

Texas Historical Commission staff (AD), 12/1/2008, rev. 1/14/2009  
Official Texas Historical Medallion and 16" x 12" plaque without post for attachment to brick  
Edwards County (Job #08ED01) Subject BP, BE, CH (Atlas ) UTM: 15 264615 E 3306969N  
Location: Barksdale, 118 CR 380

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BARKSDALE**

THE BARKSDALE BAPTIST CHURCH BECAME THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY IN 1883 WITH A MEMBERSHIP OF NINETEEN. TRADITIONALLY, BAPTISMS HAVE BEEN HELD AT THE NEARBY NUECES RIVER CROSSING. A FRAME SANCTUARY ON THIS SITE SERVED THE NEEDS OF THE CHURCH FROM 1906 UNTIL IT WAS REPLACED BY THIS STRUCTURE IN 1943. H.L. WOOD OF BARKSDALE BEGAN CONSTRUCTION OF THE BUILDING, WHICH WAS COMPLETED BY CONGREGATION MEMBERS. THE RECTANGULAR PLAN, FRONT-GABLED CHURCH WITH COVERED ENTRY FEATURES A NATIVE STONE VENEER, EXPOSED RAFTER ENDS AND DOUBLE-HUNG WOOD WINDOWS. AN ORIGINAL BELL TOWER WAS LATER REMOVED.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK – 2008

MARKER IS PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

**RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK MARKERS:  
2008 Official Texas Historical Marker  
Sponsorship Application Form**

Valid November 1, 2007 to January 15, 2008 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): *Recorded Texas Historical Landmark*

**County:** Edwards

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

**Street address of marker site or directions from town noted above:** 118 CR 380

**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/madnrncrit.html> for National Register criteria.

#### **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; online map (see details below); site plan; floorplan; historic photograph; and current photographs clearly showing each side of the structure.

- 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 January 15, 2008.
- 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.
- Applications for RTHL markers must include a current city or county map through TopoZone.com that clearly denotes the proposed marker location. Instructions for using TopoZone.com are available on the THC web site.
- 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): *SHERRY NED JENKINS*

Mailing address: *P.O. Box 1016* City, Zip: *ROCKSPRINGS, TX 78880*

Daytime phone (with area code): *830-683-2411* Email address (required): *CANYONBROADCASTER@SWTEXAS.NET*

**PERMISSION OF PROPERTY OWNER FOR MARKER PLACEMENT**

Property owner: *FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BARKSDALE*

Address: *P.O. Box 217* City, state, zip: *BARKSDALE, TX 78828*

Phone: *830-234-3646* Email address:

Legal Description of the property (metes and bounds, lot and block, etc.): *SEE ATTACHED DEED 24*

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): *LITTLE ROCK CHURCH FUND*

Contact person (if applicable): *DALE NANCE*

Mailing address: *PO Box 75, BARKSDALE, TX 78828*

Email address (required): *THELITTLEROCKCHURCHFUND@YAHOO.COM*

**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: *DALE NANCE*

Street address: *25627 S. TX. HWY 55, BARKSDALE, TX 78828*

Daytime phone (required): *830-234-4212*

Email (required): *THELITTLEROCKCHURCHFUND@YAHOO.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 with post (\$1500)
- 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](mailto: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):



## Barksdale History

On October 4, 1847, the Governor of Texas, J. Pickney Anderson, granted to Felix Taylor on league of land situated in the Bexar District.<sup>1</sup> Also, in 1847, a Spanish land grant was given to Louis F. Barksdale, who, in 1869 moved to the place where Barksdale is now located. The town was called Dixie.<sup>2</sup> Edwards County was created in 1858, from a portion of Bexar County, but Edwards County was not organized until 1883.<sup>3</sup>

The town of Barksdale was laid off on a part of the Felix Taylor survey. In 1885, part of this survey had passed into the hands of the Butler family, who did not live on the land, but subsequently sold part of the land to people who were in the market for lots and grazing lands. The Barksdale town site is a part of the original Butler holdings.<sup>4</sup> According to land records, W.P. Butler donated four acres of land to be used by the people of Barksdale as a cemetery. The deed was entered in Vol. 2 pg. 211 on June 3, 1889.<sup>5</sup> The first family recorded in Barksdale was in 1867. Through the 1870's and 1880's more families moved into the area.<sup>6</sup> In 1880, the Stieber family came to the Nueces Canyon and settled near the town of Dixie.<sup>7</sup> In 1887, Mr. Stieber was the Justice of the Peace.<sup>8</sup> In 1880, Dixie had a hotel, a little store and a saloon.<sup>9</sup>

Before 1882, Dixie had no government post office, so the local citizens applied to the Postmaster General in Washington for a post office in Dixie. The request was granted, but in researching, it was found out that there was another town in Texas named Dixie. For a post office to be granted, the town's name had to be changed. The people decided to call the place Barksdale, for a member of the family that had settled in the country some years before.<sup>10</sup>

