining) fireplace had a wood mantle and surround. All fireplaces have simple stone hearths at the floor level.

The house has central heat and air conditioning located in the crawl space and attic. Grills are decorative cast iron. The first floor Dining Room bay is utilized as a half-bath. The bay above has also been adapted for a bathroom.

The exterior is in excellent condition. The masonry is all original and maintained with recommended preservation methods. The interior is also in excellent finish and repair. There are no apparent structural defects or cracks. Windows and exterior doors are well maintained. The rear exterior door and most interior doors appear to be original. Mechanical systems are concealed and complement its continued use as a residence."

The house is approximately 2,668 square feet, which includes a 306-square-foot kitchen.^x The kitchen was once a separate building about twenty-five feet from the house. In 1914, it was torn down and reconstructed adjacent to the rear north wing of the house, using the original materials.^{xi}

According to a descendant who lived in the homestead in the 1930s, "Except for the shell of the house everything else was shipped from England and Scotland.... We used the fireplaces for heat and cooking when we lived there. I was 13 or 14 at the time. It was a beautiful place. The tiles on the ceiling were metal and they were embossed. The colors were shaded blues with rose and pink flowers with green shaded leaves and ivy vines. The walls were creamy white."

The house is a testament to the tenacity of its first owner, Dr. George Frederick Marnoch, physician and licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh, Scotland. Marnoch was born in Edinburgh, December 30, 1802, the 11th child of John Marnoch and Mary Finlay. George, whose father was a carver and gilder, received his diploma to practice medicine on April 21, 1826. Family lore is that Marnoch served as a surgeon in either the Scottish or British Royal Navy; however, there are no records to support this assertion. Nevertheless, Dr. Marnoch appears to have had a stellar medical career, practicing in Scotland, England, France and the United States.

Dr. Marnoch married Elizabeth Wilson on February 13, 1838 in Edinburgh. They had six children: Gabriel (December 15, 1838), Elizabeth (1839), John (1841) and Margaret-Curle (1843), all born in Edinburgh, and Mary (1851) and George (1855), both born in Crosthwaite, Cumberland, England. Margaret-Curle died on March 19, 1856 in Bury St. Edmunds in Suffolk County, England. Viiii

Dr. Marnoch, who had "lung ailments," immigrated to Texas for the climate. xix

Correspondence from a descendant indicates that Marnoch "left his family in England...

when some of the [house] building was going on." Bexar County Deed Records

indicate that Gabriel was in San Antonio in early October 1858, so it is likely that the letter writer was referring to Dr. Marnoch's wife and other children. xxi

Dr. Marnoch continued his medical career, becoming the town doctor, as well as a stock raiser. On October 24, 1859, Dr. Marnoch purchased 150 head of cattle. In April 1860, both he and son Gabriel registered two brands in the Bexar District Brand book.

Descendants say that Gabriel was also a medical doctor. There are no records indicating whether he received a medical diploma. In 1851, while living in England at the age of thirteen, his occupation, as well as that of his brother and two sisters, was listed as "Scholar at Home." In subsequent census information, while Dr. George Marnoch gave his occupation as stockraiser in 1860 and doctor in 1870, Gabriel gave no occupation in 1860, stockraiser in 1870, naturalist in 1880 and 1910, and farmer in 1900 and 1920. It seems probable that had he been a medical doctor, he would have indicated this profession on the census.

Nevertheless, Gabriel was an "educated man," who likely continued his studies at home in the manner of sons of wealthy nineteenth-century professionals. **xv* Because Gabriel accompanied his father on medical rounds and had experiential knowledge of medical procedures, and because he was involved in scientific endeavors, he was often referred to with the professional appellation "Doctor." In the home's early years, the family opened the residence as a school for neighborhood children, with Gabriel as their teacher.

