

Argyle United Methodist Church

Argyle, Texas

Historical Narrative researched and written by Deborah Goin for 1981 Recorded Texas Historical Marker application for Denton County

ARGYLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

ARGYLE, TEXAS

TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER APPLICATION

OCTOBER 1, 1980

ARGYLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BY

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The Argyle United Methodist Church is located on Denton Street in Argyle, Texas. The community was established on November 7, 1881, by the Texas and Pacific Railroad Company. The present sanctuary is located just east of the original building. Specifics of the church property are as follows:

Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and Fractional Lots 9, 10, 11, 12, Block 15, as per Official Plat of the City of Argyle, Denton County, Texas, recorded in Book Q, Pages 244-245, Deed Records, Denton County, Texas, on November 7, 1881.

The Methodist Church of Argyle was formed in 1894, as a part of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South Circuit. The Reverend Blueford Henry Webster was its first pastor. The Reverend Webster, who was born on September 15, 1849, in Lafayette County, Mississippi, had previously served as pastor of the Gordonville, Collinsville, Detroit, New Boston and Sunset Circuits.¹

The twenty-seven people who composed the charter membership were: Thomas and Mary Austin, W. B. Brown, Mr. and Mrs. George Clayton and their daughters Mollie and Florence, Josie Clayton, Rebecca Clayton, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Davis, Mrs. Mollie Fehlisson, Lottie and Byron Horton,

Mrs. D. C. Horton, Lewis and Rachel Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Lacy, J. L. and I. C. McReynolds, Mrs. E. J. McReynolds, the Reverend J. C. Smith and his wife Lucy, Jessie Smith, Mrs. Sharp and Nora Sharp.²

Not much information is available about some of these founders. On the one hand few local records were kept by the early settlers of the community. On the other hand a fire which swept through the town of Argyle in 1895 destroyed the records which had been kept.³

However, early church records do show some facts. Thomas Austin was married to the former Mary McClurkin. Josie Clayton was married to Robert Clayton; she and Mollie Clayton remained members until December 18, 1901. Byron Horton was married to the former Lottie Johns and remained a member until October 4, 1930, at which time he moved his membership to another church. Mrs. D. C. Horton was a member until November 16, 1903, when she also moved her membership. Lewis Johnson was married to the former Rachel Austin.⁴

J. L. McReynolds, who married the former Miss I. C. Luck, came to Argyle from Mississippi in 1888. He was twenty-six years old. He taught in the Argyle school in 1888-89 and in 1890-91.⁵

Mrs. Mollie Fehlison was the wife of one of the more active citizens of the community. Mr. H. R. Fehlison was a local merchant who sold dry goods, groceries and implements.⁶ In 1888, he and W. J. Hamilton built the building which was to house the Argyle State Bank.⁷ This building still stands today at the corner of Highway 377 and Denton Street. He served as Argyle school trustee in 1885.⁸ He also served as the first trustee of the Graham-Argyle Cemetary.⁹

The Reverend J. C. Smith was also active in the community. He served as school trustee for the Argyle #41 District in 1884, the year when the county was divided into seventy-three school districts.¹⁰ He was a charter member of the Argyle Lodge A.F. & A.M. #698. He was the first Senior Warden of the Masonic Lodge.¹¹ In 1908, because cotton had become a major crop in the area, he built a cotton gin to accommodate the local farmers.¹²

Initially the members met in the Argyle Schoolhouse for worship services. On February 24, 1898, Lots 3 and 4 were purchased from the Texas and Pacific Railway Company and W. H. Abrams, trustee for \$30.00.¹³ The Trustees acting for the church were: W. B. Brown, Evan Sherrill and J. A. Davis. The first church building was erected on these lots during the pastorate of the Reverend J. R. Atchley in 1898-99. The cost was \$1300.00. The Reverend Atchley and a Mr. Rhodes did the carpentry for the wood frame building with assistance from the church members. Then six men and wagons brought lumber back from the Dallas Planing Mill to assemble the pews for the congregation.¹⁴

For its first seventy-eight years, the Argyle Church was a part of numerous circuits including: Garza, Chinn Chapel, Roanoke, Prairie Mound, Cooper Creek, Lake Dallas, Lynchburg, Oak Grove, Brown School House, Little Elm, Green Valley and Ponder. During this time the church was served by itinerant preachers. Small populations did not warrant settled ministries. Thus, these preachers would go to the scattered homes, preach the gospel, organize groups, establish centers of worship and form them into "circuits".

