

# Preserved in Stone: A Pictorial Guide to the Native Stone Buildings of Seymour, Texas, 1877 to 1906

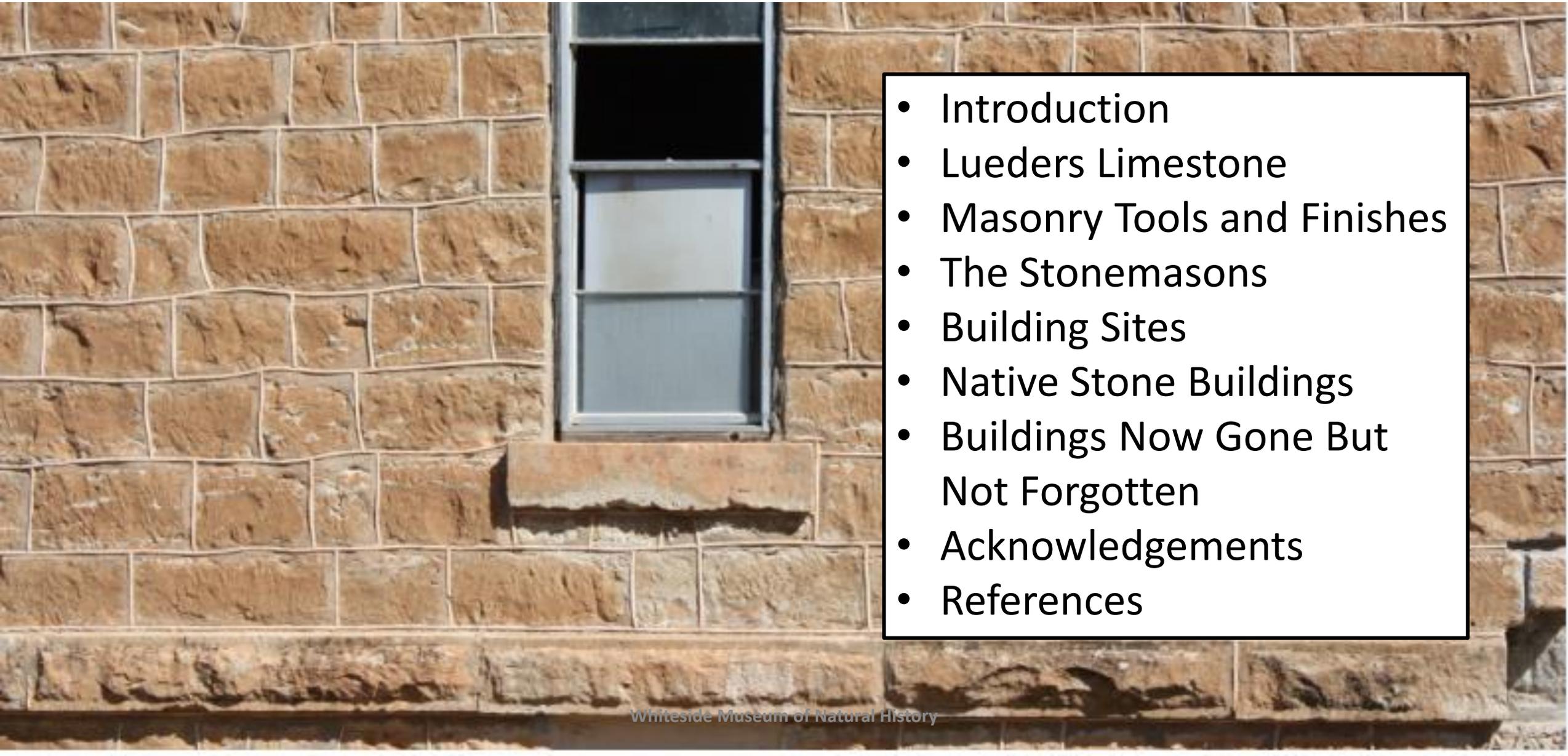


James E. Flis, Christopher J. Flis, Holly Simon, 3/14/2022

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# Preserved in Stone: A Pictorial Guide to the Native Stone Buildings of Seymour, Texas, 1877 to 1906

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- A photograph of a stone wall with a window. The wall is constructed from large, irregular, light-brown stone blocks. A window with a white frame is set into the wall. The window has three panes: a small top pane, a larger middle pane, and a larger bottom pane. The window is slightly recessed into the wall. The overall appearance is that of a well-maintained, historic stone building.
- Introduction
  - Lueders Limestone
  - Masonry Tools and Finishes
  - The Stonemasons
  - Building Sites
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# Preserved in Stone: A Pictorial Guide to the Native Stone Buildings of Seymour, Texas, 1877 to 1906

## Introduction

The Great Western Cattle Trail ( 1873-1893) can be traced from South Texas, to Albany, Throckmorton, Seymour, Vernon and into Wyoming. This North-South cattle trail also crossed the East-West “emigrant road” in Seymour, Texas. Farmers and cattlemen settled the area following the opening of the frontier after the end of the Indian Wars (1875). Ranching communities along the trail , like Seymour, were soon caught up in the boom of the westward movement of farmers. Businessmen were attracted to the area’s possibilities which also attracted the railroads.

Seymour became the crossroads from Wichita Falls to Abilene and from Fort Worth to Lubbock and was noted as the “Chicago of the West”, with a building boom that lasted until the passage of the Hogg Alien Land Law of 1891; this law prohibited aliens and alien-owned companies from obtaining property in Texas. This is a pictorial of the stone houses and commercial buildings built from the local native stone quarries.

The native stone, named the Lueders Limestone, is investigated for its dimension stone and architectural qualities. The majority of the commercial buildings and residential houses constructed in the 1880’s, 1890’s and 1900’s in Baylor County are attributed to stonemasons Alex and David Ferrier and architect Albert Wirz. Brothers Alex and David Ferrier came to America from Scotland in 1881 arriving in New York and were journeymen in Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Illinois and New York. In 1883 they settled in Seymour and formed a partnership with Swiss architect and fellow stonemason Albert Wirz (Ferrier Bros. & Wirz) after working on the Texas State Capitol, Shackelford Texas County Courthouse, and the Baylor Texas County Courthouse.

# Preserved in Stone: A Pictorial Guide to the Native Stone Buildings of Seymour, Texas, 1877 to 1906

## Introduction cont...

Together they built, the Knox County courthouse, jail and school, and the Baptist Junior College in Decatur Texas. They built schools in Throckmorton, Dundee, Dickens, Spur, Seymour and Graham. They had a part in the bridge and culvert construction for the 1885 Mexican railway (with a crew of 46 stonemasons) and a 1890 railroad roundhouse and machine shop in Fort Worth. In Seymour they were involved in building the First National Bank, Farmers National Bank, McClain Hotel, Lankford Building, the Baylor County Court House, the 1<sup>st</sup> Christian Church, Palace Drug Store, the Zeigler House and commercial buildings for John Deere, J.Q.Word, W.R.Hilliard and C.H.Mitchell. Several of these native stone buildings still stand today and will be examined in this pictorial.

In 1890, Ferriers Bros. & Wirz of Seymour, Texas posted several want ads in the Fort Worth Daily Gazette newspaper .....”Wanted, 12 first-class stonecutters, wages \$4.50 per day” It is not known how successful the want ad were, but in 1890, stonecutters and stonemasons were considered a highly skilled industry. A first-class stonemason required an apprenticeship of 5 years with a final 6<sup>th</sup> “completion” year. Additional schooling in arts and architecture were available. The successful candidates were “journeyman” who banded together to go from site to site to get steady employment. As such, they were to enjoy a degree of social prestige. Stonemasons had to supply their own tools and would have to pay local blacksmiths to have their tools repaired and sharpened. Blacksmiths would maintain drills, chisels, hatchets, saws and mauls. Early stonemasons would collect “rubble stone” from the countryside. Later ground surfaces were scrapped to expose more stone and an excavation quarry initiated. Local quarries were probably hard scrabble ground not useful for farming or cattle and easily acquired or leased.

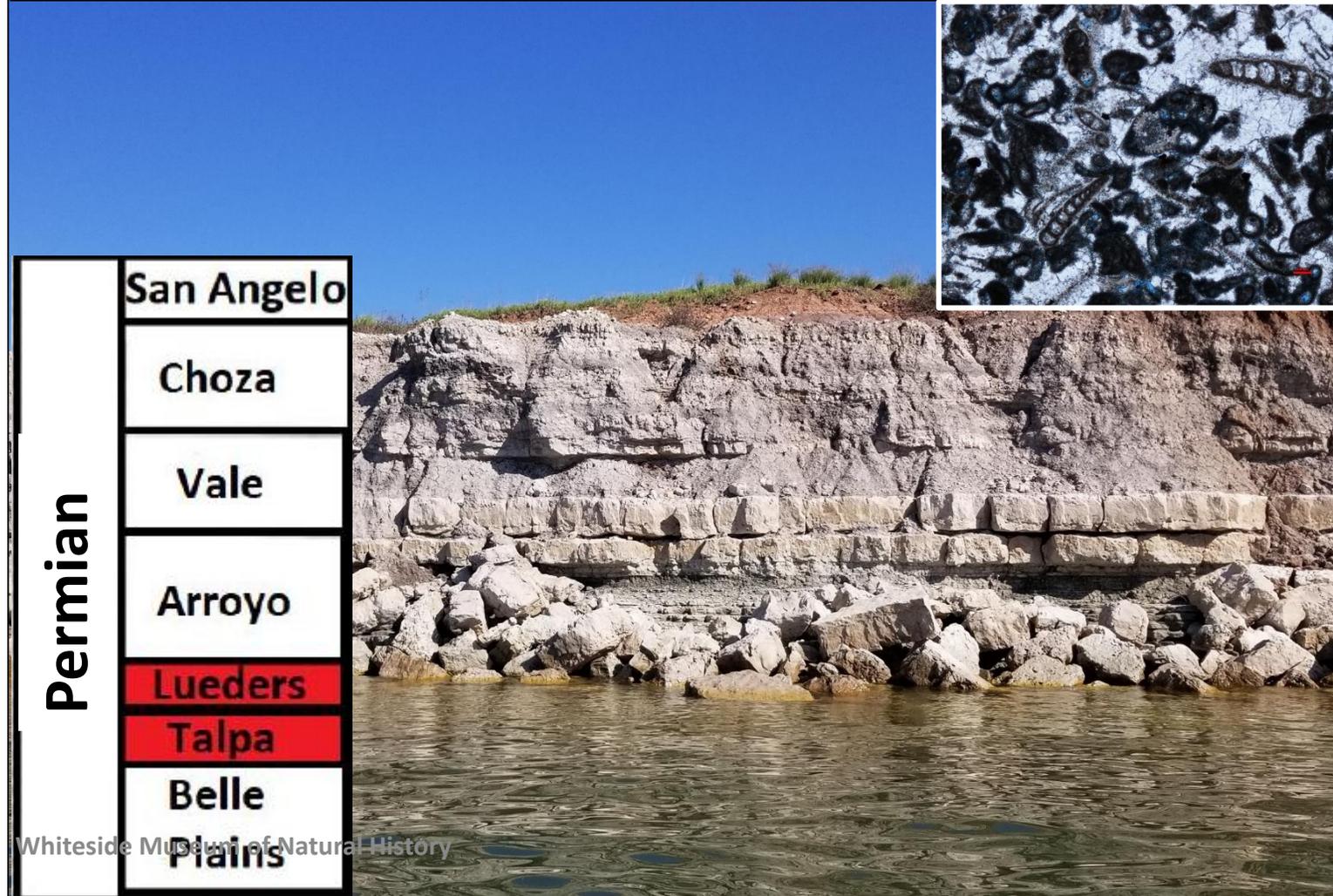
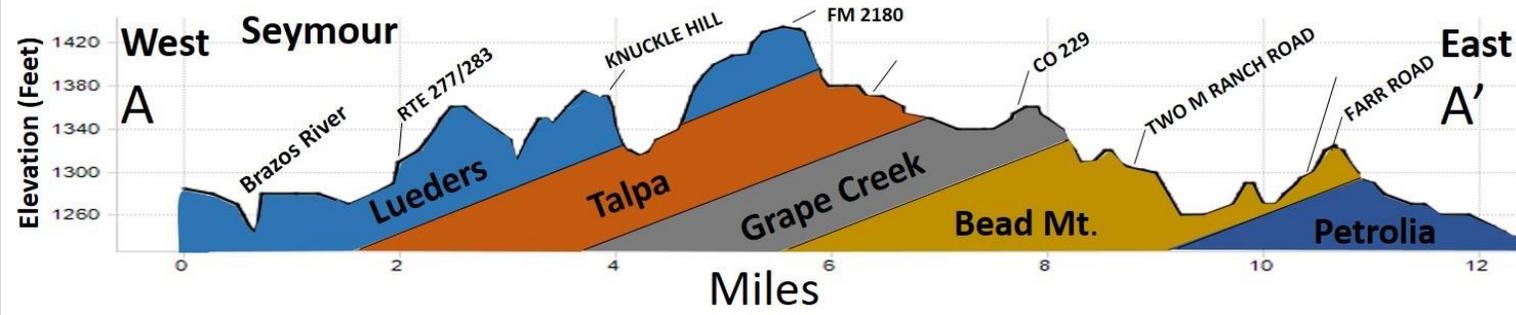
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## Introduction cont...

Quarry work was labor intensive and employed stonemasons, stonecutters, carters, quarry laborers, knappers and yard laborers. General laborers hewed and split large stone, hoisted by mule and horse powered block and tackle. The quarrymaster was an individual with supervisory and engineering skills who would orchestrate the extraction, set rock prices and control the labor force. Stone that was flawless and appropriately sized was dressed by the stonemason. Tool marks on stone show that multiple tools were used, such as axes, bush hammers and pointed chisels. Stones that were well cut and closely fitted were coursed (ashlar) and laid only in the finest buildings. The degree of dressing and delicate finish required more time and cost. Stonemasons had to have the technical skill and physical strength to weld a hammer all day and yet have the finesse to produce delicate carvings. Stonemasons utilized scaffolding and also made cellars, cisterns, wells and tombstones. Local opinion suggests that the Lueders Limestone was quarried at the east and west ends of McLain Avenue in Seymour, Texas.

# Lueders Limestone

- Building stone that was used in Seymour Texas from 1877-1906.
- Extracted from quarries found within Seymour city limits. Layers dip to the west.
- Named after Lueders, Texas, 1901, where it was originally quarried. Valued for its durability, texture and buff and earthy colors.
- Lower Permian age, marine limestone containing fossil foraminifera, mollusks, ostracode, bryozoan, echinoid, serpulid, fish and shark, 290 million years old
- Very distinctive burrowing texture caused by bivalves.
- Sharp upper and lower contacts, 20 inches or more makes a ideal stone.



# Lueders Quarry

“At the town of Seymour, Baylor County, a quarry has been opened that has furnished the principle building material for the town for several years. The stone was so easily quarried and wrought that it was cheaper to build of stone than haul lumber from the railway; and then a stone house was so much more desirable. .. The principal quarry is in the bluff of the river one-half mile west of the town....two beds of limestone are compacted into one bed making a stratum twenty inches thick, and is the best stone found in this quarry. The stone can be taken out in any sized pieces desired. It breaks with a smooth even surface that requires very little dressing. The court house, jail and nearly all the other buildings in the town are built of this material” E.T. Dumble, page 465.

