

John W. Harrell (Block 7 Lot 2, 4 and E ½ 6 & 8)

On April 7, 1854, John Harrell purchased Lots 2 & 4 in Block 7 and Lots 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 in Block 14 from Josiah Dowling and John W. Kelly. To purchase the property Harrell signed a promissory note to Dowling and Kelly for \$390.00 to be paid on or before January 1, 1855. On May 14, 1854, Thomas H. Hawks sold the east ½ of Lots 6 & 8 in Block 7 to Harrell. (Note: While the Lavaca County Deed C/130 states that Hawks sold the E ½ of Lots 6 & 8 in Block 7, no deed has been located to document how Hawks received the property)

Note: Harrell built a two-story hotel on the property on the SE corner of the Lavaca County Courthouse and it remained in use as a hotel for 50 years or more at that location.

Dowling and Kelly sold the note to W.G. L. Foley who later sold the note to Edward Neuhaus on October 2, 1855. On March 29, 1856, Edward Neuhaus filed a petition in the Lavaca County District Court against John Harrell and W.G.L. Foley for failure of payment. Neuhaus asked the court for judgment against Harrell and Foley in the sum of \$390.00 plus interest.

To achieve payment, Neuhaus asked the court to enforce the lien upon said property for the purchase money and decree a sale of such property.

During the court case, on January 16, 1856, John and Elizabeth Harrell sold 400 acres of land, Lots 2, 4 and the E ½ of Lots 6 & 8 in Block 7, and Lots 2 & 4 in Block 11 to C.W. Garrett for \$2,200.00. This deed of trust was given for the purpose of securing payment for a promissory note given by John W. Harrell and C.W. Garrett to John E. Harrell that was due on or before February 15, 1857. If Harrell pays off and discharges said note the obligation is null and void. If Harrell should fail to pay off and discharge said note and the said Garrett should be compelled to pay the same, then the said Garrett is hereby authorized to sell the property mentioned to cover his expenses.

Also in the deed of trust, John Harrell promised to have the Planter's Hotel that was situated on Block 7 insured from loss by fire to protect Garrett's collateral. Note: on March 19, 1857, Harrell paid the note in full and the trust was declared null and void.

On April 11, 1856, judgment was issued in the Neuhaus case. It was ordered by the court that the Edward Neuhaus recover from the defendants John Harrell and

W.G.L. Foley the sum of \$359.52 and interest. To achieve payment, the court order that the lien on the property be enforced and the property sold.

On March 18, 1857, John Harrell, mired in debt, sold Lots 2 & 4 in Block 7 to Zachariah Hanna for \$4,000.00. The sale included the Planters Hotel, all buildings, appurtenances, furniture and the famous bell. The hotel was renamed the Hanna House.

The E ½ of Lots 6 & 8 were sold to Hanna by Josiah Dowling, John W. Kelly and John Harrell on June 20, 1857. The ½ lots were enclosed and used as a garden by Hanna and were adjoining the lots on which the hotel was situated. (Note: Dowling and Kelly were previous owners of these lots and may have been included in the sale due to the lack of documentation concerning the ownership claimed by Thos. Hawks.)

Hanna House was sold by Zachariah Hanna on January 25, 1858 to Morehouse Latting. Latting purchased Lots 2 & 4 and the E ½ of Lots 6 & 8 in Block 7 for \$9,000.00. Latting, a native of New York, operated the hotel until 1863.

On August 10, 1863, Morehouse Latting sold the property and buildings to W. R. Davis.

Reference:

**Free State of Lavaca p. 150 & 166*

**Lavaca County Civil Case #383*

**Lavaca County Deed C/58*

**Lavaca County Deed C/130*

**Lavaca County Deed D/46*

**Lavaca County Deed E/142*

**Lavaca County Deed E/222*

**Lavaca County Deed E/412*

**Lavaca County Deed I/79*