Gabriel's mother Elizabeth died September 9, 1867, and Dr. Marnoch passed away August 16, 1870. xxvi

In December of 1873, Gabriel was accused of "theft of a mare," a case that went to trial in Kendall County in 1875. **xxxiii* He was found not guilty; however, he was unable to pay his attorneys a \$350 legal fee. They filed a lawsuit against him resulting in a judgment ordering a public auction of the Marnoch property on the Courthouse steps. **xxxiii* On August 1, 1876, Marnoch's attorneys A. Dittmar and W. B. Leigh, representing themselves and attorneys W. V. Henderson & Henry E. King, purchased Survey 223, which included the house, for \$41, and Survey 222 for \$2, for a total of \$43.50. **xxiix**

The attorneys reached an agreement with the Marnochs in which the siblings were allowed to stay in the house while working out a way to pay the outstanding legal fee so they could purchase back the titles to the properties. On February 11, 1878, the law firms accepted a "compromise" from the Marnoch heirs to release the two surveys back to the family for \$500, which was paid from the \$1,000 sale of Survey 222 (320 acres) to John T. Baker. **xx**

Just when things were back on track for the Marnochs, Gabriel once again found himself in trouble. A few weeks after regaining the title to the Marnoch homestead and land, Gabriel killed Helotes' first postmaster, Carl Mueller. On March 18, 1878, Gabriel shot Mueller with a double-barreled breech-loading shotgun. Marnoch claimed that "he and the deceased had always been friends and that the dispute between them was concerning certain alleged postal irregularities... and that the boundaries of land had nothing to do with the murder." xxxxi

Marnoch's first trial in November of that year ended in a mistrial; his second on May 15, 1879, ended in his conviction of murder in the second degree. He was assessed confinement in the Huntsville penitentiary for 20 years. **XXXIII** However, his attorneys

appealed the case to the Court of Appeals, which reversed the ruling against Marnoch due to lack of instruction to the jury concerning the right of self-defense. The presiding judge remanded the case back to the district court for a new trial. xxxiii

Marnoch's attorneys were successful in getting continuances for 10 years. On July 2, 1887, the district attorney dismissed the case. **xxxiv** The judge's criminal docket gives no reason for the dismissal and there is no corresponding record in the criminal minutes.

What is significant about Marnoch's legal troubles is that the family once again found themselves in the position of having to use part of the Marnoch property as collateral to pay legal fees. Seven months after the killing, Gabriel took out a promissory note for \$1,000, "granting all his right, title and interest in and to the estate of my deceased father G. F. Marnoch, the same being an undivided one-fifth interest in and to all real and personal property either lands or stock belonging to or forming a part of said estate."

To help settle this debt, the family sold 110 acres of the original 555-acre tract of Survey 223 to Arnold Gugger on December 10, 1880 for \$200. This tract, including a section of Helotes Creek, became downtown Helotes, what is today Old Town Helotes.

Marnoch didn't let his lingering murder case stop him from living his life. On November 5, 1882, at age 44, he married 20-year-old Carmel, daughter of Pedro and Manuela Treviño. Carmel's maternal grandparents, Felipe and Carmel Torres, were among the first settlers in Helotes, having purchased 200 acres of John Ross Survey 224, which was adjacent to the Marnoch property, in 1855. The Torres family emigrated from Mexico; 1860 Bexar County Census records for Felipe, a farmer, show a net worth of \$3,000, including land and personal property.

Gabriel is said to have helped his father deliver Carmel, who was born in January of 1862. **xxvii** She was also a student in a home school he taught in the Marnoch homestead. **xxviii** The couple had nine children who survived infancy: Alfred (10-25-1883), Robert (8-9-1885), Gabriel (4-18-1887), Charles (3-25-1889), Margaret (7-23-1892) [married Henry Biering], Lucy (12-1894) [married John Nipper], Agnes (4-9-1897) [married Otto Ahrens], Laura (2-12-1900) [married Robert Davis], and George (10-4-1904]). **xxxix**

In 1889, Gabriel and Carmel purchased the Marnoch homestead and 160 acres in Survey 223 from Gabriel's siblings.^{xl} Gabriel, when he wasn't ranching or attending to patients, wandered the Helotes hills, collecting insects, birds and other wildlife.

Descendants recall that the attic of the Marnoch homestead contained many specimens of wildlife and birds that were stuffed or otherwise preserved. A teacher who visited the homestead in 1907 wrote: "Along the walls [in the dining room] were shelves of fossils and jars of snakes and other reptiles in alcohol, as well as many old books that gave the room a musty odor." xli

Several months before the Carl Mueller killing, Marnoch had served as a guide to noted entomologists Edward Drinker Cope and Henry Brous when they came to Helotes to find specimens. During this time, Gabriel discovered a new amphibian species in the limestone cliffs that predominate in the Helotes hills. Prof. Cope named the Cliff Chirping Frog, *Eleutherodactylus (Syrrhophus) marnockii*. Gabriel became a "constant correspondent of Cope," furnishing the herpetologist with the majority of his southwestern Texas species. Xiii "He [Marnoch] personally discovered two new species of frogs and two new species of lizards," according to John K. Strecker, an early curator at

the museum at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, who purchased a substantial portion of Marnoch's specimen collection after his death. In addition to the frog named for Marnoch mentioned above, the other species he discovered were the Barking Frog, Eleutherodactylus latrans Cope; the Four-lined Skink lizard, Plestiodon brevilineatus Cope; and the Texas Banded Gecko, Coleonyx brevis Stejneger.