Source: Second Annual Report of the Geologic Survey of Texas, 1890



# Lueders Quarry

- Pioneer stonecutters and stonemasons faced labor intensive work.
- Difficult manual labor, even with the assistance of horses and mules, was extremely dangerous.
- Stones were moved by a technique that depended upon pull and dragging with the use of a high pole.
- To split the rock, early workers used wooden pegs that were driven and later soaked with water to expand and crack the slabs. Later workers use the “plug and feather” system of drill holes and iron wedges.
- The two bottom layers shown in this picture make the best building stone.

Source: P.Holterhoff



# Masonry tools

- 1 English pick
- 2 Bush hammer
- 3 Wooden mallet
- 4 Sledge hammer
- 5 Various points and chisels
- 6 Pitching chisel
- 7 Drill



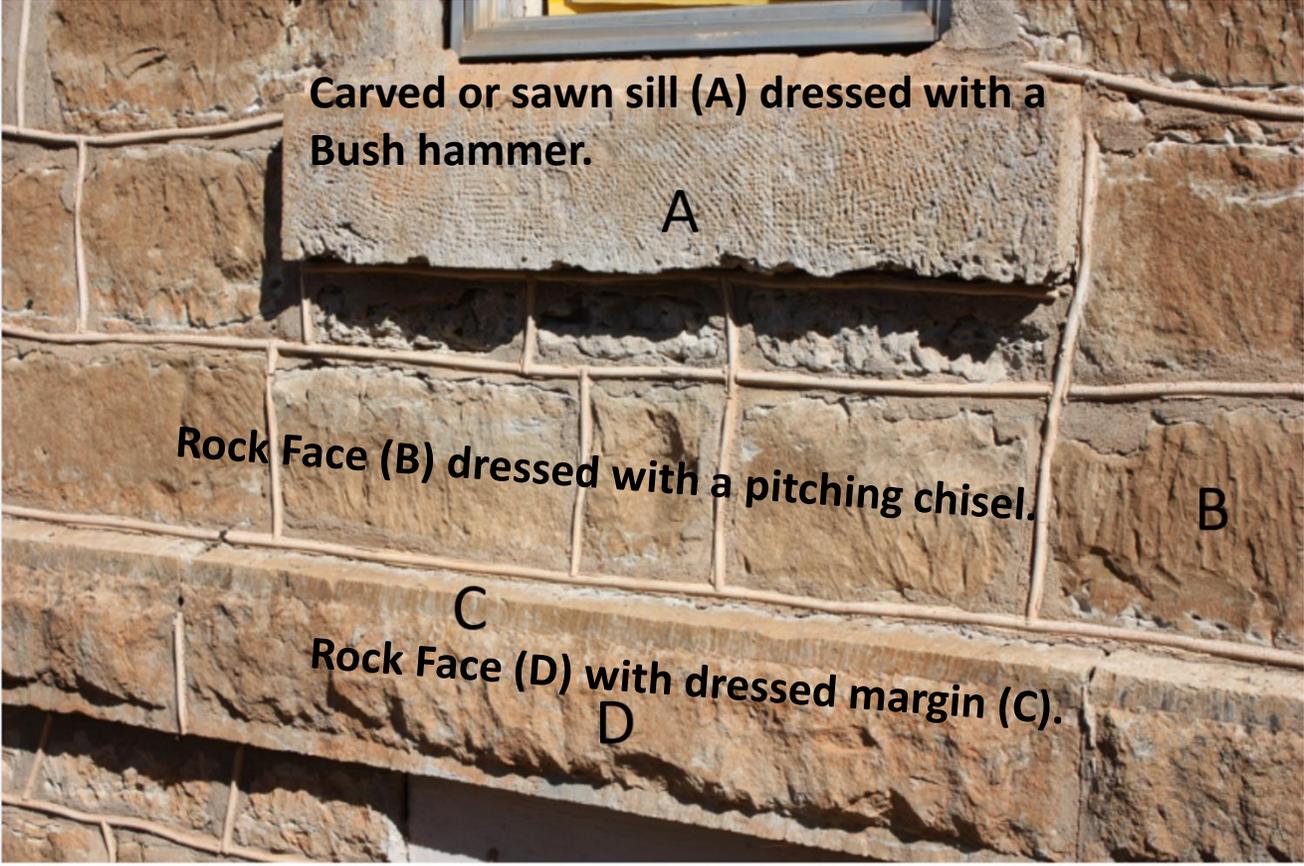
Source: A.Rodriguez Family

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# Masonry finishes of random field stone rubble



# Masonry finishes of finely jointed well dressed ashlar

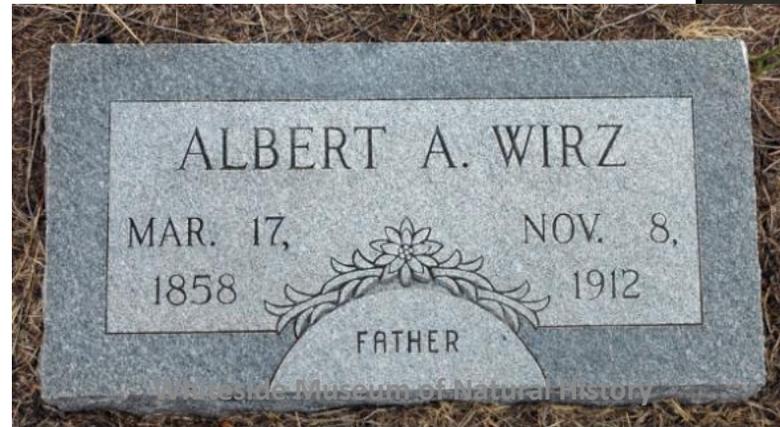


# Stonemasons

## Stonemason and Architect Albert Wirz

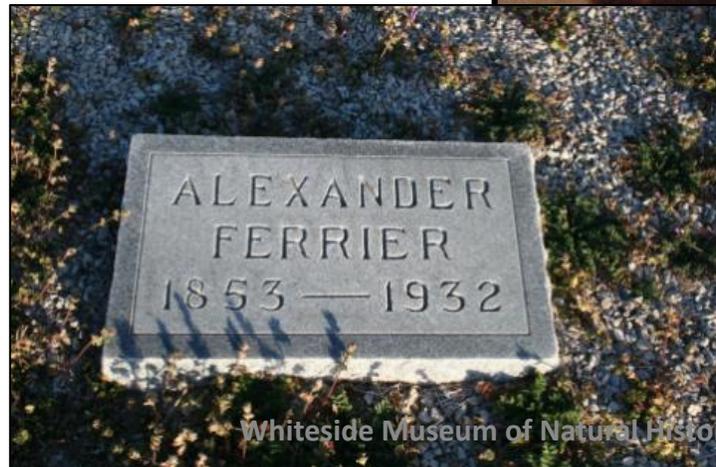
- BIRTH 17 Mar 1858
- Berne, Switzerland
- Married to Annie Mary Amsler in 1891 and had five children.
- DEATH 8 Nov 1912 (aged 54)
- Throckmorton, Throckmorton County, Texas, USA
- BURIAL
- Woodmen Cemetery
- Seymour, Baylor County, Texas, USA

Source: Wirz Family Files



# Stonemason Alexander Ferrier

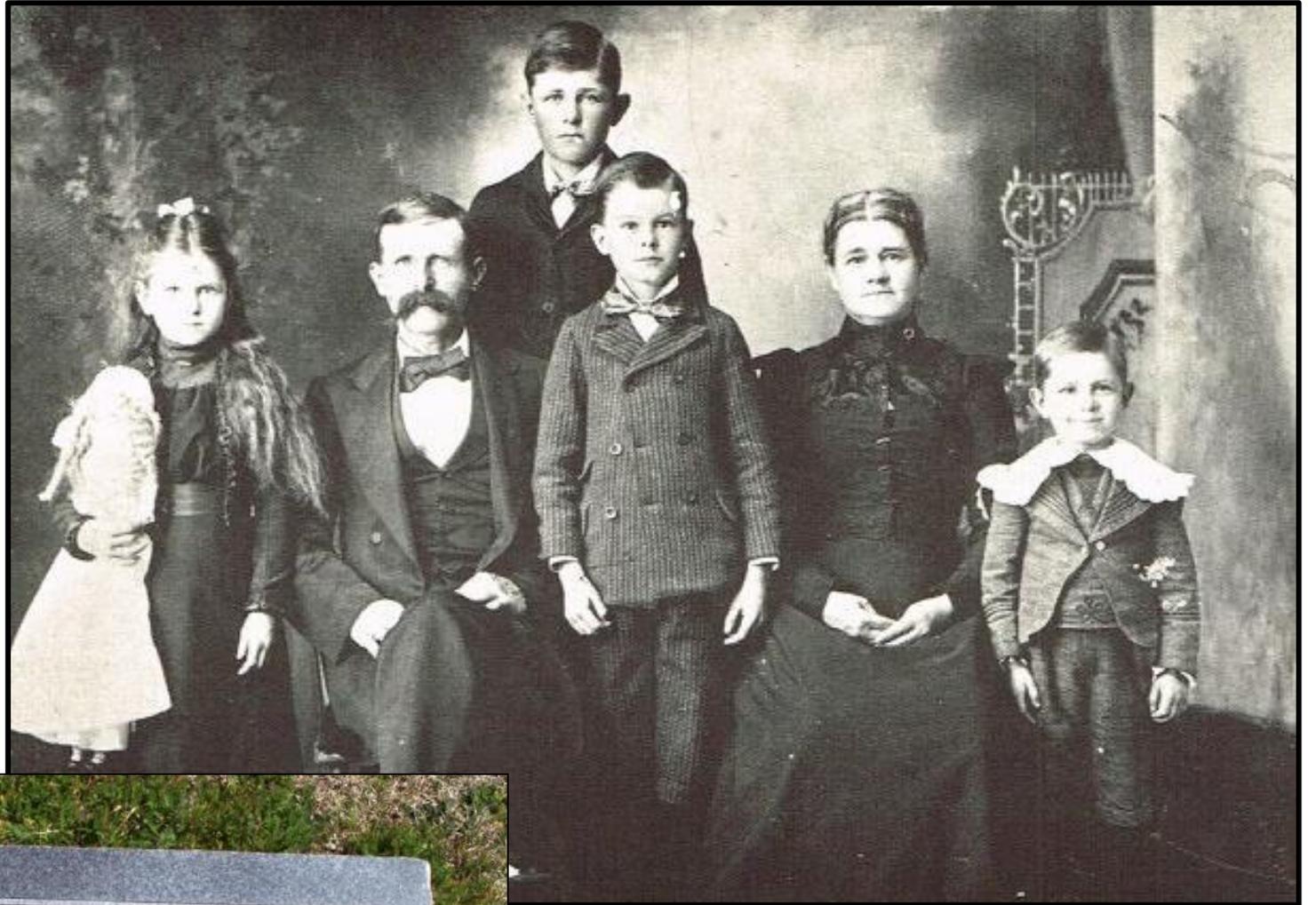
- BIRTH 26 May 1853
- Friockheim, Angus, Scotland
- Married to Rosa Wirz in 1890 and had twelve children.
- DEATH 12 Jun 1932 (aged 79)
- Seymour, Baylor County, Texas, USA
- BURIAL
- Masonic Cemetery
- Seymour, Baylor County, Texas,



Source: Ferrier Family Files

# Stonemason David Ferrier

- BIRTH 20 Jun 1855
- Friockhelm, Angus, Scotland
- Married Maggie Scott in 1884 and had 6 children.
- DEATH 30 Jun 1939 (aged 84)
- Seymour, Baylor County, Texas, USA
- BURIAL
- Woodmen Cemetery
- Seymour, Baylor County, Texas, USA



Source: Ferrier Family Files

# Stonemason Charles Eriksson Holman

- BIRTH 21 June 1844
- Stockholm, Sweden
- Married Josephine Wolfe and had five children.
- DEATH 21 Jun 1927 (aged 83)
- Seymour, Baylor County, Texas, USA
- BURIAL
- Seymour Cemetery
- Seymour, Baylor County, Texas, USA

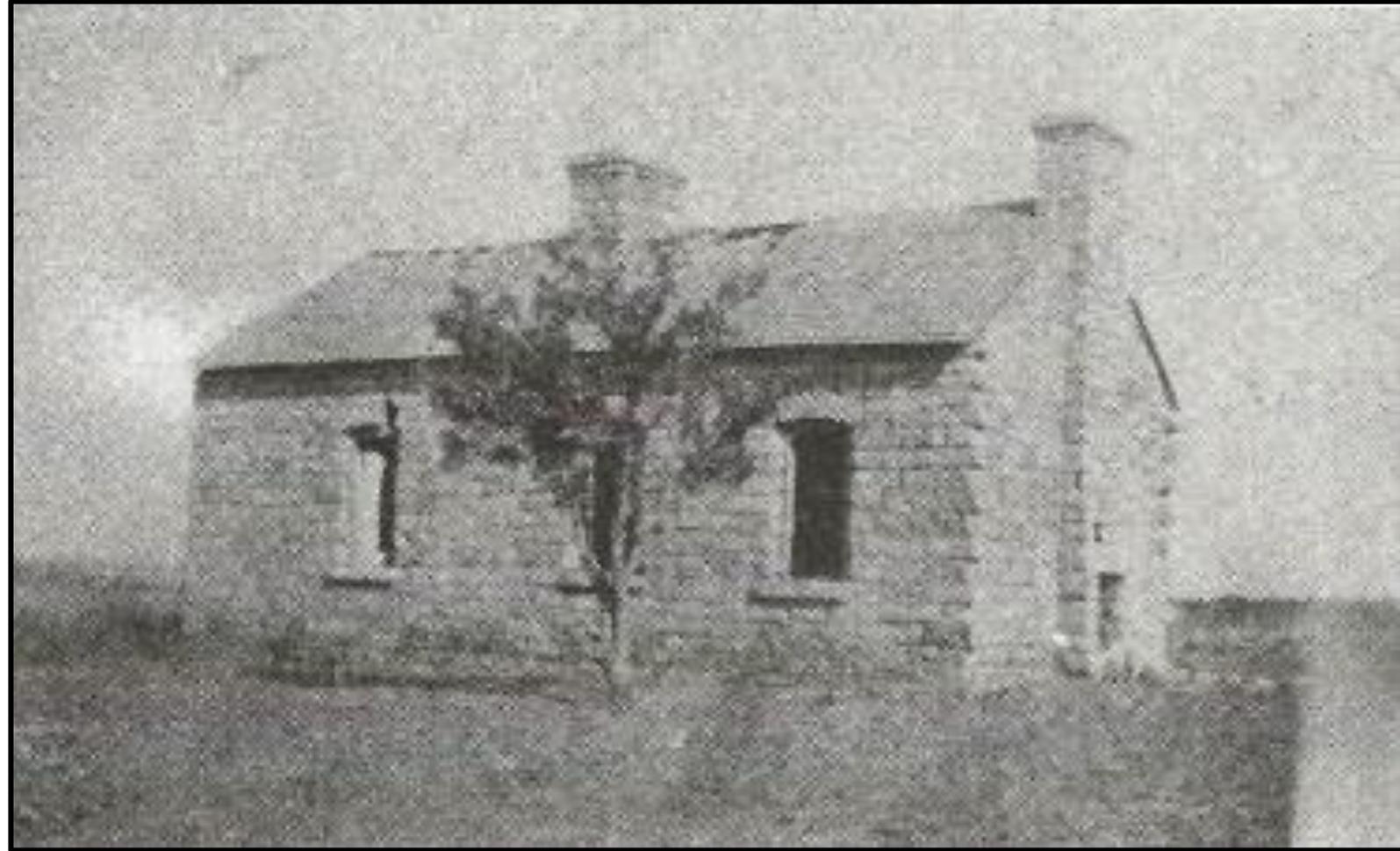


Source: Salt Pork to Sirloin and Latchstrings

# Stonemason

## Charles Erikkson Holman

Holman Eriksson Holman emigrated to America from Stockholm Sweden. Charles moved to Baylor County in 1878 from Graham, Texas and homesteaded 160 acres 12 miles south of Seymour in the Hashknife Community south of the Brazos River. There he lived with his wife and five children in a tent, dugout, log house and eventually built a stone house in 1882. Holman built many of the early stone buildings in Baylor County and is credited with 7 stone buildings, notably the Early Community Building. Charles was often the lead mason for Ferrier Bros. and Wirz's projects. He moved to the Ogden Community and retired from the construction business to farm his 2200 acres.

