

Pleasant Hill
 City of Tyler
 Historical Subject Marker
 Application Form



This form constitutes a public request to the City of Tyler to consider approval of an Official City of Tyler Historical Subject Marker. The City of Tyler Historical Preservation Board will review the request and make the final determination of eligibility and therefore may approve the Subject Marker designation. Filing of the application is for the purpose of providing basic information to be used in the evaluation process. This form is to be used for subject marker requests only. Please see separate forms for either City of Tyler Landmark or Half-Mile of History Programs.

Subject Marker Definition

Subject markers are educational in nature and reveal aspects of local history important to a community or region. These markers honor topics such as church congregations, schools, communities, businesses, events and individuals. Subject markers are placed at sites that have historical associations with the topics, but no legal restriction is placed on the use of the property or site, although the Historical Preservation Board must be notified if the marker is ever to be relocated. **The Historical Preservation Board will only consider topics which do not have an existing State or National Subject Marker.**

Application Requirements

Any individual or group may apply to the City of Tyler to request a City of Tyler Historical Subject Marker for what it deems a worthy topic. Only complete marker applications that contain all the required elements can be accepted or processed by the Historical Preservation Board.

The required elements are:

- Application Form
- Narrative History
- Supporting documentation, including photographs

Photographs are required. Do not send original photos. All submitted materials will become property of the City of Tyler and its Historical Preservation Board.

- Narrative histories must include separate sections on:
 - a. **Background** which represents a broader set of facts that explain why the event, site or structure should be considered historic and the enduring contributions to the area.
 - b. **Overview** of the key facts in chronological order with clearly documented historic connections to the area.

Historical Subject Marker

Criteria

1. **Age:** Most topics marked with subject markers must date back at least 50 years, although historic events may be marked after 30 years, and historic individuals may be marked, or may be mentioned in a historical marker text, after they have been deceased 10 years. The Historical Preservation Board may waive age requirements for topics of overwhelming local, state or national importance, although exceptions are rarely granted and the burden of proof for all claims and documentation is the responsibility of the narrative author.

Subject age or event date:

The original structure was built in 1908

Present structure was built in 1933

2. **Historical significance:** A topic is considered to have historical significance if it had influence, effect or impact on the course of history or cultural development; age alone does not determine significance. It is expected that most historical markers will deal with local history and a local level of significance; however state and national importance can be considered.

Provide summary of historical significance:

In 1908, on the east side of Tyler, then known as Hickory Hill, located at the northwest corner of North Horace Avenue and East Oakwood Street, the Reverend Ed King called a group of dedicated persons to organize a church that was much needed in this area. From this meeting the Kings Church was born. The congregation would meet under the trees in the open air, on the lot purchased by James Adams. The original bell that was used to call the congregation together in its early days is still a working bell and has been incorporated into the monument signage in front of the Church. The Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church has made countless contributions to the east Tyler area including leadership conferences, youth seminars and Martin Luther King's Day Ecumenical community service. The church, in the original location, is a vibrant, growing congregation in the east Tyler area community.

(attach additional sheets if necessary)

Proposed Marker Topic (Official title will be determined by the Historical Preservation Board):

The Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church

Street Address of Marker Site: 502 North Horace Avenue

Will the marker be placed at the actual site of the topic being marked? Yes No

If the answer is no, provide the distance and directions to the actual location from the marker (i.e. 100 yards east).

N/A

Marker Placement:

Include a map that indicates where the subject marker is to be placed with a precise verbal description of marker placement (e.g. northwest corner of 3rd and Elm, or FM 1411, 2.6 miles east of McWhorter Creek): Near the congregation bell in front of the Church.

Historical Subject Marker

TYPE AND SIZE OF SUBJECT MARKER

As part of its review process, the Historical Preservation Board will determine the appropriate size of the marker and provide options, if any, for the approved topic based on its own review criteria, including, but not exclusive of, historical significance, replication of information in other markers, and the amount of available documented information provided in the application narrative.