Marnoch, who was included in Samuel Wood Geiser's 1937 book, *Naturalists of the Frontier*, was also interested in topography. Marnoch took geologist Dr. Robert T. Hill to an unusual topographic outcropping Marnoch had noted in the Helotes hills in 1884. This became known as the Balcones Escarpment, a fault that divides Texas between the lowland and the upland.

Gabriel became a trustee for the Los Reyes School and was postmaster of Helotes from 1904-1919. He was also a founding member of the Scientific Society of San Antonio, serving as a corresponding member from 1904 until his death in 1920. Nevertheless, Marnoch's unsavory past dogged him. The teacher who had visited him in 1907, wrote in his memoir that a saloonkeeper had warned him about Marnoch, referring to him as a "refugee from justice." valiv

Marnoch's obituary in the *San Antonio Express* that appeared two days after his February 4, 1920 death made no mention of his part in the slaying of Helotes postmaster Carl Mueller 42 years before. Instead, it referred to Marnoch as a "well known scientist," mentioning research work he had done in North and South America for the British Museum of Canada and for the Smithsonian Institute. It also extolled him as "one of the oldest members of the local scientific community."

Carmel lived in the Marnoch homestead for six years after her husband's death, and then moved in with her son Gabriel in San Antonio. Her youngest daughter Laura and her family lived in the Marnoch homestead for several years. The house was a rental property under the ownership of developers Mid Seale, and Fred Anderson and Charles Kinder, and fell into disrepair. For a brief time in 1969, it was loaned to the Helotes Historical Society as a museum.

In 1926, Carmel sold 131.3 acres of the Marnoch land, keeping approximately 28 acres, which included the house. In 1947, she sold the 28 acres, including the house, to Mid Seale. The acreage was further subdivided. Today, the homestead is on an almost three-acre tract in the Helotes Parks Estates subdivision.

Owners of the Marnoch homestead include: George Frederick Marnoch (1859-1870); Gabriel, Elizabeth, John, Mary, and George Marnoch (1870-1876); A. Dittmar and W. B. Leigh (1876-1878); Gabriel, John, Mary, and George Marnoch (1878-1889); Gabriel and Carmel Treviño Marnoch (1889-1920); Carmel Treviño Marnoch (1920-1947); Mid Seale (1947-1962); Fred C. Anderson and Charles Kinder, owners of Lackland Terrace Development Company (1962-1970); Lucy Perkins Brown (1970-1990); Frank and Carolyn Kennedy (1990 to present).

The current owners restored the house in 1993. They also commissioned the building of a detached garage—a restored barn that complements the homestead.

SIGNIFICANCE

In 1994, the National Register Programs Office of the Texas Historical

Commission conducted a review of the Marnoch homestead and concluded that it was

"eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for its significance as a late nineteenth-century post office and residence, respectively." xlviii

The Marnoch homestead is one of two nineteenth-century homes in Helotes to survive intact. The building retains the integrity of original materials (Texas limestone) and design and is a unique example of nineteenth-century architecture in the Texas hill country. Within walking distance of remarkable natural resources in the Helotes area – creeks, caves, and significant limestone terrain – the Marnoch homestead served not only as the home of, but also the headquarters and laboratory of a renowned naturalist. The unique limestone house exemplifies the tenacity of Helotes' founding family, and is an important landmark in the town.