The J.R. (Bob) Sweeten family came to Edwards County in 1882, and settled in Dixie, just a short time before the town's name was changed to Barksdale. The Sweeten family helped in the laying out of the town of Barksdale, and in the organization of local government in the area.<sup>11</sup> The town, including forty-two blocks, was built around the public square, which site is now the location of the two-story rock building,<sup>12</sup> which was built in the early 1920's.<sup>13</sup>

## Church

A Baptist Church at Barksdale presented a petitionary letter for membership in the Rio Grande Association in 1883, with 19 members.<sup>14</sup> The Barksdale Baptist Church was organized in 1904.<sup>15</sup> The Barksdale Baptist Church first appeared on the



Uvalde Association rolls in 1906, when a petitionary letter “from Barksdale Baptist Church was received and read. No messenger was present.” Associated records indicate that the Barksdale Baptist Church was constituted in 1902.<sup>16</sup> Early church records show some people came by letter to Barksdale Baptist Church in 1901 and several by baptism in 1915.<sup>17</sup> The Baptist, Methodist and Church of Christ were all active from the beginning of the settlement in the early 1880’s. None of the charter members are known, but there is a record of the families’ active in the three churches. The Allens, Rhodes, Bates, Owens, Baldwins, McCarsons, Dunns, Akes, Lewis and Benskin families were Baptist. In 1906, Mr. Gene Howerton helped in putting up a building in Barksdale for the Baptist people. This building was located on Church Street on a lot north of the school house.<sup>18</sup> This area is Lot 77 Block B in Barksdale, Texas.<sup>19</sup>

In March, 1907, Rev. J.M. Carroll, president of San Marcus College, E.M. Francis, Pastor of Uvalde Baptist Church, B.U. Briggs, Pastor of Comstock Baptist Church, D.W. Matthews, Pastor of Bracketville Baptist Church, and H.O. Kendall of Uvalde all joined forces in an evangelistic revival in Barksdale. The Barksdale Baptist Church probably dates its organization from that meeting. The religious spirit of the Barksdale community was considerably revived by the meeting.<sup>20</sup>

In December 1907, the Barksdale Baptist Church was called together in conference for the purpose of selecting a pastor. Some weeks before, Rev. D.S. Stovall, of Marshall, Texas, had made a trip to the Uvalde and Canyon Country, to explore the possibility of a pastorate in that section. Bro. Stovall was a preacher of some year’s experience, having attended Baylor College, which at that time was located in Independence, Texas. Dan Stovall stayed two years at Baylor.<sup>21</sup> The Stovall family came by train to Uvalde and then by had to Montell and on to Barksdale where they lived in a little house by the Baptist Church. Ed Greer says that he was present in the meeting when the Barksdale Baptist Church called Bro. Stovall as pastor; his salary was fixed at \$800.00 per year.<sup>22</sup> One of the outstanding events of this three year pastorate was a revival meeting held under a large tent located where the Barksdale school grounds are now situated. During this meeting, a storm came up and blew the tent down on top of the people. Twenty-six were baptized into the Barksdale Baptist Church after this meeting. Brother Bailey was the evangelist.<sup>23</sup>

In 1919 “Barksdale Baptist Church met in conference before the preaching hour on the afternoon of the Sabbath day February 23 with Brother Hancock as moderator. Brother Garnett was unanimously and enthusiastically elected to the pastorate for the coming year. The church also authorized Brother Garnett to baptize all those candidates for church membership who had presented themselves during the

meeting he was then conducting. Those who presented themselves for baptism were: Mrs. J.F. Gray, Mr. John A. Reagan, Mrs. Minnie Blackman, Miss Gladys Balckman, Miss Thelma Stovall, Miss Lillie Bates and Mr. Lucas Stillwell. Mr. Colon Henderson and Mrs. Paul Powers united with this church by letter and Mr. Joe Whittle by restoration. Conference was adjourned and the church went immediately into the regular service of the afternoon and listened with much pleasure and profit to a fine sermon by Brother Garnett. All members pledged their loyal support to the pastor-elect in a manner which seems to foretell better things to come for the Barksdale Baptist Church.”

Grace sawyer c.c.<sup>24</sup>

On November 11, 1919, J.M. Howerton and wife Lillie B. Howerton sold to W.A. Hancock, for \$100.00, a parcel of land described as follows: Being a part of the Felix Taylor Survey No. 241, Lot No. 77 in Block B.<sup>25</sup>

On November 25, 1923, Bro. C.W. Sawyer was given an indefinite call as Pastor of the Church. In 1928, there were over 90 active members of the Barksdale Baptist Church, including the names Baxter, Casey, Custer, Field, Greer, Hobbs, Hatley, Kirchner, Perkins, Rhodes, Stovall, Stewart, Taylor, Wooldridge and Welch.<sup>26</sup>

On August 28, 1930, Barksdale Missionary Church met and the church called Bro. M.W. Richardson as Pastor, until March 1931. On February 26, 1931, Barksdale Missionary Baptist Church met on conference and voted to ordain J.R. Steward and Vol Casey to the office of Deacon. The examination was conducted by the Pastor M.W. Richardson and the church voted to accept the same. Bro. J.R. Hillman preached ordination sermon. Bro. Brooks delivered the charge to the church and Bro. Lindsey the charge to the deacons, and Bro. Dunam prayed the ordination prayer. After which the right hand of fellowship was extended to the deacons ordained.

