

DeVitt House moved to  
W 7th Street -  
from  
Jennings?  
where it was a law office -

---

future of house -  
for  
new Garvey project  
2007?



CURTIS TUNNELL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Devitt House*

# TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512)463-6100

August 28, 1991

Joye K. Evetts, Marker Chair  
Tarrant County Historical Commission  
4404 Wedgemont Circle South  
Fort Worth, TX 76133

Dear Joye:

Thank you for your letter of August 22.

Enclosed is an official one-year extension for the "Ormer Leslie Locklear" application, as well as the official cancellations for the following:

DEVITT HOUSE  
ARNOLD GUERTLER HOUSE  
HARRIS HOUSE  
ZEBULON JENKINS HOUSE\*  
Site of MAJESTIC THEATRE  
WILLIAM B. MONNIG HOUSE  
TRAIL DRIVERS PARK

\* I need your assistance with one more matter, if you don't mind. According to our records, we have \$175.00 on account for the Zebulon Jenkins House application. The check was written by Clara E. Patrick, and her address in 1984 was Rt. 10, Box 96A, Fort Worth, 76135. Do you have any idea if she still lives there, or, if not, where we might contact her? We will need to obtain her social security number in order for the Comptroller to process a refund for the \$175.00. If we can't contact her at all, we'll have to begin the process of transferring the money to the state treasury. I'd appreciate any information you might be able to gather for me.

Thanks again for your quick response to my letter.

Sincerely,

*Cynthia J. Beeman*

Cynthia J. Beeman  
Historian  
Local History Programs



TARRANT COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

August 22, 1991

Ms. Cynthia J. Beeman, Historian  
State Marker Program  
Texas Historical Commission  
P.O. Box 12276  
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Cynthia:

We have reviewed the status of all the pending marker applications listed in your letter of August 1.

We recommend cancellation of the following:

Devitt House (demolished)  
Arnold Guertler House  
Harris House  
Zebulon Jenkins House  
Site of the Majestic Theatre  
William B Monnig House  
Trail Drivers Park

Some of these may be re-submitted later.

The Ormer Leslie Locklear application has been researched further and is being rewritten. You will receive the revised application some time in September.

Thanks for asking about these. It prompted me to inspect the sites and to review all the old applications.

Sincerely,

Joye K. Evetts  
Marker Chairman

cc: Lela Standifer, Chairman



CURTIS TUNNELL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512)463-6100

August 1, 1991

Joye Evetts, Marker Chair  
Tarrant County Historical Commission  
P. O. Box 970  
Fort Worth, TX 76101

Dear Joye:

We are currently going through long-standing pending marker applications in our office, and have come across a number of applications from Tarrant County, some of which have been pending since 1985. Rather than try to write to each applicant at this point, I thought I'd first write to you and see if you could offer any assistance. Basically, what we need is either to get these applications moving (most by addressing previous requests for additional information), or to go ahead and cancel the applications.

I am enclosing copies of correspondence from the following files:

- DEVITT HOUSE *hed*
- HARRIS HOUSE *Forest St*
- ORMER LESLIE LOCKLEAR
- WILLIAM B. MONNIG HOUSE *312...*
- ARNOLD GUERTLER HOUSE *2257...*
- ZEBULON JENKINS HOUSE
- Site of MAJESTIC THEATRE
- TRAIL DRIVERS PARK

It is important that we not let these files remain in pending any longer. If you can't help with this request, please let me know, and I will begin the formal notification process to the applicants (in which they will be allowed thirty days to answer the requests before we cancel the applications).

I really appreciate any help you can offer with these. If you have any questions about any of the applications, please let me know.

Sincerely,  
*Cynthia J. Beeman*  
Cynthia J. Beeman  
Historian  
State Marker Program

**RECEIVED**

**AUG 5 1991**

**EXECUTIVE**



CURTIS TUNNELL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
P.O. BOX 12276 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711 (512) 475-3092

August 9, 1985

Duane Gage  
TCJC NE Campus  
828 Harwood Road  
Hurst, TX 76054

Dear Duane:

Our staff has made a preliminary review of several recent Tarrant County marker applications. Before we can proceed with our evaluations, however, we need some additional information.

1. BIOCCHI BUILDING: We need a historic photo of the structure. Also, we need closer photos of the window details. Since they are single pane, they appear to be replacements for an earlier configuration.
2. FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING: We need a historic photo.
3. DEVITT HOUSE: We need a historic photo. Also, since our policies require that a structure be in a "good state of repair" to qualify for a marker, we need more information about the current state or proposed restoration of the building. For example, our photos show missing shingles, rotten wood, asbestos skirting, etc. Since the photos do not always show the kind of detail we need, we would like for your commission to review the home and give us their opinion of its condition. They do not need to follow any set standards, but we would like to know if they feel it is in a condition that would not reflect unfavorably on the Tarrant County or state marker program.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dan K. Utley, Director  
Research and Markers

DKU/lm

cc: Ruth Reiter Stone

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

House on S. Jennings at Allen.

\$59,000 zoned "C" Apt. can go Business

Entrance directly to livingroom.

Downstairs ceiling height 12'

Floors parquetry and in good condition

Wainscoating 7' high in frontroom, library, & formal diningroom. This is mahogany.

1 bedroom downstairs has papered walls

1 bath in house is downstairs

Old time kitchen

Most all rooms 14 X 14

3 bedrooms up are papered

all walls need new wall paper.

Built 1904 Architect ?

Shown Sat. & Sun. only

Jeanie Hardie home 921-0626 Office 535-4363

# Tarrant County Historical Commission

P. O. Box 18331 Fort Worth, Texas 76118



December 30, 1985

TARRANT COUNTY COURT HOUSE  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

Mrs. Aurora M. Master  
1634 (Devitt House) South Jennings  
Fort Worth, Texas 76110

Dear Mrs. Master:

The Texas Historical Commission has expressed concern about certain features of your house regarding qualifying for an official Texas historical marker (missing shingles, rotten wood, asbestos skirting, specifically).

The Tarrant County Historical Commission would like to encourage you to respond to these concerns, for we believe the architecture, history, and location of the house is very important. As you know, it is very near the major expansion area of John Peter Smith Hospital; we are afraid that some day the house may be condemned for hospital expansion, if it does not have an historical marker.

Please let us know if you plan any renovation of the structure in the near future.

Sincerely,

Duane Gage  
Chairman

xc: Texas Historical Commission

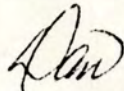
... BUILDING: We need a his  
we need closer photos of the window deta. they ing  
they appear to be replacements for an earlier configuration.

2. ~~FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING~~: We need a historic photo.