*For markers without posts, the applicant must receive special approval from the Historic Preservation Board. Such approval shall be based upon the following:

- Submittal of a detailed plan for where the marker will be mounted, including the surface to which it will be placed (masonry, metal, wood); and
- A statement of why a marker with a post is not feasible or preferred.

Nominator's Information

Name of person making nomination: Reverend Jerome Milton

Address: 502 North Horace Avenue

City: Tyler

State: TX **Zip:** 75702

Daytime telephone: 903-590-6320

Email: rjmilton@tkgorman.net

Please submit application to:

Mail to: OR

City of Tyler
 Planning and Zoning
 Department
 Attention: Subject Marker
 P.O. Box 2039
 Tyler, Texas 75710

Hand Deliver to:

City of Tyler
 Planning and Zoning
 Department
 Attention: Subject Marker
 Tyler Development Center
 423 W. Ferguson
 Tyler, Texas

Case Number: _____

Date Received: _____

Historic Preservation Board Date: _____

Signed By: _____

City Council Date: _____

BACKGROUND

History of Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church

In the year 1908 on the East Side of Tyler, which was then known as Hickory Hill, the Reverend Ed King called a group of dedicated persons to organize a church that was much needed in this area? The group included Sisters: Armanda McDaniel, Judie Scott, Kate Evans, Pearlie Ware, Bessie Moore, and Johnnie Harvey. Brothers: Aszee Scott, Marshall Lincoln, Alex Johnson, Sampie Ware, and Rev. Wagner. Judy Scott served as treasurer, Bessie Moore, secretary, and Rev. Ed. King, Pastor.

The group met one Wednesday night to organize and give the church a name. It was located on the corner of North Horace and East Oakwood streets and was named the "Kings Church".

A lot was finally purchased from James Adams. The group began to have service in the open using sawed-off two by twelve planks for seats and boxes and posts around for coal oil and light torches and bottles for lights, sometimes using pine knots.

BACKGROUND

Later, a church was built under a brush arbor. As the church continued to grow, they bought a tent. The membership continued to grow and they decided to build a frame building. The first wooden edifice was erected about 1930. Reverend Sid Stevens then named the church Pleasant Hill Baptist Church.

The first Deacons and Trustees were Will Martin, Aszee Scott, and Tom Shackelford.

The church has had eighteen pastors, the first being Rev. Ed. King. Rev. Russell followed Rev. King as pastor. He served only a short time before moving to Oklahoma. Rev. Jeff Brown became pastor and he too stayed only a short time. Rev. Perry Ware became pastor and served several years. Rev. Grady Stevenson became pastor. The membership at this time had grown to 450 members. Rev. Stevens remained until he was called to Corsicana, Texas to a larger congregation.

Later, Rev. Humphrey became our pastor. Under his leadership, the church continued to grow. The old building became dangerous for services to be held in.

The building was demolished and the present structure was built in 1933. Rev. Humphrey left in 1934.

Our next pastor was the late Rev. J.M. McChristian. He served until sometime in the 40's. During his pastorate, three deacons and trustees were added to the staff. They were Brothers: Hope McDaniels, C. F. Downs, and Tom Sims. After Rev McChristian left, Rev. Moses P. Reagan was called to pastor. It was under his leadership that the parsonage was built and new names were added to the deacon board: Deacons L.A. Ware, Frank Black, and Grant Williams.

Later, Rev. W.A.I. McDonald was called as pastor. He stayed only one year and moved to Longview to a larger church. (Bethel) Our next pastor was Rev. F. L. Spencer. During his tenure of service, the corner stone was laid. Then for a second time, we called Rev. J. M. McChristian who later went to Austin, Texas to a larger church. Then Rev. Ridley Thomas came to Pleasant Hill and served as pastor one year. During this year, minor repairs were made to the building and the church was painted.

Rev. George Johnson was called to serve in 1961. During his pastorate, installed and ten members were added to the congregation.

After the departure of Rev. Johnson, we were without a pastor for a while. Then Rev. Zephyr Foster came to pastor. Under his wonderful leadership, the church made great progress. After Rev. Foster resigned, Rev. J.A. Thomas was called to pastorate of the church. During the time he was our pastor, the church was remodeled to its present status and was rededicated. Rev. Thomas served until his death in 1976.

