



## The Latting House

*By Brenda Lincke Fisseler*

Following John Harrell and Zachariah Hanna, the hotel on Block 7 was sold to Morehouse Latting. Latting purchased Lots 2 & 4 and the E 1/2 of Lots 6 & 8 in Block 7 for \$9,000.00 on January 25, 1858.

Prior to purchasing the hotel property, Latting had purchased four lots on Block 12 from Josiah Dowling and John W. Kelly on July 20, 1855 and the location was Latting's residence.

Latting, native of New York, was born in 1815 and had lived in Arkansas and Louisiana before being listed in the 1860 Lavaca County Census.

Latting operated the hotel, now known as the Latting House, from 1858 until 1863.

On August 10, 1863, Latting and his wife sold the Latting House on Block 7 and the livery stable on Block 11 to W.R. Davis of Washington County, Texas.

What followed was some very distasteful business. The debt-ridden Latting had duped Davis by selling him the property knowing good and well that he could not provide Davis with a clear title because there was an outstanding lien on the property belong to Z.N. Hanna.

Davis did not realize that he had been had until he attempted to sell the property to Mattias Lindenberg in 1865. In the end, after two long and complicated court cases, Lindenberg purchased the property on Block 7 on January 7, 1868 at a sheriff's sale and Davis was left empty handed.

The Mattias Lindenberg operated the hotel until he sold the property to Frederick William (Fritz) Lindenberg on February 1, 1870.



*“Great minds are related to the brief span of time during which they live as great buildings are to a little square in which they stand...”*

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## The Fritz Lindenberg Hotel

While many interesting occurrences must have taken place at the Lindenberg Hotel, a couple of items mentioned in the local newspaper are worthy of mention.

“The dog-propeller to run the fans for the Lindenberg Hotel has been placed in position, and “Jap the newsboy” is training his pet dog to propel the machine in great style. The fans work well and make the dining room airy and pleasant. As soon as the machinery becomes thoroughly saturated with oil and the friction wears off, the dog will have no trouble in running it.”

Hallettsville Herald June 13, 1895

“The old mulberry tree which stood in front of the Lindenberg Hotel has been cut down and removed, it having died some time ago. This tree was one of the old landmarks of the town. The hotel was built in 1852, Mr. Lindenberg informs us, and this tree was growing there then, and had attained a good size, being as large as the china tree now growing near the corner.”

Hallettsville Herald Sept. 28, 1899

Fritz Lindenberg operated the Lindenberg Hotel until February 14, 1900 when the property was sold to F. W. Neuhaus. Lindenberg was given until May 1st to remove the wooden buildings.

The hotel was moved to the SE corner of Block 7, just to the east of the old site, where it now stands freshly painted and ready for the traveling public as noted by the local newspaper.

Next:  
The Park Hotel  
The East Hotel