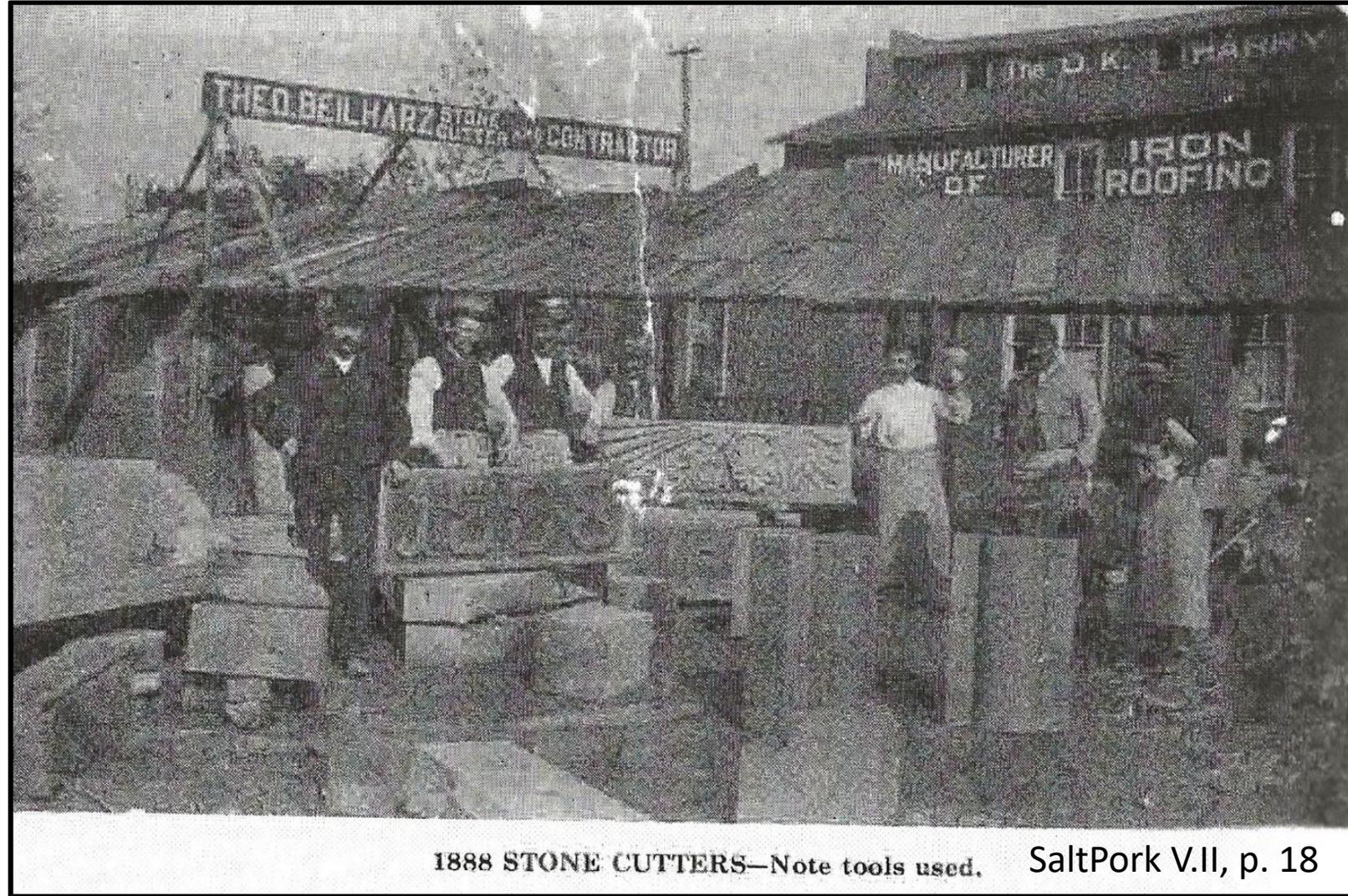


# Stonecutter

## Theodore M. Beilharz

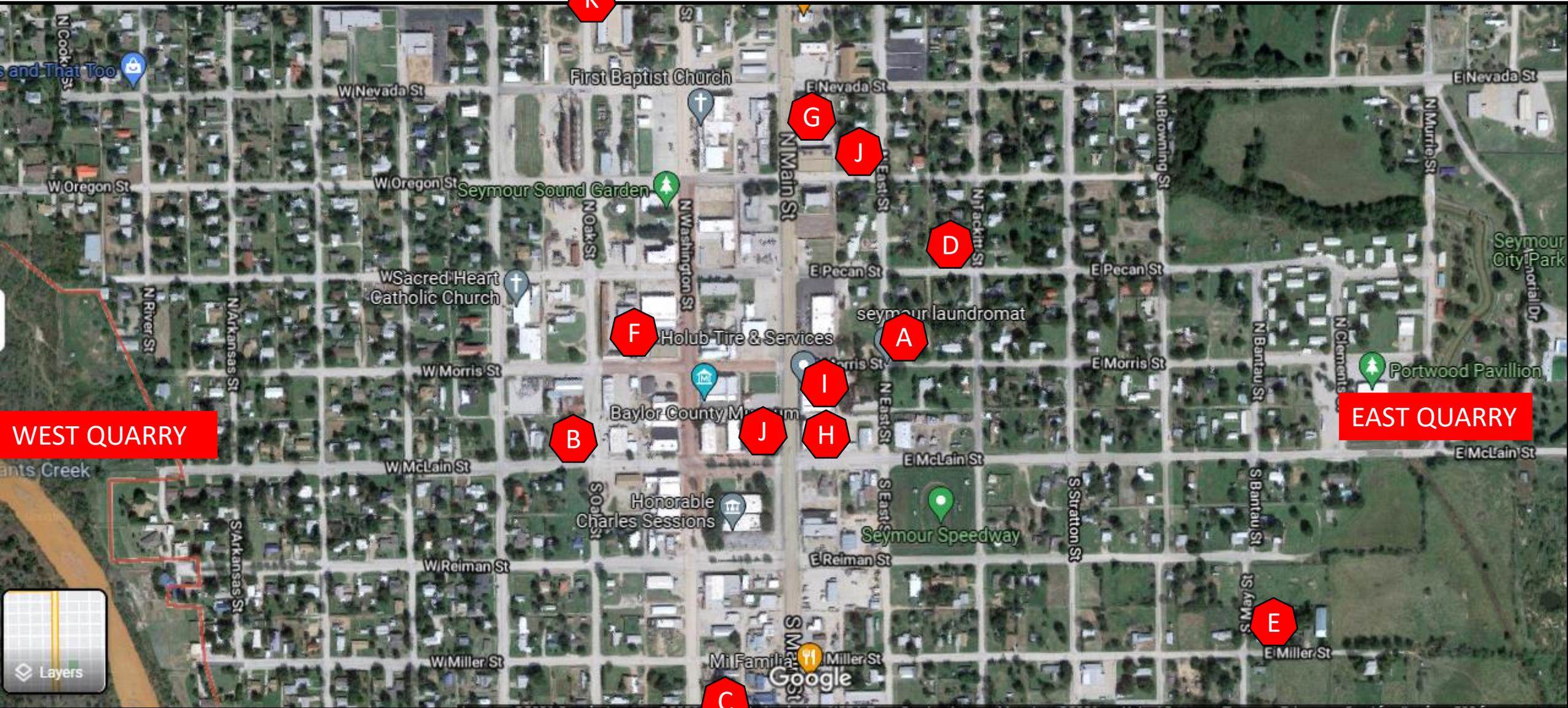
Beilharz was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, in 1860 and came to Dallas in 1883. He was employed as a journeyman stone dresser until 1887 and then started his own business; the Beilharz Stoneyard (1887 1936) in downtown Dallas. He employed on average fifteen stonecutters, three setters and fifteen laborers. Salt Pork to Sirloin Volume II, p. 18, shows an 1888 picture of Beilharz Co. stonecutters and laborers apparently taken in Seymour. Local opinion suggests that Beilharz's skills were used in many of the Ferrier Bros., & Wirz native stone buildings. He also did the stone work for many of the Dallas business buildings, such as the City National Bank, Imperial Hotel and the Santa Fe Station, besides many residences. He died in Comfort, Texas in 1907 at the age of 46.

Source: Beilharz Family Collection



1888 STONE CUTTERS—Note tools used. SaltPork V.II, p. 18

# Building Sites



K

G

J

D

F

A

I

J

H

B

EAST QUARRY

WEST QUARRY

C

E

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# Native Stone Buildings



## 200 N. East Street Early Community Building

- Built in 1877.
- Charles Eriksson Holman, stonemason.
- Oldest known house built of Lueders limestone in Seymour.
- J.R. and A.M. McLain first property owners.
- The house has been used as a first school, various churches, blacksmith shop, shoe shop, and the Cresset and Banner Newspapers.
- House has been owned by the J.E and M.E McClehen Family since 1920.
- Texas Historical Landmark (1969).



- Single Story “L” shaped building and simple roof line. Two room building with chimney.
- Simple construction with porch and out building.
- Masonry coursed random field stone rubble with thick lime mortar joints.
- Masonry finish is axe cut.
- Thin rock lintel for the doors and windows and thick mortar for the sills.
- Extensive masonry restoration.



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B

## 204 West McLain St. E.R.Morris House

- Built 1879.
- Charles Eriksson Holman, stonemason.
- Built for the first Baylor County Judge, E.R.Morris.
- Owners G. Ray, J.A.P.Dickson, J.B. Pickson, B.M.Malone, S.Gorman, C.E.Lakey, O.F.Harvey (1915-1975).
- Owned and operated as a museum by the Baylor County Historical Society in 1975.
- Now a private residence of the Crawford Family.

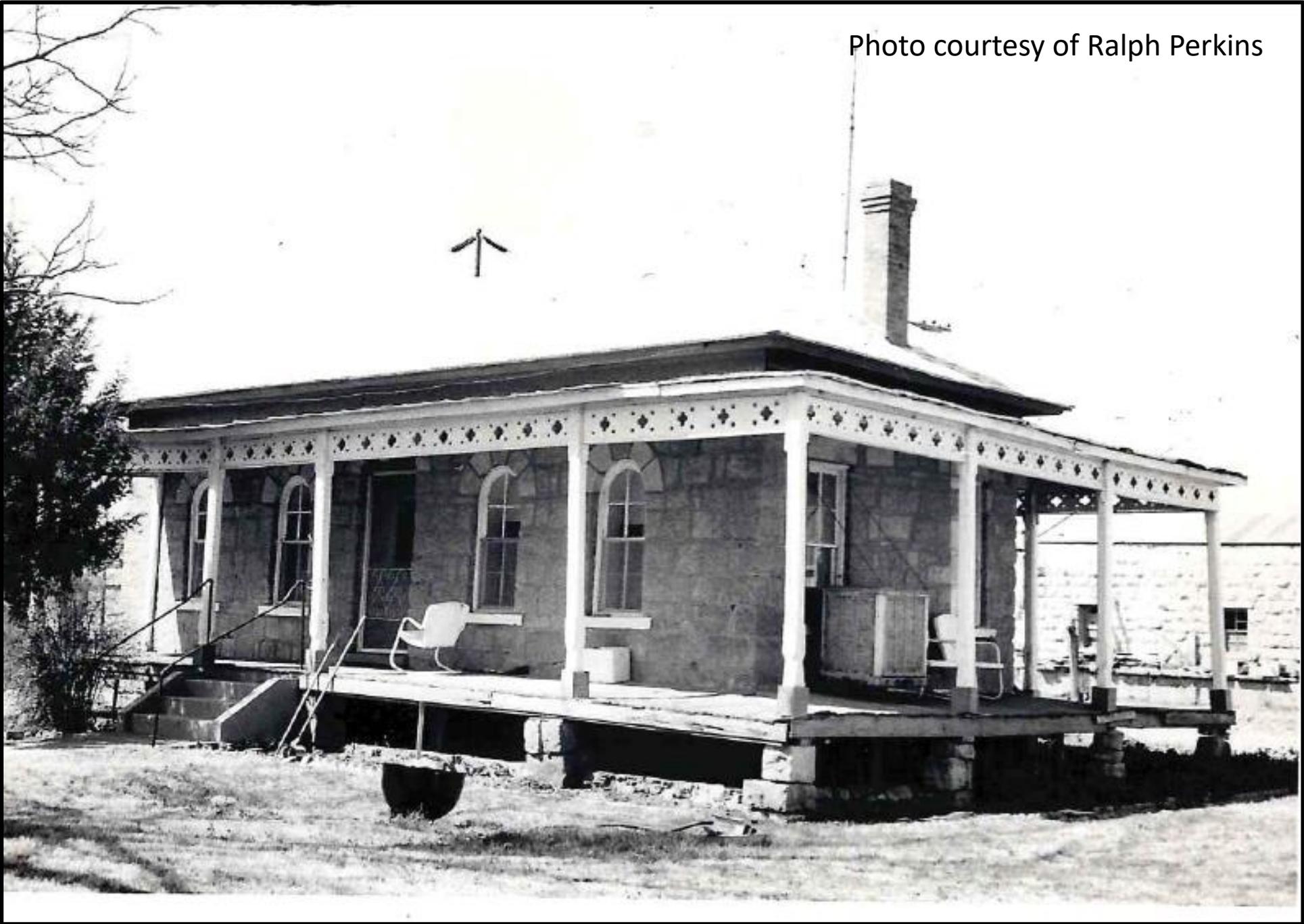


- Original two story residence with a full raised basement.
- Square shape with one chimney.
- Antebellum style porch with a scalloped bargeboard of clover leaf design and carved posts.
- Masonry coursed random field stone rubble with thick lime mortar joints.
- The 4 front windows are of 5 stone semicircular arch and large square carved sills. Windows are arched as well.
- Front door also has a 5 stone semicircular arch and an arched highlight.
- Side windows are rectangular with large carved lintels and sills.





Photo courtesy of Ralph Perkins





# Charles Holman Homestead Hashknife Community

- Built 1882.
- Charles Erikson Holman, stonemason.
- Previous owners, Samuel, Hastings Russell, Carl Porter, Monty Morris.



- Two story rectangular shaped building with two chimney's.
- Simple construction with porch, several outbuildings, kiln and enclosed by an extensive rubble stone wall.
- Masonry coursed random field stone rubble with thick lime mortar joints.
- Masonry finish is axe cut.
- Two front doors with massive 3 stone lintels that have dressed margins and finely chiseled scroll design. The front facing window has a 5 stone segmental arch and margin dressed sill.



- Raized stone square gable roof vent.
- The back of the house has two windows with 7 stone segmental arched lintels and carved rectangular sills.
- All doors and windows in the house have angle splayed jams.
- The original home has been renovated and additions have been clad with a distinctive burrowed limestone native to the area, possibly from the Elm Creek Formation, a unit older than the Lueders Limestone.