DOCUMENTATION

_

ⁱ Ynforme del Governador de Texas dn. Domingo Cabello, sobre pazes de los Apaches Lipanes en la Colonia del Nuevo Santander, 30 de septiembre de 1784, quoted in "Culture and History of Native American Peoples of South Texas," by Enrique Gilbert-Michael Maestas, Ph.d. Dissertation, The University of Texas at Austin, May 2003, p. 191.

ii The surname Marnoch was originally spelled with a k: Marnock. Many early references to Dr. George Marnoch and Gabriel Marnoch use the k spelling; however, a majority of Gabriel's descendants now use the h spelling, and this spelling is preferred.

iii Lorraine Van De Walle. Daughter of Alfred Marnock, Gabriel Marnoch's eldest son. Telephone interview, Aug. 5, 2006. Mrs. Van De Walle died Oct. 9, 2008 at the age of 84

^{iv} Ibid. Because of its location on an old trail (now called Scenic Loop Road), the Marnoch Homestead has been identified in some publications as a stagecoach stop. According to Mrs. Van De Walle and other descendants, the house was never a stagecoach stop. Helotes' official stagecoach stop and inn was established in 1873 at the Carl Mueller spread a few miles away.

Very Ellin Beltz, Names of Reptiles and Amphibians of North America, Biographical Appendix, Marnoch, Gabriel Wilson. 2006.

http://ebeltz.net/herps/biogappx.html#Marnoch (accessed Aug. 8, 2009).

Handbook of Texas Online, s.v. "Balcones Escarpment," http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/BB/rxb1.html (accessed August 8, 2009). See also, "Artesian Belt Discoverer Here," San Antonio Express-News, March 20, 1931.

- vii Bexar County Civil Court Record Case File # 2617. John Fries vs. G. F. Marnoch, June 6, 1859. Bexar Records Division, Iowa Street, San Antonio.
- viii Ibid. "Specification of the Masonwork of a Building for Doctor Marnoch to be erected on the Hilotes." January 24, 1859.
- ^{ix} Guy Burnett, AIA, Architects, Texas # 9299, 1983. 13438 Bandera Road, Helotes, TX 78023, 210-695-8787.

- xi "The Marnoch Mansion," by Wesley Saathoff, Nov. 26, 1984, p. 3. Mr. Saathoff interviewed Laura Marnoch Davis, daughter of Gabriel W. Marnoch for this college paper. Mrs. Davis died Aug. 14, 1991 at age 91.
- xii Bernice Russell, daughter of Laura Marnoch Davis. Letter to Anita (Marnoch). January 24, 1994. Bernice was born in 1922.
- xiii Country of Scotland, County of Midlothian, Marriage and birth records, page 7,369 for marriage of John Marnoch and Mary Finlay, pages 11,576-577 for births of their children. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1991.
- xiv College Record. Minutes from the meeting of the College Council. The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, April 21, 1826. Archival Collection, Royal College Library.
- xv Email correspondence, May 6, 2009, with Jane Wickenden, Librarian, Historic Collections Library, Institute of Naval Medicine, Hampshire, England. "Regret to report that nobody of this name [George Frederick Marnoch] appears in any Navy List between 1826-1850, and the National Archives have not indexed him at any point." Contact: cat1@inm.mod.uk. Tel: 023 9276 8238.
- xvi West of England Fire Insurance Company Register for George Frederick Marnoch. Dates: 6/11/1846 5/10/1850; Ref. No. L/A/20/A/5, Jersey Archive, England, page 22, dated May 24, 1847: "George Frederick Marnoch, M.D., now residing in France."

^{vi} Bexar County Deed Record. Grantor: Francis Giraud. Grantee: George Frederick Marnoch, October 5, 1858, Vol. R1, pp. 72-73.

^x Bexar County Appraisal District, Property ID 242031, 2008.

Marnoch purchased a fire insurance policy for household goods and apparel temporarily stored in a brick house on King Street, St. Helier, Jersey, England.

xvii Birthdates for children, except for Gabriel's, are estimates from census information. Gabriel's birth date and his parents' marriage date are from the International Genealogical Index – British – 1988 Edition. Extracted Marriage Records and Extracted Birth and/or Christening Records. Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Midlothian County, Scotland. Individual Records for Marnock [sic], George Frederick; Marnoch, Gabriel Wilson. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1989.

xviii Obituary. *The Gentleman's Magazine and Historical Review* by Sylvanus Urban. Vol. 200. January-June 1856. London: John Bowyer Nichols & Sons, 1856, p. 547.

xxi Bexar County Deed Record. Deed of Trust. Peter C. Taylor, Grantor, and Gabriel W. Marnoch, Grantee, Book R1, Oct. 1, 1858, p. 78. Note: Naturalization records for John F. and George J. Marnoch indicate that the family arrived at the port of Boston "on or about the summer of 1858." Declaration of Intention [for Citizenship], George J. Marnoch, Blanco County District Court Minutes A, July 30, 1884, p. 275.

