



WHITE SETTLEMENT
WESTWORTH VILLAGE
RIVER OAKS



TARRANT COUNTY HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY

PRINCIPAL FINDINGS & RESOURCE CHARACTERISTICS

This book is lovingly dedicated to

FRANCES M. ALLEN, HISTORIAN

for her lifetime of service to mankind,
her excellence in research and her
continued interest in historic preservation
throughout Tarrant County.

Cover photograph: New Prospect Baptist Church, 1905;
now the First Baptist Church of
White Settlement.

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Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County, Texas

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Interior, National Park Service.

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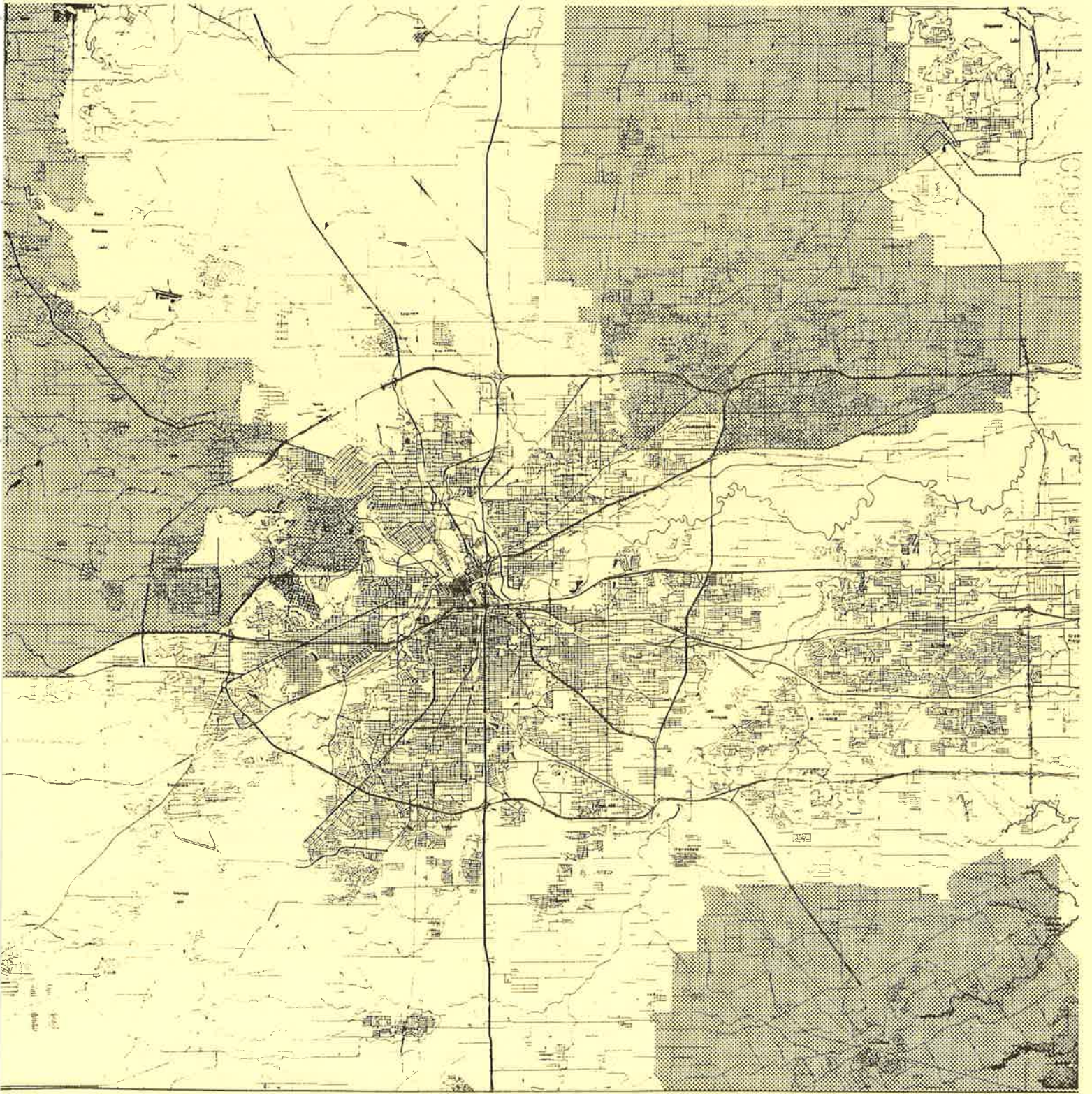
BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

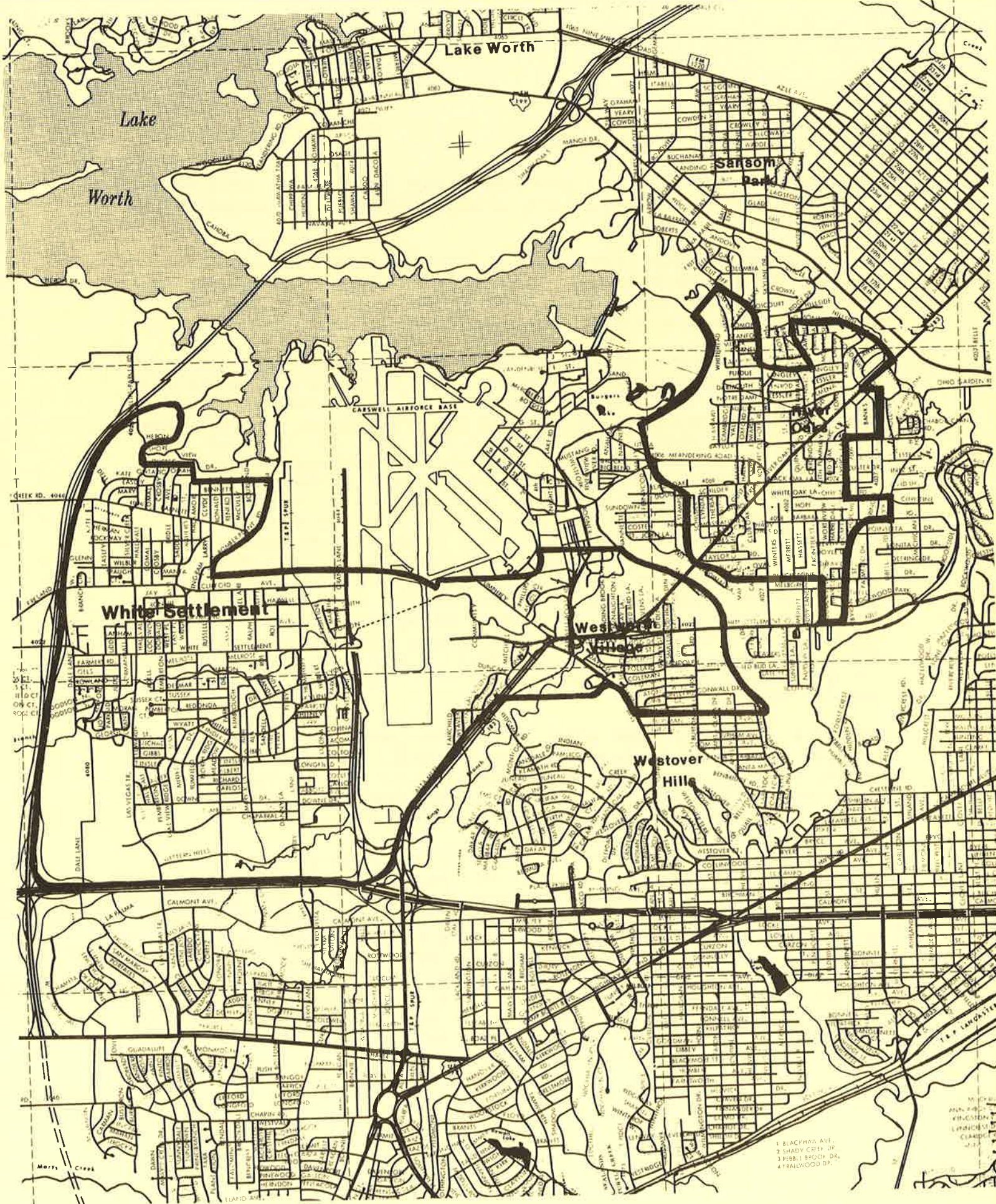
The Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County, Texas (HPCTC), is a coalition of thirty organizations whose central objective is preservation action in Tarrant County. Shortly after its formation in late 1979, the Council agreed to sponsor an historic resources survey of Tarrant County. Realizing that this was an undertaking of no small order, the Council determined to conduct the survey in several phases. The first phase consisted of the Central Business District of Fort Worth and the City of Grapevine, and was carried out in 1981-82. The second phase, comprised of portions of northeast and northwest Tarrant County and the Mansfield area in southeast Tarrant County, has been undertaken in 1982-83.

The Council retained the firm of Page, Anderson & Turnbull, Inc. of San Francisco to conduct the first two phases of the survey. Page, Anderson & Turnbull, Inc. is an architecture and planning firm which possesses considerable experience in conducting cultural resource assessments and surveys. The consultant's primary duties were to conduct the field survey -- including mapping, filling out forms, and photographing resources -- and to evaluate and prepare a report on the findings. Historical research, which was carried out by the Council in the first phase, has been undertaken by the consultant in the second phase. Participating organizations of the Council and the general public have provided large amounts of information and assistance.