3. DEVITT HOUSE: We need a historic photo. Also, since our policies require that a structure be in a "good state of repair" to qualify for a marker, we need more information about the current state or proposed restoration of the building. For example, our photos show missing shingles, rotten wood, asbestos skirting, etc. Since the photos do not always show the kind of detail we need, we would like for your commission to review the home and give us their opinion of its condition. They do not need to follow any set standards, but we would like to know if they feel it is in a condition that would not reflect unfavorably on the Tarrant County or state marker program.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dan K. Utley, Director  
Research and Markers

DKU/lm

cc: Ruth Reiter Stone

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*



# APPLICATION FORM FOR OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

Texas Historical Commission  
 Research and Markers Department  
 P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711

Title of marker (subject to revision by THC staff)		
DEVITT HOUSE		
Marker location (street address or highway number; include name of cemetery, building, park, etc., if applicable; if on highway right-of-way or in a small community, briefly explain how to get there from the nearest town)		
1634 South Jennings Fort Worth, Texas 76110		
City or nearest city shown on Texas Highway Department road map	County	
FORT WORTH	TARRANT Fort Worth	
Distance and direction of subject from marker site For example, "Subject is 1/2 mile SW of marker site."	Surface to which marker will be attached (if not on post)	
Marker location on front porch	wood <del>shingles</del>	
Owner of marker site	Address	City, Zip Code
X <i>Aurora M. Master</i>	1634 South Jennings	Fort Worth Texas 76110
Sponsor of marker	Address	City, Zip Code
X <i>Aurora M. Master</i>	1634 South Jennings	Fort Worth Texas 76110
Person to whom marker is to be shipped	Address	City, Zip Code
X Aurora M Master,	1634 South Jennings,	Fort Worht, Texas 76110
NOTE: Freight companies cannot ship to route or box numbers. If street address is unavailable, please provide a phone number. If marker is to be placed on highway right-of-way, it will be shipped to your district highway engineer.		
Signature of County Chairman	Address	City, Zip Code
"I have reviewed the narrative for this marker and attest to its accuracy." % TCJC NE Campus 828 Harwood Road Hurst, Texas 76054		

Please consult the back of this page for specifications of the markers available. Check the items desired below. Approval of the application and narrative history *must* be obtained from the county historical commission, as indicated by the county chairman's signature on this form, before forwarding the material to the Texas Historical Commission. Please *do not* send payment if ordering subject or building markers; funds will be requested once the application has been approved by the State Marker Committee. 5% state sales tax must be added to the price, except if purchased by a tax-exempt organization.

### SUBJECT MARKERS

- 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar) .... \$175 <sup>With tax</sup> \$183.75
- 27" x 42" subject marker with post ..... \$575 <sup>With tax</sup> \$603.75
- 27" x 42" subject marker without post ..... \$525 <sup>With tax</sup> \$551.25
- 18" x 28" subject marker with post ..... \$325 <sup>With tax</sup> \$341.25
- 18" x 28" subject marker without post ..... \$250 <sup>With tax</sup> \$262.50
- I(We) request RTHL designation be considered for this marker.

### BUILDING MARKERS

- 16" x 12" building marker with post ..... \$225 <sup>With tax</sup> \$236.25
  - 16" x 12" building marker without post ..... \$175 <sup>With tax</sup> \$183.75
- Applications for building markers will automatically be considered for the RTHL designation. Please read carefully Texas Marker Policies 11 through 15, and indicate that you have done so by signing below.

X *Aurora M. Master*  
 Signature of owner

### PAPERWEIGHTS

- Please indicate quantity desired.
- 3" x 4" plastic paperweight  
mounted with replica of marker ..... \$75 <sup>With tax</sup> \$78.75  
*Allow 2 months from completion of marker for receipt of paperweight.*
  - Medallion paperweight ..... \$25 <sup>With tax</sup> \$26.25  
*Allows four lines of engraving; please indicate desired wording.*

### DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

- Please indicate quantity desired and give location(s) on form above:
- 24" x 24" Historical Markers In City sign ..... \$65 <sup>With tax</sup> \$68.25  
*These will be shipped to and placed on your town's city limits signs by the District Highway Engineer.*
  - Black and White (for farm-to-market roads, state and U.S. highways)
  - Green and White (for interstate highways)
  - 18" x 22" Historical Marker directional sign ..... \$65 <sup>With tax</sup> \$68.25  
*In black and white only. For city and county roads.*  
*Applicant must supply post and be responsible for placement.*
  - With arrow pointing straight ahead
  - With arrow pointing left
  - With arrow pointing right

### OTHER

- National Register plaque ..... \$35 <sup>With tax</sup> \$36.75
- 12" x 6" supplemental plate ..... \$65 <sup>With tax</sup> \$68.25
- 16" x 12" building marker plate only (see policy 11) .... \$110 <sup>With tax</sup> \$115.50
- Replacement medallion (see policy 11) ..... \$65 <sup>With tax</sup> \$68.25
- Bronze stars (for replacement on 1936 granite markers) ..... \$10 <sup>With tax</sup> \$10.50
- Bronze wreaths (for replacement on 1936 granite markers) ..... \$10 <sup>With tax</sup> \$10.50
- Bronze seals (for replacement on 1936 granite markers) ..... \$50 <sup>With tax</sup> \$52.50
- Bronze plates (for replacement on 1936 granite markers) ..... \$135 <sup>With tax</sup> \$141.75
- Certificates of commendation ..... 50¢ each



CURTIS TUNNELL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
P.O. BOX 12276 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711 (512)463-6100

DATE: August 28, 1991

RE: DEVITT HOUSE  
Tarrant County, Job #8584

Dear Applicant/County Historical Commission Chair:

In accordance with State Marker Policy #7, the above-mentioned application for an Official Texas Historical Marker has been terminated, and the application materials are being returned to the Tarrant County Historical Commission.

Should you wish to re-apply for a marker at a later date, please contact the staff of the Local History Programs office for information regarding State Marker Policies in effect at that time. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Cynthia J. Beeman  
Historian  
Local History Programs (State Marker Program)

copies to: Joye K. Evetts, Tarrant CHC

DEVITT HOUSE

8584

Researched by  
Ruth Reiter Stone  
#3 Chase Court  
Fort Worth, Texas  
76110

The DeVitt House is located at 1634 South Jennings Avenue. Composed of jagged elements and completely sheathed in a skin of decorative shingles, this two-story residence was built around 1909 for Phillip M. DeVitt, president of Petrolia Land Company, vice president of Trinity Heights Land Company, managing agent of the South Side Land Company, and president of Simmons Auto Company. The house is a remarkable composition, but the architect's identity has not been discovered. According to the Historic Resources Survey for Tarrant County it appears to be eligible for the National Register for its architectural qualities. <sup>1</sup>

The DeVitt house is a shingle style, rare in Fort Worth. It has continuous wood shingles of fish scale design. Old neighbors, now gone, told the present owner the cedar shingles had remained unpainted for years. A steeply pitched roof gives rise to the dominant front gable that has a lesser gable beneath it. The house has cross gables with a hipped dormer to the south. The north has a series of gables at various elevations. There are multi level eaves that end abruptly. The generous porch across the front, and partially on the north side, has a cocoon-like enclosure faced in tongue and groove, with Romanesque arch openings. The railings between the arches are of the diamond pattern to match the upper sash windows.

The front door enters into a large square living room that has a corner wood burning fireplace. All the downstairs rooms have extensive walnut wainscoting. Much interior wood was a trade-mark of Louis Weinman, who designed houses at this period of time in this southside location. The original gas light fixtures throughout the house have been converted to electricity. All the doors in the house have transoms.

A room between the living room and dining room contains a magnificent staircase. The balustrade is made of walnut scrolls. Opposite the stairs is a deacon's bench made onto the wall. All this is similar in design to the William Reeve house, a few blocks away on Hemphill, whose architect was Louis Weinman. The one bath to the house is off this room. The bath fixtures are originals, with a tub on legs and a corner sink. The impressive staircase leads to two small bedrooms at the upstairs front of the house. The large attic is walled off with no entry.

