MARSHALL'S
HISTORIC NEW TOWN
NEIGHBORHOOD
A prestigious professional
community centered around
historic Wiley College
ABOUT MARSHALL'S NEW TOWN NEIGHBORHOOD


By 1930 there were six African-American communities that had developed within the City of Marshall. The most prestigious was the New Town addition. African-American neighborhoods in Marshall were self-sufficient communities containing schools, stores and churches.

New Town was the home to many prominent individuals in Texas and U.S. history. Within the neighborhood is Wiley College, the oldest accredited black college west of the Mississippi River.

New Town developed around Wiley College, beginning around 1910. This development was the area chosen by doctors, teachers and other African-American professionals.

Residences were mostly six to seven room bungalows with a 74% ownership figure. Businesses included grocery stores, restaurants, florists, dry cleaners, medical offices, and funeral homes. The services in this community consisted of a college, two schools, nine churches and a hospital.

Today over 1,000 pre-1950 structures remain in the neighborhood. Of these about 100 are listed as high priorities in the City’s Historic Resources Inventory and over 500 are listed as medium priorities. Details about these historic structures are available from the City Historic Landmark Preservation Board.

SEE KEY TO FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPHS ON INSIDE BACK COVER

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ABOUT THIS GUIDE

This guide is an introduction to the rich heritage of the historic New Town neighborhood. It is to be used as a companion to signs marking these historic sites in New Town.

The sites marked and described in this guide are a sampling of the many historic sites in New Town. It is the hope of the City of Marshall Historic Landmark Preservation Board that this project will spur the effort to record the history of New Town and its people and preserve the built environment that makes New Town unique.

This project grew out of two plans that guide the historic preservation efforts of the city and New Town. The city's Historic Preservation Plan guides the activities of the city's Historic Landmark Preservation Board. Action items in the plan call for empowering the community's older neighborhoods to thrive and prosper by building on each neighborhood's unique character and heritage. The Board selected New Town to serve as a model for putting this plan into action.

In 2002 the Board received a Visionaries in Preservation planning grant from the Texas Historical Commission for the New Town neighborhood. Residents of New Town participated in the planning process. This program is a community-based visioning process where residents and stakeholders set a course for the future of their neighborhood. The outcome of this visioning process was the New Town Neighborhood of Marshall Historic Preservation Action Plan. This project implements goals from that plan.

By preserving the historic character of our neighborhoods we honor the accomplishments of those who built our community.

PLEASE NOTE:
Properties listed in the guide are private properties. The reader is asked to respect the privacy of owners and occupants. Viewing the sites from a street is permissible. However, permission must be obtained from the owner or occupant before going on the property.

Corrections of errors that may have inadvertently crept into the guide may be addressed to the Historic Landmark Preservation Board at the address or telephone number shown on the last page.

KEY TO LISTINGS

HS  Historic Structure listed as high priority in the City of Marshall Historic Resources Survey & retains its architectural integrity
NSM  Neighborhood Subject Marker is site associated with person/event/history of significance to Historic New Town Neighborhood. The criteria used to make selections for this maker project are: 1) events occurred or business established at least 50 years ago or 2) persons who played a significant role in the community and have been deceased at least 10 years.
NR  Listed in the National Register of Historic Places
SM  Designated a Texas Historical Subject Marker
RTHL  Designated a Registered Texas Historic Landmark

More information is available on NR, SM and RTHL designated properties on the markers located at each designated site or on the Internet at the Texas Historical Commission's Historic Sites Atlas www.atlas.thc.state.tx.us
14 Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church
1300 Billups Street
Led by the Rev. William Davis, African Americans living in the Hubbard's Hill section of Marshall established this church in 1874. The present sanctuary was constructed in 1948. NSM SM

15 M. W. Dogan Elementary School
2005 Dogan Street
Constructed in 1949 to replace New Town School, it was named for Wiley College's President Dogan. It operated until 1981. It is now privately owned. NSM

16 Watkins Garage
2204 University Avenue
Early New Town business. NSM

17 New Town Elementary School
2104 University Avenue
Local patrons raised money to buy a large site for a school and donated it to the school board. The first building was built in 1912. Several more followed. The main brick building fronted on Henry Street. Only one structure remains. W. J. White was the first principal. It closed in 1959. NSM HS

18 Homesite of Alphonza Williams
2207 South Street
One of the community's first African-American city policemen (1958) and justice of the peace (1982). NSM