Historic preservation has changed in recent years from an emphasis on individual monuments to a focus on neighborhoods, districts, and communities. An historic resources survey attempts to identify the physical components of a community -- its buildings, objects, and places -- which possess significant architectural and historical value. Often these significant resources are not only the imposing structures of the wealthy and powerful, but also the farms, houses, halls, and churches in which typical men, women, and children have lived, worked, conducted their business and gathered together. Together these "built" resources form the patterns which embody the community's history and historic meaning. The resources documented in this survey provide definition and substance to the heritage of White Settlement, Westworth Village and River Oaks.

The Historic Sites Inventory proposed herein will provide data for comprehensive planning and public awareness. The report as a whole is presented to the preservation and development communities, both in the public and private sectors, to encourage wise decisions that will enhance, rather than threaten, the historic fabric of the survey area.





METHODOLOGY: PROCEDURE AND CRITERIA

The survey was undertaken in a five-step process (orientation, field survey, historical research, review, and evaluation), followed by the preparation of this report.

The survey was conducted within the city limits of White Settlement, Westworth Village and River Oaks in west Tarrant County. The general cutoff date for considering the inclusion of structures in the survey was 1945, though exceptions were made for buildings of extraordinary quality.

The initial field survey was carried out by two architectural historians. White Settlement was surveyed in December, 1982; Westworth Village and River Oaks were surveyed in March, 1983. Streets within the boundaries of the survey area which existed as of 1945 were driven or walked. The team looked for buildings and other cultural resources which fall into two broad categories: first, those which are individually significant and appear to meet the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places or the Texas Historical Commission's guidelines for Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks, or which contribute in some way to a complete picture of the physical development of the survey area; and second, those resources which do not stand out individually but which in groups contribute to the distinctive character of the area and might also be worthy of preservation. For all those resources which fell into the first category, field survey cards (those used by the Texas Historical Commission in preparing the Historic Sites Inventory) were filled out, and then photographs (both black-and-white and color) were taken. Resources in both the first and second categories were marked on maps with an estimated date of construction and a code indicating style or type.

Following the initial field survey of White Settlement, a preliminary list of cultural resources was made available to the HPCTC. As a result of this review, two additional resources were suggested for possible inclusion in the Historic Sites Inventory. The consultant added these resources to the list following field observations in January and March, 1983.

The consultant and volunteers carried out historical research on all buildings and other historic cultural resources on which field survey cards had been filled out. County and school tax assessment records, old newspaper articles, interviews with present property owners and descendants of the original owners, and historical photographs all revealed vital information about such things as dates of construction, architects, builders, and significant owners. On Wings of Eagles (1968), a history of the First Baptist Church of White Settlement by James H. Semple, was a valuable source for achieving an understanding of the general history of that community. Frances Allen, Frances Colwell, and the White Settlement Historical Society also provided valuable assistance.

Once the field survey, research, and review were complete, all historic resources tentatively identified as significant were evaluated for their potential eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register of Historic Places lists resources generally fifty years or older that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association; that are associated with significant historical events or persons; that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction; that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values; or that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

The Texas Historical Commission's guidelines for Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks utilize a set of criteria similar to those of the National Register, with a focus on the heritage of Texas. To be judged eligible for a Texas Historical Building Medallion, a resource, with certain exceptions, must have been in existence at least fifty years. A resource which possesses an Official Historical Medallion is a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark.

The list of primary resources which appears in this report is proposed as the Historic Sites Inventory for White Settlement, Westworth Village and River Oaks. Resources potentially eligible for the National Register and designation as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks, as well as potential historic districts and thematic groups, have been identified as such. Since the criteria are similar, all resources judged to be eligible for the National Register have also been listed as potentially eligible for designation as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks. It also should be noted that nomination of any resource to the Texas Historical Marker Program does not constitute a nomination to the National Register. Final determinations of eligibility to the Texas Historical Marker Program are made by the Texas Historical Commission. Nominations to the National Register are made by the Texas Historical Commission to the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

The findings of this survey should not be regarded as being exhaustive or completely accurate in all cases. In actuality, this survey represents a best effort by the HPCTC and the consultant, consistent with budgetary and time limitations; the availability of data and source materials at a given point of inquiry; and the use of volunteer assistance.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

White Settlement, Westworth Village and River Oaks share common developmental patterns. They occupy part of an area of western Tarrant County extending from Fort Worth to the Parker County line, which was known from the 1850's until the early 1900's as "White Settlement". The area now occupied by the three cities was settled initially in the 1850's, and remained primarily rural until World War II. The establishment of the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation's bomber plant and the Tarrant Field Air Dome in 1942 (later Carswell Air Force Base) on the south shore of Lake Worth totally transformed the area. Literally tens of thousands of workers and military personnel soon arrived, some as commuters from Tarrant and surrounding counties, others requiring local housing. White Settlement, Westworth Village and River Oaks experienced explosive growth and were initially incorporated in the war years. White Settlement was incorporated as a general law city on May 24, 1941. Westworth Village organized under general law of the state as White Settlement Village on May 1, 1941, and changed its name to Westworth Village one year later. River Oaks Village organized under general law on November 24, 1941, and obtained a charter as a home rule city on January 11, 1949, changing its name to River Oaks. An ever slower growth in the ensuing decades, however, culminated in static or declining populations for the three cities in the 1970's.

The first settlers arrived in the survey area slightly later than in other parts of Tarrant County. Around 1850, Tennesseans Elijah Ward Farmer and his brothers Joseph and David each pre-empted 320 acres of land presently occupied by Westworth Village and Carswell Air Force Base (see No. 9). James Ventioner, a native of France, settled in the River Oaks area at about the same time. (The geographic proximity of these early settlers produced social ties, such as the marriage of James Ventioner and Elijah Farmer's daughter Mildra.)

In 1854 and 1856, two caravans from Kentucky arrived in the area. Included among their number was James K. Allen II, who settled on 360 acres in present-day White Settlement, and Paul Isbell, a farmer and a slave-trader who established a plantation on the site now occupied by much of Carswell Air Force Base. He soon acquired around one thousand acres in the area and became a leader in the volunteer guard that cleared the section of hostile Indians. His son, Reuben Isbell, built a house in the River Oaks area after his marriage to Elizabeth Ventioner, daughter of pioneer James Ventioner.

In 1861 B.L. Samuels deeded over six acres (now located at the site of the Carswell Air Force Base runway) in care of four trustees for the first cemetery and church in the White Settlement area. The first church and first school met in the cabin built on this tract. Circuit rider J.C. Powers met with local Baptists in 1868 to organize New Prospect Baptist Church (see No. 5). The community of White Settlement clustered along an important road leading west from Fort Worth, and remained a small farm community well into the 20th century.

The Westworth Village and River Oaks areas remained primarily rural through the 1930's. There is no record of churches until the war years. A one-room schoolhouse was built in 1898, to be replaced in 1937 by Castleberry School (No. 25). The need for a school prior to the boom of the war years stemmed in

part from the incipient, small-scale suburbanization that occurred in present-day River Oaks and Westworth Village in the 1930's. By 1940, a district of substantial houses was developing at the intersection of White Settlement road and newly completed Highway 183.

Negotiations between Fort Worth civic leader Amon G. Carter, the U.S. War Department and Major Reuben H. Fleet (founder and then president of the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation) culminated on January 3, 1941, with an agreement to build an aircraft plant for the construction of B-24 "Liberator" bombers. The Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce offered the deed of 1,450 acres of land near Lake Worth, and the City of Fort Worth agreed to clear the land and build all necessary roads to the proposed site. Ground was broken in April for the \$30,000,000 aircraft plant. By February, 1942, operations were underway. The main plant contained 4.9 million square feet under one roof and an assembly bay that stretched for nearly a mile. This remains the largest unobstructed indoor area in the world. During 1942, the Army Air Force constructed Tarrant Field Air Dome on adjacent property at a cost of \$6,500,000. In the early 1950's, it became Carswell Air Force Base of the Strategic Air Command.

From a combined population of under 1,000 in 1940, the communities of White Settlement, Westworth Village and River Oaks grew to about 15,000 by 1943. Because housing was a serious problem, the federal government built low cost apartments in areas west of the plant. The largest one, known as Liberator Village, was south of White Settlement Road. By the mid 1960's this property, no longer needed, was cleared and sold to private developers.

White Settlement had a population of 10,827 in 1950, which grew only slightly to 13,508 in 1980. Westworth Village (originally incorporated as White Settlement Village but changed by popular vote) showed a decline in the 1970's from 4,578 to 3,651. Since 1953, Carswell Air Force Base has expanded; nearly one-half of the original area occupied by Westworth Village is now military property. River Oaks nearly reached its present boundaries by the end of the war. Its 1950 population of 7,113, after peaking at about 8,700 in the early 1960's, dropped to 6,890 in 1980.

Today White Settlement, Westworth Village and River Oaks are entirely surrounded by the City of Fort Worth, with no room for expansion. Virtually all buildable land within River Oaks and Westworth Village has been developed. White Settlement, however, has room for growth in its southern district. The proximity of Interstates 30 and 820 will probably induce further development in this city. The number of employees at General Dynamics was about 16,000 in 1982, and the plant, along with Carswell Air Force Base, remain the major economic determinants in the survey area.