Just as the Argyle Church went through circuit changes, it also went through name changes. First it was a part of The Methodist Episcopal Church, South Circuit. On May 10, 1939, a Plan of Union was initiated which united The Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church South and The Methodist Protestant Church into one body - the Methodist Church. Then it became the Argyle Methodist Church and remained as such until 1968. At that time, the General Conference acted to create The United Methodist Church.¹⁵ Today, in 1980, it is called the Argyle United Methodist Church.

Changes in pastors were frequent, too. From 1894 until 1980, there have been fifty-five ministerial changes at the church. (A partial list is included at the end of the application).

In 1912, a parsonage was purchased for the various pastors and their families for \$800.00. In a Warranty Deed from E. C. Foster et ux and Elizabeth F. Foster, dated June 6, 1912, title to all of Lots 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12, Block 13 of the town of Argyle, was deeded to C. M. Hall, J. W. Taylor, W. M. Wallace, H. W. Nowlin, W. H. Hardee, I. L. Crawford, G. W. Nenner, J. P. Garrison, J. E. Robinson, W. M. McCrelas and W. Porter, Board of Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.¹⁶

The Year 1947 brought much land expansion for the church. Official records show that Lots 1 and 2 and Fractional Lots 9, 10, 11, and 12, Block 15, as per the official plat of the City of Argyle, were purchased from the Texas and Pacific Railway Company for \$75.00. The Deed was conveyed by M. D. Cloud, Executive Vice President of the railroad, to

the Church on March 25th. However, the mineral rights were retained by the seller.¹⁷

Later that year, September 1, 1947, the church traded lots with Olga Hacker to insure room for possible future growth. When it was learned that Mrs. Hacker planned to build a home just east of the church on fractional Lots 5 and 6, Block 15, of the town of Argyle, the Trustees offered to trade to her part of the parsonage property for her intended building site. The Trustees of the church traded to Mrs. Hacker the east 8 feet of Lot 11 and all of Lot 10, Block 13¹⁸ in exchange for Lots 5 and 6.¹⁹

The year 1960 brought the next changes in the church property. A brick parsonage was erected to the west of the church building on Lots 1 and 2.²⁰ On April 11th, the Denton County Commissioners' Court passed a resolution to abandon the alley running east to west through Block 15. By Quit-Claim Deed the alley became church property.²¹ On March 28th, the original parsonage was sold to John H. Gibbons for \$2250.00. Acting for the church in these transactions were trustees: Ray Crawford, Alton Boyles and Roy Wallace.²²

The year 1969 was very important to the growth of the church. The present sanctuary was built for \$25,000.00²³ The Reverend Charles Dunnam was pastor and the church membership numbered eighty-one.²⁴ The sanctuary was a red brick building with office space for the minister and the church workers. It was situated just east of the original structure.

In 1972, an Educational Building was constructed on Lot 3 for \$35,000.²⁵ At that time the Reverend Sammy Hargrove was pastor. The membership had grown to 153.²⁶ This building consisted of seven Sunday School

classrooms, a kitchen and a large central meeting room called Fellowship Hall.

At present, the church is under the pastorate of the Reverend George A. Lewis. There are 129 active members. Total assets of land, buildings and equipment are \$206,000.²⁷

Today the Church holds a very special place in the community. The city of Argyle is a small rural community (1,881) having only a City Hall and Fire Station as public buildings. Thus, the Fellowship Hall in the Sunday School building is used for various meetings and functions. It has accommodated Boy Scout and Cub Scout groups, weddings and receptions, Ladies' Fire Auxiliary and Argyle Water Board meetings, Senior Citizens' luncheons and dinners. It has also been used as a Day Care Center for local children and a Reading Clinic for elementary school students.