On December 22, 1903 P.M. DeVitt bought lots 1 and 2 in block 3 of the Goldsmith's subdivision of the W.P. Patillo addition from Charles M. Brown and his wife, Laura N. Brown, for \$4,000.<sup>2</sup> Charles Brown had bought lots 1 and 2 from J.W. Goldsmith for \$550.<sup>3</sup> There was a mechanics and material man's lien on lot 2 in block 3 to secure a debt for \$1,500 dated October 14, 1902 in favor of C.V. Kilgore and assigned to the National Loan and Investment Company.<sup>4</sup>

In 1908 no house was listed in the Fort Worth city directory for 1634 South Jennings, which was lot 2,<sup>5</sup> but by 1909 DeVitt was residing at 1634 South Jennings; his office was at 309 Fort Worth National Bank Building.<sup>6</sup>

On May 17, 1910 the Texas Bitulithic Company paved in front of lots 1 and 2 in block 3 on Jennings Avenue. P.M. DeVitt, who owned these lots was given a release of a mechanic Lien dated September 26, 1912 for \$99.04 with 7% interest amounting to \$102.32.<sup>7</sup>

On January 11, 1912 P.M. DeVitt and his wife, Jessie M. DeVitt sold lot 2 in block 3 to B.E. Henwood for \$7,000. The DeVitts then moved into the house next door to the south on lot 1 block 3. Neighbors said the reason for the DeVitts moving was because of the screams of children being beaten in the house to the north of them.<sup>9</sup>

On June 3, 1912 B.E. Henwood and his wife, Susan H. Henwood sold the house on lot 2 block 3 to Ed Lysaght for \$3,500 and one promissory note of \$2,000 payable to Joe Poythress.<sup>10</sup> On June 7, 1913 Ed. H. Lysaght and his wife,

Jannie Lysaght sold the property to Dorothy Tomlinson for \$5,500 and the assumption of the promissory note for \$2,000 payable to Joe Poythress. She paid \$3,500 cash.<sup>11</sup> On March 5, 1912 the \$2,000 note payable to Joe Poythress was transferred to L. Gordon on a transfer of a Vendors Lien.<sup>12</sup>

On December 23, 1914 Ed. H. Lysaght paid L. Gordon \$2,080. Mr. Gordon acknowledged it and the Vendor's Lien was canceled.<sup>13</sup> On September 27, 1915 there was a release of the Vendor's Lien from Ed. H. Lysaght to B.E. Henwood for \$2,000 at 10% payable to Joe Poythress dated September 28, 1913.

Joe Poythress acknowledged receiving \$2,000 with interest from L. Gordon.<sup>14</sup>

On August 12, 1919 Dorothy M. Tomlinson made out a Deed of Trust to J.S. McCall on the property for \$500 with B.H. Martin, Trustee. She agreed to pay \$50 on monthly installments at 10% payable semi-annually.<sup>15</sup> On November 25, 1919

Dorothy M. Tomlinson was granted a divorce from Frank Tomlinson. She was awarded the house and household furniture as her own separate property.<sup>16</sup> On

August 14, 1923 J.S. McCall gave a release of a Deed of Trust to Dorothy Tomlinson when she made her last payment to the Trustee, B.H. Martin.<sup>17</sup> On September 21, 1923

Dorothy M. Tomlinson, a feme sole, made a Deed of Trust to Lucy L. Collier, a feme sole for \$1,000 at 8% interest with T.R. James, Trustee payable at the Texas National Bank in Fort Worth. It was payable in eighteen months from the date with the Deed of Trust lien on the house at lot 2 block 3.<sup>18</sup> On September 1, 1925

Lucy L. Collier cancelled the Deed of Trust with Dorothy Tomlinson, since the note was paid in full.<sup>19</sup> On September 3, 1925 Dorothy Tomlinson borrowed \$1,500 at 8% payable semiannually and due in three years from Lucy L. Collier, Beneficiary and T.R. James, Trustee.<sup>20</sup> On June 7, 1928 Lucy L. Collier released the Deed of Trust on the house upon payment from Dorothy Tomlinson.<sup>21</sup>

On June 4, 1928 Mrs. Tomlinson sold the house to R.L. Dyer for \$2,750. He paid \$950 cash and gave a promissory note of \$1,800 at 8% payable semi-annually and due in three years to Nellie M. Parker, wife of T.J. Parker, with T.R. James, Trustee.<sup>22</sup> Dorothy Tomlinson had lived in the house from 1914 until 1928.<sup>23</sup>

On June 3, 1933 R.L. Dyer and his wife, Mary Dyer received \$5 from Nellie M. Parker, wife of T.J. Parker of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, California, and the cancellation of the Vendor's Lien note dated June 4, 1928 for \$1,800 at 8%. The property was taken subject to all outstanding taxes.<sup>24</sup> On August 31, 1933 the property was described as the east 50 by 124½ feet of lot No. 2 in block no. 3, Goldsmith Subdivision of the W.P. Patillo Addition to Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas. The state and county taxes were delinquent for 1930, 1931 and 1932. The city taxes were delinquent for the last half of 1930 and all of 1931. They had been paid for 1932.<sup>25</sup> R.L. Dyer and his wife, Mary Dyer lived in the house from 1928 until 1933.<sup>26</sup>

On September 8, 1933 Nellie M. Parker and her husband, T.J. Parker conveyed the property to W.J. Meggs of Fort Worth, Texas for the consideration of \$1,000 cash. This was notarized by the Notary Public in Los Angeles County, California.<sup>27</sup> On December 29, 1933 W.J. Meggs and his wife, Sarah Meggs sold the property to Fannie Lee Logan, wife of P.C. Logan. She bought the house out of her own separate funds for \$1,295 cash.<sup>28</sup> On October 29, 1957 Fannie Lee Logan died at the age of 73. She left her grandson, Herby Lee Kemp \$1,000 cash. The remainder of the estate she left to her husband, P.C. Logan, Sr.<sup>29</sup> The house was appraised at \$5,000 and was her separate estate. She also left the house to her husband.<sup>30</sup>

On April 23, 1958 P.C. Logan, Sr. died at age 74. He left a daughter, Mary Jean Johns of Fort Worth and a son, P.C. Logan, Jr. of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Herby Lee Kemp was 19 years old and the son of Mrs. Mary Jean Johns.<sup>31</sup> The house was appraised at \$8,000 and divided between Mrs. Jean Johns, a widow, and P.C. Logan, Jr. and his wife, Jean Logan.<sup>32</sup> On April 19, 1960 Mrs. Jean Johns and Mr. and Mrs. P.C. Logan, Jr. sold the house to E.L. Duke and his wife, Frances Duke for \$10 and a cash consideration.<sup>33</sup>

On March 2, 1961 Cyrus D. Master and his wife, Aurora M. Master paid \$6,000 for the house. They gave \$200 cash and a promissory note for \$5,800 payable to

E.L. Duke at 6%. \$65 a month was to be paid beginning the first day of April, 1961 and each month until the amount was fully paid.<sup>34</sup> On July 31, 1975 Cyrus D. Master sold his interest in the house to Aurora M. Master for \$10. This was in a divorce settlement, the attorney being Jack H. Garrett, 4920 Belknap, Fort Worth, Texas.<sup>35</sup> Mr. Master is employed at Ling-Temco-Vaught.

L.B. Weinman, possibly the architect for the DeVitt House, began an architectural business in Fort Worth in 1895. He designed buildings that were important downtown landmarks and many early day homes. He died in 1945 at the age of 78.<sup>36</sup>

Phillip M. DeVitt, first owner of the house, was born in Cleveland, Ohio on November 5, 1854. The family moved to Washington D.C. where he was educated. He was a page in the House of Representatives and was later a clerk in the War Department. With a desire to go to Texas, he took a supply train to McCulloch County, Texas in 1877 to begin sheep raising. In 1882 he moved his herd to the plains country, now Howard and Midland counties. His herd of 25,000 sheep was one of the largest in the State. In 1893 he came to Fort Worth and was employed by the Fort Worth Livestock Commission Company.<sup>37</sup> In 1908 he had a house built at 1634 South Jennings Avenue. During this time he was involved in the buying and selling of land in Fort Worth.<sup>38</sup> In 1914 Mr. DeVitt was President of the Petrolia Land Company and President of the Fort Worth Auto Supply Company. At this time he lived at 500 Taylor Street.<sup>39</sup> In 1936 he lived at 3816 Tulsa Way and was in real estate.<sup>40</sup>