OBSERVATIONS

The urban forms assumed by the three municipalities of the survey area reflect an abrupt transition from a semi-rural to a suburban landscape experienced in the war years. The major roads in each of the communities were country routes along which farms, houses, and a rare civic or commercial building were constructed. In White Settlement a loose collection of commercial structures probably existed along White Settlement Road. A grid two blocks wide extended north of the road. With the 1940's and 1950's, subdivisions were laid out piecemeal, eventually meeting to form the variegated and arbitrary grids of typical American suburbs of the postwar period.

As in other sections of Tarrant County, a transition from log to wood-frame building construction occurred between the 1870's and the turn of the century. Log cabins are mentioned numerous times for the early settlers of the area, such as the Farmers, the Ventioners, and the Allens. The only log structure documented in the survey area is the 1864 one-room house of William Terry Allen (No. 3), moved to the City of White Settlement and reconstructed in 1978.

The few 19th and early 20th century houses documented in the survey area reflect its sparse settlement during this period. The earliest documented wood-frame house is the two-story rectangular gabled Isbell House (No. 29) of 1890. This was a common large house type in Tarrant County in the late 19th century. Occasionally it appeared later, as in the case of the house built by H.V. Head, also in the River Oaks area, in 1917 (No. 15).

The row of three one-story wood-frame cottages on Isbell Road in River Oaks is typical of this period. The two built about 1900 (No. 16 and No. 17) have L plans, interlocking hip and gable roofs, and a porch at the juncture of the wings (recessed in No. 17 and projecting in No. 16). The house at 723 Isbell Road (No. 18) has a rectangular plan, hip roof, and recessed corner porch, a widespread house type for modest dwellings of its age (c. 1910).

The largest collection of significant structures in the area was built during the 1930's, when incipient suburbanization began to transform the rural countryside into a semi-rural district. Stone appeared as veneer on several small gabled houses (No. 4, 27, 30), with no prevailing compositional type. Of the five substantial dwellings documented, two were constructed completely of stone, and combined hipped, gabled and turreted forms that suggest medieval country manor houses (No. 6 and No. 10). One was partially constructed of stone, with a gabled half-timbered second story, to suggest the medieval architecture of England (No. 24). The brick house with red-tiled gabled roofs built for a Fort Worth doctor (No. 7), and the gabled wood-frame Raymond Buck House (No. 9), reflect the trends of their day for regional and historical styles. Similar houses can be found in the wealthier residential neighborhoods of Fort Worth of the same period.

The sole commercial concentration of historical interest is Willett's Corner (Nos. 19-23), consisting of five wood-frame structures from 1936 which reflect the gradual accumulation of a semi-rural population in the River Oaks area.

The tremendous increase in population in the survey area in the 1940's is embodied in three buildings included in the Historic Sites Inventory. Castleberry School (No. 25), built initially in 1935-37 and enlarged repeatedly in the 1940's, bridges the gradual growth of the immediate pre-war period and the mushrooming explosion of the war. The First Baptist Church of White Settlement (No. 5), of 1950-53, and John Knox Presbyterian Church (No. 28), initially built in 1946 in River Oaks, were direct consequences of rapidly expanding congregations. The steel-frame and brick mass of the White Settlement Church dwarfed everything in that community except the enormous plant erected nearby for the production of war planes. The juxtaposition of the two structures captures with particular poignancy the spirit of the time.

HISTORIC DISTRICT

This section presents preliminary findings concerning a significant concentration of resources in River Oaks. Detailed analysis is necessary to define comprehensively the contours of an historic district. A final determination of boundaries and content may require further study.

Willett's Corner Potential National Register Historic District

The Willett's Corner Historic District is comprised of six buildings - five commercial structures and an outhouse - that formed the first commercial district in the River Oaks area. It extends for several parcels on either side of Yale Street on the north side of Meandering Road in River Oaks. The five primary contributors (Nos. 19-23), including the outhouse, were built in 1936 by Shankel Brothers Contractors for Hugh and Helen Willett. All are of wood-frame construction with horizontal wood siding, one-story in height and containing one or more storefronts. Some have false fronts and wooden awnings. One secondary contributor was built in the 1950's. It is of concrete block construction and is harmonious with the primary contributors by virtue of use, scale, and setback. Two of the commercial structures in the district are vacant, and one now houses a church. The outhouse is no longer used. As a cohesive commercial district that served the River Oaks area before the population boom of the 1940's, the Willett's Corner Historic District appears to be eligible for the National Register upon the attainment of fifty years of age.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Distribution of this survey report is intended to inform interested individuals, organizations and public bodies of significant historic and architectural resources in White Settlement, Westworth Village and River Oaks. The implementation recommendations of this report imply varying degrees of cost and required staff support. Such recommendations are offered to the Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County, to initiate and sustain a program of historic preservation in west Tarrant County.

1. Of the thirty resources proposed for listing in the Historic Sites Inventory, one appears to be eligible for the National Register. Another five may be eligible for the National Register following completion of rehabilitative actions and/or provision of additional documentation, or the attainment of fifty years of age. To date, no resources in the survey area have been listed on the National Register. The individual properties within these categories are identified in both the next and the concluding section of this report, and should be afforded the highest degree of protection. The HPCTC should establish priorities for nomination based on individual merit, degree of endangerment, need for recognition, and degree of public support. The Council should encourage the documentation and restoration of those resources which do not appear to be eligible for the National Register because of incomplete documentation or alterations.
2. The one resource in the survey area which appears to meet the criteria of the National Register also should be reviewed for possible designation as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark. Decisions regarding such designation will be made by the Texas Historical Commission. To date, no resources in the survey area have been designated as Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks.
3. The proposed Willett's Corner Historic District appears to be eligible for the National Register upon the attainment of fifty years of age. A National Register Historic District nomination form should be prepared at the appropriate time.
4. The remaining resources on the Historic Sites Inventory list which are not located in the historic district or which do not appear to be eligible for the National Register, nevertheless should receive careful attention for some degree of local recognition and protection. Inappropriate remodelings of these historic sites should be discouraged, perhaps through review of permit applications for any proposed exterior modifications. Threatened demolition should be treated similarly.

5. Survey work and archival research should be continued in order to add to, supplement, and otherwise refine existing survey findings and results. Buildings, objects, and places presently not included in the Historic Sites Inventory should be reviewed by the HPCTC for inclusion at a future date. Restoration of a building now considered excessively altered could result in a dramatic reassessment of its architectural quality. Research might reveal the historical significance of some resource not now apparent. In this regard, resources already included in the Historic Sites Inventory which did not appear to be eligible for the National Register may appear to be so at a later date.

PIONEER BUILDINGS NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE



WHITE SETTLEMENT'S FIRST CITY HALL, BUILT 1952 at cost of \$60,000.