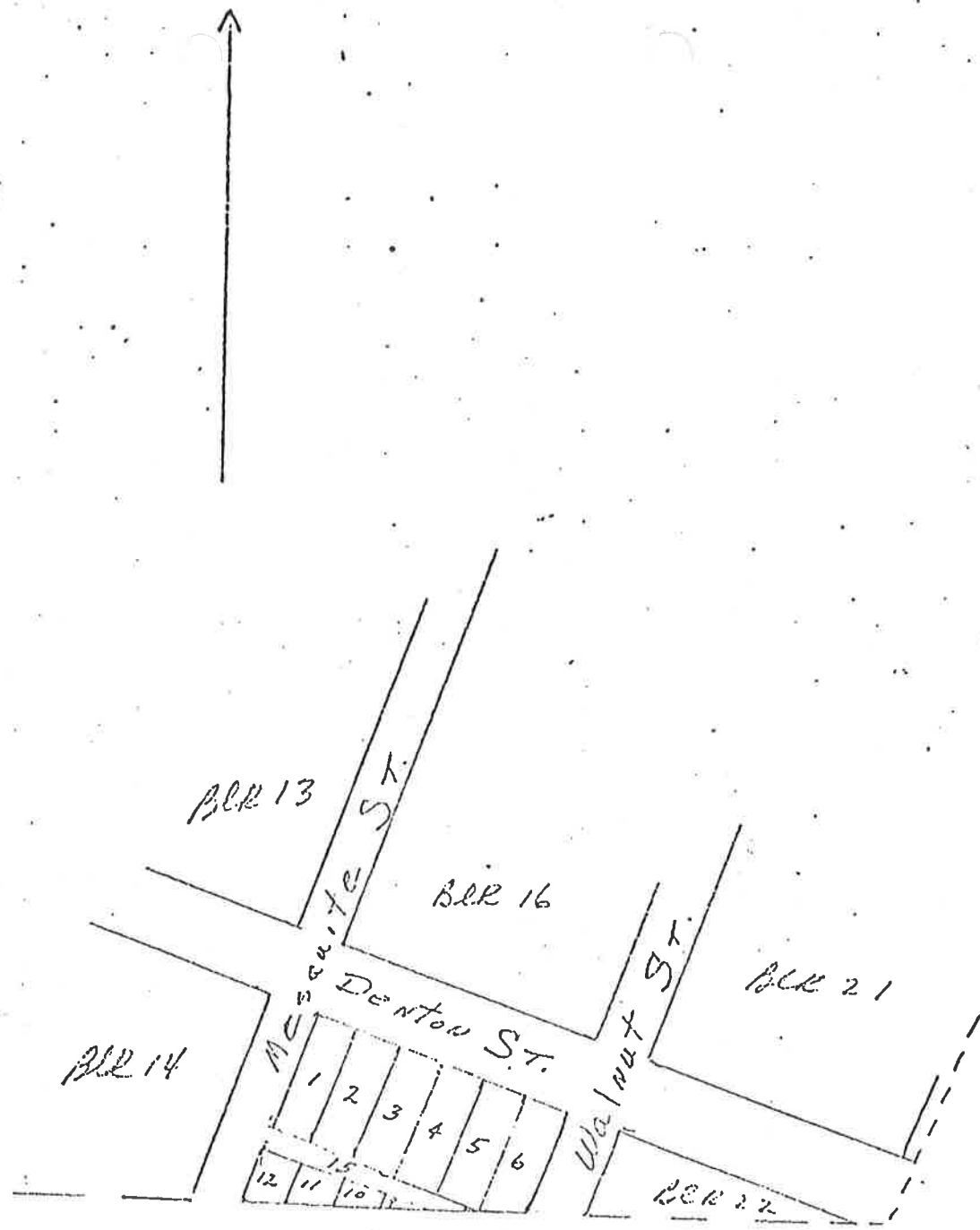
On May 17, 1980, the first Heritage Sunday was held at the Church. Old photographs and church information were assembled and displayed. Invitations for a reunion were sent to all past members and ministers who could be located. A special Sunday School program and church service were followed by a luncheon for all members and guests. One Hundred Ten people assembled that day to reminisce about the past of the Argyle United Methodist Church and to look forward to its continued growth and service.

MINISTERS WHO HAVE SERVED THE
ARGYLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SINCE ITS ESTABLISHMENT

1894-95	B. H. Webster
1896-97	C. M. Shuffler
1898-99	J. R. Atchley
1900-01	I. J. Coppedge
1901-02	C. A. Meir
1902-03	W. A. Pritchett
1904-05	C. H. Rice
1906-07	J. S. Tarter
1907-08	H. M. Pirtle
1908-09	T. W. Preston
1909-10	E. L. Silliman
1910-11	J. W. Baughman
1911-13	M. C. Sooter
1913-14	W. W. Barnett, III.
1914-15	J. T. Bludworth
1915-16	E. M. Jones
1916-17	E. F. Brown
1917-19	H. H. Breedlove
1919-20	M. P. Hines
1921-23	H. W. Isbell