On September 20, 1937 Mr. DeVitt died at the age of 83.<sup>41</sup> Funeral services were conducted by Reverend Louis F. Martin, rector of Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church at Harveston and Cole Funeral Chapel at 5 P.M. September 21, 1937. Burial was at sundown 6:29 P.M. in Greenwood Cemetery.<sup>42</sup>

FOOTNOTES

- 1 Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey Page 132, #59. See Appendix One.
- 2 Tarrant County Deed Record Book 188, p. 132.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Tarrant County Deed of Trust Volume 56, p. 303.
- 5 1907-1908 Fort Worth City Directory.
- 6 1909-1910 Fort Worth City Directory.
- 7 Tarrant County Deed Record Book 366, p. 175.
- 8 Tarrant County Deed Record Book 397, 105.
- 9 Aurora Masters.
- 10 Tarrant County Deed Record Book 357, p. 413.
- 11 Tarrant County Deed Record Book 418, p. 144.
- 12 Tarrant County Deed Record Book 402, p. 549.
- 13 Tarrant County Deed Record Book 442, p. 515.
- 14 Tarrant County Deed Record Book 397, p. 105.
- 15 Tarrant County Deed of Trust Book 150, p. 131.
- 16 67 District Court Minutes Book B-7, p. 451, #49996.
- 17 Release of Deed of Trust File #24562-K.
- 18 Tarrant County Deed of Trust Book 209, p. 599.
- 19 Tarrant County Deed Record Book 889, p. 194.
- 20 Tarrant County Deed of Trust Book 258, p. 27.
- 21 Tarrant County Deed Record Book 1022, p. 562.
- 22 Tarrant County Deed of Trust Book 259, p. 461.
- 23 1914-1928 Fort Worth City Directory.
- 24 Tarrant County Deed Record Book 1196, p. 207.
- 25 Home Abstract Company, Abstract #63076, Certificate #10047.
- 26 1928-1933 Fort Worth City Directory.
- 27 Tarrant County Deed Record Book 1211, p. 15.



- 28 Tarrant County Deed Record Volume 1211, p. 221.
- 29 Minutes of Probate Court Book 380, p. 624, #27509.
- 30 Inventory of Appraisement Volume 383, p. 297, #27509.
- 31 Minutes of Probate Court Volume 390, p. 155, #28055.
- 32 Tarrant County Deed Record Volume 3435, p. 173.
- 33 Tarrant County Deed Record Volume 3435, p. 173.
- 34 Tarrant County Deed Record Volume 3537, p. 373.
- 35 Tarrant County Deed Record Volume 5951, p. 58.
- 36 Fort Worth Star-Telegram Morning Edition, August 15, 1945, Section 2, p. 9.
- 37 Fort Worth Star-Telegram Morning Edition, September 21, 1937, Section 2, p. 1.
- 38 Tarrant County Legal transactions Indexes.
- 39 1914 Fort Worth City Directory.
- 40 1936-1937 Fort Worth City Directory.
- 41 1937-1938 Fort Worth City Directory.
- 42 Fort Worth Star-Telegram Evening Edition, September 21, 1937, page 21.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Fort Worth City Directories.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Home Abstract Company.

Page, Anderson and Turnbull, Incorporated, 364 Bush Street, San Francisco,  
California 94104.

Tarrant County Legal Records: Abstract, Deed Records, 67 District Court  
Minutes.

Interview: Aurora Masters, 1634 South Jennings. Telephone: 926-9196.

## DRAFT - CENTRAL -

56. 1329 Hurley Avenue Harding House c. 1910  
SHD(NR)

Built for W.F. Harding around 1910, this small wood-frame house is unusual for its interlocking gambrel roofs; the accentuated eaves create a "bonnet" effect. It is located in a neighborhood of similarly aged residences.

57. 1717 Hurley Avenue Naylor-Moses House c. 1911  
SHD(NR)

A two-story gabled house, stucco on a wood frame, with applied half timbering. A two story gabled portico has squat columns with exaggerated Ionic capitals. Both upper and lower porches have been enclosed and asbestos siding applied to the ground floor. The house was built around 1911 for John Naylor, a ranchman. Wolff Moses, a shoemaker, purchased the property in 1919. It remained in the Moses family until 1948.

58. 1725 Hurley Avenue McCormack House c. 1912  
SHD(NR)

This small gabled wood-frame house is symmetrically planned with gabled side bays and full hipped porch supported by boxed paneled posts. The gable ends are recessed and clad with ornamental shingles. The house was built about 1912 and first resided in by R. Otis McCormack, then secretary of the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, and secretary and traffic manager of the Fort Worth Freight Bureau.

59. 1634 S Jennings Avenue DeVitt House c. 1909  
NR

Vigorously composed of jagged elements and completely sheathed in a skin of decorative shingles, this two-story residence was built around 1909 for Phillip M. DeVitt, president of Petrolia Land Co., vice president of Trinity Heights Land Co., managing agent of the South Side Land Co., and president of Simmons Auto Co. The house is a remarkable composition; unfortunately, the architect's identity has not been discovered. It appears to be eligible for the National Register for its architectural qualities.

60. 1638 S Jennings Avenue DeVitt-Evatt House c. 1910

A one-story wood-frame house, rectangular in plan, with hip roof and full recessed porch supported by piers of concrete block which simulate quarry-faced stone. An attic dormer over the porch has a Missionesque parapet. The windows are unusual, grouped in deep-set panels which incorporate transoms. The house was built around 1910 for Phillip M. DeVitt, a real estate developer (see C59). DeVitt moved here from the house next door and stayed several years. After going through several owners, the house was purchased in 1918 by C.C. Evatt, a restaurant owner. The house remained in the Evatt family until 1977. It is a fine example of a recurring house type of the period.

## DEVITT HOUSE

Researched by

Ruth Reiter Stone

#3 Chase Court

Fort Worth, Texas

76110

The DeVitt ~~House~~ is located at 1634 South Jennings Avenue. ~~Vigorously~~  
Composed of jagged elements and completely sheathed in a skin of decorative  
shingles, this two-story residence was built around 1909 for Phillip M. De-  
Vitt, president of Petrolia Land ~~Co.~~<sup>Company</sup>, vice president of Trinity Heights  
Land ~~Co.~~<sup>Company</sup>, managing agent of the South Side Land ~~Co.~~<sup>Company</sup>, and president of Simm-  
ons Auto ~~Co.~~<sup>Company</sup>. The house is a remarkable composition, ~~unfortunately~~<sup>but</sup> the arch-  
itect's identity has not been discovered. ~~It~~<sup>According to the Historic Resources Survey</sup> appears to be eligible for the  
National Register for its architectural qualities. <sup>1</sup>

The DeVitt house is a shingle style, rare in Fort Worth. It has contin-  
uous wood shingles of fish scale design. Old neighbors, now gone, told the  
present owner the cedar shingles had remained unpainted for years.

A steeply pitched roof gives rise to the dominant front gable that has a  
lesser gable beneath it. The house has cross gables with a hipped dormer  
to the south. The north has a series of gables at various elevations. There  
are multi level eaves that end abruptly.

The generous porch across the front, and partially on the north side, has  
a cocoon-like enclosure faced in tongue and groove, with Romanesque arch open-  
ings. The railings between the arches are of the diamond pattern to match  
the upper sash windows.

The front door enters into a large square living room that has a corner  
wood burning fireplace. All the downstairs rooms have extensive walnut  
wainscoting. Much interior wood was a trade-mark of Louis Weinman, who de-  
signed houses at this period of time ~~at~~<sup>in this</sup> southside location. →

Tarrant County,

The original gas light fixtures throughout the house have been converted to electricity. All the doors in the house have transoms.

A room between the livingroom and diningroom contains a magnificent staircase. The balustrade is made of walnut scrolls. Opposite the stairs is a Deacon's bench made on to the wall. All this is similar in design to the William Reeves house, a few blocks ~~down~~ <sup>away</sup> on Hemphill, whose architect was Louis Weinman. The one bath to the house is off this room. The bath fixtures are originals, with a tub on legs and a corner sink.