Probable kiln at the Holman homestead



# Richardson House 301 North Tackett

- Built in 1884.
- Charles Eriksson Holman, stonemason?
- Built for Charles Humphrie.
- Remodeled by Dr. John Richardson in 1904 and has a spiral staircase to the second floor.
- Popular for Richardson family weddings.
- Latchstrings p. 84 notes the owner in 1985 was Hazel Lane.
- Owners: 1884 C. Humprie, 1890 A..Perry, 1904 J.A.Rchardson, 1993, C. Langston.



- Originally was a 3 room, square shaped one story home with 2 feet thick walls and 13 foot ceilings.
- Two chimney's with large stone carved stacks.
- Masonry coursed random field stone rubble, axe and bush hammer dressed with thick lime mortar joints.
- The front door has a massive carved stone archway over a wooden lintel.
- The door is set with double 6 window sidelights and a single transom window.
- Windows also have massive lintels and dressed square stone sills.



Latchstrings 1986





E

## 602 East Miller Street Ziegler House

- Built in 1885.
- Ferrier Bros. & Wirz
- Built for J.C.Ziegler who owed the local hardware store.
- He also ran a tinsmith shop which built water tanks.
- The house was popular and used for church functions, neighborhood parties and weddings.
- Since the Zieglers, the house has been owned by the Ponders, Atrip, Goodrich and Beth Ferrier families.



- This 3 story stone rectangular house with a central chimney is a good example of the use of native available materials and Germanic cultural influences.
- Simple symmetrically designed house, with an emphasis on quality of construction and excellent masonry craftsmanship.
- Consistent coursing with finely jointed, well dressed ashlar.
- The border that is 4 courses above grade has a dressed margin and is called a “string course”. It extends out beyond the wall face about 2-3 inches.
- There are two masonry finishes (textures) seen on the exterior: “pointed face” and “rock face” on the string course.
- The 3 piece lintel above the front door is hand carved.



- Windows are set with squared lintels and sills.
- The base of some sills show wavy edges indicating bioturbation, disturbance of the limestone by mollusks.
- The small “windows” are transoms which provided additional air circulation and light.
- Gabled roof front and back with gable at center of house to signify entrance.
- Raised beaded lime mortar joints.
- There is a full raised basement below the string course.
- Apparent stairway to the front door is now gone.







# 198 West Pecan St. Adkins-Skinner Livery Stable

- Built circa 1892.
- Ferrier Bros. & Wirz
- Built for Adkins – Skinner Livery Stable (1879-1930).
- Banner 11/14/1905, “ I have the best equipped livery stable in Seymour.”
- Other livery stables in Seymour included B.T.Hinton, Joe Harvey, O.F. Harvey, and Dickson Bros.
- Was used as a dry cleaners and possible site of an early fire station.
- Covered gable may have a carved date.
- Now owned by the City of Seymour, Tx.



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- Two story rectangular commercial building with a bottom course of exposed foundation stone.
- Consistent coursing with finely jointed well rock face dressed ashlar (front edifice only).
- The rest of the building is coursed random rubble, axe and bush hammer dressed. Lime mortar throughout.
- Front door and windows have square ashlar lintels and sills.
- The main entryway is a large 23 stone semicircular arch over curved wooden doors. The back door is identical in design.
- Graffiti, initials, and symbols are common.
- The southern exposure exhibits a weathered sun, wind and rain patina and gloss.



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## 420 North Main Street John Deere Supply Co.

- Built in 1886 (?).
- Ferrier Bros. & Wirz
- Subsequent owners, Chrysler dealership, McDermott Implement and Nancy Markham.
- 1892 and 1904 Sandborn maps show several contiguous buildings to the south end of the block. Donald Ferrier relates that the Ferrier Bros. and Wirz built all of those but some were not completed because of the 1891 Hogg Alien Act.
- Location of the 1932 graduation dance (per Wilmer Gleghorn) and a roller skating rink in the 1950's.
- Now owned by the Nancy Markham heirs.

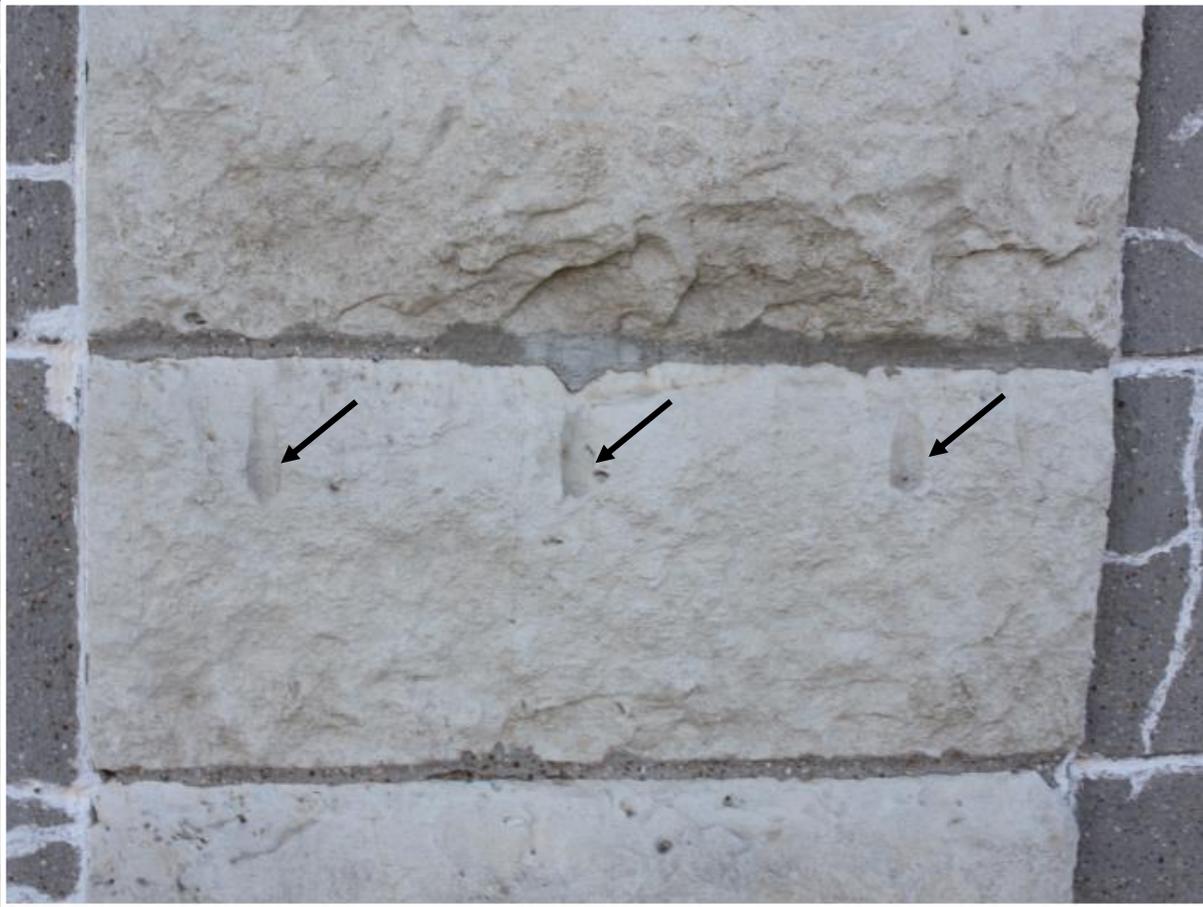


- Nancy Markham renovated the interior and exterior and hosted many visitors from the Houston Natural History Museum and Whiteside Natural History Museum.
- Regular course, rock faced ashlar two story mercantile building. Glass brick facade was patented in 1886 by Swiss architect Gustave Falconnier.
- 22 second story windows with flat stone lintels and sills, recessed, and framed between ornately carved columns. Brickwork has been added onto the sills.
- Three 12 stoned circular “portal” windows are positioned on stone sills.
- Two commercial sized doors, one with an arched stone entry and other with a large one foot thick sill are found on the rear and northeast side of the building respectively.
- Carved scrollwork is found along the edifice base of the building.
- Evidence of drill holes in the front ashlar blocks, point to “plug and feather” techniques used at the quarries (arrows).



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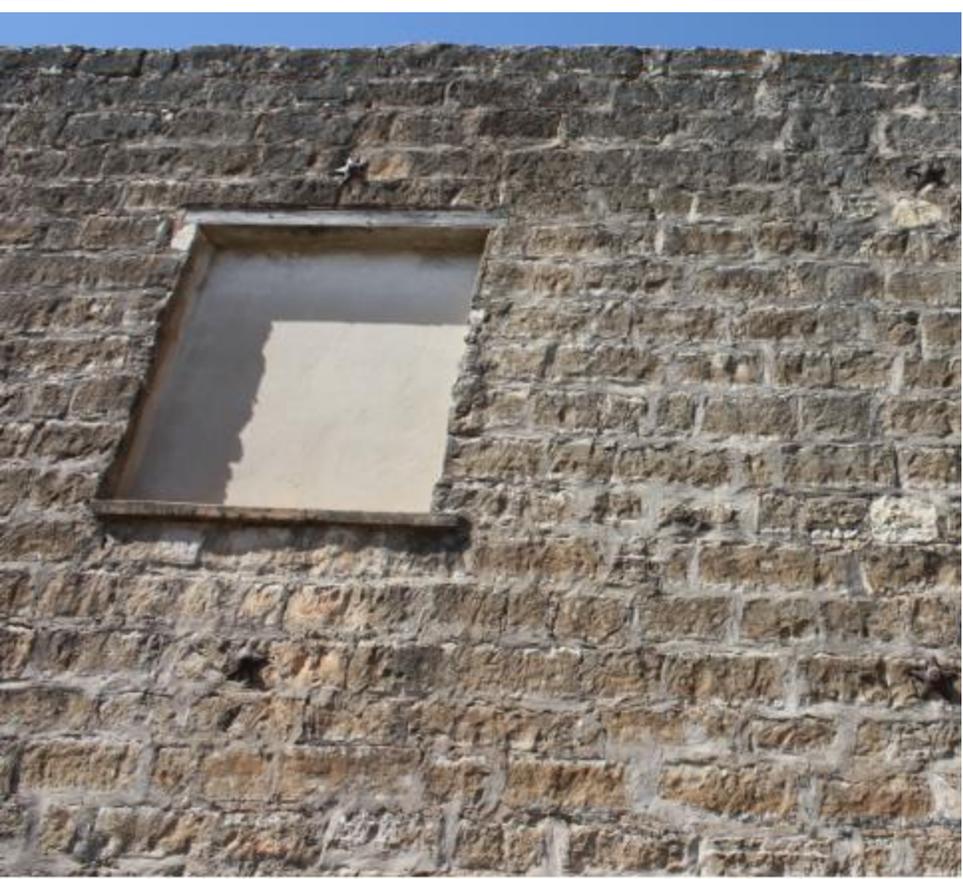
## 211 E McLain Street (Bayco South)

- Built in 1890.
- Ferrier Bros. & Wirz
- Original occupant of the building was the Taylor and C.H. Mitchell Grocery Store (1890-1929). “A dependable store for dependable people”.
- Now Bayco and Hrncirik Catering.



- 2 story mercantile with renovated 1<sup>st</sup> story facade.
- Regular course quarry face ashlar on the facade only. The rest of the building is masonry coursed random rubble, axe and bush hammer dressed. Lime mortar throughout.
- Beveled finely carved ashlar separates the building facade into two sections.
- 6 windows with carved stone arches on a belt course sill.
- Corniced top with dated finial 1890 . Blank billboard with a raised molding. Stone billboard carved, Talley and Sons.
- 16 stone semicircular arch over rear commercial door.
- Two side rectangular windows with wooden sills and lintels.
- Square back door with a square lintel.
- Star shaped anchor plates on the east facing wall.









## 110 N. Main Street (Bayco North)

- Built in 1890.
- Ferrier Bros. & Wirz
- Sanborn 1892 suggests general store and hardware.
- Law office of Judge Clyde Whiteside (Newton Building).
- Now Bayco and Hrcirik Catering.
- Old photos show J.Q.Word , Appliance and Furniture.



- 2 story rectangular mercantile building, regular course finely fitted ashlar, N and NW facing the old McClain Hotel (1902-1920). The east side of the building is masonry coursed random rubble.
- Two of the N facing windows and doors have 3 stone dressed semicircular arches set against a triangular dressed springer.
- A second NW facing door has a one piece segmental arch carved with 5 faux arch stones. All doors and windows have transom windows.
- The stone around the doors are dressed in rock face and margins drafted by a tooth chisel, prison rustic texture with deep pitted holes.
- A continuous course of scroll carved stone sits above the lintels.
- The bottom street level course is a heavily weathered burrowed limestone.
- The second story has 6 rectangular windows with square cut stone lintels and sills.
- “S” shaped anchor plates on the east facing wall.
- Finial capping dated 1890 on the NW wall.



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# Bayco North and South adjacent to the McLain Hotel



**BIRDSEYE VIEW OF SEYMOUR.** Corner of McLain and Main Streets, looking North and East. McLain Hotel on left before it burned.



## 181 East McLain

- Built in 1888.
- Ferrier Bros. & Wirz
- General merchandise, Sims Grocery and Hill and Craddock Grocery.
- Pool hall in the 1960's.



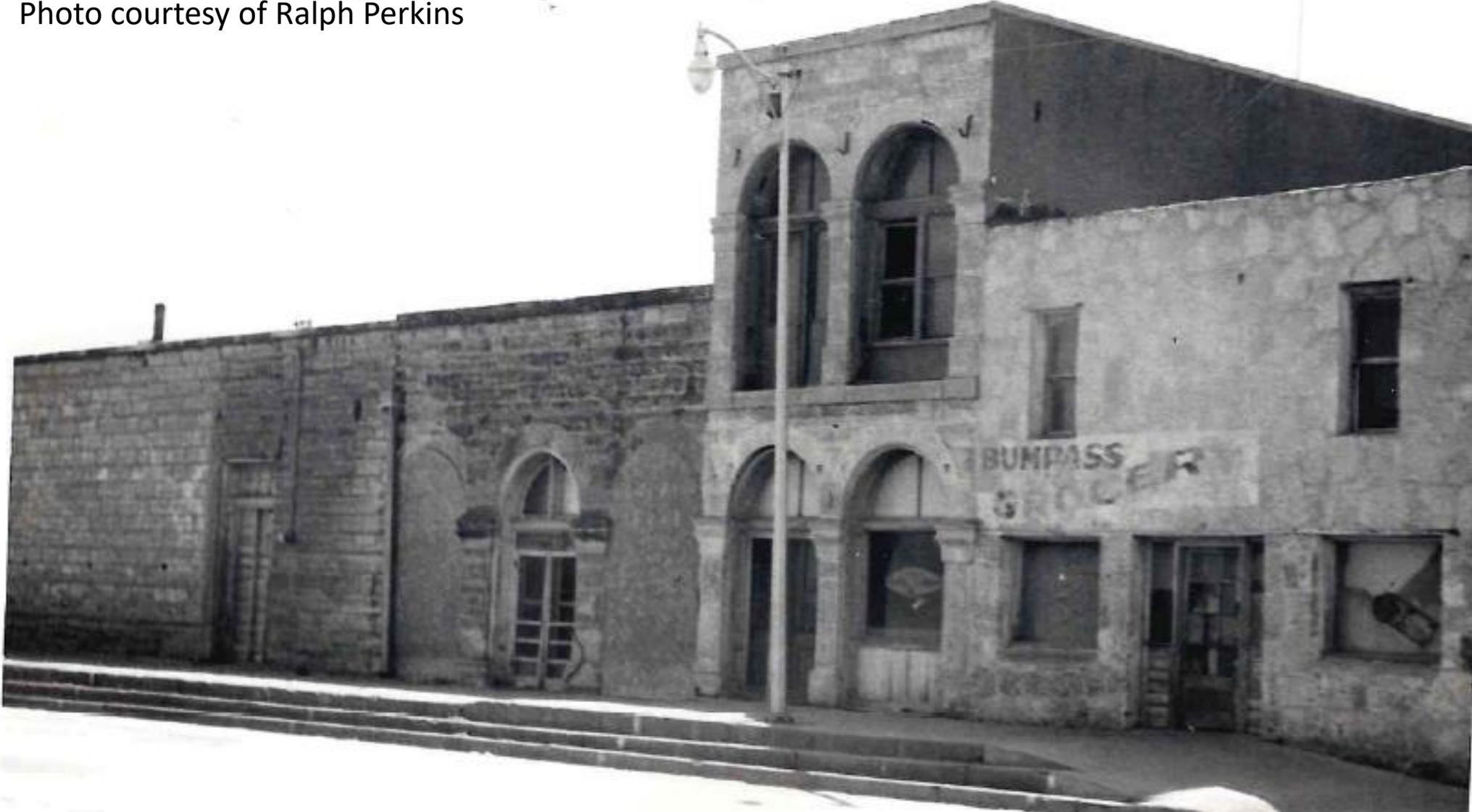
- 1 and 2 story rectangular mercantile building, regular coursed rock face ashlar.
- An arcade of 5 arches are on the first story and an arcade of 2 arches are on the second story. The carved 3 stone semicircular arches are set on springers above carved capitals. The rockface ashlar has dressed margins. Some arches have precisely carved triangular spandrels.
- The front facade has 4 scroll capped columns overlain by a very large stone sill. The pedestals of the columns are also scrolled and heavily weathered. There is a blank stone billboard with a raised molding over the entryway.
- Clever iron work on the east side the building gives the date of construction, 1888. A star-shaped decorative piece (anchor plate?) is also found there.