Geo. W. Sewell<sup>27</sup>

The Barksdale Baptist Church budget, adopted December 2, 1934, gives the Pastor's salary at \$180.84 per year or \$15.00 per month. The Pastor was C.C. Keeney. They also gave to the Cooperative program \$41.10 a year or \$3.42 a month. In December 1935, the Barksdale Baptist Church roll listed 131 members.<sup>28</sup>

During the Depression years, the church was pastured by several ministers at various times including Brother Clarence Keeney and the two Morrison brothers. In 1940, Brother J.P. King assumed the pastorate of the Barksdale Baptist Church, a place he held for six years. During that time, the old lumber church building was torn down and replaced by a native stone building.<sup>29</sup>

“The Beginning of New Baptist Church Barksdale, Tex” (1943)



“The Barksdale Baptist Church met in Conference February 14, 1943. Rev. J.P. King as Moderator. A motion was made by H.R. Perkins to discuss building a new Baptist Church House. Mrs. Della Connell-second motion. The motion carried.

Motion made by Mrs. J.P. King that a building committee be appointed to confer with builders and contractors and to find out cost and to submit plans to the church. Mrs. Burney Pope second the motion. The motion carried. The committee appointed –John Shelton-chairman H.R.Perksin, F.L.Hatley, R.E. Bruce.

Motion made by Mrs. J.P. King that a finance committee be appointed. Mrs. Burney Pope second the motion. The motion carried. The committee appointed Mrs. John Shelton-chairman Mrs. Burney Pope.

No further business we adjourned.”<sup>30</sup>

“The Barksdale Baptist Church met in Conference Feb-21 J.P. King as Moderator. The minutes of Feb. 14 read and approved. Chairman of Finance Committee reported amount collected and read list of names contributing. Report accepted.

The Building Committee reported their findings to the church.

A motion was made by Mrs. J.P. King that report of Building Committee be accepted and instruct them to go ahead with the building. Mrs. Burney Pope second the motion. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. J.P. King to ask Rev. R.G. Van Rayen to hold a revival meeting this summer. Motion second by Mrs. H.R. Perkins. Motion carried.

No further business, we adjourned.”<sup>31</sup>

“Barksdale Baptist Church met in conference Feb. 28-43. The Chairman of the Building Committee reported that Mr. H.L. Woods would build the Church House for \$250.00 Motion made by Mrs. Della Connell to accept report and hire Mr. H.L Wood to build church house. This motion was second by Mrs. F.L. Hatley. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mrs. John Shelton to begin on the House March3, 1943. This motion was second by H.R. Perkins. Motion carried.

No further business we adjourned.”<sup>32</sup>

According to the Allan A. Stovall book, Nueces Headwater Country, the Barksdale Baptist Church erected a new native rock veneer building on the site of the old lumber building, replacing that structure which was put up in 1906. The work was begun by H.L Wood of Barksdale, and finished by members of the local congregation. The building was complete with foyer and bell tower. In 1944, pews were purchased and installed in the new building, and pulpit furniture was given to the church by the Stovall children at the same time, and dedicated to the memory of Rev.

and Mrs. D.S. Stovall, in an impressive ceremony directed by the church's pastor, Bro. King.<sup>33</sup>

"On April 10, 1949, a motion was made by AA Stovall and second by Elmo Hobbs that a committee be appointed to start the work of hauling sand for the building of a new Sunday school rooms. Motion carried."<sup>34</sup>

"A large crowd was present in the Barksdale Baptist Church July 15, 1951, for the purpose of dedicating a baptistery scene, painted and donated by Mrs. Myrtle Fryar of Dallas. Rev. J.C. Dunlap, local pastor, spoke on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm in his dedicatory sermon."<sup>35</sup> As in most old churches, there is no baptistery in the little Barksdale Baptist Church. Most baptisms were held at the Nueces River Crossing at Barksdale. The baptistery scene is now fifty-seven years old. It has been removed from the sanctuary and is hanging in one of the old Sunday School Classrooms.

"Work was begun in 1952 on the new four-room educational building of the Barksdale Baptist Church, under the supervision of H.E. Easley."<sup>36</sup>

No church minutes were found from 1949-1964.

"On July 7, 1965, the Barksdale Baptist Church met in conference and among the items discussed was the menu for the Workers conference, to be held in August. The menu would consist of barbecue chicken, green salad and a "potato salad" committee was appointed to oversee that job."

"In July, 1972, a motion was made to remove the old chimney and put tin over the opening and paint the outside wood works."<sup>37</sup>

"In December, 1987, with Brother Bob Clontz as moderator, it was announced that the new front doors had been installed and varnished. The pastor also presented a plan to refurnish the sanctuary. The plan included eighteen pews, sacrament table, pulpit and two sedalinas and wall to wall carpeting.