xxii Bexar County Deed Record. Bill of Sale. Joseph Huebner to George F. Marnoch, Book H2, 10-24-1859, p. 188.

xxiii Bexar District Brands, Book B, 2 of 2, Recorded April 10 or 11, 1860, pp. 542-543, Bexar County Archives.

xxiv 1851 England Census [database on-line. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2005. Ancestry.com. Original data: Census Returns of England and Wales, 1851. Kew, Surrey, England: The National Archives of the UK (TNA): Public Record Office (PRO), 1851. Data imaged from the National Archives, London, England.

xxv Henry Fairfield Osborn. "Diary Entry, Sept. 27, 1877," *Cope: Master Naturalist*. New Jersey, Princeton University Press, 1931, p. 237. Also in: Armin Elmendorf. *A Texan Remembers*. 1974, p. 22. Helotes file. San Antonio Conservation Society Archives.

xxvi Bexar County Deed Record. Estate of George F. Marnoch, ET UX Dec'd. Proof of Heirship. No. 89121, June 28, 1916, pp. 402-403. Although Elizabeth's date of death is given as indicated, Dr. Marnoch's date of death is recorded in this document as "about the summer of 1869." However, George F. Marnoch is on the 1870 Bexar County Census, and his date of death is listed in the book *Scots in the American West, 1783-1883*, by David Dobson, page 101, as Aug. 16, 1870.

xix Van de Walle.

xx Russell.

xxvii The State of Texas, No. 82, vs. Gabriel Marnoch. "Theft of a Mare." Kendall County District Court Minutes, Book A2, April 8, 1875, p. 222.

xxviii Bexar County Deed Record, Sheriff's Deed. G. W. Marnock[sic] & wife [sic] (this appellation is incorrect. Elizabeth was Marnock's sister). W. B. Leigh & A. Dittmar, Book 4, Aug. 17, 1876, pp. 155-56.

xxix Ibid. The San Antonio and Mexican Gulf Railroad land certificate for 640 acres was sold at the August 1, 1876 auction to Mary B. Gaenslen. Bexar County Deed Record. Book 5, p. 135, 8-17-1876.

xxx Bexar County Deed Record. Leigh & Dittmar and Henderson & King. Release Chas W. Smith, & wife [Elizabeth Marnoch], G. W., John F., Mary A., and George J. Marnoch & John Thurlow Baker. Vol. 7, p. 497, Feb. 11, 1878. On July 5, 1878, George J. Marnoch re-purchased the SA Mexican Gulf Railroad property from Gaenslen. Bexar County Record. Book 9, p. 169, July 14, 1878.

xxxi "The Murder of Charles Miller: The Murderer, Gabriel Marnoch in our County Jail." *The San Antonio Daily Herald*, March 20, 1878, p. 4.

xxxii Court Case #494, The State of Texas vs. G. W. Marnoch, *Bexar County Criminal Journal, Court Terms 1878-1880*. November 27, 1878, p. 161; May 17, 1879, pp. 278-279; May 27, 1879, p. 289.

xxxiii "G. W. Marnoch v. The State," Texas Court of Appeals Reports. Tyler, 1879, p. 270.

xxxiv "The State of Texas vs. G. W. Marnoch," Court Case #494. *Bexar County Judges Criminal Docket*, 1887-1888, Book H, June Term 1887, July 2, 1887, p. 1.

xxxv Bexar County Deed Record. Deed of Trust between G. W. Marnoch and J. V. Dignowity (agent), October 19, 1878, pp. 287-288.

xxxvi Bexar County Deed Record. Grantee: Felipe Torres; Grantor: Thomas Devine and François Giraud, Book N1, p. 343, October 15, 1855.

xxxvii Russell.

xxxviii Van de Walle.

xxxix Twelfth Census of the United States, Bexar County, Texas. Justice Precinct #8, Dwelling 71, Marnoch, Gabriel, et. al, June 9, 1900. See also Thirteenth Census, 1910.

xl Bexar County Deed Record. George J. and Mary A. Marnoch to G. W. Marnoch and wife. Book 60, March 11, 1889. pp. 370-371. Note: All of Gabriel's siblings died

childless. Elizabeth married Charles Smith in 1877; she died two years later. John F., Mary Ann and George J. never married.