Three Early Homes



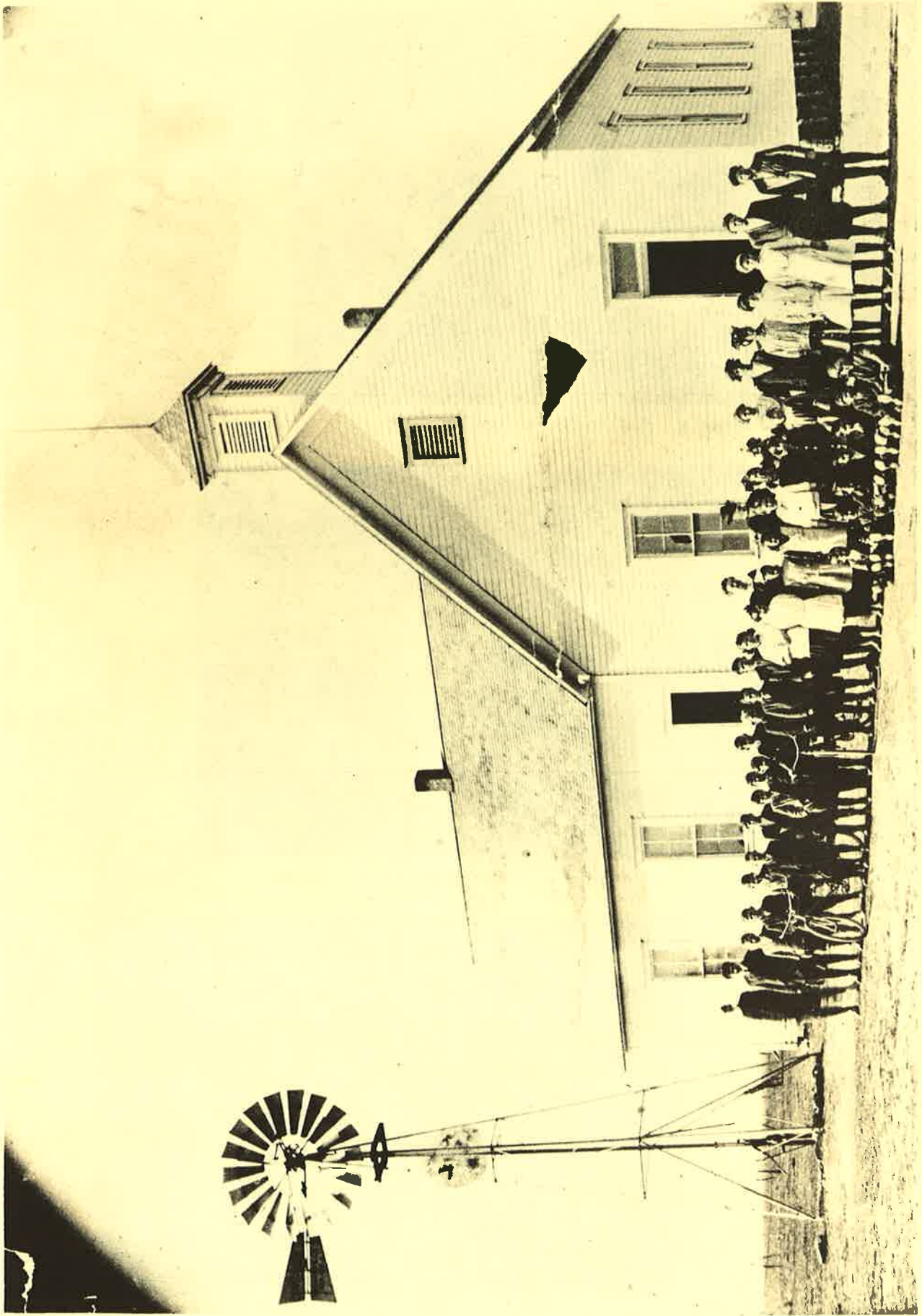
James Ventioner's home built 1848-1850



John J. Ingram's home built circa 1860-90

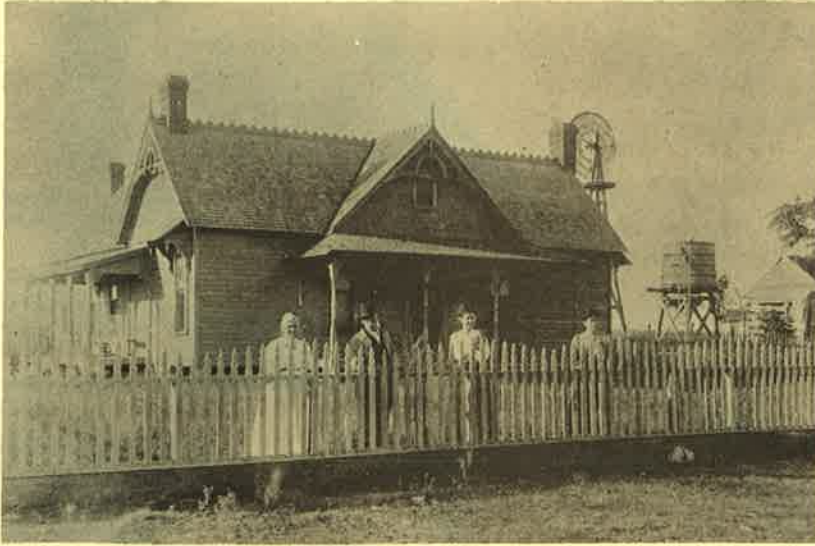


Thomas J. Byers' home built circa 1875, photo 1920



WHITE SETTLEMENT PUBLIC SCHOOL, photo 1912

THREE EARLY HOMES



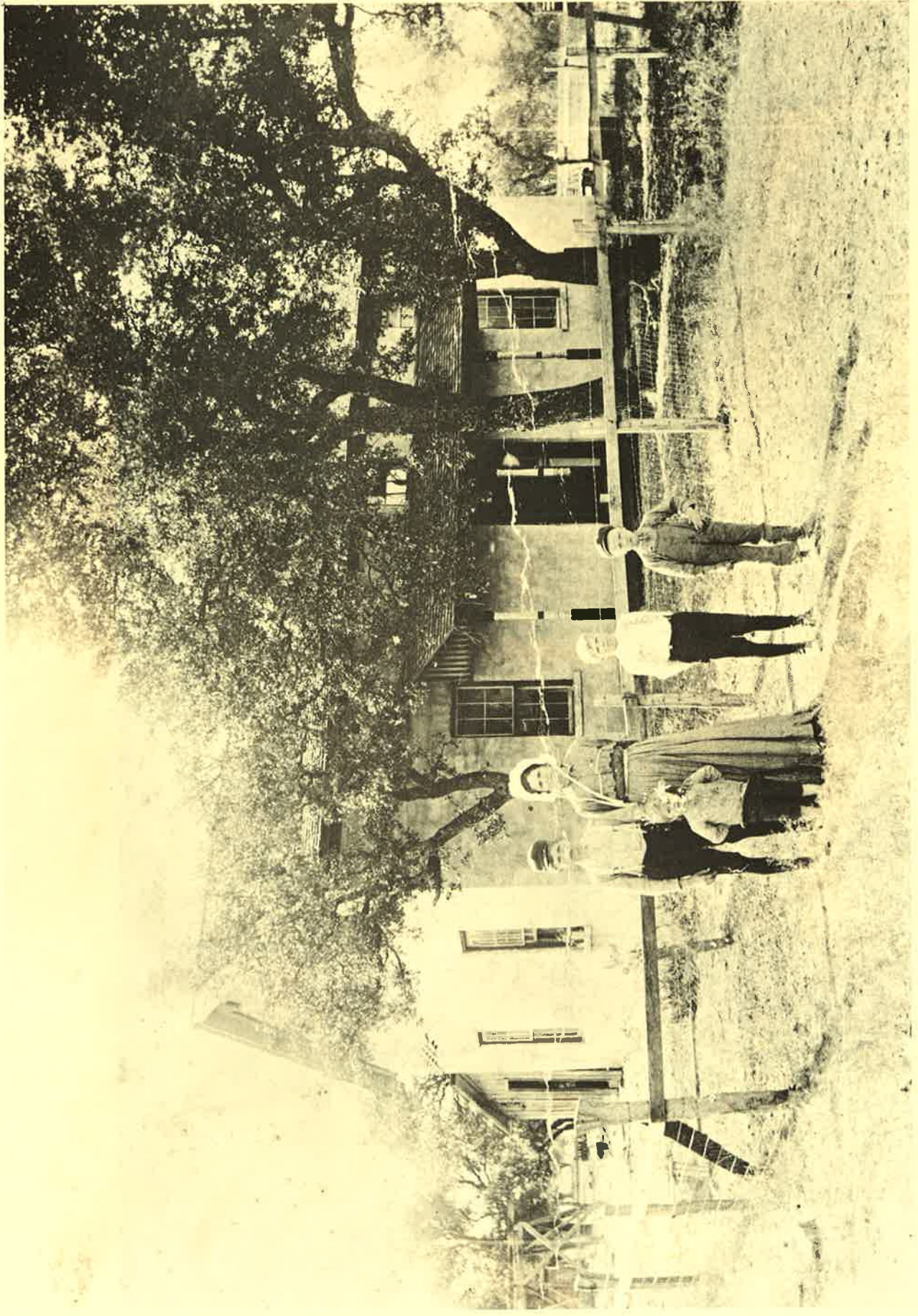
Thomas J. Rowland home built 1893



W.J. Redford home built circa 1900



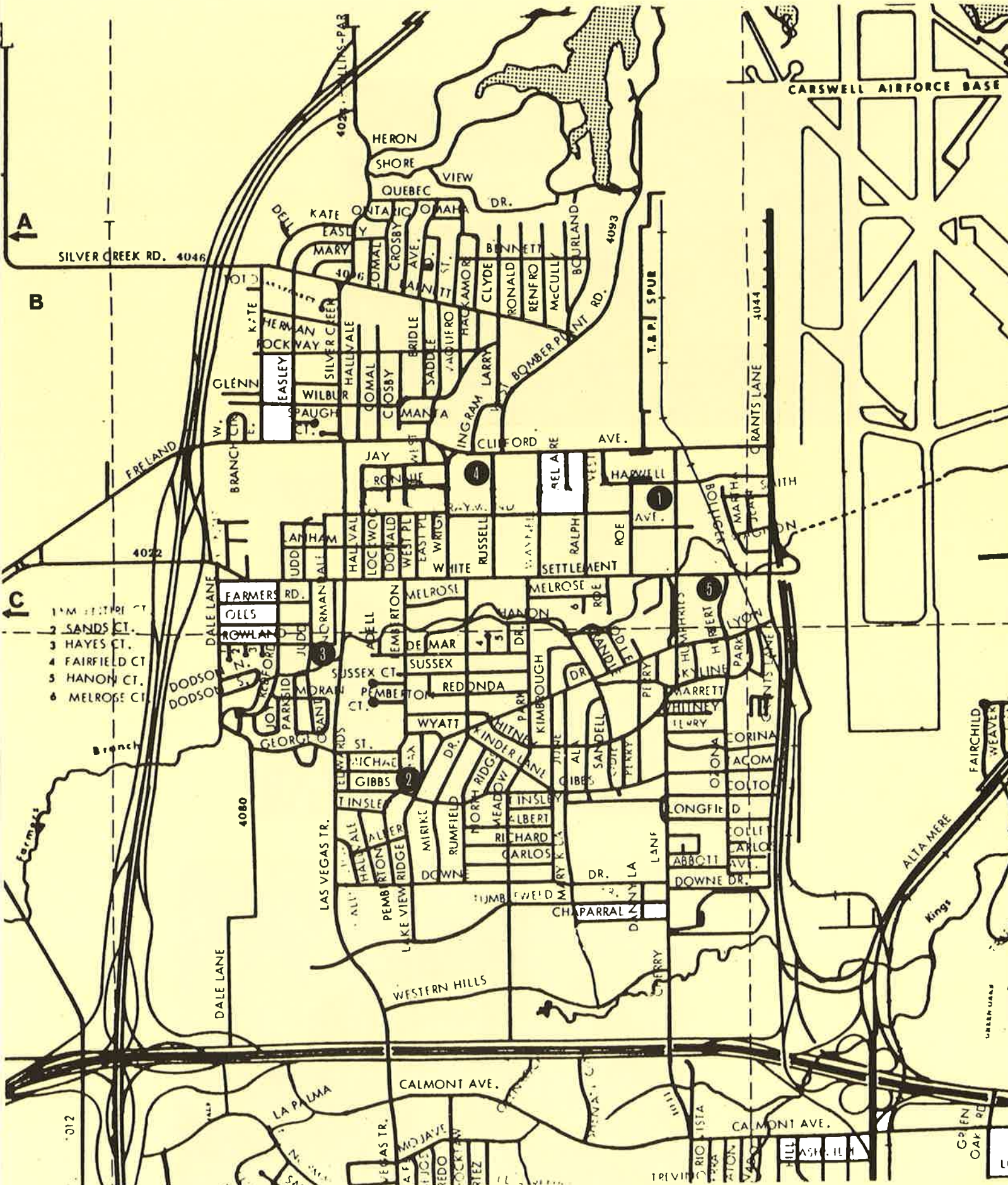
Joe Farmer home built pre-1900



1904 photo of R.W. Tannahill Home (# A, pg. 25) when owned by W.T. Tinsley.



1979 photo of south front of R. W. Tannahill Home; owner Verna Stubbs.



White Settlement



1



2



3

HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY LIST

Key to Symbols:

- NR Appears to be eligible for the National Register and also may be eligible for designation as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark
- NR* Potentially eligible for the National Register following restoration and/or documentation, or the attainment of fifty years of age
- WCHD (NR*) Willett's Corner Potential National Register Historic District

ADDRESS OR LOCATION	NAME OR TYPE	DATE
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WHITE SETTLEMENT

Buildings

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. 501 N. Cherry Lane | Allen-Finley House | c. 1900;
1943 |
|-----------------------|--------------------|------------------|

This gabled L-plan house served as the residence for a dairy farm in Westworth Village in the years between World War I and World War II. It was moved to White Settlement in 1943, used as a parsonage, and then sold to the present owner, who operates a business in the house.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|------------------|
| 2. 850 Lakeview Ridge | House | c. 1902;
1959 |
|-----------------------|-------|------------------|

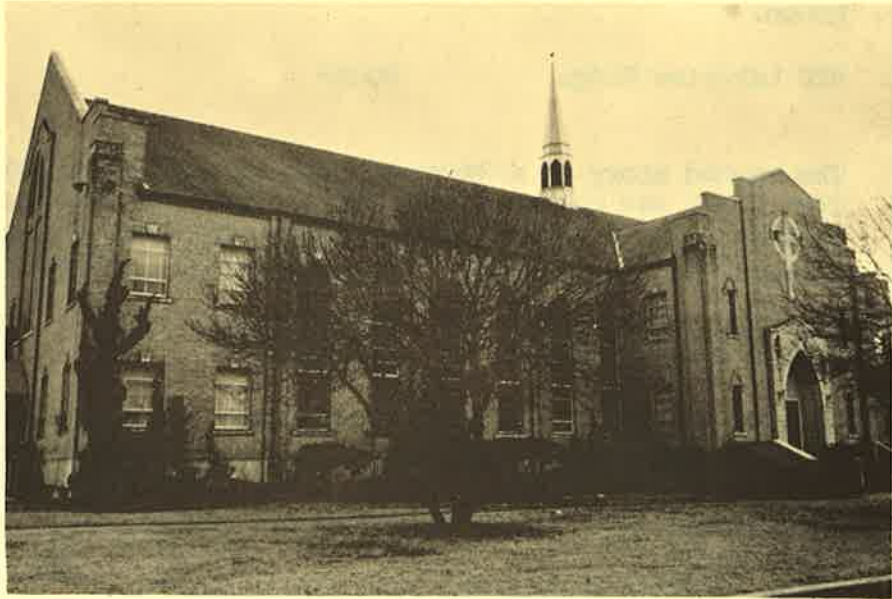