The impressive staircase leads to two small bedrooms at the upstairs front of the house. The large attic is walled off with no entry.

<sup>on</sup> December 22, 1903 P. M. DeVitt bought lots 1 and 2 in block 3 of the Goldsmith's subdivision of the W. P. Patillo addition from Charles M. Brown and his wife, Laura N. Brown, for \$4,000. <sup>2</sup> ~~DeVitt paid \$2,087.50 cash and assumed a Deed of Trust dated November 1, 1902 in favor of the National Loan and Investment Company of Detroit, Michigan for \$1,500, and payable at \$22.95 per month. He also assumed three notes of \$137.50 each executed November 28, 1902 in favor of J. W. Goldsmith of Atlanta, Georgia and due in one, two and three years respectively at 8% per annum and executed by Charles and Laura Brown on lot 1, block 3.~~

<sup>3</sup> Charles Brown had bought lots 1 and 2 from J. W. Goldsmith for \$550. ~~\$412.50 of the amount was evidenced by three promissory notes of \$137.50 each.~~

<sup>4</sup> There was a mechanics and material man's lien on lot 2 in block 3 to secure a debt for \$1,500 dated October 14, 1902 in favor of C. V. Kilgore and assigned to the National Loan and Investment Company.

In 1908 no house ~~had been built~~ <sup>was listed in the Fort Worth city directory for</sup> at 1634 South Jennings, which was lot 2, <sup>5</sup> ~~but by~~ 1909 DeVitt was residing at 1634 South Jennings; ~~and~~ his office was at 309 Fort Worth National Bank Building. <sup>6</sup>

<sup>on</sup> May 17, 1910 the Texas Bitulithic Company paved in front of lots 1 and 2 in block 3 on Jennings Avenue. P. M. DeVitt, who owned these lots was given a release of a mechanic Lien dated September 26, 1912 for \$99.04 with 7% interest amounting to \$102.32. <sup>7</sup>

<sup>on</sup> January 11, 1912 P. M. DeVitt and his wife, Jessie M. DeVitt sold lot 2 in block 3 to B. E. Herwood for \$7,000. ~~\$5,000 was for cash and a promissory vendor's lien for \$2,000 payable to Joe Poythress on September 28, 1913 with 10% interest.~~ This house was on a lot 50 feet by 124½ feet on Jennings Avenue. <sup>8</sup>

~~Description: Beginning at a bois d'arc stake on the west line of Jennings Avenue 50 feet north of the intersection of the West line of Jennings Avenue with the North line of Laurel Street; thence West Parallel with the North line of Laurel Street 124½ feet; thence North parallel with the West line of Jennings Avenue 50 feet; thence East parallel with the North line of Laurel Street 124½ feet to a bois d'arc stake in the West line of Jennings Avenue; thence South with the West line of Jennings Avenue 50 feet to the place of beginning. (Laurel Street has since been renamed Allen Avenue).~~ <sup>8</sup>

↘ The DeVitts <sup>then</sup> moved into the house next door to the south on lot 1 block 3. <sup>9</sup>

↪ Neighbors said the reason for the DeVitts moving was because of the screams of children being beaten in the house to the north of them. <sup>9</sup>

<sup>on</sup> June 3, 1912 B. E. Herwood and his wife, Susan H. Herwood sold the house on lot 2 block 3 to Ed Lysaght for \$3,500 and one promissory note of \$2,000 payable to Joe Poythress. <sup>10</sup>

<sup>on</sup> ↪ June 7, 1913 Ed. H. Lysaght and his wife, Jannie Lysaght sold the property to Dorothy Tomlinson <sup>for</sup> \$5,500 and the assumption of the promissory note for \$2,000 payable to Joe Poythress. She paid \$3,500 cash. <sup>11</sup>

<sup>on</sup> ↪ March 5, 1912 the \$2,000 note payable to Joe Poythress was transferred to L. Gordon on a transfer of a Vendors Lien. <sup>12</sup>

on  
December 23, 1914 Ed. H. Lysaght paid L. Gordon \$2,080. Mr. Gordon acknowledged it and the Vendor's Lien was canceled. <sup>13</sup>

on  
September 27, 1915 <sup>there was a</sup> release of Vendor's Lien from Ed. H. Lysaght to B. E. Henwood for \$2,000 at 10% payable to Joe Poythress dated September 28, 1913. Joe Poythress acknowledged receiving \$2,000 with interest from L. Gordon. <sup>14</sup>

on  
August 12, 1919 Dorothy M. Tomlinson made out a Deed of Trust to J. S. McCall on the property for \$500 with B. H. Martin, Trustee, She agreed to pay \$50 on monthly installments at 10% payable semi-annually. <sup>15</sup>

on  
November 25, 1919 Dorothy M. Tomlinson was granted a divorce from Frank Tomlinson. She was awarded the house and household furniture as her own separate property. <sup>16</sup>

on  
August 14, 1923 J. S. McCall gave a release of a Deed of Trust to Dorothy Tomlinson when she made her last payment to the Trustee, B. H. Martin. <sup>17</sup>

on  
September 21, 1923 Dorothy M. Tomlinson, a feme sole, made a Deed of Trust to Lucy L. Collier, a feme sole for \$1,000 at 8% interest with T. R. James, Trustee payable at the Texas National Bank in Fort Worth. It was payable in eighteen months from the date with the Deed of Trust lien on the house at lot 2 block 3. <sup>18</sup>

on  
September 1, 1925 Lucy L. Collier cancelled the Deed of Trust with Dorothy Tomlinson, <sup>since</sup> ~~being~~ the note was paid in full. <sup>19</sup>

on  
September 3, 1925 Dorothy Tomlinson borrowed \$1,500 at 8% payable semi-annually and due in three years from Lucy L. Collier, Beneficiary and T. R. James, Trustee. <sup>20</sup>

on  
June 7, 1928 Lucy L. Collier released the Deed of Trust on the house upon payment from Dorothy Tomlinson. <sup>21</sup>

on  
June 4, 1928 Mrs. Tomlinson sold the house to R. L. Dyer for \$2,750. He Paid \$950 cash and gave a promissory note of \$1,800 at 8% payable semi-annually and due in three years to Nellie M. Parker, wife of T. J. Parker, with

T. R. James, Trustee. 22

DonDthy Tomlinson had lived in the house from 1914 until 1928. 23

June 3, 1933 R. L. Dyer and his wife, Mary Dyer received \$5 from Nellie M. Parker, wife of T. J. Parker of Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, California, and the cancellation of the Vendor's Lien note dated June 4, 1928 for \$1,800 at 8%. The property was taken subject to all outstanding taxes. 24

← August 31, 1933 the property was described as the east 50 by 124½ feet of lot No. 2 in block no. 3, Goldsmith Subdivision of the W. P. Patillo Addition to Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas. The state and county taxes were delinquent for 1930, 1931 and 1932. The city taxes were delinquent for the last half of 1930 and all of 1931. They had been paid for 1932. 25 →

← R. L. Dyer and his wife, Mary Dyer lived in the house from 1928 until 1933. 26

September 8, 1933 Nellie M. Parker and her husband, T. J. Parker conveyed the property to W. J. Meggs of Fort Worth, Texas for the consideration of \$1,000 cash. This was notarized by the Notary Public in Los Angeles County, California. 27

December 29, 1933 W. J. Meggs and his wife, Sarah Meggs sold the property to Fannie Lee Logan, wife of P. C. Logan. She bought the house out of her own separate funds for \$1,295 cash. 28