On May 5, 1988, church minutes state that the new carpet is in and draperies for the Baptistery have been sewn. The old pews will be removed after church on Sunday, May 22. The carpet will be laid on Monday, May 23 and the new pews will arrive on May 25.

At that same business meeting the Pastor informed the church that Dr. Jasper Custer had included the church in his Last Will and Testament and read that portion pertaining to the Barksdale First Baptist Church as follows:

I, Jasper Leslie Custer, domiciled in Caddo Parish, Louisiana, declare this to be my will.

I revoke my precious wills and codicils.

**\*\*EXTRACT\*\***

**ARTICLE 3**



### SPECIFIC REQUESTS

3.1 I bequeath the sum of Three Hundred Thousand and No/100 (\$300,000.00) Dollars to the First Baptist Church of Barksdale, Edwards County, Texas, as a memorial fund in memory of my mother, Mrs. Etta Jane Custer. I desire that the \$300,000.00 be set in a permanent fund and only the interest or dividends be expended for the use of the church and Sunday school. The principal to be administered by the officers or deacons of the church. I wish that the fund be known as the Etta Jane Custer Memorial Fund.

/s/ Jasper Leslie

Custer

TESTATOR  
September 21,

1987”<sup>38</sup>

In June, 1988, there was a recommendation in the form of a motion from the deacons to borrow \$7,000.00 from Church Loan Dept., to build two classrooms, each being 16’x16’. In March, 1989, it was reported a 70 ft. long, 3 ft. wide sidewalk was poured. It extends from the back corner of the church to the new education building. Also, a florescent light fixture has been ordered. Bro. Durbin will build a frame to hold the light and a new sign that will be painted for the front of our church. The frame work on the sign will match the new doors. This will replace the bare light bulb now on the front of the building. In February 1991, Bro. Homer Stephens was Moderator. Kenneth Perkins informed the church that he had talked to Dr. Custer and his financial advisor about some components of the Etta Jane Custer Memorial Fund. In May 1991, The Trust Fund had been filed with the Trust Dept. of First State Bank of Uvalde.<sup>39</sup>

“In Memory of My Beloved mother, Etta Jane Custer, Born April 29, 1876, In Bee County, Texas near present Live Oak.

She married Edward D. Custer Dec. 16, 1896.

The family later moved to the vicinity of Barksdale in Edwards County, where they lived on his parents place near Pikes Peak. Building a log cabin which served as their home for many years. In 1907 a piece of land was purchased on the river below Barksdale and a house was built on the property. This was done for the convenience of keeping the children in school. Etta and her six children (George, Earl, Gilbert, Jasper, Fred and Edna) made their home in Barksdale from September to May of each year. The family attended the First Baptist Church of Barksdale, where Etta took an active part in the life of the church. Mrs. Custer passed away after an operation on

March 25, 1928. Jasper, her last living child established this memorial at the time of his death in Shreveport, LA.”<sup>40</sup>

Both Edward D. and Etta Jane Butler Custer are buried at the Barksdale Cemetery.<sup>41</sup>

On July 2, 1996, the Field property adjacent to the Church was purchased at a Sheriff’s tax sale, in Rocksprings, Tex., for \$1,175.33.<sup>42</sup> This would become the site of the new church building in 1998.

On July 28, 1996 the Pastor search committee presented Bro. Blake Westbrook to be called as pastor. The vote was unanimous. His first Sunday as pastor will be Aug. 11.

Feb. 11, 1998, the Deacons made a motion to permit the sale of the piano and replace it with an electronic piano.

On June 14, 1998, a called business meeting was conducted following Sunday morning worship services. Pastor Blake Westbrook served as moderator. It was voted on that morning to “Build a church building.”<sup>42</sup>

Before the vote was taken, church members expressed concern about the existing rock church building. The members were assured that the little church would remain where it stands. On Dec. 6, 1998, ground was broken for construction of a new church building. Bro. Blake Westbrook left the Barksdale Baptist Church after the new church building was completed. Greg Johnson was called to the pastorate in 2001.

### Significance

Barksdale Baptist Church was the first and only Baptist Church in the community, with a congregation of nineteen members in 1883. The church members built the rock church house during 1943-1944, on the exact site of the original lumber church building, which was constructed in 1906. Through the years, the little rock church house has stood steadfast on Church Street in the community of Barksdale, Edwards Co., Texas. The pioneer families that settled in this area are the solid foundation of this (one room) rock church. Their history continues to live through their descendants, through the births, marriages and funerals of family and friends. The fellowship and love that was established so many years ago is still remembered and felt in this one room rock House of God.

All through the years the church supported missions and missionaries, orphanages and each other. There were Vacation Bible Schools that lasted for two weeks, with children from all over the canyon attending. The Barksdale Baptist

Church supported the Lottie Moon Christmas offering, the Annie Armstrong offering at Easter and the Mary Hall Davis offering in September. The church also supported a local young lady who was a missionary in China. The pastor made home visits with members and people of the community. There was a large outreach of Christian love and support from this small church and Christian history is still felt and remembered through the community, the canyon and the region.