The second story of a 24-room house on the Jarvis Estate in North Fort Worth was moved to this hilltop site in 1959. A plate-glass window on the north end of the house came from a control tower on Carswell Air Force Base. The house enjoys a panoramic view.

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 3. Las Vegas Trail (SW corner Rowland Drive) | William Terry Allen
Log Cabin | c. 1864;
1978 |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------|

In 1854 young William Allen (1842-1893) came with his family to Tarrant County from Todd County, Kentucky. By 1857 they had settled at this location on 360 acres. After serving in the Confederate Army, Allen married Sarah Fannie Grant (1849-1870). They bought 160 acres in about 1864, and built this 13- by 18-foot cabin on White Settlement Road six miles west of Tarrant County Courthouse. After his first wife died, Allen married her sister, Theodocia E. Grant (1854-1931). They added to the cabin several times, including a bedroom, "The Professor's Room." It was reserved during school months for the local teacher.



4



5

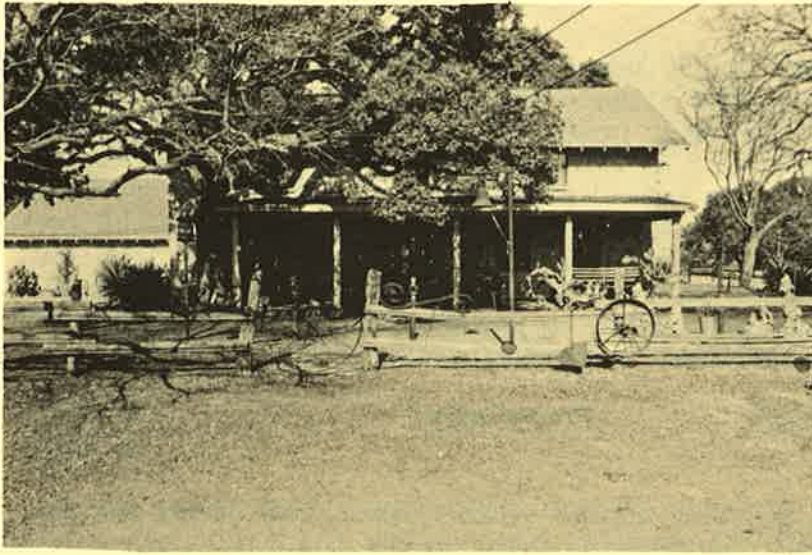
The cabin was the family home until 1908, when a frame cottage was built nearby. In 1933 Allen's heirs sold 22 acres which included the cabin. The new owner moved the cabin north of the original site and enlarged it. In 1953 the land was sold to the United States Government for runway additions to Carswell Air Force Base. The cabin was moved to Fort Worth. The White Settlement Historical Society, organized in 1976, raised funds to number the logs and move the dismantled cabin to the present site. It was restored to its original size and opened to groups interested in local history, and received an Official Texas Historical Marker in 1978.

4. 319 Russell Street Curry House c. 1939;
c. 1950

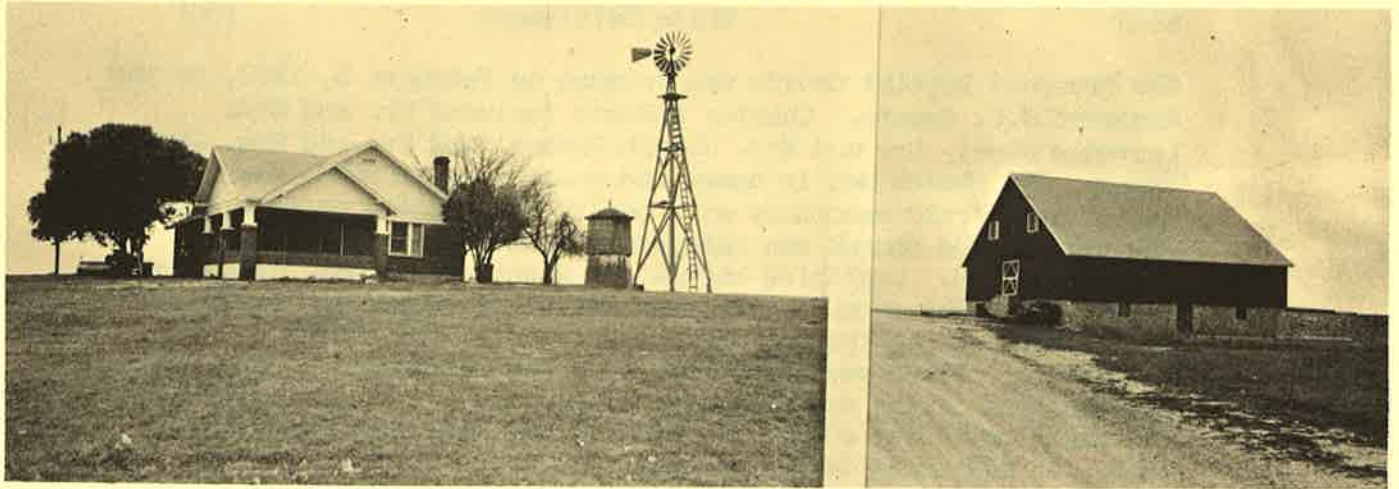
Dr. T.G. Curry had this gabled stone-veneer house built for his son around 1939. The porte-cochere on the south wall was a later addition by E.L. King, a stonemason from Aledo, Texas.