October 29, 1957 Fannie Lee Logan died at the age of 73. She left her grandson, Herby Lee Kemp \$1,000 cash. The remainder of the estate she left to her husband, P. C. Logan, Sr. 29 The house was appraised at \$5,000 and was her separate estate. She also left the house to her husband. 30

April 23, 1958 P. C. Logan, Sr. died at 74. He left a daughter, Mary Jean Johns of Fort Worth and a son, P. C. Logan, Jr. of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Herby Lee Kemp was 19 years old and the son of Mrs. Mary Jean Johns. 31

← The house was appraised at \$8,000 and divided between Mrs. Jean Johns, a widow and P. C. Logan, Jr. and his wife, Jean Logan. 32 →



<sup>or</sup> April 19, 1960 Mrs. Jean Johns and Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Logan, Jr. sold the house to E. L. Duke and his wife, Frances Duke for \$10 and a cash consideration. <sup>33</sup>

<sup>or</sup> March 2, 1961 Cyrus D. Master and his wife, Aurora M. Master paid \$6,000 for the house. They gave \$200 cash and a promissory note for \$5,800 payable to E. L. Duke at 6%. \$65 a month was to be paid beginning the first day of April, 1961 and each month until the amount was fully paid. <sup>34</sup>

July 31, 1975 Cyrus D. Master sold his interest in the house to Aurora M. Master for \$10. This was in a divorce settlement, the attorney being Jack H. Garrett, 4920 Belknap, Fort Worth, Texas. <sup>35</sup>

Mr. Master is employed at Ling-Tempo-Vaught. <sup>possibly the architect for the Devitt House)</sup>  
L. B. Weinman began an architectural business in Fort Worth in 1895. He designed buildings that were important downtown landmarks and many early day homes. He died in 1945 at the age of 78. <sup>36</sup>

Phillip M. DeVitt, <sup>first owner of the house)</sup> was born in Cleveland, Ohio November 5, 1854. The family moved to Washington D. C. where he was educated. He was a page in the House of Representatives and was later a clerk in the War Department. <sup>37</sup>

With a desire to go to Texas, he took a supply train to McCulloch County, Texas in 1877 to begin sheep raising. In 1882 he moved his herd to the plains country, now Howard and Midland counties. His herd of 25,000 sheep was one of the largest in the State. <sup>In 1893 he</sup> He came to Fort Worth ~~in 1893~~ and was employed by the Fort Worth Livestock Commission Company. <sup>37</sup>

In 1908 he had a house built at 1634 South Jennings Avenue. During this time he was involved in the buying and selling of land in Fort Worth. <sup>38</sup>

In 1914 Mr. DeVitt was President of the Petrolia Land Company and President of the Fort Worth Auto Supply Company. At this time he lived at 500 Taylor Street. <sup>39</sup>

In 1936 he lived at 3816 Tulsa Way and was in real estate. <sup>40</sup>

<sup>or</sup> September 20, 1937 Mr. DeVitt died at the age of 83. <sup>41</sup> →

← Funeral services were conducted by Reverend Louis F. Martin, rector of Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church at Harveston and Cole Funeral Chapel at 5 P. M. September 21, 1937. Burial was at sundown 6:29 P. M. in Greenwood Cemetery. <sup>42</sup>

\* \* \* \*

### FOOTNOTES

- 1 Tarrant County Historical Resources  
Local Survey Page 132, #59. See Appendix One
- 2 Tarrant County Deed Record Book 188, p. 132.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Tarrant County Deed of Trust Volume 56, p. 303.
- 5 1907-1908 Fort Worth City Directory.
- 6 1909-1910 Fort Worth City Directory.
- 7 Tarrant County Deed Record Book 366, p. 175.
- 8 Tarrant County Deed Record Book 397, 105.
- 9 Aurora Masters.
- 10 Tarrant County Deed Record Book 357, p. 413.
- 11 Tarrant County Deed Record Book 418, p. 144.
- 12 Tarrant County Deed Record Book 402, p. 549.
- 13 Tarrant County Deed Record Book 442, p. 515.
- 14 Tarrant County Deed Record Book 397, p. 105.
- 15 Tarrant County Deed of Trust Book 150, p. 131.
- 16 67 District Court Minutes Book B-7, p. 451, #49996.
- 17 Release of Deed of Trust File #24562-K.
- 18 Tarrant County Deed of Trust Book 209, p. 599.
- 19 Tarrant County Deed Record Book 889, p. 194.
- 20 Tarrant County Deed of Trust Book 258, p. 27.
- 21 Tarrant County Deed Record Book 1022, p. 562.
- 22 Tarrant County Deed of Trust Book 259, p. 461.

- 23 1914-1928 Fort Worth City Directory.
- 24 Tarrant County Deed Record Book 1196, p. 207.
- 25 Home Abstract Company, Abstract #63076, Certificate #10047.
- 26 1928-1933 Fort Worth City Directory.
- 27 Tarrant County Deed Record Book 1211, p. 15.
- 28 Tarrant County Deed Record Volume 1211, p. 221.
- 29 Minutes of Probate Court Book 380, p. 624, #27509.
- 30 Inventory of Appraisement Volume 383, p. 297, #27509.
- 31 Minutes of Probate Court Volume 390, p/ 155, #28055.
- 32 Tarrant County Deed Record Volume 3435, p. 173.
- 33 Tarrant County Deed Record Volume 3435, p. 173.
- 34 Tarrant County Deed Record Volume 3537, p. 373.
- 35 Tarrant County Deed Record Volume 5951, p. 58.
- 36 Fort Worth Star-Telegram Morning Edition, August 15, 1945, Section 2, p. 9.
- 37 Fort Worth Star-Telegram Morning Edition, September 21, 1937, Section 2, p. 1.
- 38<sup>8</sup> Tarrant County Legal transactions Indexes.
- 39 1914 Fort Worth City Directory.
- 40 1936-1937 Fort Worth City Directory.
- 41 1937-1938 Fort Worth City Directory.
- 42 Fort Worth Star-Telegram Evening Edition, September 21, 1937, page 21.

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Home Abstract Company.

Page, Anderson and Turnbull, Incorporated, 364 Bush Street, San Francisco,  
California 94104.

Tarrant County Legal Records: Abstract, Deed Records, 67 District Court  
Minutes.

Interview: Aurora Masters, 1634 South Jennings.

Telephone: 926-9196.

C.D. 1914

<sup>Mo.</sup> Philip DeVitt - pres Petrolia Land Co.  
pres. 21. ~~west~~ auto Supply Co.  
res - 500 Taylor

---

P.M.D. real est. 3816 Tulsa Way <sup>CD</sup> 1936-1937

---

P.M.D. died Sept. 20, 1937  
age 83

---



CURTIS TUNNELL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

June 11, 1985

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512) 475-3092

Duane Gage  
TCJC NE Campus  
828 Harwood Road  
Hurst, TX 76054

RE: DEVITT HOUSE  
16" x 12" Building Marker without Post

Dear Mr. Gage:

This letter is to notify you that we have received the above referenced marker application.

The application first will be reviewed and evaluated by the Texas Historical Commission staff. Should additional information be needed, you will be contacted. After any deficiencies have been corrected, copies of the application will be sent to the members of the State Marker Committee, who will make the final determination of the topic's acceptability for marking.

You will be notified as soon as the committee makes its decision. If the topic is approved for marking we will request payment at the time of notification. If not approved, the application will be returned along with a letter of explanation.

Because of the variables involved in the marker process and because we must coordinate our orders with the schedule of a contracting foundry, we would ask that the dedication dates not be set until you have received notice that the marker has been shipped.

We appreciate your interest in preserving the history of Texas.

Sincerely,

Dan K. Utley, Director  
Research and Markers

DKU/cy

cc: Aurora M. Master

THIS HOUSE IS OFFERED FREE TO SOMEONE WHO WILL MOVE IT AND REHABILITATE IT!