After the death of Re. J. A. Thomas, Rev. Isaiah Thomas became pastor after about a year. Under his leadership, a new chapel organ was purchased; a podium was purchased, plans were drawn and funds established for the building of a fellowship hall and the church bricked, forty five members were reinstated and united with the church during his pastorate. Rev. Thomas served for several years before accepting a church in Bryan, Texas.

Rev. Lester D. Morrison was called to serve as pastor of Pleasant Hill in 1982. Under his leadership, choir robes were purchased for the youth department. Many souls were added to the church along with other accomplishments. Senior Citizens' Day was instituted, the L.D. Morrison Singers were organized, the Fellowship Hall was added, five deacons were ordained. These deacons were Brothers Curlie Alexander, Johnny Alexander, Raymond Goss, Beny Mumphrey, and Ross Washington. In addition, Rev. Rada Blevins was Ordained as a Minister. The adjoining property on the North of the church was purchased. Rev. Morrison departed in November 1986 to pastor the Greater True Light Baptist Church in Houston, Texas after the death of his father.

On January 4, 1987, Reverend Jerome R. Milton assumed the duties as pastor of Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church. During his pastorate, much has been accomplished in the life of the church and community.

The Leadership Conference and Youth Seminars were established to equip our leaders and youth for

Christian service. The president's council and office of Activity coordinator were organized to enhance church development along with the restructure of the Young People's Department, with emphasis on church-training and systematic Bible study. The Young Adult Department was revived and organized. Rev. Milton is also responsible for the first joint fellowship of a Black and White congregation during 11: 00 AM services through a televised service with Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, and inspired our congregation to engage in this historical and spiritual service with the accompany of a musical ensemble under the direction of Sid. Lois K. Black and Sis. Pamela Walker. Members singing in this ensemble were Sisters: Patsy Lane, Rachael /Thompson, Charlotte Flowers, Mable Mumphrey, Robbie Bagley, and Doris Caldwell.

Under the spiritual guidance of Rev. Milton, the church has remolded the parsonage into a Christian Education Activity Center for the expanded ministries of the church and community. During his tenure, we have an increase of seventy-two (72) existing members. Rev. Milton instituted the Martin Luther

King's Day Ecumenical community service. A church van was purchased, property North of the church was purchased for usage as a parking lot, All church Achievement -Awards Banquet. Another Deacon was added to the staff, Brother George Ingram.

Further added dimensions in the history of our church are: The church edifice has been remolded, bricked, another church van has been purchased, and other deacons have been ordained and added to the existing working staff. They are: Charles Black Sr., M.P. Davis, Rudy Davis, Jerry Fridie, Larry Mendez, Joe Thompson. Float (Chuck) Ward, and Michael Williams. In addition, two deacons are in training; Marcus Miller and Keye Mumphrey.

Under the nurturing spiritual care of Rev. Milton, Rev. Kioka Jackson and Rev. Rickey accepted the Devine Call into the ministry and serve as associate members at Pleasant Hill.

Property has been purchased North of the church and the "Frank J. Black Youth Center" established and dedicated in December 1999.

The church has continued to grow spiritually, financially, and numerically. God has continually blessed Pleasant Hill under the leadership of Rev. Milton and other leaders.

We have not reached the height of our potentials, and the reality of our dreams, but through perseverance and God on our side, we will continue to grow and move in the right direction. "To God Be The Glory"

OVERVIEW

PLEASANT HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

In 1908, on the east side of Tyler, then known as Hickory Hill, located at the northwest corner of North Horace Avenue and East Oakwood Street, the Reverend Ed King called a group of dedicated persons to organize a church that was much needed in this area. From this meeting the Kings Church was born. The congregation would meet under the trees in the open air, on the lot purchased by James Adams. The original construction of the church was a wood frame building with an octagonal shaped porch with Greek columns.

The congregation grew steadily from 1908 to 1930 when the first wooden building was erected at the North Horace Avenue site and the church name was changed to Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church. The original building was demolished and the present structure was built in 1933.

The original bell that was used to call the congregation together in its early days is still a working bell and has been incorporated into the monument signage in front of the Church.