Photo courtesy of Ralph Perkins





## 401 North East St. First Christian Church

- Built in 1906.
- Alex Ferrier and architects G.W.Krauer and C.C.Hamilton.
- Contract dated March 26, 1906 to John McEmmas and Alex Ferrier for \$1580.
- They were to furnish all labor and material and to build the stone part of said church house and to plaster the walls and agreed to use the best building stone to be had in the vicinity of Seymour.
- In 2006 the Ferrier Families were invited to the First Christian Church's 100 year anniversary.



Source: Ferrier Family Files

- Gothic Revival Style with 3 stone lancet arch elongate windows with cut stone sills. Pointed windows are mosaic glass with louvre shutters.
- Consistent coursing with finely jointed well dressed ashlar and raised beaded mortar.
- There are two masonry finishes (textures) seen on the exterior: “pointed face” and “rock face” on the string course which is 4 courses above grade.
- A thirteen stone segmental arch over a mosaic window provides the entry way into the church.
- Wooden steeple consists of a square base from which rises an octagonal drum topped by an octagonal spire.
- Administration and school building was built a latter date?





**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
OF SEYMOUR

ORGANIZED MARCH, 1880 WITH 12 MEMBERS: MR. AND MRS. N. M. BANDY, MR. BANTEAU, MISS MAY BOONE, JUDGE AND MRS. R. J. BROWNING, MR. AND MRS. BUCK McEWEN, MR. AND MRS. E. A. RANSOM, MR. AND MRS. WINDY TURNER.

EARLY SERVICES WERE HELD IN BAYLOR COUNTY COURTHOUSE. LATER, ROCK BUILDING NEARBY WAS USED. COOPERATING WITH THE MASONIC LODGE, CHURCH BODY ERECTED A 2-STORY BUILDING IN 1884. PRESENT GOTHIC REVIVAL CHURCH OF LOCAL STONE WAS BUILT DURING 1906-1907.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 1970





Photo courtesy of Ralph Perkins



# Seymour Cotton Oil Company

## 1100 N.Washington St.

- Built in 1906.
- Ferrier Bros. & Wirz.
- Processing plant for cotton seed oil.
- Financed by 30 families and managed by R.L.George (1910-1947), Eugene Noah and Rupert Tolson.
- Used as a peanut and soy bean processing plant during WW II.
- Owned by the Anderson-Clayton Company till 1947.
- Property now owned by the Jerry Arnold Family.



Photo courtesy of Donald Ferrier

- One and two story industrial “L” shaped building with combined concrete and stone work.
- Masonry coursed ashlar, dressed with axe and bush hammer. Mortar is enhanced with scribed edging.
- Low angle concrete roof strengthened with steel mesh.
- Large doorways with 13-23 stone segmental arches. Lunettes are composed of stucco. Shiplap doorways have steel metal sills.
- Tall windows with carved stone lintels and sills.
- Partially destroyed by fire in 1918 and rebuilt by Alexander Ferrier. Mortar restoration throughout with red brick repairs.
- Four feet of flooding in 1941 ruined the machinery.
- Full visual examination hindered by vegetation.



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Source: Linda Ferrier Vaught family files

# 100 North Knox Lane Low Rock Wall

- Built by Albert Wirz.
- The eastern quarry for the building stone is to the left of this view.
- To the right was the original Ferrier family home.
- B.E. Tucker was quoted to say he worked in the quarry and “ there was old Dave Ferrier with his team of strong Belgium horses to pull those big stones up”.



Source: Ferrier family Files

# Seymour City Park (East Quarry)

- Landscaped in 1912.
- Remnant Lueder's rock wall surrounds the park.
- Original location of the Lueder's eastern quarry. The ledge of rock was 1 foot thick where they were "squared up and dressed".
- Quarries were thought to be owned by the Ferrier's who used their teams of Belgian horses to haul rock. The Ferrier's needed "big strong horses to go down into the quarry to pull the stone out."
- WPA Project in the 1930's where B.F.Tucker worked for \$1.00 per day.

Source: Ferrier family Files



# Preserved in Stone: A Pictorial Guide to the Native Stone Buildings of Seymour, Texas, 1877 to 1906.

Buildings now gone but not forgotten.



# The Ferrier Family Homestead

## FM 422 and CR 211

Built in 1884. Mary McDaniel (**Reflections of 90 Years**) said on page 33 that “ they (Alex and Dave Ferrier) told them (their parents in Scotland) of their plan. They would file a claim on a quarter-section of this Homestead land, build their parents a good rock house, and it would be their home as long as they lived—if they would leave Scotland and come to America.” Mary said on page 40 of her book that her grandmother, Mary Matthew Ferrier, lived in the home prepared in America by her sons. It appears that Mary Matthew Ferrier resided in the rock house until her death on July 20, 1903. Mary said on page 43 that Jeannie ( Alexander Sr. & Mary Matthew Ferrier’s daughter) and her sons lived on the farm for several years after the death of her father Alexander Sr., in 1889.

Another story that Mary McDaniel said: My dear little grandmother, Mary Matthew Ferrier, had to go to her “kirk” (Scottish for a church) rain or shine. The nights were never too severe for that Scotch lady. She and her daughter Jeannie drove in from the farm to attend services every Sunday night.

Source: Ferrier Family Files

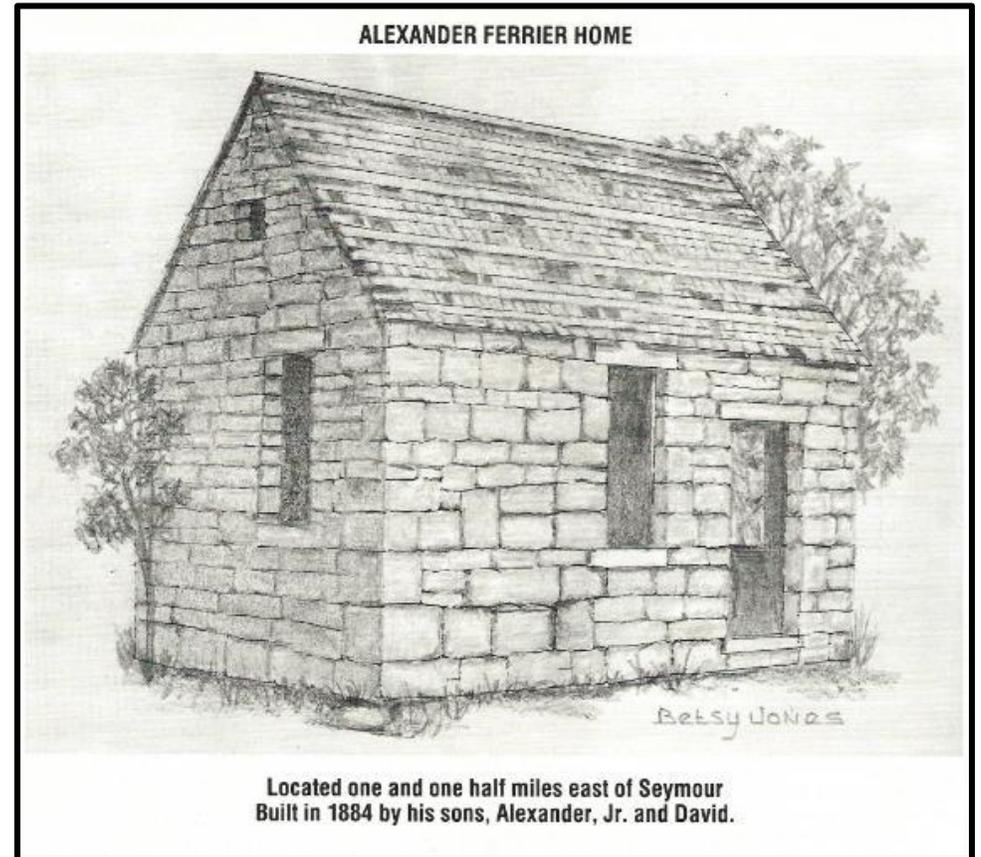


In Donald Ferrier's 2003 interview with Louise Taylor (born 1910, Alex Ferrier, Jr.'s oldest granddaughter) said that the homestead house had three rooms, a shed room and a basement. Louise said that her family moved into the house after her great grandmother passed away and her Aunt Jeannie and son Kerr moved to their own farm in the Sawver Community.

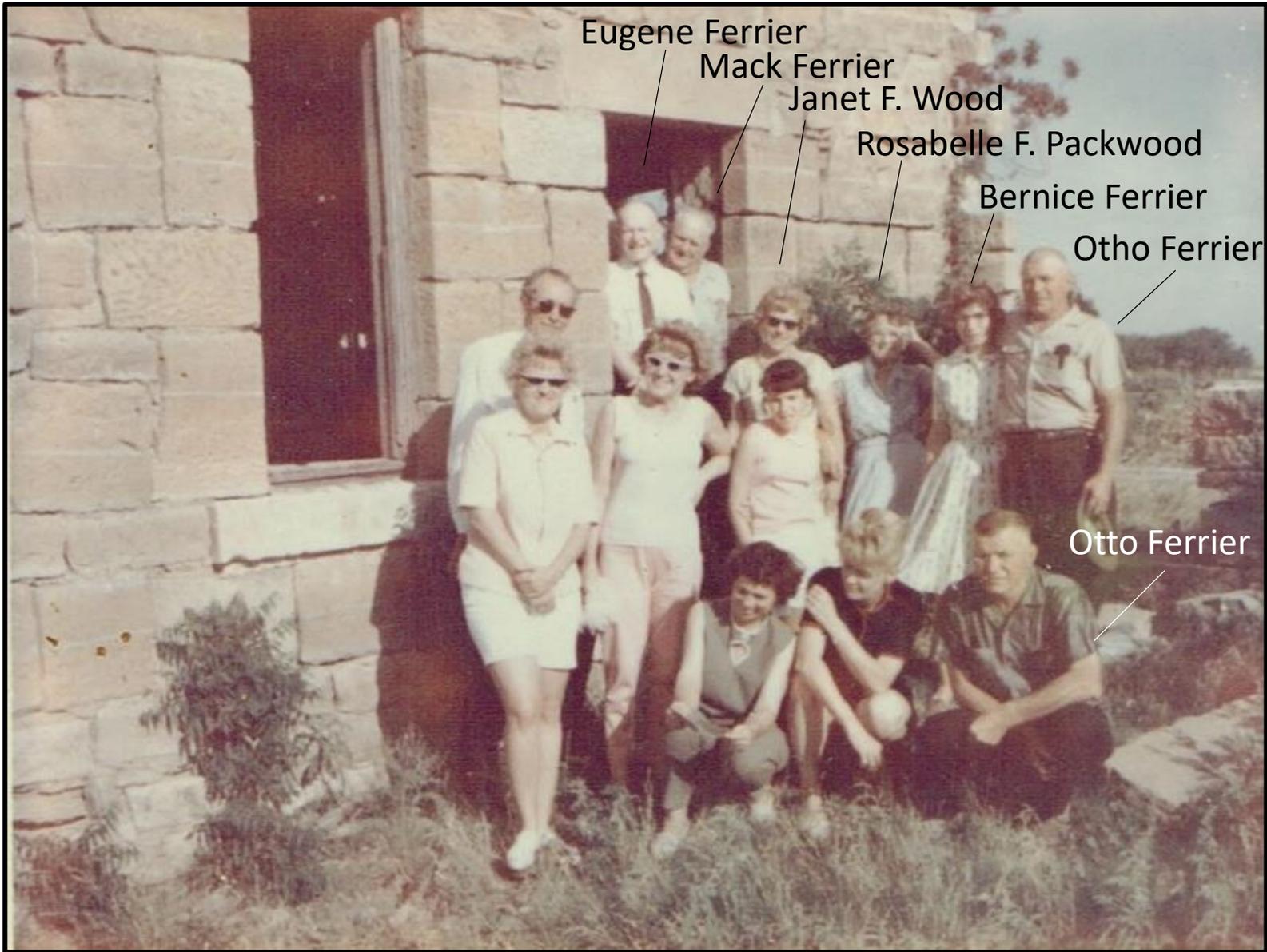




Photo courtesy of Ralph Perkins



Latchstrings (1986), p.146



Eugene Ferrier

Mack Ferrier

Janet F. Wood

Rosabelle F. Packwood

Bernice Ferrier

Otho Ferrier

Otto Ferrier

# The Wirz Family Homestead

Built in 1888 (?) this is the Wirz family homestead . The Wirz and Ferrier lands were adjacent to each other per Mary McDaniel's book on page 45. In *Salt Pork to Sirloin v2*, page 557, under the David L. Wirz family, my aunt wrote that " Albert Wirz, the eldest of seven children, an architect and builder by profession, applied for and received a Homestead Land Grant from the State of Texas for his parents, David and Mary Haller Wirz, the land being located about two miles east of Seymour where he erect a house and barns of native stone..." In the history of Albert Wirz family in *Salt Pork to Sirloin V2* on page 555 is this statement: "Our father (Albert Wirz) filed for patent land in Baylor County on east FM road 422, January 2, 1888 and received a deed April 4, 1890. I believe that during my childhood Albert's daughter, Anna Lena Wirz Kessler and her husband lived in that house".

Source: Ferrier Family Files



Sam Mooney said “Mack Kessler and his family lived there with Duffy [McDuffy Kessler, Albert Wirz’s son-in-law]. After, the house and part of property was sold a couple of times [to] Pete and Sandy Peters and now, Greg and Leslie Hardin. Dick Wirz owns the farmland from that place”. [Dick Wirz is Albert Wirz’s grandson.]

The three people in the photo are Janet Ferrier Wood, Eugene Ferrier, and Mack Ferrier. Janet and Mack were Alexander (Jr.) and Rosa Wirz Ferrier’s children and Albert Wirz’s niece and nephew.