One family that stands out in the history of Barksdale and the Barksdale Baptist Church is the Edward D. Custer family. Ed moved to the Canyon area in 1892 with his parents Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Custer. They came from Bee County and were ranch people.<sup>43</sup>

Etta Jane Butler Custer was born April 29, 1876 in Bee County Texas and died March 25, 1928. She and her husband, Ed, are both buried in the Barksdale Cemetery.

On June 10, 1991, Dr. Jasper L. Custer, the last surviving child of Etta Jane Custer, established the "Etta Jane Custer Memorial Fund" in memory of his Mother, Etta Jane Custer. This fund, for \$300,000.00 is for the benefit of the First Baptist Church of Barksdale, Texas.

In 1998, the little rock Barksdale Baptist Church was bursting at the seams and the church members voted to build a larger church on adjoin property. Before the vote the members asked that the little rock church remains standing where it has been since 1943. The church members were assured by the pastor and the deacons that no harm would ever come to the little rock church. Now, we seek its designation as a Registered Texas Historical Landmark so that it remains an integral part of future generations to come.

(See References)

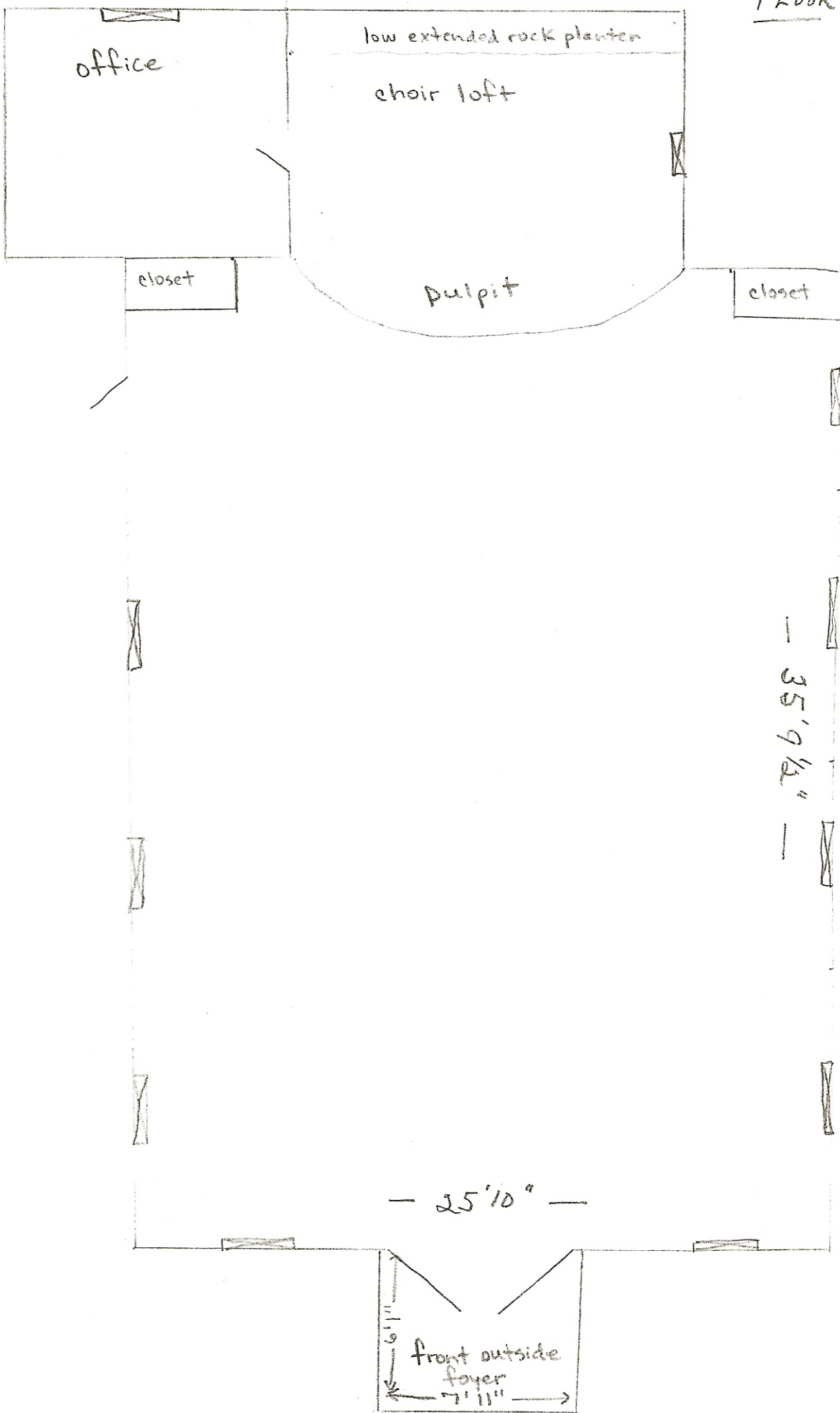
## REFERENCES

1. Patent Records of Edwards County, Vol. 2, pg 437, Office of Edwards County Clerk, Edwards County Courthouse, Rocksprings, Texas
2. A History of Edwards County, sponsored by the Rocksprings Woman's Club, pg. 83
3. Stovall, Allan A., Nueces Headwater Country, A Regional History, pg.43
4. Stovall, pg. 81
5. A History of Edwards County, pg. 91
6. Stovall, pg. 43
7. Stovall, pg. 35
8. Stovall, pg. 43