In 1976, the church added a fellowship hall on the site. In 1991, the church was remodeled and the congregation bricked the outside of the church. The Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church has made countless contributions to the east Tyler area including leadership conferences, youth seminars and Martin Luther King's Day Ecumenical community service. The church, in the original location, is a vibrant, growing congregation in the east Tyler area community

*From
Rev. Milton*

HISTORICAL MARKER – PLEASANT HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

In 1908, on the east side of Tyler, then known as Hickory Hill, located at the northwest corner of North Horace Avenue and East Oakwood Street, the Reverend Ed King and Rev. Perry Ware organized a congregation and started a church which became known as Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church. Soon afterwards, the first Deacons and Trustees were organized those being Will Martin, Azee Scott and Tom Shackelford. A direct descendent to Rev. Perry Ware, his granddaughter, Vivian Robinson Blevins, and, a direct descendent to Tom Shackelford, his granddaughter, Ruth Shackelford Smith, continue their active membership with the church. The original construction of the church was a wood frame building with an octagonal shaped porch with Greek columns. The original bell that was used to call the congregation together in its earlier days is still a working bell and has been incorporated into the signage in front of the church. The original church still stands, however, the exterior of the building was bricked in 1991 and new buildings have been added on the site in order to provide for the congregation's growing needs. The Pleasant Hill

Missionary Baptist Church is considered a landmark due to the character, interest and value it has provided towards the heritage and cultural development of the local community. Rev. Jerome R. Milton, the longest tenured pastor in the church's history, recognized very early in his pastorate these characteristics in the Pleasant Hill church family. The results of this continuance of the broader vision of this church's mission

RECEIVED

JAN 06 2010

1/4/2010 7:34 AM

has been the establishment of the Youth Center, which bears the name of Frank J. Black, for his perseverance as a long-standing deacon. ~~_____~~
~~church in _____~~ ^{COMMUNITY} and a Missions Center and The Datle Florence Brown Children's Home, which addresses the emergency care and need of at-risk children.

Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church

In 1908, ~~on the east side of Tyler, then known as Hickory Hill, located at the northwest corner of North Horace Avenue and East Oakwood Street,~~ the Reverend Ed King called a group of dedicated persons to organize a church and as a result ~~that was much needed in this area. From this meeting the Kings Church was born. The congregation gathered under the trees. in the open air on the lot purchased by James Adams.~~

The congregation grew steadily from 1908 to 1930 when the first wooden building was erected ~~at the North Horace Avenue site and the church name was changed to Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church. The original construction of the church was a wood frame building with an octagonal shaped porch with Greek columns.~~ The original building was demolished and the present structure was built in 1933. In 1991, the congregation bricked the outside of the church. The original bell that was used to call the congregation together ~~in its early days is still a working bell remains functional. and has been incorporated into the monument signage in front of the Church. In 1976, the church added a fellowship hall on the site.~~

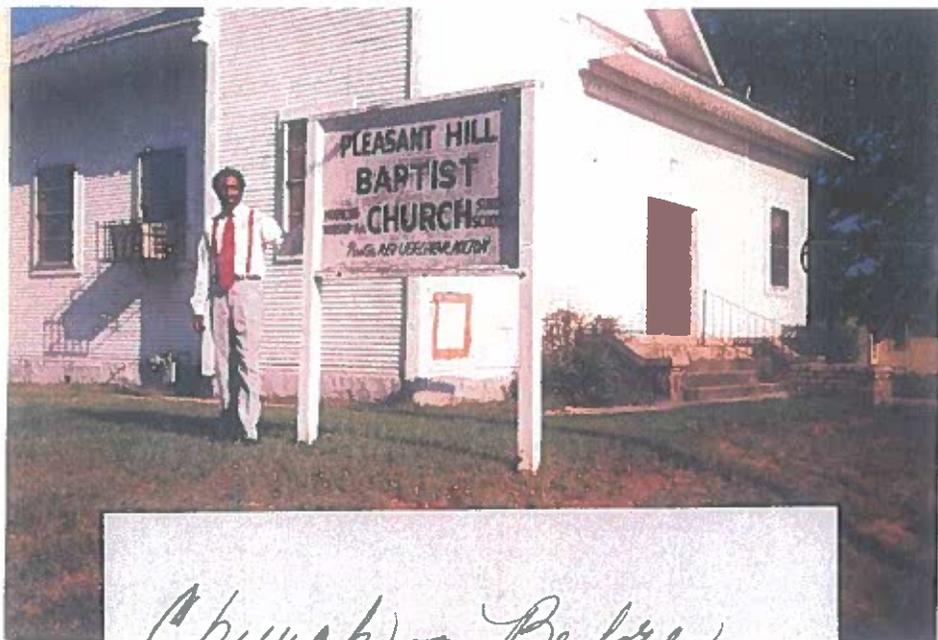
The Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church has made countless contributions to the east Tyler area including leadership conferences, youth seminars and Martin Luther King's Day Ecumenical community service. The church, in the original location, is a vibrant, growing congregation in the east Tyler area community