1923-25	R. L. Patterson
1925-27	W. B. Arnold
1927-29	J. Ray Williams
1929-32	R. L. Patterson
1932-34	J. R. Atchley
1934-35	Ray Patton
1935-36	W. J. Martin
1936-37	J. R. Atchley
1937-38	Leon Turner
1938-39	Marshall Hines
1939-40	J. S. Hughes
1940-43	Noble Glasco
1943-44	B. H. Terrell
1944-45	J. A. Pollard
1945-46	Charles Rother, Jr.
1946-47	Francis W. Fowler
1947-48	E. D. Watkins, Jr.
1948-50	F. J. Reynolds
1950-51	Charles Lewis
1951-52	Joe Funk
1952-54	Paul D. Davis
1954-55	William Mayo
1955-56	Barrett Renfro
1956-58	N. L. Dubberly, Jr.
1958-59	Wayne Callaway

1959-60	Keith Keeling
1960-61	Dale Swain
1961-62	Inge Halbert
1962-66	Harold Hansford
1966-67	Joe Funk
1967-71	Charles Dunnam
1971-75	Sammy Hargrove
1975-76	Millard Fairchild
1976-78	Wilson Shelley
1978-Present	George Lewis



Copied from the recorded plat - Block 15 in its entirety - showing the Alley that was closed and the streets surrounding the block on three sides. The broken line is referred to as the "City Limits" (or South Plat line) in the Resolution closing the Alley.

The Plat is recorded in Vol. Q, pages 244 and 245, Deed Records of Denton County, Texas, and was filed for record on Nov. 7, 1881, at 10 o'clock AM.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 Biography - Clergy of North Texas Conference, Dallas, North Texas Conference, 1894.
- 2 Membership Roll, Argyle Methodist Episcopal Church, South Circuit, 1894.
- 3 Yvonne A. Jenkins, History of the Argyle Community in Southwest Denton County, 1976, page 23.
- 4 Membership Roll, Argyle Methodist Episcopal Church, South Circuit, 1894-1940.
- 5 Director's School Record for Denton County, 1874-1891, (custody of Denton County Historical Commission).
- 6 Yvonne A. Jenkins, History of the Argyle Community In Southwest Denton County, 1976, page 23.
- 7 Ibid., page 24.
- 8 Ibid., page 34.
- 9 Ibid., page 10.
- 10 Ibid., page 33.
- 11 Ibid., page 28
- 12 Ibid., page 23.
- 13 Deed Records, Denton County, Texas, Volume 68, page 159.
- 14 Laura Johnson Crawford, "History of the Argyle Methodist Church", 1939, (unpublished).
- 15 The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church; 1968.
- 16 Plat recorded in Deed Records, Denton County, Texas, Volume "Q", pages 244 and 24
- 17 Ibid., Volume 333, page 603.
- 18 Ibid., Volume 340, page 92.
- 19 Ibid., Volume 338, page 260
- 20 Ibid., Volume 456, page 393, Resolution to Build Parsonage.

- 21 Ibid., Volume 455, page 310.
Commissioners; Court Minutes, Volume V, page 423.
- 22 Denton County Clerk, : Denton County Deed Records, 1947-1972.
- 23 Deed Records, Denton County, Texas, Volume 589, page 262.
- 24 North Texas Conference Journal (Dallas, 1970).
- 25 Deed Records, Denton County, Texas, Volume 656, page 521.
- 26 North Texas Conference Journal (Dallas, 1973).
- 27 Annual Conference Minutes, Argyle United Methodist Church, 1979.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Biography - Clergy of North Texas Conference, Dallas, North Texas Conference, 1894.

Crawford, Laura Johnson, "History of the Argyle Methodist Church," (unpublished) 1939.

Jenkins, Yvonne Allen, History of the Argyle Community in Southwest Denton County, 1976.

Minutes - North Texas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, Dallas, North Texas Conference, 1867-1979.

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, Nashville, Tennessee, The Methodist Publishing House, 1968.

27" x 42" Official Texas Historical Marker with post
Denton County (Order #6123)

Location: Denton Street, Argyle

ARGYLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH*

ORGANIZED THIRTEEN YEARS AFTER THE TOWN OF ARGYLE
WAS FOUNDED, THIS CHURCH WAS CHARTERED IN 1894 WITH
TWENTY-SEVEN MEMBERS. THE FIRST PASTOR WAS THE
REV. BLUEFORD HENRY WEBSTER, A METHODIST CIRCUIT
RIDER FROM MISSISSIPPI.

