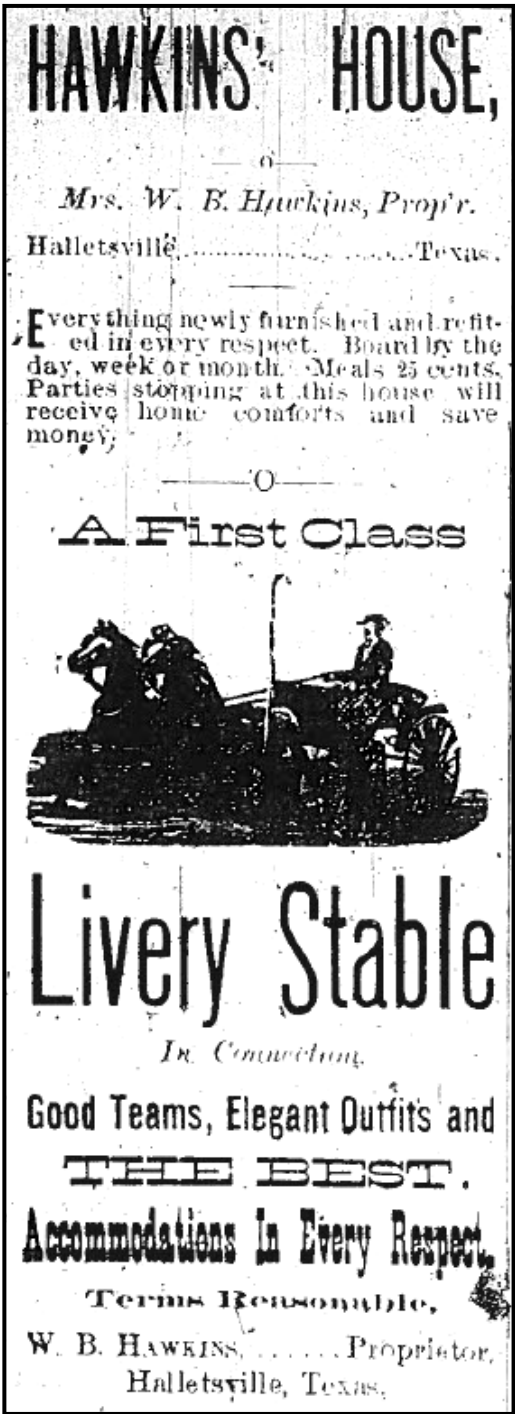




The Hawkins House

By Brenda Lincke Fisseler



The Hawkins House was established and operated by Willis B. Hawkins and his wife Nancy D. Hawkins.

The Hawkins arrived in Hallettsville after the Civil War and by 1880, W.B. was employed as a mail carrier.

On May 29, 1882, W. B. Hawkins purchased part of Block 26 from Jane E. Cates and E.M. Rabb for \$400.00.

The first existing ad for the Hawkins House appeared in the December 27, 1887 Hallettsville Herald.

The Hawkins House was the home of many activities during its tenure.

On June 9, 1892, then Governor James S. Hogg dined at the Hawkins House during a visit to Hallettsville. The governor's meal was followed by a speech to approximately a crowd of 500 people at 3:00 that afternoon at a local pavilion.



“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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In December of that same year, Mr. John Williams of Williamsburg, as had been his custom for years, had a feast prepared for he prisoners confined in the county jail. The meal was furnished by the Hawkins House and was equal to that enjoyed by anyone.

During August of 1902, S.F.B. Morse, a employee of the Southern Pacific railroad, Prof. Attwater of the Southern Pacific exhibit bureau, L.H. Shelfer, a tobacco expert of the US Department of Agriculture in Texas, and M.G. Ranney a real estate agent from Yoakum visited the area to investigate the adaptability of the soil for the cultivation of tobacco.

Upon their arrival, Friench Simpson carried them to Hawkins House to meet Mr. Hawkins who had been raising tobacco for the past several years.

In September, 1902, the Hawkins House received a few updates in the form of paining and papering.

Oscar Appelt closed a deal with Mr. and Mrs. Hawkins on June 20 1907 to purchase the Hawkins House for \$4,000.00. Appelt planned to turn the property into a two story private residence.

The Hawkins moved to Austin where their son, J.W. Hawkins was employed in the Texas General Land Office.

Mrs. Willis B. Hawkins (Nancy D. Morley) died in Austin, Texas on October 7 1910 and was buried in the Hallettsville City Cemetery.

Willis B. Hawkins died on April 17, 1919 and his buried with his wife at the Hallettsville City Cemetery.



Next:
The Sokol Hotel