In 1908, the Reverend Ed King called a group of dedicated persons to organize a church and ~~as a result~~ the Kings Church was born. The congregation gathered under the trees in the open air. ~~The congregation grew steadily from 1908 to 1930 when the first wooden building was erected, and the church name was changed to Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church. The original building was demolished and the present structure was built in 1933. In 1991, the congregation bricked the outside of the church. The original bell that was used to call the congregation together remains functional.~~ *still works*

~~The Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church has made countless contributions to the east Tyler area including leadership conferences, youth seminars and Martin Luther King's Day Ecumenical community service.~~ *and remains a vibrant*

(126 Words)

growing congregation

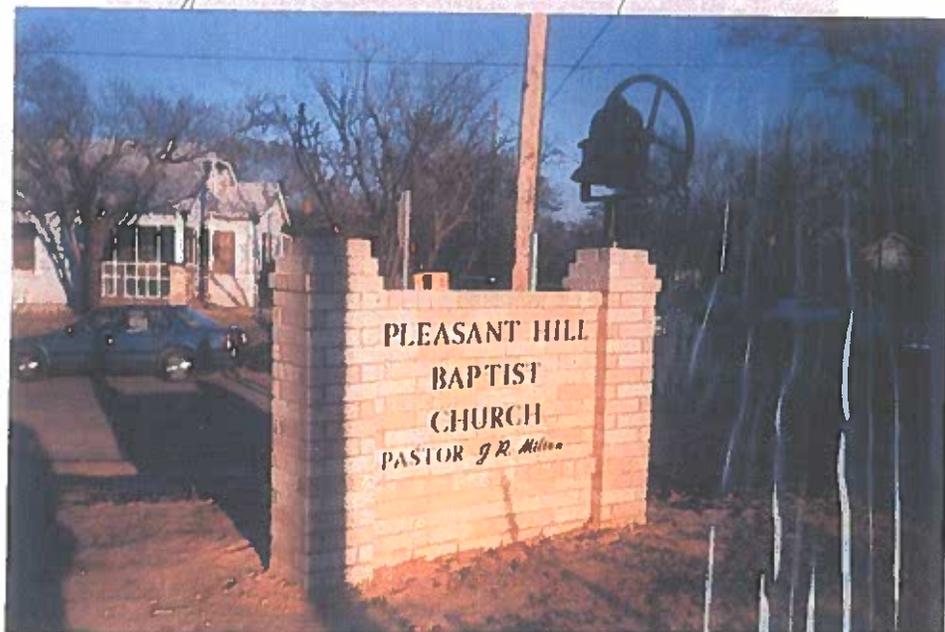


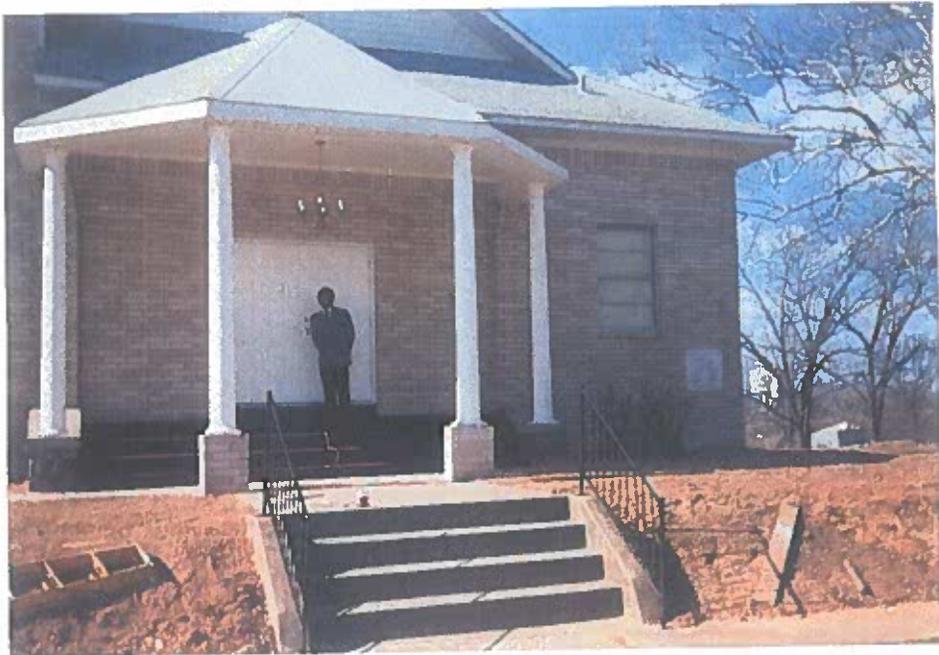
Church - Before
and
After

Pleasant Hill
Missionary
Baptist
Church

Pastor: Rev. Mr.