9. Stovall, pg 39
10. Stovall, pg 47
11. Stovall, pg 46
12. A History of Edwards County, pg. 85
13. A History of Edwards County, pg. 86
14. Rio Grande Association Minutes from various years
15. A History of Edwards County, pg. 89
16. Del Rio Uvalde Association Minutes, various years
17. Barksdale Baptist Church records
18. Stovall, pg. 229
19. Town Barksdale-Edwards County, Certified Map 6-16-1946
20. Stovall, pg. 234
21. Stovall, pg. 236
22. Stovall, pg 237
23. A History of Edwards County, pg. 89
24. Old Barksdale Baptist Church ledger
25. Deed Records of Edwards County, Vol. 21, pg 425, office of Edwards County Clerk,  
Edwards County Courthouse, Rocksprings, Tex
26. Barksdale Baptist Church minutes
27. Barksdale Baptist Church minutes
28. Barksdale Baptist Church minutes
29. A History of Edwards County, pg. 89
30. Barksdale Baptist Church minutes, pg. 25
31. Barksdale Baptist Church, pg 27
32. Barksdale Baptist Church minutes, pg. 29
33. Stovall, pg. 387-388
34. Barksdale Baptist Church minutes
35. Stovall, pg. 409
36. Stovall, pg 411
37. Barksdale Baptist Church minutes
38. Barksdale Baptist Church minutes
39. Barksdale Baptist Church minutes
40. Copied from Memorial plaque
41. Barksdale Cemetery
42. Barksdale Baptist Church minutes
43. Stovall, pg. 137

FLOOR PLAN



89' 9"

16' 11"  
awning

bathrooms

kitchen

office

foyer  
7' 11"

sidewalk

wire fence

52' 1"

30'

9' 2"

35' 9 1/2"

25' 10"

115' 9 1/2"