5. 7801 White Settlement First Baptist Church of 1950-53;
Road White Settlement 1961

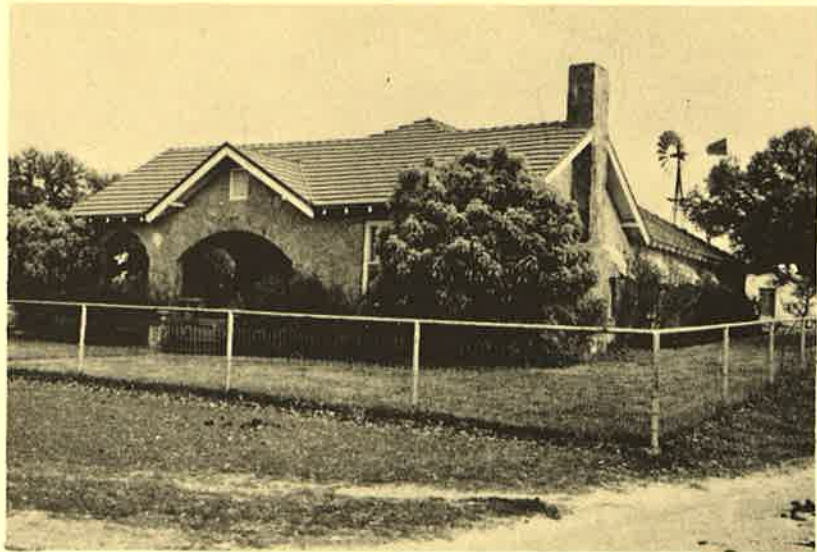
New Prospect Baptist Church was founded on February 8, 1868, by the Reverend J.C. Powers. Charter members included Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Steel, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Farmer, and Mr. and Mrs. James Young. The church met in homes and schools until 1905, when a gabled wood-frame sanctuary with belfry was erected on this site. The name of the church was changed to White Settlement Baptist Church in 1908. Lightning struck the sanctuary in May, 1946, and it burned to the ground. The huge influx of people to the White Settlement area in the war years had expanded the church's membership. Plans were prepared for a new sanctuary in 1943, but construction of the existing steel-frame and brick auditorium did not begin until the summer of 1950; it was dedicated on April 19, 1953. An adjoining two-story steel-frame and brick education building was built in 1961. They comprise the most prominent civic landmark in White Settlement.