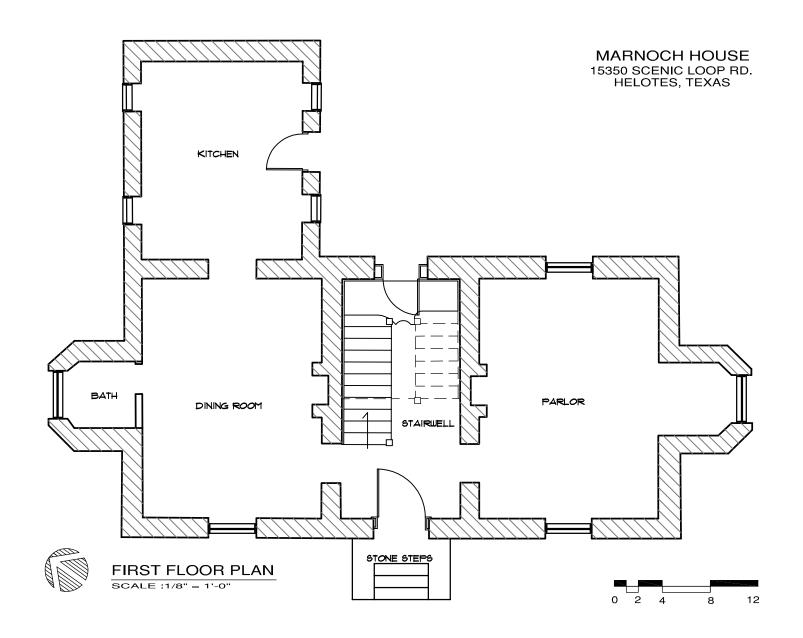
- xlv "San Antonio Scientist Dies at Home Near City," San Antonio Express, February 6, 1920.
- xlvi Catherine Marnoch Vistuba, Marnoch descendant. Telephone Interview. July 20, 2009. Mrs. Vistuba is the daughter of Gabriel W. Marnoch II. She was born in 1925.
- xlvii Photo caption of the newly opened Helotes Stagecoach Museum. *Helotes Echo*, July, 1969, p. 3. Note: *Helotes Echo* Editor Lucy Brown promoted the notion that the homestead was a stagecoach stop. As mentioned in Endnote 4, the homestead never served as a stagecoach stop.
- xlviii Letter from James Wise for James W. Steely, DSHPO, National Register Department, Texas Historical Commission, to Kyle Cunningham, July 18, 1994.

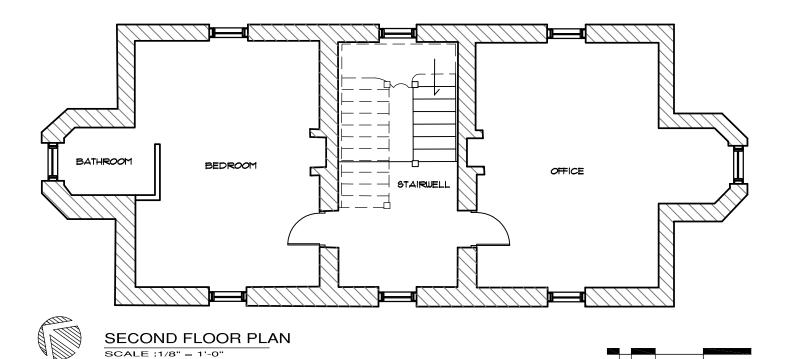
xli Elmendorf, p. 21. See Endnote 25 for full reference.