1634 S. Jennings Avenue [NR], DeVitt House, c. 1909. Vigorously composed of jagged elements and completely sheathed in a skin of decorative shingles, this two-story residence was built around 1909 for Phillip M. DeVitt, president of Petrolia Land Co., vice president of Trinity Heights Land Co., managing agent of the South Side Land Co., and president of Simmons Auto Co. The house is a remarkable composition; unfortunately, the architect's identity has not been discovered. It appears to be eligible for the National Register for its architectural qualities.



John Peter Smith Hospital is the current owner of the property. The hospital will give the structure to an individual or organization who would be willing to move the house to another location and restore it, providing that the following conditions are met:

1. Commitment from an individual or organization must be made in writing to John Peter Smith Hospital no later than Monday, November 17, 1986.
2. Receiver of the structure must then move it within the immediate next 10 days to 2 weeks (no later than December 1).
3. Receiver must be responsible for all insurance regarding the move of the house as well as general liability.
4. Receiver must locate a house mover and be sure that all necessary permits to move the house on city street are obtained and is further responsible for disconnection of utilities as necessary.

Peter Smith Hospital will make the house accessible to those who have serious inquiries.

Please contact the Historic Preservation Council office for further information 338-0267.



SHLACHTER & CO.

10 March 2008

## HERE'S A BUILDING FREE FOR THE TAKING, QUICKLY

The structure is in the way of the planned Museum Place development.



The two-story, 2,600-square-foot residence-turned-executive suites at 3325 W. Seventh St. is on the market for free.

The only catch: The taker must have the structure moved from the site, which could cost tens of thousands of dollars.

JaGee Corp., a partner in the Museum Place development at Seventh Street and University Drive, bought the property in 2003 from Bill Massad, who several years ago converted the house into executive suites.

Massad moved the house to the Seventh Street site in 1988. The Victorian-style house was

SHLACHTER & CO.

built circa 1902 for Phillip DeVitt, president of the Petrolia Land Co., at 1634 S. Jennings Ave. Massad said he had to move the house in three pieces at a cost of \$33,000.

Museum Place plans to build retail space with apartments above on the property. When JaGee bought the parcel, it also bought the building at 3227 W. Seventh St. and a nearly 1-acre vacant lot off Bo-

More on SHLACHTER & CO. on 2C

House  
DeVitt House

FCWS-7

### CONTINUED FROM 1C

land Street and Darcy Avenue.

JaGee didn't renew leases in the building as they expired over the past five years, said Reece Pettigrew, JaGee's chief financial officer.

"We will give it to anyone to move it off the site," Pettigrew told reporter Sandra Baker. "It's an expensive proposition."

If someone wants it, they'll have to get it moved in the next 60 days so construction can continue on Museum Place, Pettigrew said. JaGee has tried for more than two years to find

a taker, and several people looked at it, Pettigrew said.

Cost estimates to move the building have ranged from \$40,000 to \$80,000, he said.

If you're interested, call Pettigrew at 817-335-5881.

FORT WORTH

# Old house to get a new lease on life

The owner of an oil and gas company is having the structure moved and will use it as an office and residence.

By SANDRA BAKER  
sabaker@star-telegram.com

*17 March 2009*

One of Fort Worth's oldest residential structures is being spared from the wrecking ball.

By the end of April, Marshall Tillman, owner of Kornye Tillman Co., an oil and gas firm, plans to move a circa 1902 Victorian-style house on West Seventh Street to land he owns nearby.

JaGee Corp. — a partner in the Museum Place residential, office and shopping development at Seventh Street and University Drive — bought the vacant, two-story, 2,600-square-foot house in 2003. It is in the path of the development.

Last March, JaGee began trying to give the building away to anyone who would pay to move it. Tillman said he contacted



The circa 1902 Victorian-style house at 3325 W. Seventh St. is in the way of development. STAR-TELEGRAM/RODGER MALIKIAN

More on HOUSE on 8B

## House: It was moved to 7th by retired opera director

*17 March 2009*

CONTINUED FROM 1B

JaGee representatives in December and has since worked out a deal.

Last week, the Planning and Zoning Commission approved Tillman's site plan to

put the structure on his land at 1408-1412 Montgomery Ave., just south of the Trinity Lutheran Church. The plan goes before the City Council on April 7 for approval.

Tillman said he is negotiating with a firm to move the house south across Camp Bowie Boulevard to its new location.

Estimates for the move run

to about \$50,000, he said.

"It's not inexpensive," Tillman said.

The house was built for Phillip DeVitt, president of the Petrolia Land Co., 1634 S. Jennings Ave.

Bill Massad, a retired Fort Worth Opera director, moved the house to 3325 W. Seventh St. in 1988 and converted it into executive suites. Massad

subsequently sold the property to JaGee.

Tillman has been working with TownSite Co. in Fort Worth on the project, and he's hired Fort Worth architect Bob Kelly to design an addition to be built after the house is moved.

The ground level and a basement will serve as Tillman's office. He said he and his wife, Paula, will live upstairs.

Tillman said he expects to be in the building in October.

SANDRA BAKER, 817-390-7727

### Second move for house



The circa 1902 house that was moved from near John Peter Smith Hospital to West Seventh Street is scheduled to be moved again to Montgomery Street across from the new Museum of Science and History.

STAR-TELEGRAM

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02/84

J. W. E. E. E.  
Sept 21, 1953 page 21

Residence of J. W. 44 years  
born in Cleveland, O.

Funeral services at 5 pm,  
today (Sept 21) at  
Harverson and Cole Funeral  
Chapel with Rev Louis F  
Martin officiating.

Burial at sundown 6:29 pm  
Tuesday in Greenwood Cemetery

# FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

A Fort Worth Owned Newspaper

MORNING  
SECTION TWO

FORT WORTH, TEXAS \* \* WHERE THE WEST BEGINS

8/15/45

PAGE NINE

## L. B. Weinman, Early Day Architect, Dies

Louis B. Weinman Sr., 78, an architect who designed some of the buildings that were early day landmarks in Fort Worth, died at 8:35 p. m. Tuesday at his home, 1311 Pennsylvania.

Born in Germany and immigrating to the United States at the age of 15, Mr. Weinman settled at Atcheson, Kan., where he attended St. Benedict's College. He came to Fort Worth in 1890 and as an architect his first job in the city was that of helping design the old city hall which served the city for half a century.

Entering architectural business for himself in 1895, Mr. Weinman competed with four other architects and won the contract for designing the old Central Fire Station which was built in 1899 at Throckmorton, Eighth and Monroe Streets. When the picturesque old building was razed in 1939, Mr. Weinman expressed no regrets.

"It is a new deal," he declared. "It will give work to other men."

Mr. Weinman also was architect for the Moore Building and many of the early day homes. He built his home on Pennsylvania Avenue 45 years ago when that South Side area was an open prairie. He retired three years ago.

The survivors are the widow; daughter, Miss Lillian K. Weinman; three sons, Louis B. Jr., Arthur O. and Elmer S. Weinman; and a grandson, Arthur Wallace Weinman, all of Fort Worth, and a brother, Charles F. Weinman of Atcheson, Kan.

The body was taken to Gause-Ware Funeral Home.



WEINMAN.

*9/21/37*

**P. M. DeVitt Succumbs to  
Two-Year Illness  
at Home.**

**Stricken Here**

**Fort Worth Resident for  
44 Years Prominent  
Businessman Here.**

P. M. DeVitt, 83, retired livestock and real estate man, died at 6:20 p. m. yesterday at his home, 3816 Tulsa Way, three days after he was stricken with a brain hemorrhage.

A resident of Fort Worth for 44 years, Mr. DeVitt has been in poor health for the past two years. He retired three years ago.

He was an important figure in the early day West Texas sheep industry, and active in Fort Worth real estate business.