19 Second Pleasant Hill Missionary
Baptist Church
1602 Grafton Street
Early neighborhood church. NSM

20 Joseph's Floral
1405 Grafton Street
Early New Town business. NSM
1 Ebenezer United Methodist Church  
908 Whetstone Street  
Site used since 1867 for worship. The first church was built in 1868, the current building constructed in 1958. Among its members have been legislator Mitchell Kendall, educators Matthew W. Dogan, Henry B. Pemberton, James Farmer, Sr. who was also a pastor, Price T. Young, and bishops Willis J. King, J. B. Scott, and E. W. Kelly. NSM SM

2 Homesite of Dr. M. W. Dogan  
603 South Carter Street  
This house, constructed before the Civil War by plantation owner William Hill Carter, was purchased by Dr. Dogan after he retired as president from Wiley College in 1942. It remains in the family. NSM

3 Atlanta Life Insurance Building  
604 South Carter Street  
Early New Town business. Served as local and state office for company that provided insurance services to African-Americans. NSM

4 Sheppard-Watts Hospital  
606 South Carter Street  
Constructed in 1925 by Marshall physician Dr. James R. Sheppard, it was later purchased and renovated by Dr. William Watts. Dr. George T. Coleman and Dr. Frank Williams, also the Wiley College physician, practiced there. NSM

5 Holy Spirit Catholic School & Sisters of the Holy Family  
611 South Carter Street  
In 1939, Holy Spirit Catholic Church opened this school for African-American children. Sisters of the Holy Family, an all-black order of nuns from New Orleans, staffed the school. Holy Spirit was integrated with all-white St. Joseph in 1970. In 1989 the school was razed. NSM

6 Holy Spirit Catholic Church  
615 South Carter Street  
Founded in 1937 by the Josephite Order. Its first priest was father John Mallory. In 1989 the church was razed. NSM

7 Homesite of Professor James L. Farmer & James L. Farmer Jr.  
903 James Farmer Street  
Home of James Farmer Sr., noted Wiley College professor, and James Farmer Jr., Civil Rights leader and founder of CORE. NSM

8 Moon's Cleaners & Laundry  
616 South Carter Street  
Early New Town business. NSM

9 Rambo Funeral Home  
622 South Carter Street  
Early New Town business. NSM

10 Wilder's Beauty Shop  
702 South Carter Street  
Early New Town business. NSM

11 Miles Memorial CME Church  
704 Francis Street  
Oldest CME congregation in Texas. In 1870 the East Texas Conference was one of the first conferences recognized by the General Conference. In 1872 Miles Memorial was organized and hosted first East Texas Annual Conference in Marshall. The first pastor was Rev. M.F. Jamison. He was later elected the ninth bishop of the CME Church. NSM

12 Homesite of Professor Melvin Tolson  
1108 University Avenue  
Poet, playwright, political commentator, civil rights activist and champion debate coach, Professor Tolson was an English professor at Wiley College from 1924 to 1942. A number of his outstanding students including James Farmer, Jr., Heman Sweatt and Fred Lewis, all civil rights pioneers, who credited Tolson with the motivation to tackle Jim Crow laws. He resided in this home from 1937-1938. NSM

13 University Medical Arts Clinic  
1407 University Avenue  
Dr. Nolan Anderson and Dr. I. J. Lamothe practiced medicine in downtown Marshall until the 1970s when they moved their practice to this building. NSM

21 Women's Federation Club & St. James #0112 Masonic Lodge  
1402 Grafton Street  
Purchased in the late 1940s by the Women's Federation Club. Currently owned by St. James Masonic Lodge. HS NSM

22 Community Clinic- Dr. G. T. Coleman  
607 Sanford Street  
Dr. Coleman was a physician and surgeon practicing at his office at 113½ West Houston. He used the structure at this location as a hospital for his patients. His residence was across the street at 606 Sanford. NSM

23 Site of Edwards Grocery  
600 Sanford Street  
Early New Town business. NSM

24 Smith Cleaners  
206 Sanford Street  
Early New Town business. NSM

25 Osborne Cleaners  
203 Milton Street  
Early New Town business. NSM

26 New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church  
408 Milton Street  
Early neighborhood church. NSM

27 Ward Chapel AME Church  
501 South Allen Boulevard  
Former site of Madame Jackson's Temple. Later became Ward Chapel AME Church. NSM