# L.A. Donnell Home

## N. Oak St. and W. McLain St.

- Built in 1881.
- Charles Eriksson Holman, stonemason.
- Built for the L.A. Donnell family, who arrived from Arkansas in 1879.
- One and a half story home designed by L.A. Donnell.
- L.A. Donnell was a County Commissioner, Justice of the Peace, Census enumerator and Civil War Veteran. Mr Donnell also taught school in the basement.
- An addition was built in 1903.
- “Limestone quarried from near the Brazos River was used on the exterior, and wood from Fort Worth”.
- “The outside limestone was cut smooth whereas most buildings in Seymour were roughcut”.



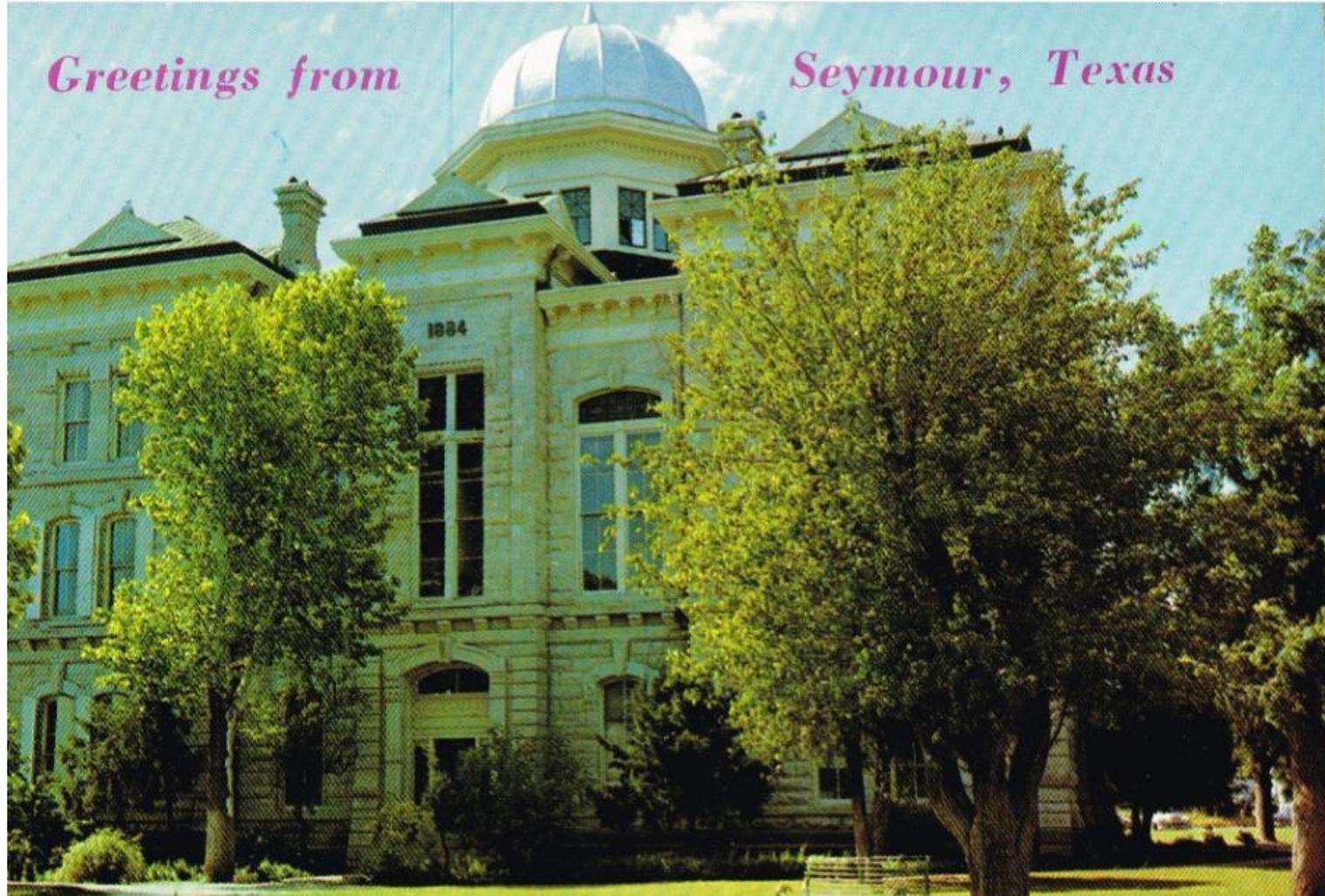
# 1<sup>st</sup> Baylor County Courthouse

- Built 1884.
- J.E.Flanders architect and Aubrey, Salon and Laude, General Contractors.
- Ferrier Bros. & Wirz, were subcontractors for construction and stone work.
- Contract records a bid of \$40,500.
- Original cupola.
- Rock quarried from west edge of the town of Seymour, Tx.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Baylor County Courthouse

- Built in 1884 and demolished in 1967.
- Redesigned dome cupola in 1912.
- Donald Ferrier relates that most of the original stone buildings did not have central heating or air conditioning or elevators.
- Original court house walls were 3 feet thick.



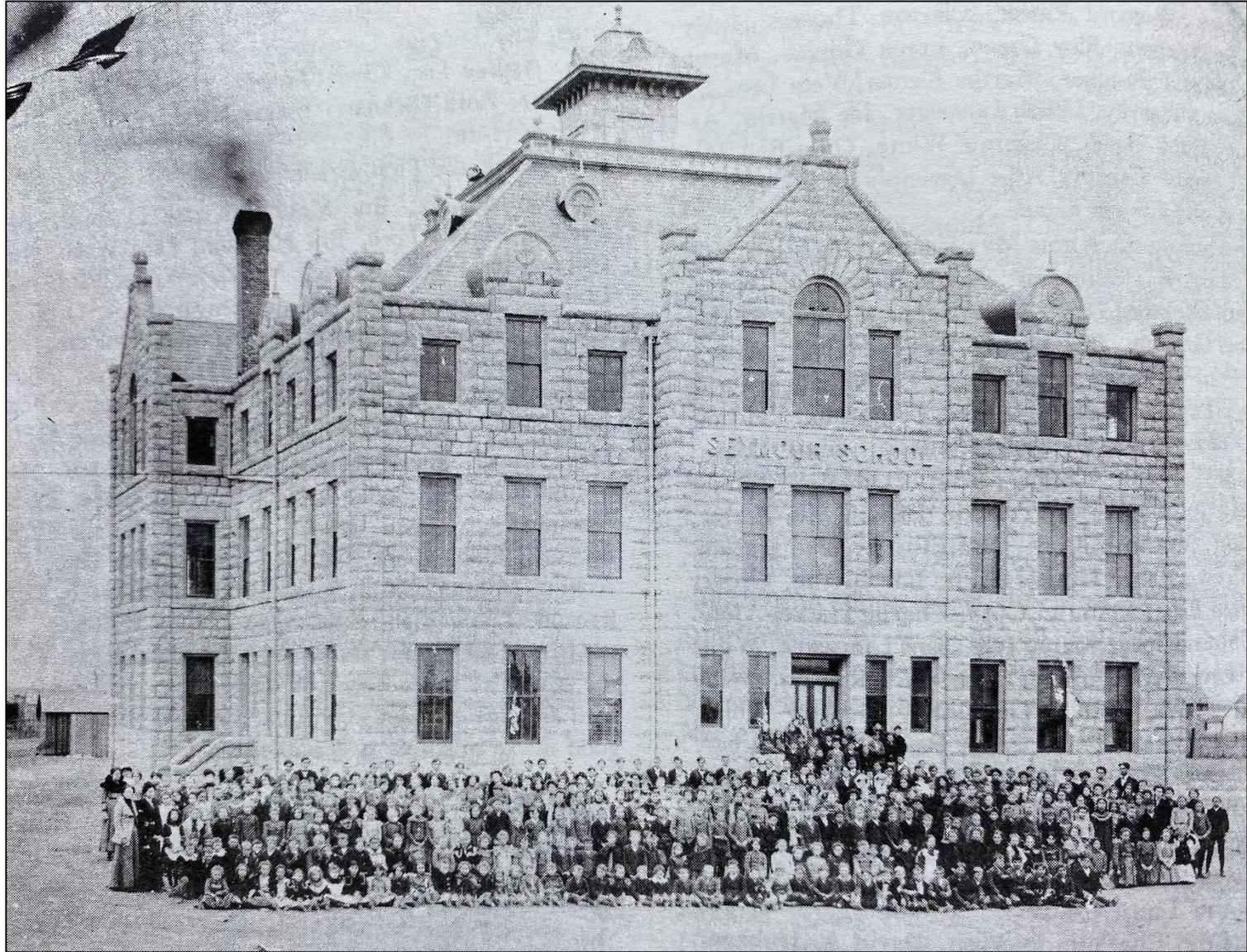
# Shackleford County Courthouse

- Shackleford County Courthouse as it stands today, was also designed by J.E. Flanders. Built in 1884.
- The Ferrier Bros. and Wirz worked on this building prior coming to Seymour.
- The local quarries containing the Permian age Beadmountain and Elm Creek Limestones were used for this building.



# Seymour Grade School 300 East Idaho

- Built 1903.
- Ferrier Bros. & Wirz.
- Demolished in 1949.
- Need more fun facts.

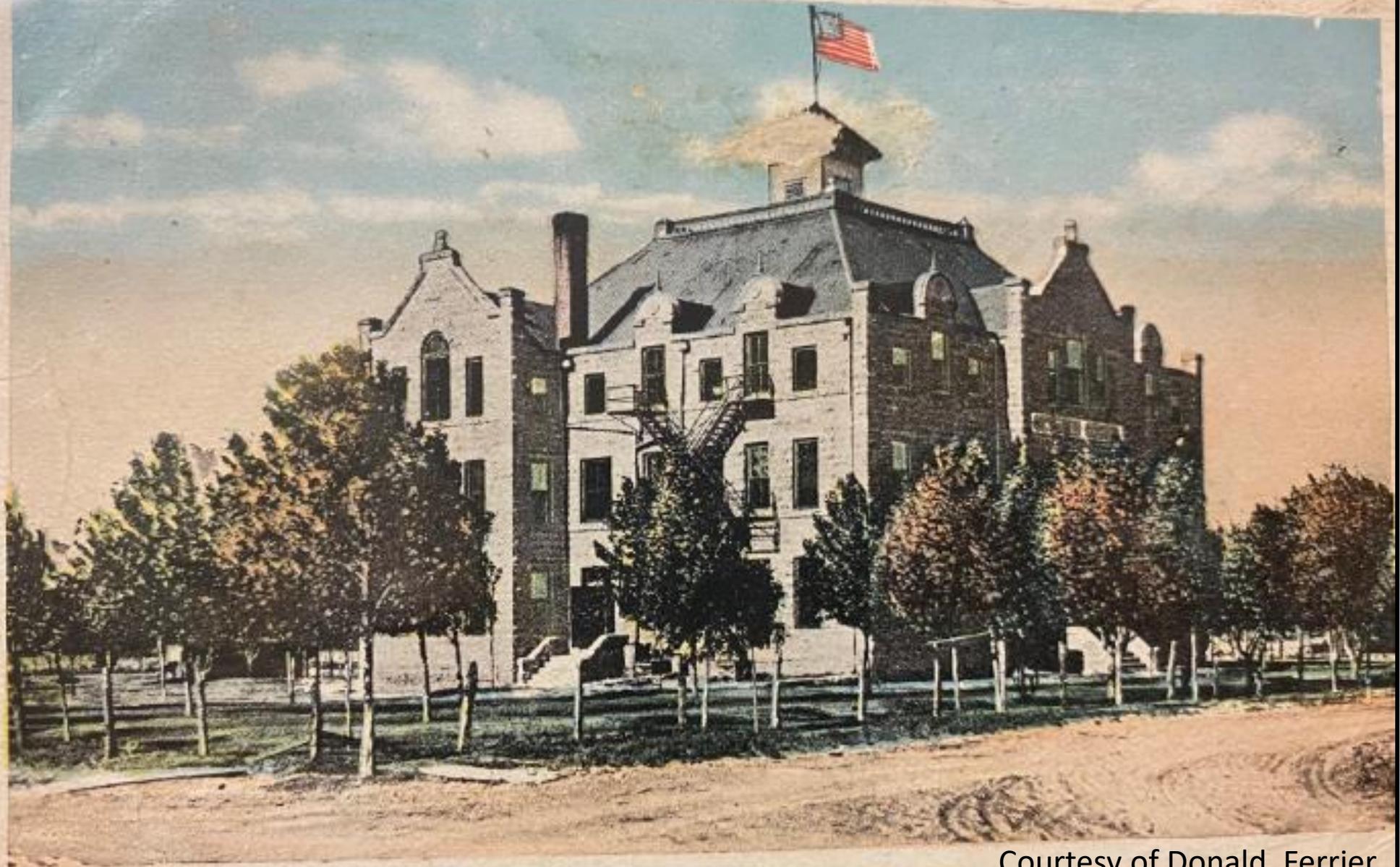


# Seymour Grade School 300 East Idaho

3<sup>rd</sup> floor removed  
possibly in the 1930's.



**SEYMOUR GRADE SCHOOL**

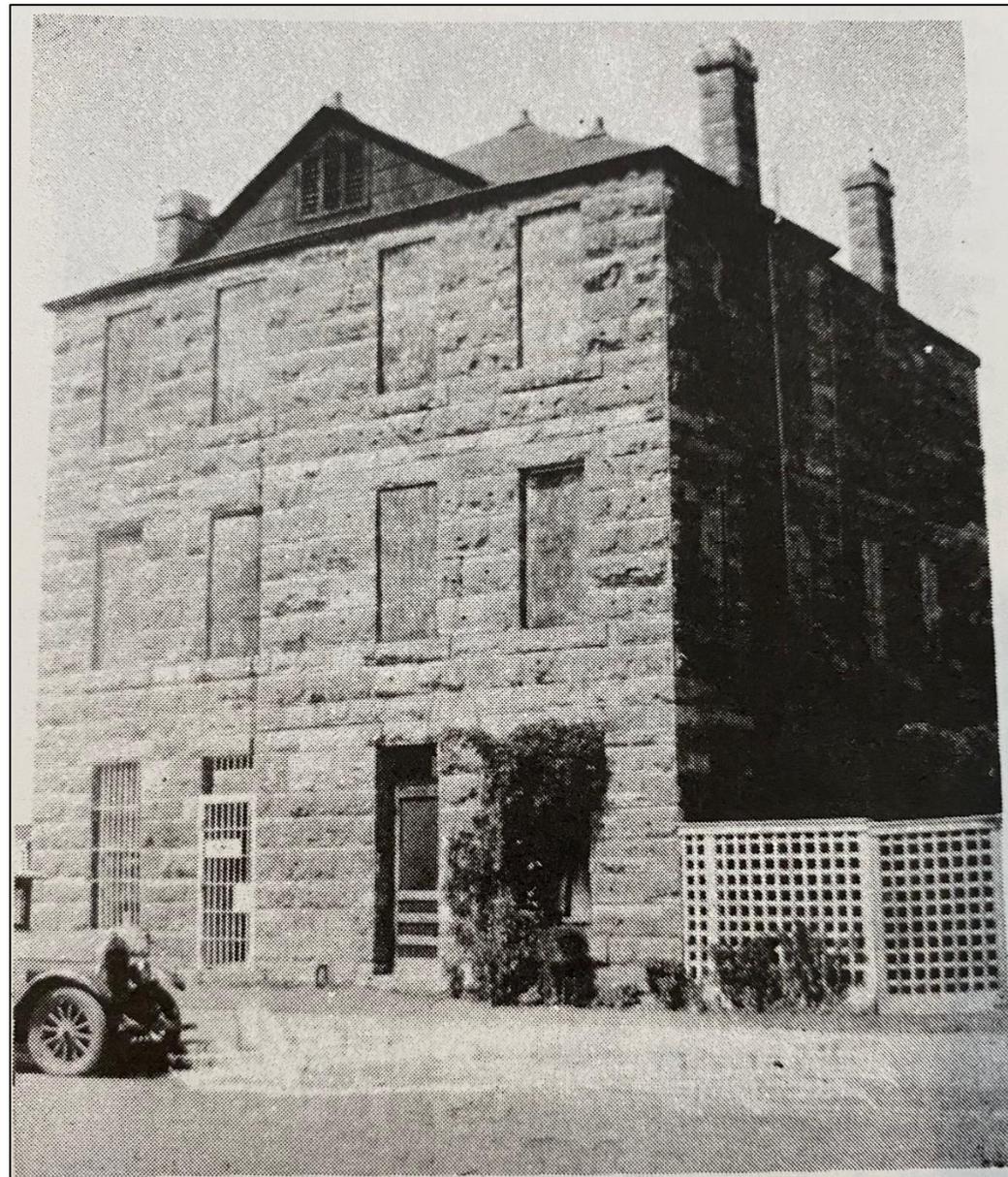


HIGH SCHOOL, SEYMOUR TEXAS

Courtesy of Donald Ferrier

# Baylor County Jail Corner of Main and Reiman Streets

- Built in 1908.
- Ferrier Bros.
- Contracted for \$6000.
- Demolished circa 1968.
- Need more fun facts.