A



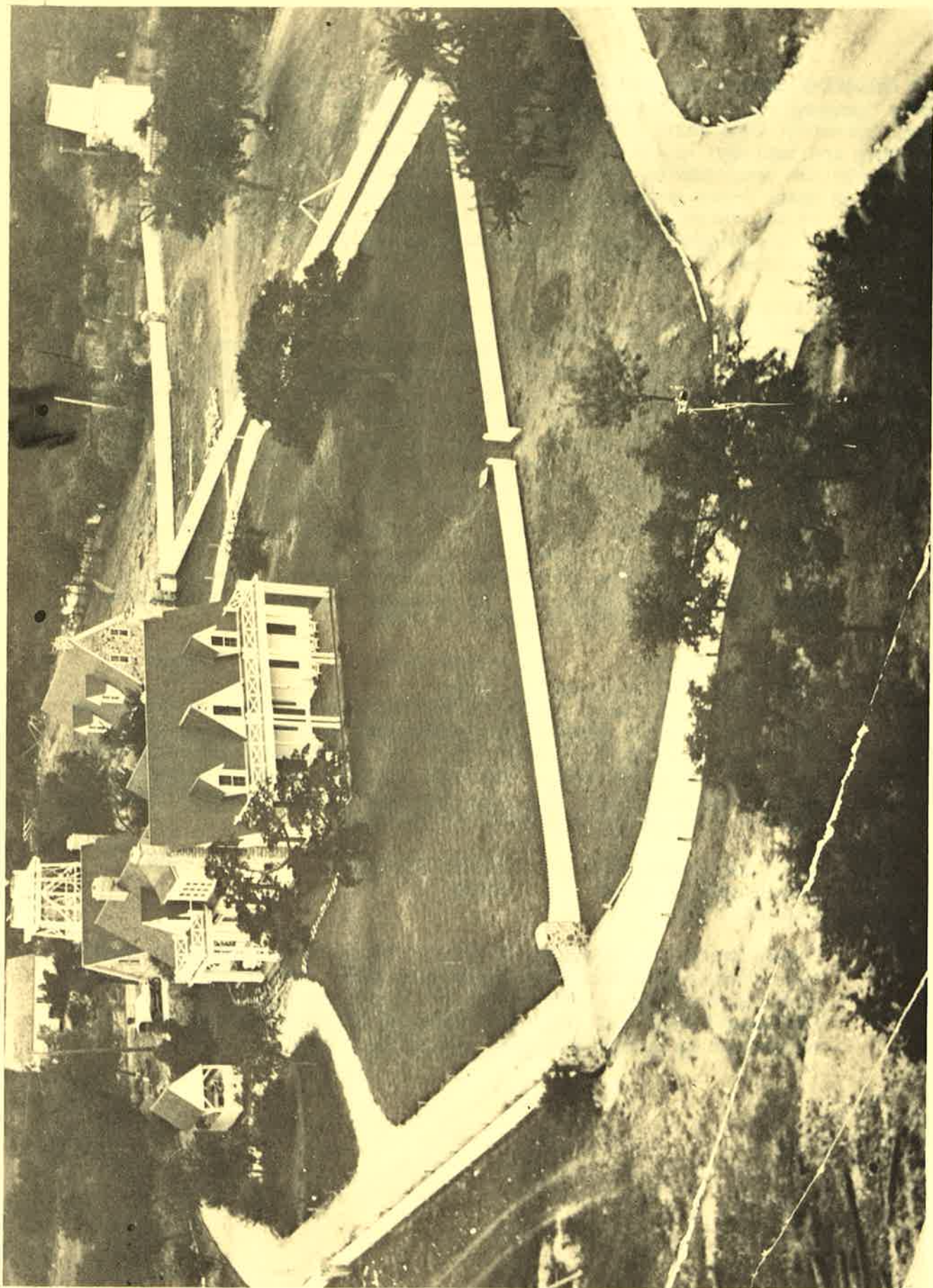
B



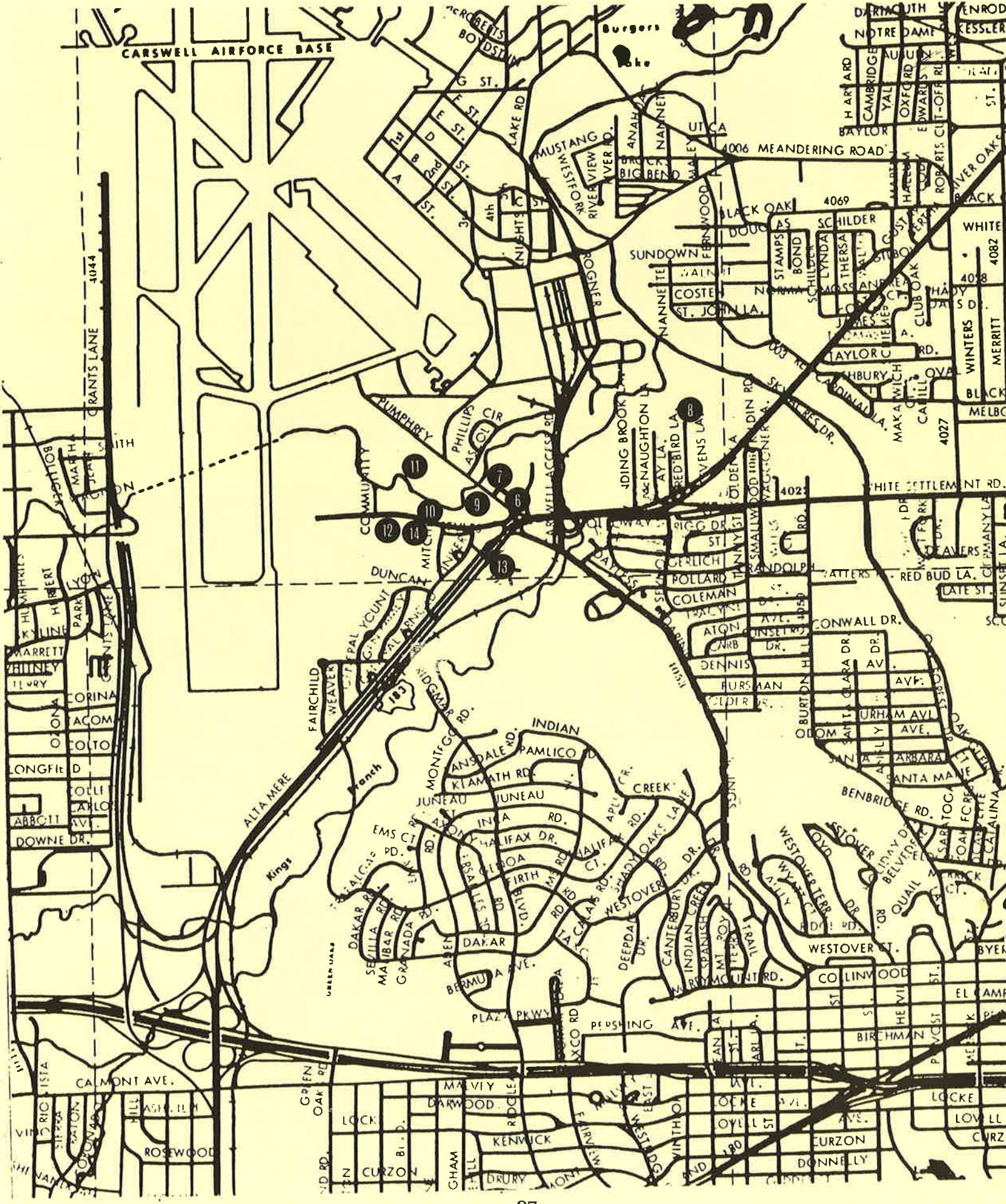
C

(The following three resources are listed and mapped in another Phase II survey document which addresses northwest Tarrant County, including Azle, Briar, Lakeside, Lake Worth and a portion of Fort Worth. These three resources are included in the northwest Tarrant County document because they fall within the geographical boundaries of the northwest survey area. However, as these three resources are closely related to the history and development of the White Settlement area, their descriptions are reprinted here in order to enhance an overall understanding and appreciation of the historical resources of the White Settlement area.)

- A **Silver Creek Road** Tannahill Homestead 1874; 1959
 (south side, 3/4 mile west of I-820)
 In 1853, Scottish-born Robert Watt Tannahill (1821-1885) and his wife Mary Catherine came here from Mississippi. In 1856, Tannahill patented this 320-acre tract on the Fort Worth-Azle Road. He used rocks from a nearby creek bank to construct this two-story gabled house in 1874. He served as a Tarrant County judge and used the front room of the house for a post office from 1878 to 1885. This also was a stagecoach station for the first stop west of Fort Worth. The house was sold in 1894 to early pioneer William Thomas Tinsley (1858-1909). It is set in a large stand of mature oak trees near a barn and other outbuildings. Were it not for extensive alterations undertaken by recent owners, the property would have been eligible for the National Register. It received an Official Texas Historical Marker in 1979.
- B **Silver Creek Road** Rowland Farm 1926
 (west side, 1/2 mile west of I-820)
 The Jud Rowland Family migrated from Tennessee to Tarrant County in 1851. This family property was subdivided by his sons and one of his grandsons. Walter Rowland built the existing bungalow in 1926, replacing the older house. The barn is known by close relatives to predate the bungalow. This hill-top farm complex forms a highly visible, picturesque silhouette in the area.
- C **White Settlement Road** Claude Tannahill 1939
 (south side, 4 miles House
 west of I-820)
- Claude Tannahill, grandson of pioneer Robert Watt Tannahill, built this stone-veneer house for himself in 1939. The stone was gathered from Tannahill's 1,050-acre ranch and applied by stonemason Beryl Hollars. The house is set on a hilltop site surrounded by outbuildings and mature oak trees.



CAPTAIN HENRY J. THOMPSON BUILT ON SITE OF PRESENT SHADY OAKS COUNTRY CLUB HOUSE IN 1873; house burned December 1947



Westworth Village





6



8



7



9

WESTWORTH VILLAGE

Buildings

6. 100 Pumphrey Drive Pumphrey House 1937
NR*

Dr. Andrew B. Pumphrey was an obstetrician and gynecologist who practiced in the Fort Worth area between 1930 and 1974. He served as the mayor of Westworth Village for about eight years, beginning in 1949. His 1937 residence was based on a house he had admired on a trip to New York. Plans were drawn up by Fred W. Murphree; Pumphrey acted as general contractor. Beautifully crafted in limestone, the hipped, gabled and turreted forms are reminiscent of a medieval Norman manor house. The house may be eligible for the National Register for its architectural qualities and for its association with a person important in the history of Westworth Village, upon the attainment of fifty years of age.

7. 200 Pumphrey Drive Hyde House 1940

Dr. Ximie R. Hyde, a radiologist who moved to Fort Worth in 1923, built this two-story brick house in 1940. The red tile roofs, balconies and partially enclosed patio give the house a Spanish, or Mediterranean, appearance. The 16-acre property was bought by Carswell Air Force Base in 1954, and is presently used as a squadron commander's quarters.

8. 220 Red Bird Lane Kolden House 1918; 1928

This two-story bungalow style farmhouse dates from a 1928 enlargement of a 1918 two-room house. Joseph and Emma Kolden were the owners of the house, which was situated on 21 acres of land on which they raised fruits and vegetables. Outbuildings include a simple gabled barn, chicken coop and several sheds. The house has been sheathed in asbestos siding, and is situated in a semi-rural section of Westworth Village.

9. 6312 White Settlement Raymond Buck House c. 1930-33
Road
NR

A curving drive flanked by white stone pedestals leads up a lawn-covered slope to the white stone and wood-frame house built for Raymond E. Buck in the early 1930's. Raymond Buck (1894-1971) was a prominent Fort Worth attorney whose firm, Buck & Buck, represented such clients as American Airlines and General Dynamics.

In addition to numerous civic and business accomplishments in Fort Worth, he was a leader in the State Democratic Party, and in 1948 managed Lyndon B. Johnson's first senatorial campaign. Ex-President Johnson was a pallbearer at Raymond Buck's funeral in Fort Worth in 1971. Buck lived here until 1954, when the property was acquired by the United States Air Force. The house is now used



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for officer's quarters for Carswell Air Force Base. The log cabin of Elijah W. Farmer stood on the property and was incorporated into the existing house. Springs used by early settlers are located behind the house. For its architectural qualities, integrity, and association with a person significant in the history of Fort Worth and Texas, the Raymond Buck House appears to be eligible for the National Register.

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|---|------|
| 10. | 6530 White Settlement Road
NR* | Potishman House/
"Carswell A.F.B. Golf Course Clubhouse" | 1936 |
|-----|-----------------------------------|---|------|

This turreted stone mansion was built in 1936 for Leo Potishman (1896-1981), Fort Worth businessman and philanthropist, on the site of his newly completed residence which had burned the year before. Potishman, a successful entrepreneur whose early investments in the Burkburnett and Ranger oil fields gave him sufficient capital to enter the grain business, was owner and president of the Transit Grain Co. and Vit-A-Way, Inc. The house was sold to Dr. Charles Clayton in 1943, after the Potishmans were divorced. The property was purchased by the United States Air Force in 1954, and since 1960 has been the clubhouse of the Carswell Air Force Base golf course. For its architectural qualities and association with an important local businessman, the house may be eligible for the National Register once it attains fifty years of age.

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|--|---------|
| 11. | 6530 White Settlement Road
NR* | Potishman Boat House(?)/
"Carswell A.F.B. Golf Course Maintenance Shop" | c. 1935 |
|-----|-----------------------------------|--|---------|

Sited on a sloping bank of Farmer's Branch Creek near the Potishman House (No. 10), this small stone building may have been used as a boat house for Leo Potishman's gondola. It presently is a maintenance shop for the golf course. Well constructed and carefully sited, the building may be eligible for the National Register following further documentation and the attainment of fifty years of age.

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------------------|-------|------------------|
| 12. | 6541 White Settlement Road | House | c. 1900;
1943 |
|-----|----------------------------|-------|------------------|

An older wood-frame house was moved a short distance in 1943 to its present site, where it was enlarged. It was bought in 1955 by the United States Air Force, and is used for officer's housing for Carswell Air Force Base.

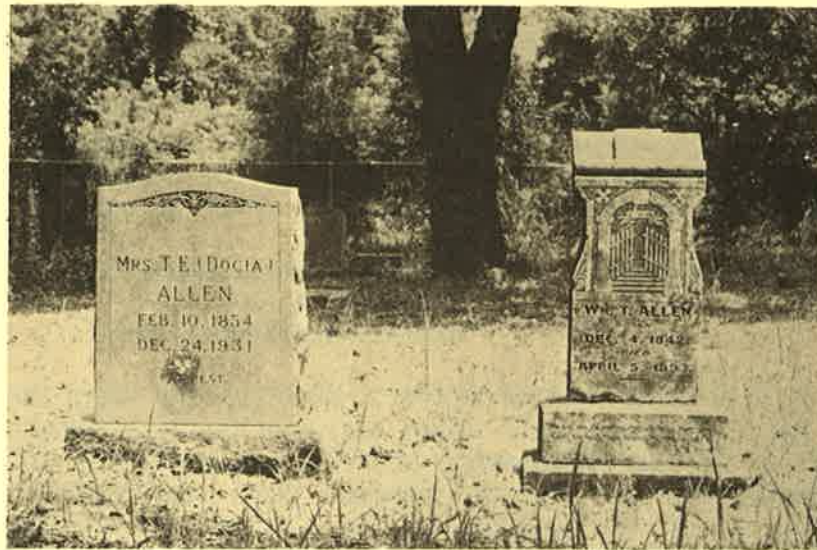
Objects & Places

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 13. | Altamere Drive (Hwy. 183; east side, west of Roaring Springs Rd.) | Thompson Community Cemetery | c. 1880-
1966 |
|-----|---|-----------------------------|------------------|