28 Homesite of Sam Birmingham, Mayor of Marshall  
2107 Spring Street  
Sam Birmingham was elected as a City Commissioner from 1975 to 1989. His fellow Commissioners selected him as Chairman from 1986-1989. (The Chairman also takes on the ceremonial title and duties of the mayor.) He was the city's first African-American commissioner and mayor. NSM
**Wiley College**  
711 Wiley Avenue

New Town Neighborhood most likely developed around Wiley College. Founded in 1873 by the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church North. It is the oldest black college west of the Mississippi. It moved to its present 66-acre site in 1877. In 1900 it became the first black college accredited by the state. SM

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**A Carnegie Library**  
Carnegie Library was built with a $15,000 grant obtained by Dr. M.W. Dogan in 1907. This building served as the Wiley College Library until 1967. Carnegie Library also provided the town with its only public library until 1973. HS

**B Wiley College President's Home**  
Probably designed by well-known architect C. G. Lancaster, the late-Victorian home was built in 1905 at a cost of $3,500. Dr. M.W. Dogan first occupied it. HS

**C Thirkield Hall**  
Constructed in 1918 following a fire that destroyed almost every building on the campus, it was named for a former president of Howard University and supporter of Wiley College. HS

**D Site of Wild Cat Inn**  
Cafe serving Wiley College students and the New Town neighborhood.

**E The Refectory**  
The Refectory was the Wiley College gymnasium from 1920 until 1967. HS

**F Pemberton High School**  
Constructed in 1925, it was called Central High School and served secondary students. In 1941, after a petition with more than 5,000 signatures was presented to them, the Marshall School Board named the school for its founder, H. B. Pemberton. Closed as a public school in 1988, the Pemberton Complex is now a part of Wiley College.
DO YOU HAVE MORE DATES, FACTS, OR MEMORIES ABOUT THE HISTORY OF NEW TOWN?

Several of the listings in this guide have very little information about their history. There are also many stories about living in New Town and Marshall. Do you know why New Town was named "New Town"? Do you know the date a business was established? Do you have a memory you want to share? Please share those stories with us so we can add to the written history about New Town. The Historic Landmark Preservation Board's address is listed on the back page of this guide.

Research materials for this project will be made available through the Harrison County Historical Museum Library and the Marshall Public Library.

HOW SITES WERE SELECTED

The Historic Landmark Preservation Board asked the New Town Neighborhood Association to identify historic sites and important people to highlight. About 50 were identified. Letters requesting permission to mark the sites were sent to property owners. Those listed in this brochure agreed to have their property marked. The following criteria were used:

- **Structure** – The structure on the property is listed as a high priority in the City of Marshall Historic Resources Survey and retains its original architectural integrity.

- **Subject** – Site is linked with important individuals, groups, businesses, or events associated with the history of New Town. For individuals to be honored the person played a significant role in the history of New Town and has been deceased 10 years or more. The criterion used for businesses or groups is that they were in existence prior to 1957 (50 years old or older).

KEY TO COVER PHOTOGRAPHS

The Historic Landmark Preservation Board wishes to thank those individuals who provided the cover photographs. Photographs 4 and 9 are from the collections of the Harrison County Historical Museum.

1. New Town School, main building
2. Dr. M. W. Dogan family
3. Wiley College president's home
4. Central High School basketball team, 1937
5. Sanford Street
6. Children's program at Wiley College
7. New Town School graduates, 1930
8. Alvin Street
9. Rebecca Buard family
A project of the City of Marshall Historic Landmark Preservation Board

Marshall Historic Landmark Preservation Board
401 South Alamo • Marshall, Texas • 903-935-4414

The Historic Landmark Preservation Board wants to thank the New Town Neighborhood Association whose members provided guidance and advice on the site selections for this project. The Board also commends them for their tireless work in their neighborhood.

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• Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
• Regular Fellows Club
• St. Joseph's Catholic Church

Members of the Historical Landmark Preservation Board

This project was spearheaded by the African-American Heritage Subcommittee of the Board. Subcommittee members are denoted by an asterisk (*).

Alaina Pool Jones, Chair
Gail K Bell*
Catherine Douglas
Annye Fisher*
Allison Jimerson

Mary Lynn Vassar
Faye Whitaker
Julia Williams*
Barbara Willis

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