

Hallettsville 1851 – June 1852

Block 1

Block 1 is located northeast of the Courthouse square and is bordered by First St. on the north, Second St. on the south, Main St. on the east and Front St. on the west. The block is comprised of eight lots each lot 80 varas X 80 varas.

Ira McDonald Blacksmith Shop and Home (Block 1 Lot 2)

Silas Bennett (Block 1 Lot 4)

On February 26, 1852, Collatinus Ballard sold to Silas and Casana Ballard Lot 4 in Block 1. On March 23, 1852, the Bennetts sold the property back to Ballard.

**Lavaca County Deed A/43*

**Lavaca County Deed A/51*

William Smothers Grocery (Block 1 Lot 6)

Thomas Simons & Son (Block 1 Lot 7)

On November 6, 1851, Collatinus Ballard sold Lot 7 in Block 1 to Captain Thomas Simons and his son, Maurice, merchants in the coastal town of Texana. The corner lot fronted on Second and Front Streets and bounded on the east by the lot on which the Masonic Hall was erected. The lot was located across from the Hick's Hotel and Dr. Bennett's drug store stand. The Simons constructed a store doing business as Simons & Son. The Simons also owned stores located in Texana and Indianola.

**Free State of Lavaca p. 163*

**Lavaca County Deed A/635*

**Hallettsville Tribune Jan. 11, 1974*

Murchison Lodge A.F. & A.M. No. 80 (Block 1 Lot 8)

First Floor: M. B. Bennett drugstore

Peter McDermott

Second Floor: Murchison Lodge

On February 14, 1851, Collatinus Ballard sold Lot 8 in Block 1 to Silas Bennett, Master and Thomas Bishop and James Short, Wardens of the Murchison Lodge. The lot was on the northwest corner fronting on Main Street and running back on Second Street. On this site the Lodge constructed a two story wooden building.

The Lodge used the top floor as a meeting hall and rented out the lower floor. Note: Ballard did give the property to the Lodge but did not official deed the property to the lodge until, as was his pattern, that they had established themselves in the community.

Dr. Marshall Breazeale Bennett Drug Store Stand (Block 1 Lot 8)

Dr. Marshall Breazeale Bennett rented the first floor of the building for his general practice of medicine after he moved here from his drug store stand on Lot 1 on Block 2.

Peter McDermott Store (Block 1 Lot 8)

On February 7, 1851, the Murchison Lodge sold to Peter McDermott “the lower story of said hall with all the right to the Lodge has in and to the lot on which the said hall stands on for the sum of \$301.00. Said McDermott is to leave the Masons of said Lodge the undisturbed and unmolested right of way to the width of 10 feet off the west end of said hall and as to himself his heirs and assignees never to molest or trouble or disturb the Masons in enjoying the upper story with right of way of same.”

McDermott’s pattern of operation was similar to Ballard. He operated a gin, purchased the county’s produce, dealt in cattle and hogs, as well as cotton, and in turned shipped or carted them to Lavaca. McDermott did an extensive business boasting in 1852 of having “the largest stock in the upper county” but had about twelve to fifteen thousand out on credit extended to settlers in the area.

**Lavaca County Deed B/107*

**Lavaca County Deed A/561*

**Hallettsville Tribune Jan. 11, 1974 & Jan. 25, 1974*

**Headwaters of the Lavaca and Navidad p. 147*

**Hallettsville Herald Aug. 5, 1977*

**Free State of Lavaca p. 162*

Block 2

Block 2 is located east of the Courthouse square and is bordered by Second St. on the north, Third St. on the south, Main St. on the east and Front St. on the west. The block is comprised of eight lots each lot being 80 varas X 80 varas.

Dr. Marshall Breazeale Bennett Drug Store Stand (Block 2 Lot 1)

In May 1846, Dr. Marshall B. Bennett, volunteered in Ben McCullough's Company and served as an assistant surgeon. Upon his return from the Mexican War, he located in Hallettsville on the NW corner of Block 2, where he set up his office and dispensed medicines.

While Bennett was already in business before 1850, Collatinus Ballard did not sell the lot to Bennett until December 9, 1851.

Dr. Bennett moved his practice of general medicine from his drug store stand on Lot 1 Block 2 to the first floor of the Masonic Hall located on Block 1 Lot 8.

**Free State of Lavaca p. 161 - 163*

**Lavaca County Deed B/45*

**Headwaters of the Lavaca and Navidad p. 147*

A.W. Hicks Hotel & Tavern (Block 2 Lot 2)

On May 7, 1852, Collatinus Ballard deeded to A.W. Hicks Block 2 between Second and Third Streets and Front and Main Streets containing 8 town lots measuring 20 X 40 varas each except Lot 1 of said block which had previously been sold to Dr. M.B. Bennett. The deed stated that the block was the one on which Hicks lived and occupied with a house and garden.

**On the Headwaters of the Lavaca and the Navidad p.17*

**Lavaca County Deed B/443*

Block 3

Block 3 is located southwest of the Courthouse square and is bordered by Third St. on the north, Fourth St. on the south, Main St. on the east and Front St. on the west. The block is comprised of eight lots each 80 varas X 80 varas.