EARLY WORSHIP SERVICES FOR THE CONGREGATION WERE
CONDUCTED IN THE ARGYLE SCHOOLHOUSE. IN 1898 CHURCH
TRUSTEES PURCHASED LAND AT THIS LOCATION FROM THE
TEXAS AND PACIFIC RAILWAY AND W.H. ABRAMS, COMPANY
TRUSTEE. THE FIRST SANCTUARY, A FRAME STRUCTURE, WAS
BUILT HERE SOON AFTERWARD DURING THE PASTORATE
OF THE REV. J. R. ATCHLEY, WHO COMPLETED MUCH OF THE
CARPENTRY WORK WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF A MR. RHODES
AND SEVERAL CHURCH MEMBERS.

ADJOINING PROPERTY WAS ACQUIRED BY CHURCH TRUSTEES
IN 1947. A BRICK SANCTUARY WAS CONSTRUCTED HERE IN 1969,
EAST OF THE ORIGINAL STRUCTURE, AND AN EDUCATIONAL
BUILDING WAS ADDED IN 1972.

PART OF A CIRCUIT FOR SEVENTY-EIGHT YEARS, THE ARGYLE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH HAS PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT
ROLE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWN. MEMBERSHIP
HAS INCLUDED MANY PROMINENT COMMUNITY LEADERS,
AND CHURCH FACILITIES HAVE BEEN USED FOR A VARIETY OF
CIVIC GROUP MEETINGS AND PUBLIC FUNCTIONS. **

*3/4 inch lettering

(1981)***

**1/2 inch lettering

***1/4 inch lettering

APPROVED

Truett Latimer

by Claire Williams
3-11-81

APPLICATION FORM FOR OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
P. O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78741

A written history, signed by the author, must accompany this form before it will be accepted.

Denton
County

October 16, 1980
Date

1. Argyle United Methodist Church
Title of marker
Place on post outside Argyle United Methodist Church in Argyle
2. Name of building, cemetery, public square, park, archeological site, etc., where marker is to be placed.
3. Denton Street, Argyle, Texas
Marker site (street address or highway number)
4. Argyle, Texas is located on Hwy 377 in Denton County.
City or nearest city. If marker is to be placed on a highway or in a small community, you must briefly explain how to get there from nearest town shown on a Texas Highway Department road map. For example, "Marker will be in Bastrop Beach, which is 6 miles south-east of Angleton on FM 523."
5. Marker will be placed on site, near main entrance to sanctuary.
Distance (miles, yards, feet) and direction (north, south, east, west) of subject from marker site. For example, "Subject is 1/2 mile southwest of marker site."
6. Argyle United Methodist Church Denton Street Argyle, Texas 76226
Owner of marker site Address City
7. Argyle United Methodist Church Denton Street Argyle, Texas 76226
Sponsor of marker Address City
8. George A. Jenkins Box 184 Argyle, Texas 76226
County chairman Address City
"I have reviewed the narrative for this marker and attest to its accuracy."
9. Rev. George A. Lewis, Argyle United Methodist Church, Denton Street, Argyle, Texas 76226
Person to whom marker is to be shipped Street Address City
Note: If marker is to be placed on a highway right-of-way, it will automatically be shipped to your district highway engineer.
10. Marker is attached to a Post.
Surface to which marker will be attached (i.e., wood, brick, stucco over stone) if not on post.

ORDER FORM

Please consult page 7 for specifications of the markers available. Check the items desired below. Then mail this application and narrative history, together with a check made payable to the Texas Historical Foundation, to the address above. No applications will be accepted unless payment is included.

If marker application is cancelled after the inscription is written, the Texas Historical Foundation will deduct the cost of writing the inscription from the refund.

HISTORICAL MARKERS

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" subject marker with post \$575.00 \$475
<input type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" subject marker without post \$185
<input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" subject marker with post \$250
<input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" subject marker without post \$220 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar) \$125
<input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" building marker with post \$150
<input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" building marker without post \$125
<input type="checkbox"/> National Register plaque \$25 |
|--|--|

REPLACEMENT MARKERS

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze plate \$300
<input type="checkbox"/> Bronze seal \$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Bronze wreath \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" building plaque only \$50
<input type="checkbox"/> 14" medallion only \$50 |
|---|--|

HIGHWAY DIRECTIONAL SIGN

- Please indicate quantity desired and location:
 24" x 24" Historical Markers In City sign \$ 50.
 Black and white (for farm-to-market roads, state and U.S. highways)
 Green and white (for interstate highways)

MARKER REPLICA PAPERWEIGHT

- This item should be ordered at the same time marker is ordered. Indicate quantity desired. Allow six months from completion of marker for receipt of paperweight.
 3" x 4" plastic paperweight with replica of marker inside. \$ 2.