This approximately one-half acre cemetery is located in a grove of trees near Highway 183. Of the 94 grave markers, 47 have had



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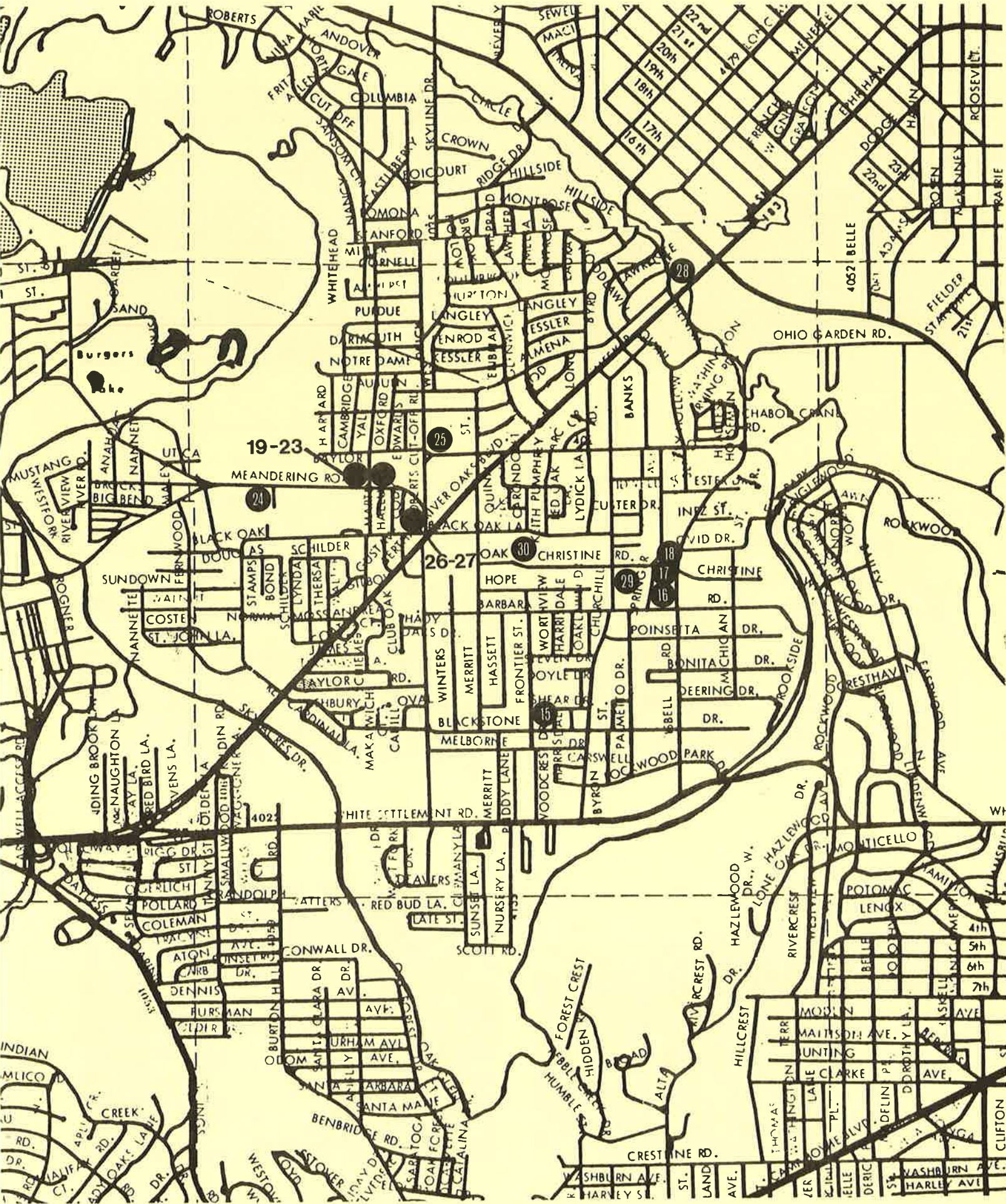
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legible tombstones into the 1960's. The oldest graves are those of James Ventioner, a native of France, and his wife Mildra (Farmer) Ventioner, who died in 1880 and 1882 respectively. The burial ground served the rural community of White Settlement and a number of settlers and community leaders are interred here, including the Paul Isbell family. The last burial was in 1966. The cemetery grounds recently have been restored after years of neglect.

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 14. White Settlement Road
(south side, opposite
6530) | Thompson Family
Cemetery | c. 1883-
1945 |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------|

This small, neatly kept cemetery contains thirteen recorded graves. The earliest tombstone is that of Capt. Henry J. Thompson (1832-1883) who settled in the area in 1859. The other graves are those of his family, including daughters, their husbands and children, and two family friends. In 1932, individual sections were deeded to eight members of the Thompson family whose heirs' title is recognized by the U.S. Government, which purchased the surrounding land. Carswell Air Force Base personnel maintain the grounds.

NOTES





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RIVER OAKS

Buildings

15. 315 Harrisdale Avenue Head House 1917

H.V. Head was a carpenter and painter who moved to the rural River Oaks area in 1913. He built this two-story gabled house for his family in 1917. The form and composition of the house is in a tradition that extends back to the 1870's in Tarrant County. It is still resided in by descendants of the original owner, and is unaltered.

16. 719 Isbell Road House c. 1900

This gabled L-plan house dates from about 1900, and is one of a row of four older houses in poor condition near a long-used intersection. Three have been listed on the Historic Sites Inventory. It is not certain whether they were built here or moved to the site.

17. 721 Isbell Road House c. 1900

This hipped and gabled L-plan house with diamond-pattern shingle in the gable end was built around 1900.

18. 723 Isbell Road House c. 1910

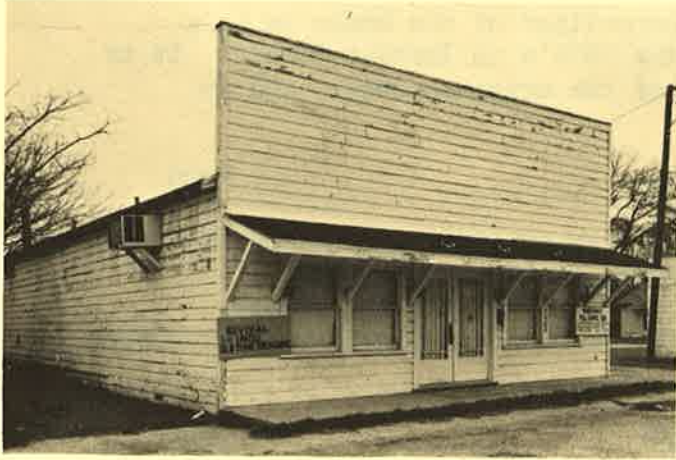
The rectangular plan, hip roof and recessed corner porch of this house suggest a construction date of about 1910.

19. 5418-20 Meandering Road Holland's Barber Shop/ 1936
WCHD (NR*) "River Oaks Barber Shop"/
"Grider Photography"

Willett's Corner, a row of four commercial buildings developed by Hugh and Helen Willett in 1936, was the first commercial district in the rural River Oaks area. All were built by Shankel Brothers Contractors. This two-store building has always housed a barber shop.

20. 5418-20 Meandering Road Willett's Corner Outhouse 1936
(rear)
WCHD (NR*)

River Oaks had no sewage system when Willett's Corner was developed. This double outhouse had one stall for men and one stall for women.



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21. 5422 Meandering Road Willett's Grocery and 1936
 WCHD (NR*) Market/"River Oaks Full
 Gospel Church"

Hugh and Helen Willett ran a grocery store in this false-fronted building. Today it serves as a meeting hall for a local church.

22. 5424 Meandering Road Cody's Cafe/ 1936
 WCHD (NR*) "Underwood Appliances"

This corner building with stepped false front originally was a cafe in Willett's Corner and presently is vacant.

23. 5504 Meandering Road White's Feed Store/ 1936
 WCHD (NR*) Commercial Building

White's Feed Store occupied this one-room building in Willett's Corner. Today it is vacant; it appears that the feed sprouted.

24. 5825 Meandering Road Furtnam House 1936; 1952
 NR*

Set back from the road on landscaped grounds, this two-story Tudor Revival house was designed by Earl Glasgow and built by Bill Driskell in 1936. Frank Furtnam, an Englishman who came to Texas in 1921 and worked in the wholesale meat industry, intended the house to be for his parents and wanted it to reflect or attain an English style. His parents never came, and Furtnam himself lived here until 1951, when the house was sold to the present owners, who added a low conservatory wing to the west. On the basis of its architectural quality, the house may be eligible for the National Register when it reaches fifty years of age.

25. 5228 Ohio Garden Road Castleberry School 1935-37;
 (NE corner Robert's Cut-Off) 1941; 1943;
 1945; 1948

Initial construction of Castleberry School occurred in 1935-37, when the Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.) built what is now the west portion of the main building, replacing an 1898 one-room schoolhouse. The school was enlarged repeatedly in the 1940's to accommodate the booming population. It served the semi-rural River Oaks area; rapid growth since the war has required the construction of additional facilities. The long, low, white-stuccoed form of the building, set on landscaped grounds at an important intersection, makes Castleberry School the most prominent historic civic landmark in River Oaks.



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