William Smothers Store (Block 3 Lot 1) (Block 3 Lot 3)

William Smothers purchased Lots 1 & 3 in Block 3 from Collatinus and Mary Jane Ballard in 1851. The lots fronting 20 varas on Front St and running back 41 varas in depth.

**Lavaca County Deed B/44*

Block 4

Block 4 is located southwest of the Courthouse square and is bordered by Fourth St. on the north, Fifth St. on the south, Main St. on the east and Front St. on the west. The block is comprised of eight lots each 80 varas X 80 varas.

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 5

Block 5 is located north of the Courthouse square and is bordered by First St. on the north, Second St. on the south, LaGrange St. on the east and Main St. on the west. The block is comprised of eight lots each lot being 80 varas X 80 varas.

Ira McDonald Home (Block 5 Lot 3)

On February 14, 1851, Dr. Joel Ponton sold Lot 3 in Block 5 to the local blacksmith Ira M. McDonald. This lot adjoined the lot currently owned by Jesse L. Sanders. Ira, through his attorney, Silas Bennet, then sold this property to his wife, Dorothy, on February 26, 1852 as a portion of their community property.

Note: This property was the McDonald home and it is possible that after they purchased the property they lived in the house that had been occupied by the previous tenant E.C. Clements.

**Lavaca County Deed B/46*

**Lavaca County Deed B/47*

For more information about Ira McDonald and his family please read the following:

“Forever Divorced: the Rest of the Story”

“The Last Word on the McDonalds; I Hope!”

George W. and Mary Dufner Guthrie Residence (Block 5 Lot 5)

In 1848, Collatinus Ballard sold to Jesse Sanders Lot 5 in Block 5. In 1851, Sanders allegedly sold Lots 5 & 6 in Block 5 to Mary Dufner (now Mary Guthrie) Said Mary Guthrie at the time of the sale was Mary Dufner, a feme sole, who entered into a contract with Jesse L. Sanders for the purchase of the two lots. However, Sanders was not the rightful owner of the lots (Sanders did indeed own Lot 5 but Collatinus Ballard was the owner of Lot 6. The deed was made but was destroyed before it was recorded. The fraud was not discovered until 1852.

Lavaca County Civil Case # 117

Lavaca County Deed A/165

Collatinus Ballard Store (Block 5 Lot 7)

Block 6: Lavaca County Courthouse

Block 6 is bordered by Second St. on the north, Third St. on the south, LaGrange St. on the east and Main St. on the west.

Block 7

Block 7 is located north of the Courthouse square and is bordered by Third St. on the north, Fourth St. on the south, LaGrange St. on the east and Main St. on the west. The block is comprised of eight lots each lot being 80 varas X 80 varas.

John R. Whited Residence (Block 7 Lot 5) (Block 7 Lot 7)

On December 27, 1851, Collatinus and Mary Jane Ballard sold Lots 5 & 7 in Block 7 to John R. & Eliza Whited fronting on Main Street. Each lot is 20 varas across and 40 varas in depth.

**Lavaca County Deed B/58*

Block 8

Block 8 is located south of the Courthouse square and is bordered by Fourth St. on the north, Fifth St. on the south, LaGrange St. on the east and Main St. on the west. The block is comprised of eight lots each lot being 80 varas X 80 varas.

John Buchanan Private School

On July 14, 1851, Tolleson sold the three acres of land to John Buchanan who continued to conduct a school in that location. The school was located on three acres of land of land adjacent to the SW corner of Block 8.

John Buchanan was educated for the priesthood but forsook the calling to come to Texas in 1836 and become a teacher. Buchanan followed Hebron Tolleson as the teacher in Hallettsville; in 1852, he sold his holdings in the town and moved to Austin, Texas where he conducted a school in 1853 and 1854 and was employed as a translator in the Land Office. He died in Austin, Texas in 1859.

**Lavaca County Deed A/560*

**On the Headwaters of the Lavaca and the Navidad p. 62 & 68*

Block 9

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 10

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 11

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 12

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 13

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 14

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 15

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 16

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 17

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 18

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 19

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 20

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Fractional Block 2

Fractional Block 3

Fractional Block 3 is located directly north of Block 5 and is bordered by First St. on the south, LaGrange St. on the east and Main St. on the west. On the north is the boundary of the original town tract.

Collatinus Ballard Residence (Fractional Block 3)

Peter McDermott Residence (Fractional Block 3 Lot 4)

Peter McDermott Gin (Fractional Block 3 Lot 5)

Lot 5 on Fractional Block 3 was deeded to Peter McDermott by Collatinus Ballard on April 5, 1852. The lot fronts on Front and LaGrange Streets. In the description, it is noted that this lot is adjoining the one on which my (Ballard's) dwelling is located.

**Lavaca County Deed B/106*

**Free State of Lavaca p. 162*

Fractional Block 4

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Fractional Block 5

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.