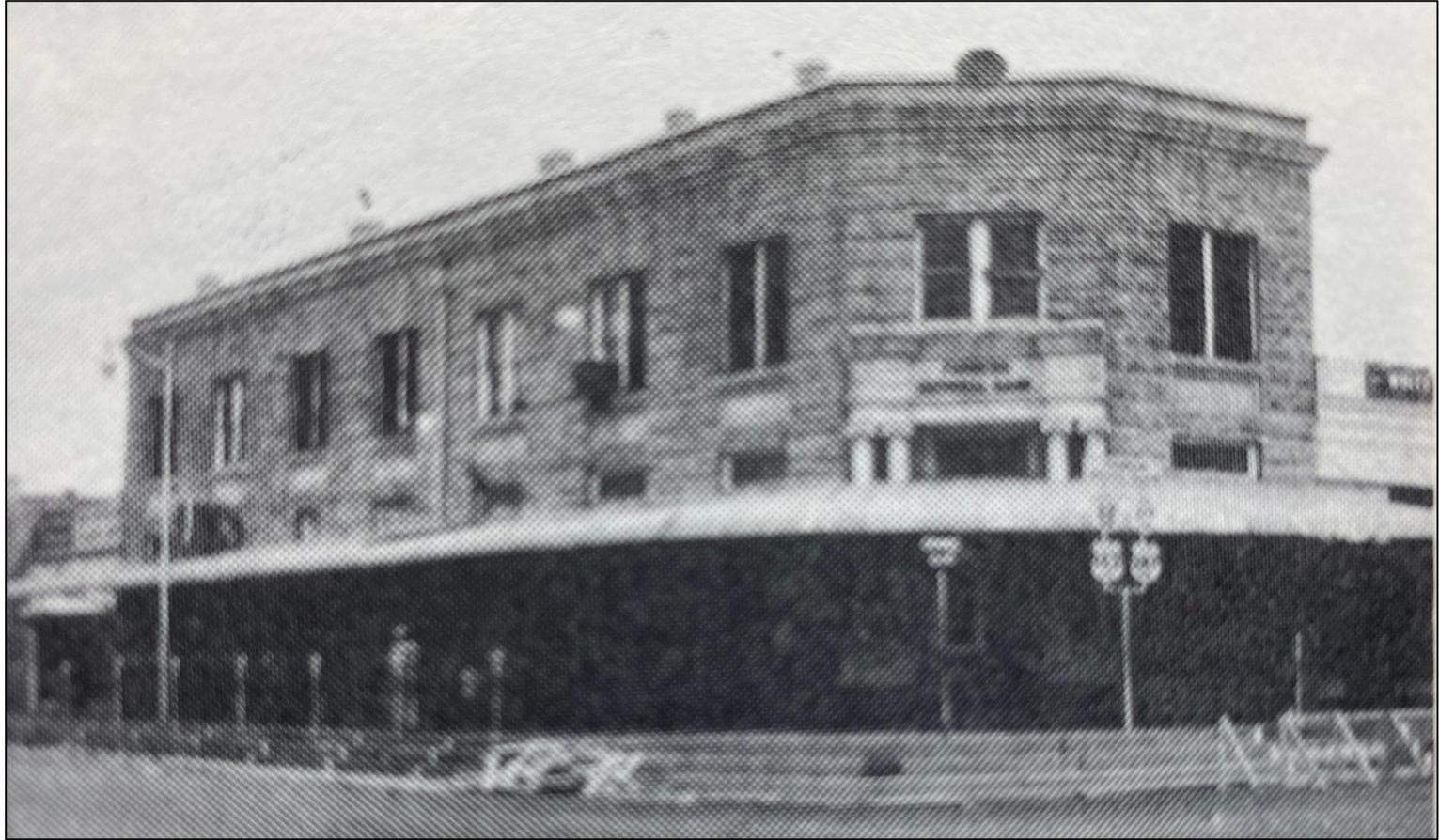
**BAYLOR COUNTY JAIL HOUSE in 1934.**



Courtesy of Baylor County  
Historical Commission

# Farmers National Bank Corner of Washington and East McLain St.

- Built 1907.
- Ferrier Bros. & Wirz
- Remodeled in 1952 and demolished in 1964.
- Now Interbank Location



Bird's Eye View, Seymour, Texas.

Circa 1915



Courtesy of Mark Albaugh

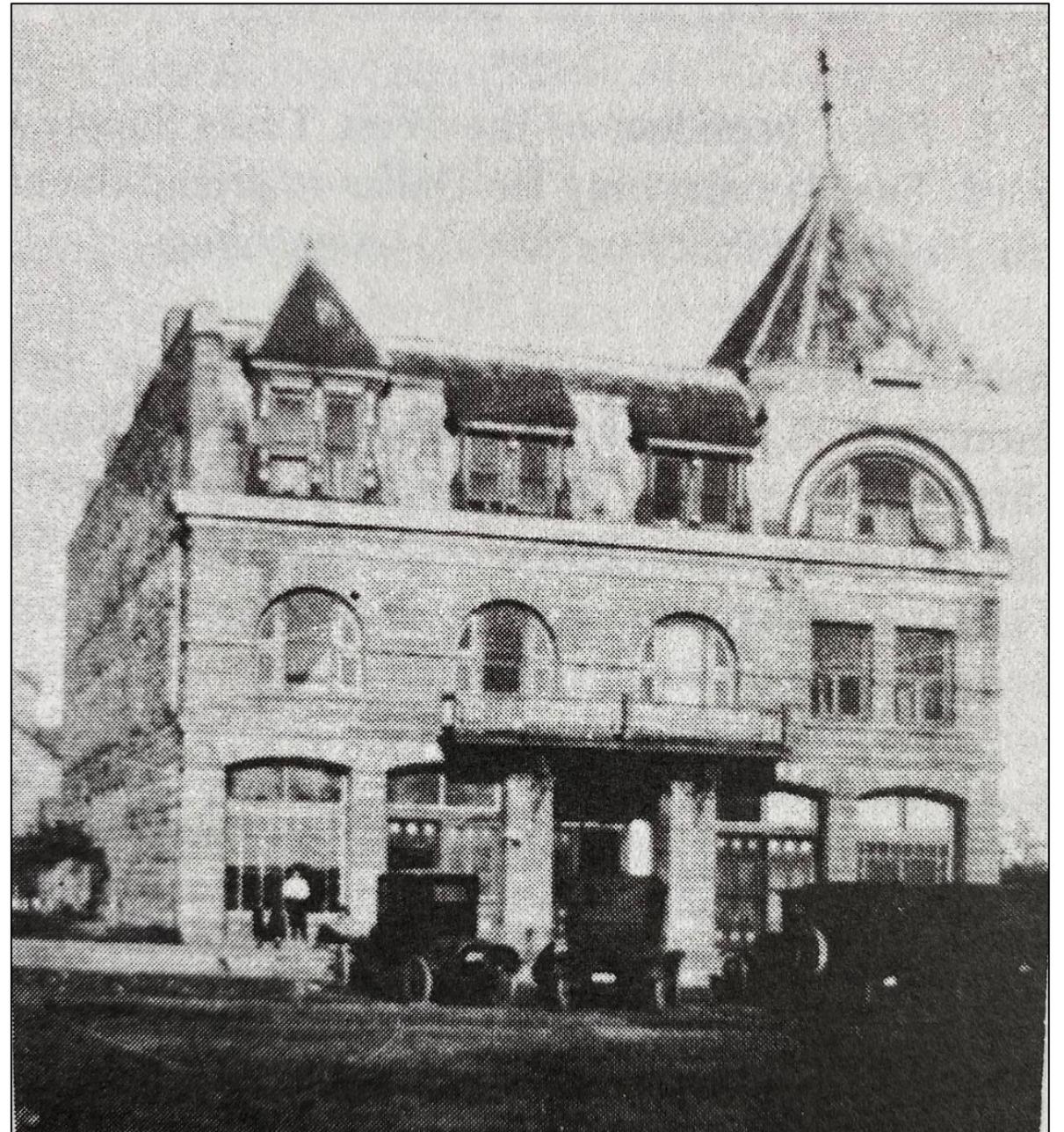
# First National Bank Corner of Washington and West Morris St.

- Built 1891.
- Ferrier Bros. & Wirz
- Demolished in ??
- Distinctive arched windows and doors were common in Ferrier Bros. and Wirz buildings.
- Now People's Bank location.



# Washington Hotel Washington and Oregon Streets

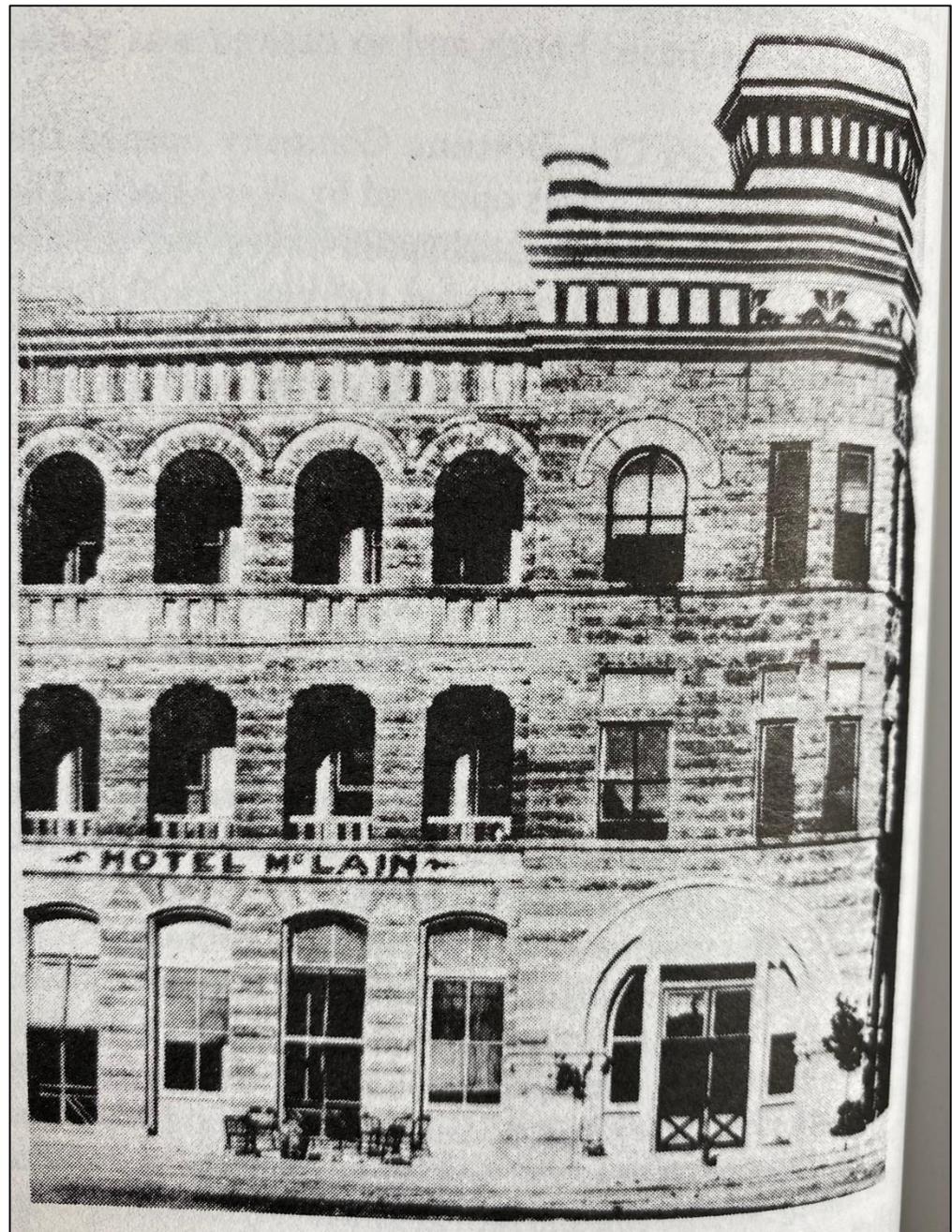
- Built in ??
- Ferrier Bros. & Wirz
- Demolished in ??
- Seen on 1904 Sanborn map.