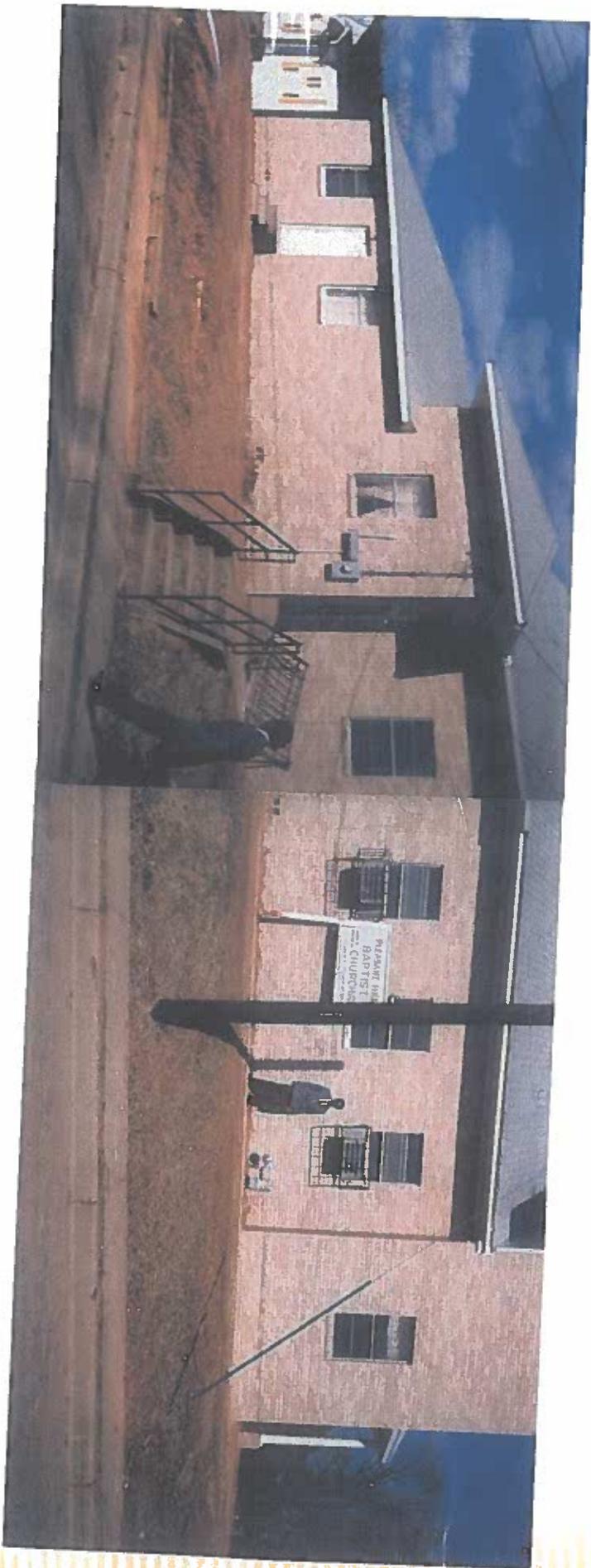
Jerome R. Milton















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PLEASANT HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

The Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church has made countless contributions to Tyler including leadership conferences, youth seminars and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Ecumenical Community Service. The church is a vibrant, growing congregation in the east Tyler area community.

A direct descendant to Reverend Ware, his granddaughter, Vivian Robinson Blewins and a direct descendant to Tom Shackelford, his granddaughter, Ruth Shackelford Smith, continue their active membership with the church.



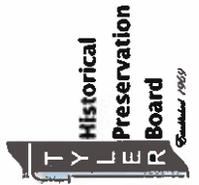
Reflections

In accordance with the Tyler 21, the City launched a three year program in 2009 to promote Tyler Historic Landmarks status and installation of historic markers and plaques at North End locations important to city history, including the history of the African-American community.

The Reflections Program encourages citizens or interested organizations to submit nominations for the designation in the North End as Tyler Historic Landmarks, Tyler Historic Subject Markers, or Half Mile of History.



To learn more about the Reflections Program and Historic Preservation visit our website at www.tylerpz.org



PRESENTS THE

PLEASANT HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HISTORICAL
SUBJECT MARKER
UNVEILING

MARCH 31, 2010
10:30 A.M.

PLEASANT HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

PROGRAM

PRAYER

JASON JENNINGS,
TYLER HISTORICAL PRESERVATION
BOARD MEMBER

OPENING REMARKS

MAYOR BARBARA BASS

REFLECTIONS PROGRAM

MAYOR BARBARA BASS

SUBJECT MARKER

COUNCIL MEMBER CHRIS SIMONS

REMARKS

COUNCIL MEMBER DONALD SANDERS

UNVEILING

CLOSING REMARKS

REVEREND JEROME MILTON

REFRESHMENTS

(J.R. MILTON ANNEX)

A SPECIAL THANKS TO:

Vivian Robinson Blevins, Vocalist