low rock wall

low rock wall

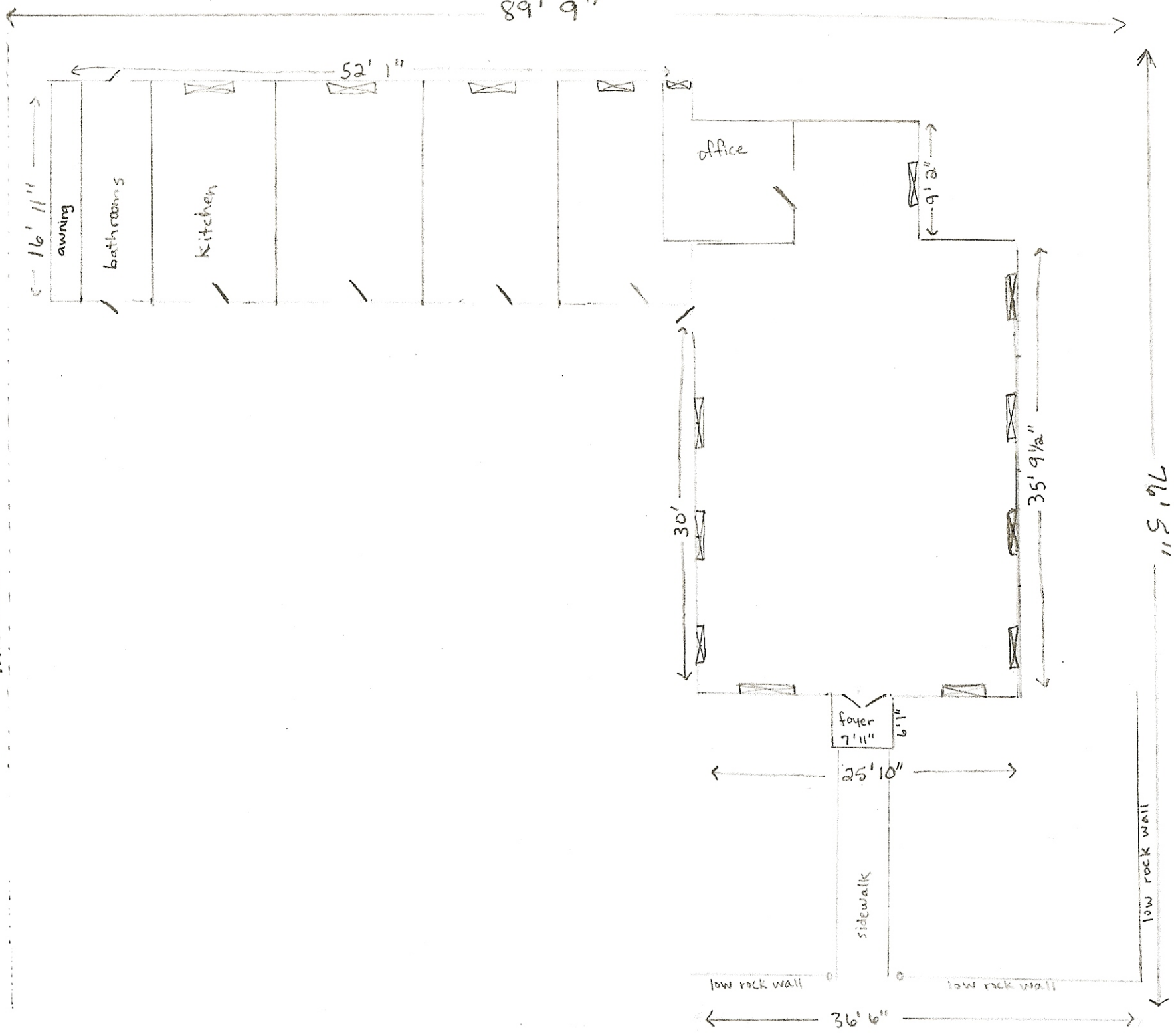
low rock wall

36' 6"

not to scale

denotes windows

denotes doors







zel Pit

335

1520

Barksdale  
(BM 1507)

Nueces Can  
High Sch

Spr

1500





Barksdale (same being the S. W. Corner of a tract of land conveyed to Mrs. Dora Fergus by J. M. & Lillie B. Howerton, on May 12th, 1922) for the S. E. Corner of this tract.

- Thence N. 17 25" W 90 ft. to a stake for N. E. Corner;
- Thence S. 72 W. 100 ft. to stake for N. W. Corner;
- Thence S. 17 25" E. 90 ft. to stake for S. W. Corner;
- Thence N. 72 E. with the North line of said Lot No. 77, to the place of beginning.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the above described premises, together with all and singular, the rights and appurtenances thereto in anywise belonging unto the said Deacons of the Barksdale Baptist Church, as trustees, and their successors and assigns forever; and I do hereby bind myself, my heirs, executors and administrators to warrant and forever defend, all and singular the said premises unto the said Deacons of the Barksdale Baptist church, as trustees, and their successors and assigns, against every person whomsoever lawfully claiming, or to claim the same, or any part thereof.

Witness my hand at Campwood, Texas, this 1st day of August, A. D. 1924.  
W. A. Hancock.

THE STATE OF TEXAS I  
COUNTY OF REAL I BEFORE ME, the undersigned Notary public in and for Real County, Texas, on this day personally appeared W. A. Hancock, 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 consideration therein expressed.

Given under my hand and seal of office, this 1st day of Aug., A. D. 1924.

/seal/ J. T. Gray, Notary public in and for Real county, Texas.

Filed for Record, Sept. 13, 1924, at 2 o'clock P. M.  
Recorded Sept. 13, 1924, at 4 o'clock P. M.  
S. A. Hough, Clerk County Court,

Edwards County, Texas.

By *[Signature]* Deputy.

vzcxvzc... G. H. Parker et. al., Warranty deed E. Webb

vzcxvzc... THE STATE OF TEXAS I

COUNTY OF VAL VERDE I KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS: That we, G. H. Parker and M. H. Parker and wife, Jewel Parker, all of the County of Val Verde in the State of Texas, for and in consideration of the sum of forty-six thousand two hundred twenty-eight & no/100 (\$46,228.00) Dollars to us in hand paid and to be paid by E. Webb, as hereinafter fully set out and described, have granted, bargained, sold and conveyed, and by these presents do Grant, Bargain, Sell and convey unto the said E. Webb, his heirs and assigns, of the county of Edwards and State of Texas all those certain lots, tracts or parcels of land lying and being situated in Edwards County, Texas, and fully described as follows:

PATENTED LAND

| Section | Abst. | Cert.  | Blk. | Grantee               | Acres |
|---------|-------|--------|------|-----------------------|-------|
| 13      | 1040  | 4/1194 | --   | G. C. & S. F. RY. CO. | 640   |
| 15      | 1042  | 4/1194 | --   | do.                   | 640   |