# Mclain Hotel

## 116 North Main Street

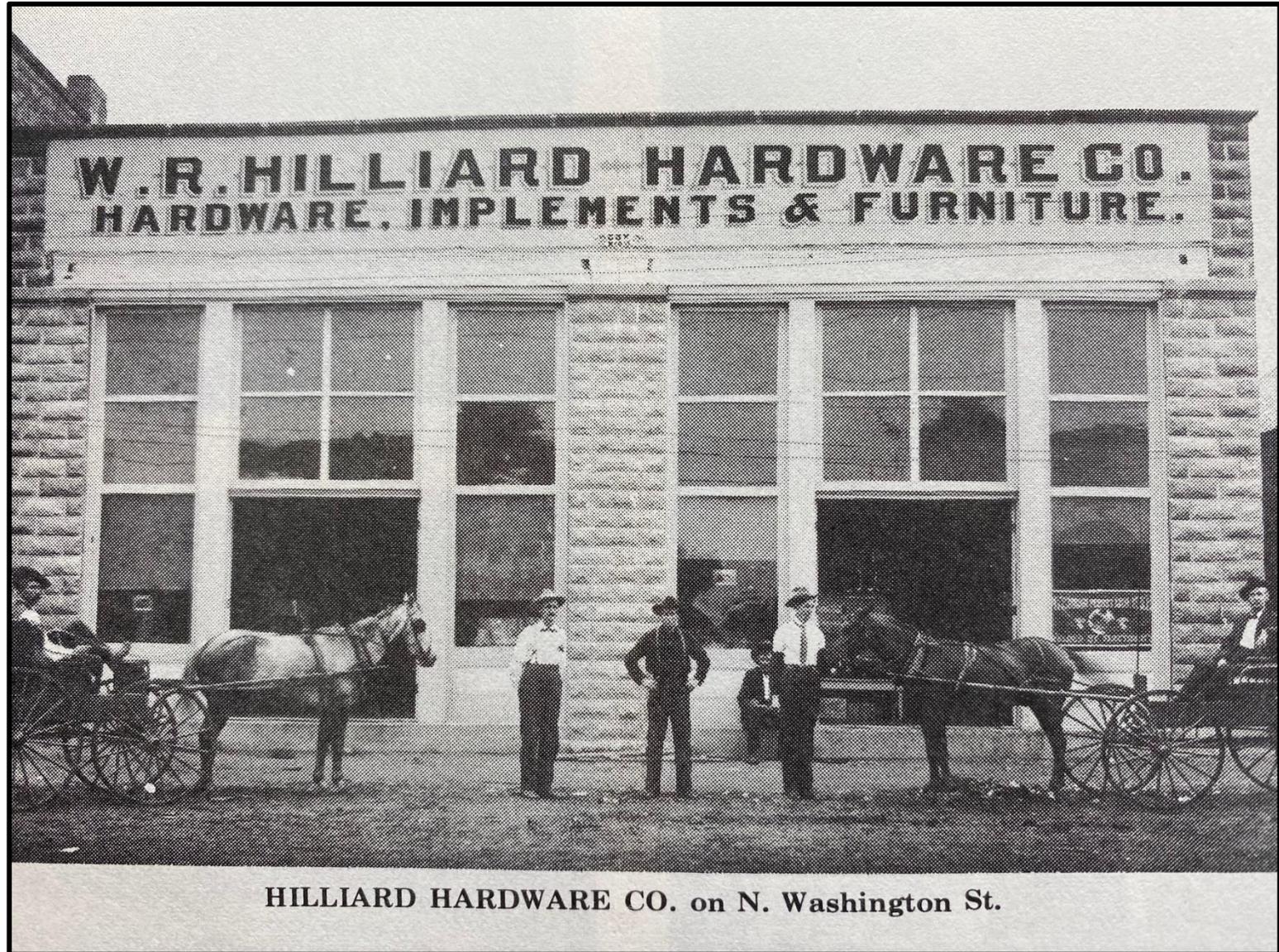
- Built 1891.
- Ferrier Bros. & Wirz
- Contracted for \$150,000 and stone work, \$17,000.
- Stone foundation blocks were 6' wide, 6' long and 18" thick, quarried from the banks of the Brazos River.
- Several prominent banks and the Post Office were also tenants.
- Destroyed by fire in 1920 along with the paper assets of the Post Office.
- Hoyt Whiteside, uncle of Clyde Whiteside was killed in the fire.
- Now location of Vita Auto Parts.





# Hilliard Hardware N. Washington Street

Hilliard Hardware, a one story rock 45' x 140' building, was built in 1906 by W.R Hilliard, C.W.Carter and Wesley Harrison of Baylor County. It was built on two lots north of the 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank Building. W.R. Hilliard was Publisher of The Baylor County Banner and died in 1920.



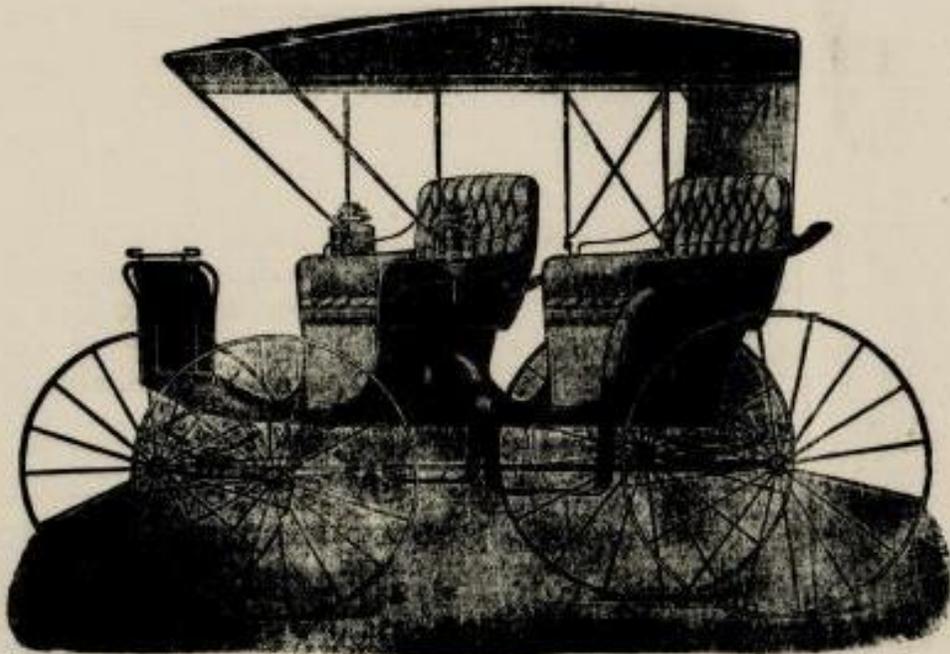
HILLIARD HARDWARE CO. on N. Washington St.

# 500 West Idaho

Albert Wirz built the home of W.R. Hilliard in 1906 from pre-formed concrete blocks, giving the house a “cut stone” look (Latchstrings , pages. 30 and 128).



P & O



## The Superior Drill

The name tells a true story. This is a model drill which has never failed to please

## The Success Sulky

Since the fine rains the ground plows fine and if you need a plow, let us show you the Success. It is a simple, strong, durable sulky that is built right and will do the work just as you want it done.

This is to certify that I have used this "Enterprise Surry" continuously for 14 (fourteen) years, and for five years it was driven to school, and stood out and took the weather without a shed for these five winters. I have paid out \$6.00 for repairs for this surry in fourteen years.

It is in good shape and will last for many years yet.  
R. F. D. No. 4. W. J. HARGETT, Moody, Texas.

## *Don't Forget*

that we sell the Bain, Newton and Fish Wagons and if you need one we will be glad to trade with you.

# *W. R. Hilliard Hardware Company*

Seymour and Bomarton

P & O

Baylor County Banner

Sept 8<sup>th</sup>, 1911

# R.C. Plants House

## North Plants St.??

- House owned by Raymond Cook Plants (1852-1939) rancher and banker.
- Ferrier Bros. & Wirz.
- Built in 1903 with native stone, salvaged from the Washington Hotel.
- Demolished 1952
- Owned a local sand and gravel quarry.
- Family wrote 5 historical books about West Texas ranching and recollections...

Latchstrings on page 94 has a description of the house that “faced east on Cooke Street”

A photo of the original R.C.Plant’s house is still needed.

# Acknowledgements

This WMNH pictorial would not have been possible without the support of Donald Ferrier and Linda (Ferrier) Vaught.

Baylor County Historial Commission

Janice Vita Thornhill, Daphna Byrket Simpson, Robert Hejl, Diane Burnett, Bob Elliott, Janette Roden Crownover and Anita

McLarty Donnell

Albert Benedito (Bennett) Rodgriquez Family

Cliff Porter Family

Carl Porter Family

Sam (Wirz) Mooney Family

Curtis and Faye Langston Family

Jerry Ann Crawford Family

Gerald Arnold Family

Ralph Perkins Family

Ken George Family

Monty Morris Family

Scott Russell Sanders and Jeffery A. Wolin

Peter Holterhoff

Tom S. Patty

Matthew J. Flis

Becky Trammel

Alex Palma, The Carpenter's Company, Philadelphia, Pa.

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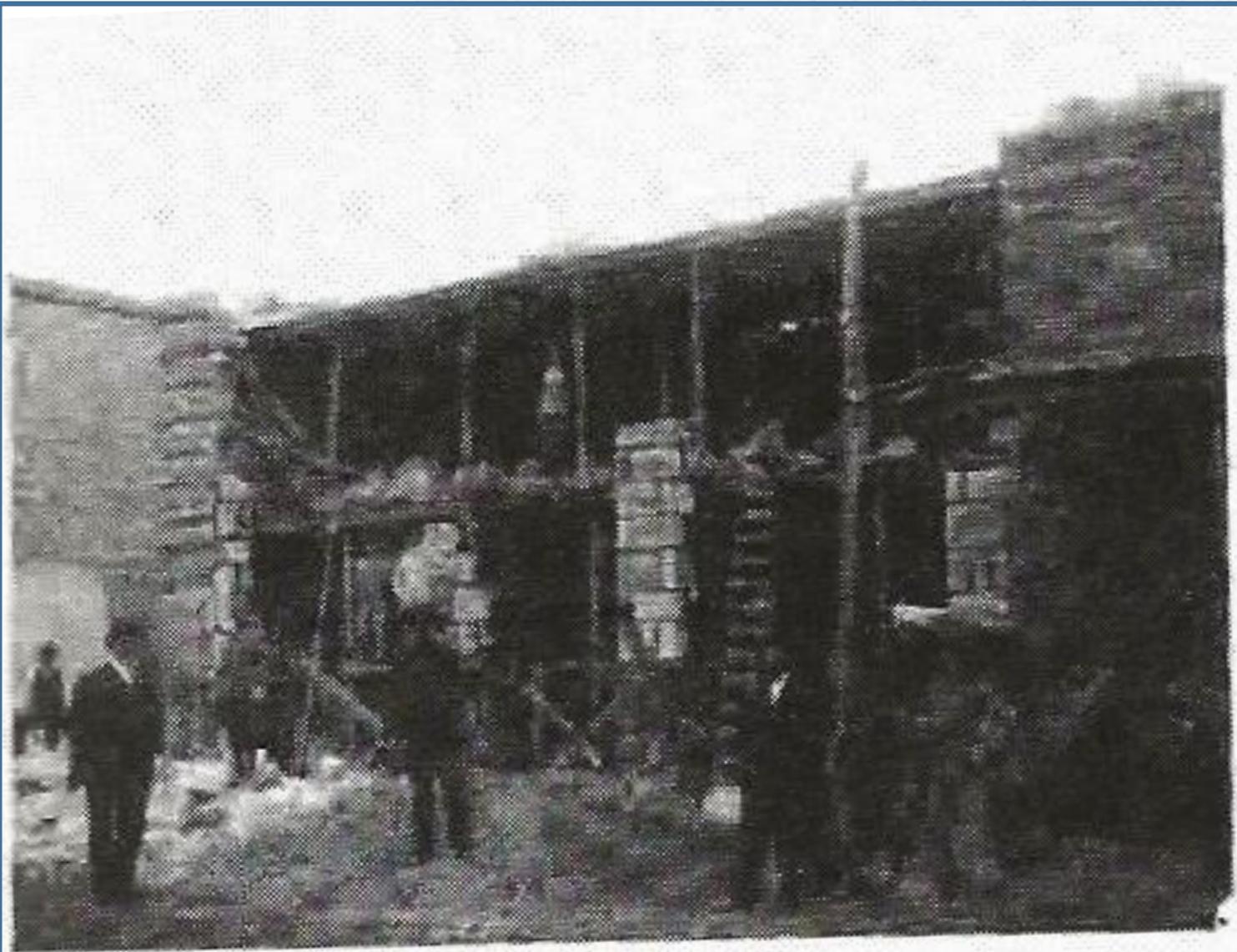
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Salt Pork to Sirloin: The History of Baylor County Texas from 1878-1977, V.II., Baylor County Historical Assn:, Nortex Offset Publications, Texas. pp. 565.



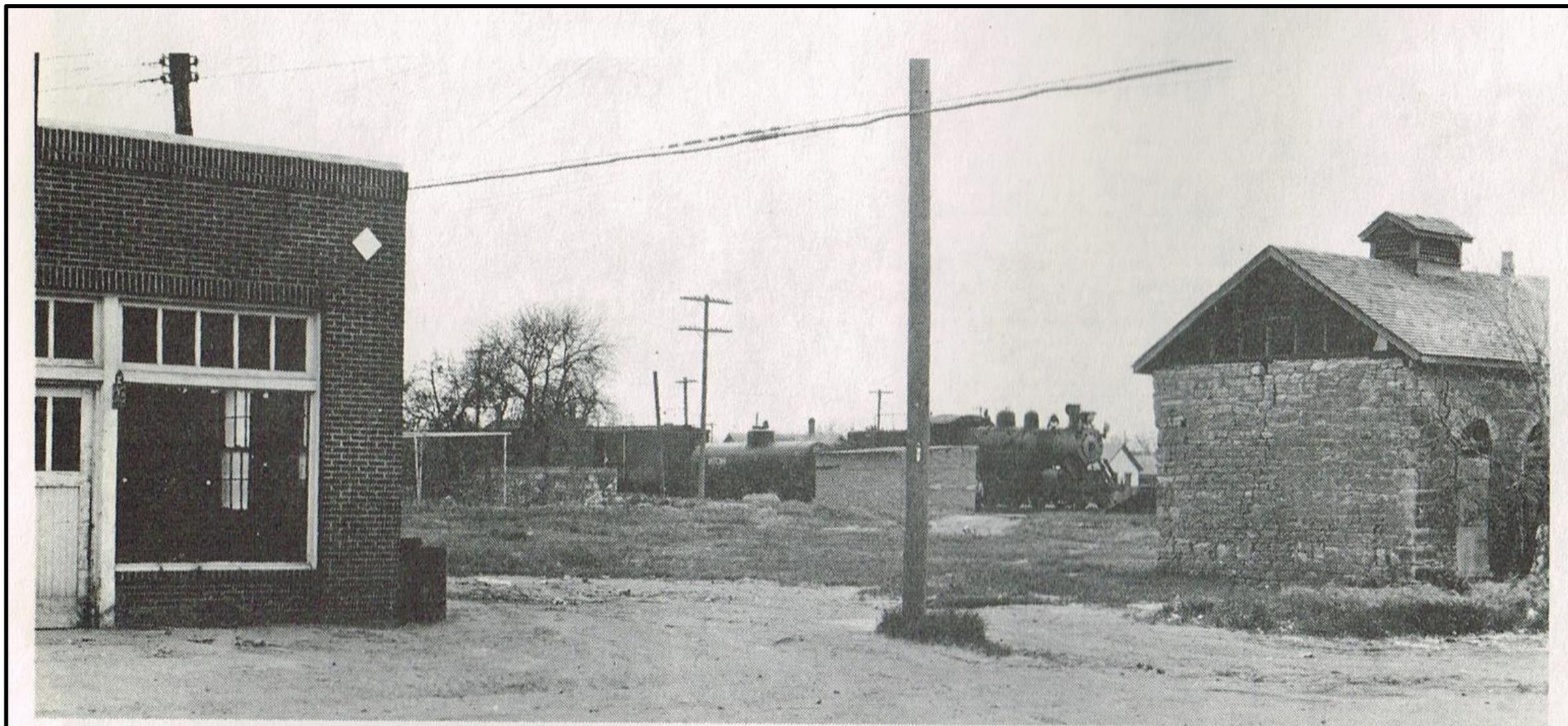
FIG. 7.—DRILLING HOLES FOR SPLITTING STONE WITH PLUG AND FEATHERS.

Merrill, G.P., 1891. Stones for Building and Decoration. Wiley Press, pp.453.



**BUILDING OF ALBERT A. WIRZ—Last man on right is Albert A. Wirz.**

SaltPork V.II, p. 20



**RAILROAD SCENE, 1938, rock building on right one of First Buildings in Seymour.**

Seymour News  
September 29<sup>th</sup>, 1899

“Seymour has the finest building stone in the state, in the greatest abundance, cropping out along the banks of the river. Very easy to quarry. She has one of the finest and most substantial court house in the state, an iron bridge spanning the Brazos, numerous stone houses completed and occupied, a two story stone bank building costing \$20,000.”