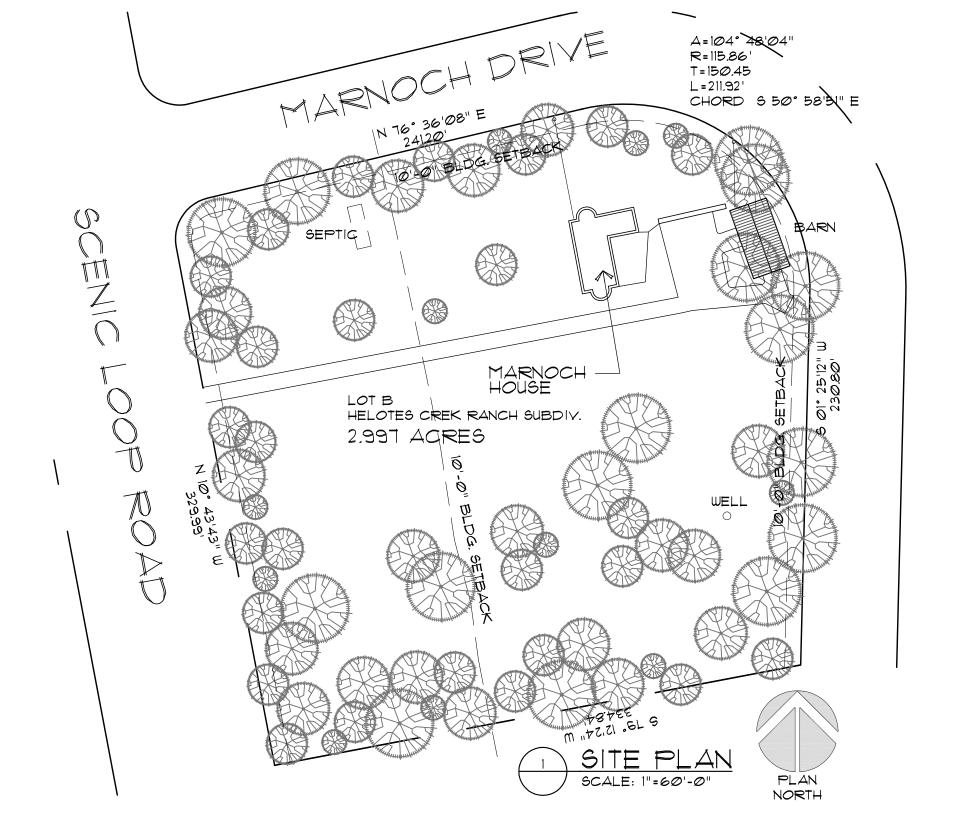
xlii John K. Strecker. "An Annotated Catalogue of the Amphibians and Reptiles of Bexar County, Texas," *Bulletin No. 4, Scientific Society of San Antonio*, April 1922. From the Col. M. L. Crimmins Collection at St. Mary's University Library Special Collections.

xliii Ibid.

xliv Elmendorf.







TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Authorization for Recorded Texas Historic Landmark Designation

Property considered for designation:

Name of House, Address of House, Name of County, Texas:

Marnoch Homestead, 15350 Scenic Loop Road, Helotes, Bexar County

Texas Historical Commission

Legal Description (Lot and Block or Metes and Bounds):

The Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) designation is awarded to historic structures deemed worthy of preservation for their architectural integrity and historical associations. Authorized by the Texas Legislature under Texas Government Code, Chapter 442, RTHL is the highest honor the state can bestow on historic structures in Texas. Designated properties are afforded a measure of legal

Benefits of the RTHL designation:

- Recognition that a property is of local, regional or state significance.
- Protection for up to 90 days from exterior alterations, including demolition or relocation.
- Ad valorem tax exemptions, where granted by local taxing authorities.
- Inclusion in the Texas Historic Sites Atlas.
- Technical preservation assistance through the THC.

Responsibility of the property owner under the RTHL provision, as noted in Texas Government Code, Chapter 442.006 (f): A person may not damage the historical or architectural integrity of a structure the commission has designated as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark without notifying the commission at least 60 days before the date on which the action causing the damage is to begin. After receiving the notice, the commission may waive the waiting period or, if the commission determines that a longer period will enhance the chance for preservation, it may require an additional waiting period of not longer than 30 days. On the expiration of the time limits imposed by this section, the person may proceed, but must proceed not later than the 180th day after the date on which Additionally:

- The designation requires the public display of the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark marker. The marker is the property of the State of Texas and may not be removed or relocated without the prior permission of the Texas Historical Commission.
- RTHL status is a permanent designation which is retained with the property even upon transfer of ownership. Only the Texas
- Structures designated as RTHLs do not have to be open to the public, but the marker must be accessible to the public.
- RTHL designation does not imply eligibility for federal tax incentives for rehabilitation.

I, the property owner or legal administrator of the property noted herein, signify below that I have read the information regarding Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks and that I voluntarily seek the designation for the property. I further promise to comply with the provision noted in the Texas Government Code. Name (print)

Texas Historical Commission

History Programs Division P.O. Box 12276, Austin, TX 78711-2276 Phone 512/463-5853

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