Mr. DeVitt was born in Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 5, 1854. A few years later his family moved to Washington, D. C., where he was educated.

It was as a page in the House of Representatives at the national capital that he earned his first money. Subsequently young DeVitt obtained a job in the War Department as a clerk, but resigned and decided to fulfill a long-felt desire . . . to head southwestward toward Texas, whose tall, sun-tanned men he had seen and admired in the legislative halls.

With only \$7 in his pockets, he traveled by train, then boarded a freighter, the supply train which spanned the section where railroads did not go, and settled in McCulloch County in 1877. There he began sheep raising.

In 1882 he moved his herds to



**P. M. DEVITT.**

the plains country which is now Howard and Midland Counties. There his herd grew to one of the largest in the State. At one time 25,000 sheep were on his vast ranch lands.

With a speculative turn of mind, Mr. DeVitt was always ready to buy

or put his capital into property or new enterprises.

He came to Fort Worth in 1893 and was employed by the Fort Worth Livestock Commission Company. He was active in the early development of Fort Worth, and was involved in many real estate transactions. DeVitt Street on the South Side is named for him.

At one time he was a member of the Elks Lodge here.

Survivors are two daughters, Miss Ruth DeVitt, with whom he made his home, and Mrs. Estelle D Harrison, Miami, Fla., and a daughter-in-law, Mrs. Roland DeVitt, Fort Worth.

Funeral services will be conducted at 5 p. m. today by Rev. Louis F. Martin, rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, at Harveson and Cole Funeral Chapel. Burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery.

Active pallbearers will be Frank Dunham, R. M. Bowep, Max K. Mayer, Sidney Samuels, Brown Harwood and A. T. Sheveland.

Honorary pallbearers will be Glen Walker, E. G. Corder, W. H. Slay, W. H. Greenwood, J. W. Mitchell, Matt Blanton Sr., Dr. A. H. Flickwir, E. C. Hearne, Robert C. Martin and J. T. Pemberton.

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\_\_\_ THERMOFAX

\_\_\_ Overdue Charges

\_\_\_ DEPOSIT

\_\_\_ XEROX

\_\_\_ Refund

\_\_\_ GIFT

\_\_\_ GREAT BOOKS

Others

TOTAL

Receipt issued by

Yolanda Murray

Department

PERIODICALS

rev.  
6/81

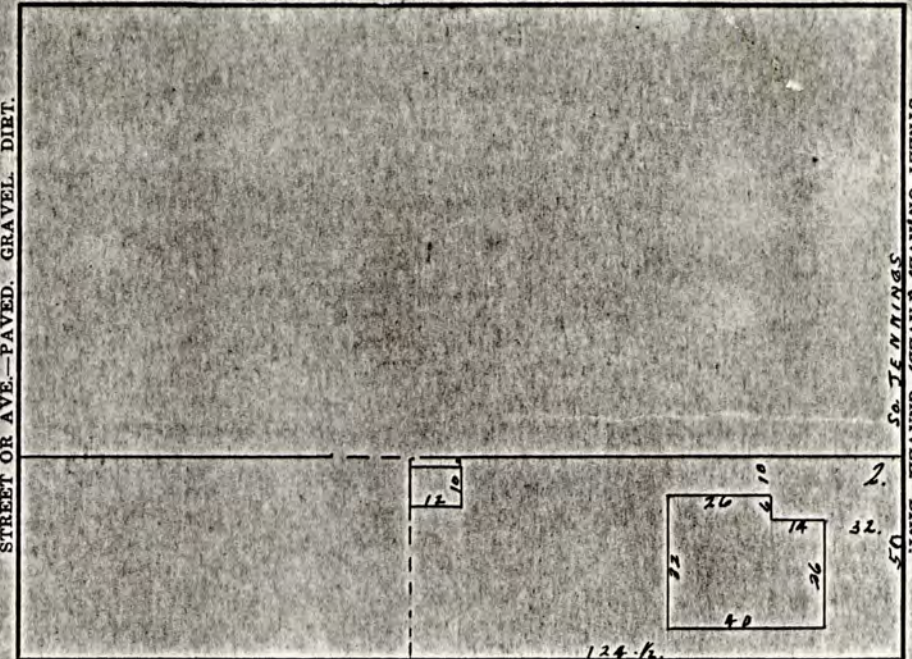
**BUILDING DESCRIPTION**

**PLAT**

STREET OR AVE.—PAVED. GRAVEL. DIRT.

CLASS	ROOF	EXTERIOR WALLS	HEATING	LIGHTING
Shack	Flat Hip	Brick	Fire Place	Lamps
Cottage	Gables, Dormers	Brick Veneer	Wood, Coal, Oil	Gas
Duplex	Cut up, Ordinary	Stone	Gas Furnace	Electric
Bungalow	Plain, Gravel	Stone Veneer	Steam	
Residence	Tile Shingles	Plastered	Stove	
Apartment	Metal, Tile	Stucco on Wood	Gas	INSIDE FINISH
Hotel	Corr. Iron	Stucco on M. Lath	Hot Water	Unfinished
Office Building	Composition	Hollow Tile		Sheetrock
Store	Wood	Terra Cotta		Beaverboard
Storage	Saw Tooth	Adobe	PLUMBING	Sealed
Factory		Brick	No. of Fixtures	Papered
Filling Station		Frame	Toilet	Plastered
Garage	BASEMENT	Weather Board	Bath Room	Plaster M. Lath
Shed		Sheet Iron	Shower	Plaster W. Lath
Barn	Whole	Concrete	Sink	Pine Floors
Servants House	Part			Hardwood Floors
Sign Board	Finished	TRIMMINGS	BUILT-IN FEATURES	Cement Finish
	Unfinished		Buffet	Tile Floors
FOUNDATION		Cobblestone	Patent Beds	Marble Floors
Stone	CONSTRUCTION	Brick, Plaster	Refrigerator	Dirt Floors
Concrete	Good	Stone, Wood	Bankcase	CONDITION
Brick	Medium	Plain	Kitchen Cab.	Poor
Posts	Cheap	Ornamental	Break. Room	Fair
Piers	Mixed	Cornice		Good
No Foundation				Built Year 1910

STREET OR AVE.—PAVED. GRAVEL. DIRT.



STREET OR AVE.—PAVED. GRAVEL. DIRT.

STREET OR AVE.—PAVED. GRAVEL. DIRT. 1930

No. Rooms.....6.....Remodeled Occupied Owner Renter Vacant

**SIZE OF BUILDING**

Wide	Deep	No. Stories	Wide	Deep	No. Stories
32 x	40	1 1/2	x		
10 x	12	1	x		
x			x		

No. Sq. Ft. 1196 Class 9 Price Per Sq. Ft. 2.50 \$ 2990.00  
 120 59 .40 \$ 48.00 \$ 3038.00

**RENDERED FOR TAXATION**

YEAR	LOT	VALUATION	VALUATION CHANGED TO	VALUATION FINAL	HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION	AUTHORITY FOR CHANGE
1937	Pt. 2	2100 00				

Value Before Add. Imp. \$ 3038.00 Value After Add. Imp. \$ 3288.00  
 Per Cent Depreciation 40-14 Net Value All Bldgs. \$ 2037.80

Mo. Revenue \$ LAND VALUATION  
 Zone No.

SIZE OF LOT	FRONT FT. VALUE	TOTAL
50 X 124 1/2	10.98	549.00
X		
X		
X		
X		
X		

Unit Value 11.60 Factor 9.98  
**SUMMARY**

Total Land Valuation . . . . \$ 549.00  
 Total Improvement Valuation . . . . 2037.80  
 Grand Total . . . . 2586.80







DEVITT House EAST AND NORTH Side



DeVitt House - South View



DEWITT House - Close up - NORTH view







DEVITT House — EAST View