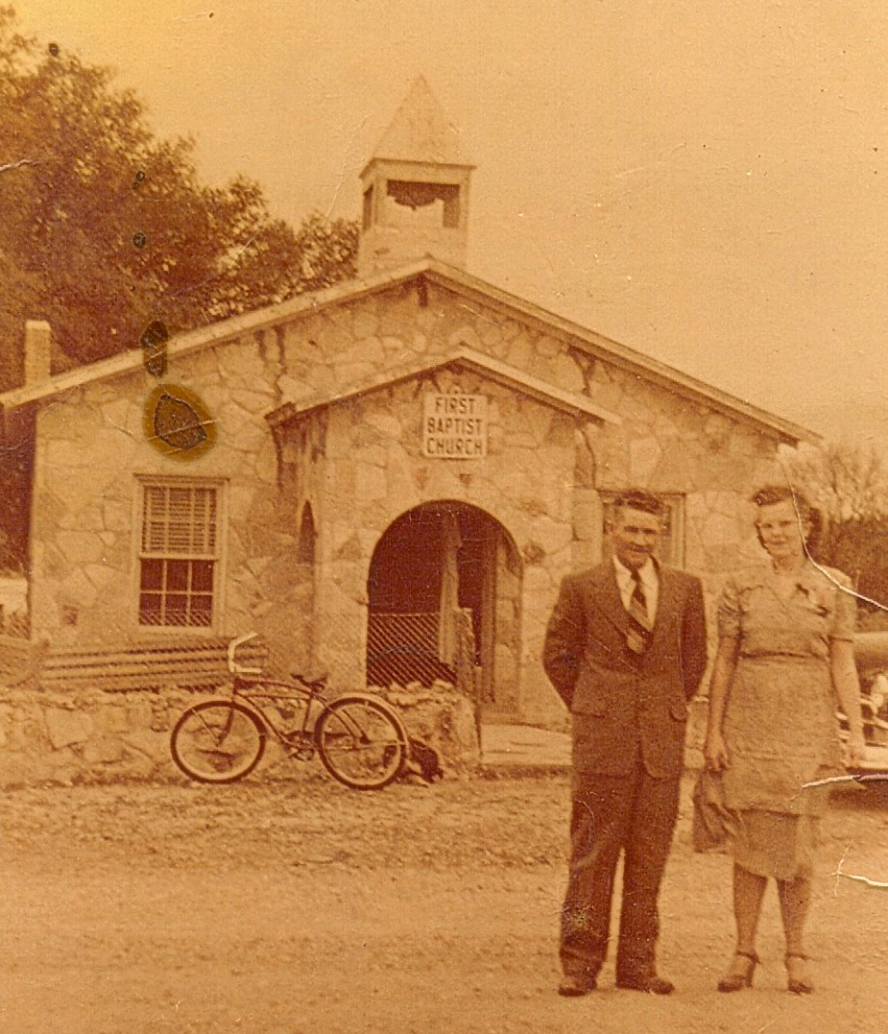
The Historic Barksdale Baptist Church Committee  
P.O. Box 75, Barksdale, Texas 78828

The undersigned members of the Barksdale Baptist Church hereby give their permission as members, signed individually but part of a larger group that are considered 'owners' of the Barksdale Baptist Church, to go forward with the application and designation for a Texas Historical Commission marker of the small rock Barksdale Baptist Church building under the direction of the Historic Barksdale Baptist Church Committee. (A member is classified as one that has been baptized into the Church or has moved their letter to the Church and that member is still listed as a member of the Barksdale Baptist Church)

| Printed Name          | Address                         | Signature         |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Wayne Watters         | 9060 W Tisdale Odessa TX 79763  | Wayne Watters     |
| K. Evelyn Tves        | PO Box 46, Camp Wood TX 78833   | K Evelyn Tves     |
| BARBARA Burkeson      | Box 542 Camp Wood TX 78833      | Barbara Burkeson  |
| Mariano Ramirez       | Box 275 Camp Wood, TX 78833     | Mariano Ramirez   |
| Shelly Watters Falcon | P.O. Box 34 Camp Wood TX 78833  | Shelly Falcon     |
| Mary Ellen Woods      | P.O. Box 88 Barksdale, TX 78828 | Mary Ellen Woods  |
| DALE NANCE            | Box 75 BARKSDALE, TX 78828      | Dale Nance        |
| MARY LOU WARD         | Box 313 Camp Wood TX 78833      | Mary Lou Ward     |
| Tommy WARD            | Box 313 Camp Wood TX 78833      | Tommy Ward        |
| ORR L. LARAMORE       | Box 288 Camp Wood TX            | Orr L. Laramore   |
| Cecil Laramore        | Box 288 Camp Wood TX            | Cecil Laramore    |
| LINDA HOBBS           | Box 285 Camp Wood, Tex.         | Linda Hobbs       |
| Sue Shackelford       | P.O. Box 23 Camp Wood, Texas    | Sue Shackelford   |
| JIMMIE MAY BAXTER     | PO Box 133 Camp Wood, TX 78833  | Jimmie May Baxter |
| JIMMY BAXTER          | PO Box 133 Camp Wood, TX 78833  | Jimmy Baxter      |
| Josh Cox              | Box 35 Camp Wood, TX 78833      | Josh Cox          |
| DAN COX               | Box 75 Camp Wood, TX 78833      | Dan Cox           |
| Kelly Ward Berry      | 2722 Blue Grass, Corpus Christi | Kelly Ward Berry  |
| Randy Ward Sr.        | 1455 Westlakes, San Antonio, TX | Randy Ward        |
| Roxann Vannor         | PO Box 339 Camp Wood            | Roxann Vannor     |
| Sandra Fairchild      | Box 212, Camp Wood, TX          | Sandra Fairchild  |
| Ward Fairchild        | Box 212 Camp Wood TX            | Ward Fairchild    |







FIRST  
BAPTIST  
CHURCH





FIRST  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
BARKSDALE

Small rectangular plaque on the stone wall, likely a historical marker or dedication.



FIRST  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
BARKSDALE



DR. J. P. KING  
PASTOR  
1911-1912







01/14/2008





01/14/2008





01/14/2008