PLEASANT HILL MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH



In 1908 on the east side of Tyler, then known as Hickory Hill, located at the northwest corner of North Horace Avenue and East Oakwood Street, the Reverend Ed King and Reverend Perry Ware organized a congregation and started a church which became known as Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church.

The church is located on the east side of Tyler, then known as Hickory Hill, at the northwest corner of N. Horace Avenue and E. Oakwood Street. Soon afterwards, the first Deacons and Trustees Will Martin, Azee Scott and Tom Shackelford were organized.

The congregation would meet under the trees in the open air and grew steadily from 1908 to 1930 when the first wooden building was erected. The original construction of the church was a wood frame building with an octagonal shaped porch with Greek columns. The original bell that was used to call the congregation together still works and has been incorporated into the monument signage in front of the Church. In 1976, the church added a fellowship hall on the site. In 1991, the church was remodeled and the congregation bricked the outside of the church.

The Pleasant Hill Missionary Baptist Church site is of historic and cultural importance because of the interest and value it has provided towards the heritage and cultural development of the east Tyler area. Reverend Jerome R. Milton, the longest tenured pastor in the church's history, recognized very early in his pastorate these characteristics in the Pleasant Hill church family. The broader vision for the community, embodied within the church's mission has resulted in the establishment of the Youth Center, which bears the name of Frank J. Black, for his perseverance as a long-standing deacon. A Community Missions Center and The Dottie Florence Brown Children's Home, which addresses the emergency care and needs of at-risk children, were also established.

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