

FLOWER MOUND

Historical Narrative researched and written by Wayne A. Irvin for Texas Historical Commission
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by Wayne A. Irwin, 585 Kent, Lewisville, Texas 75067

Within the sprawling community of Flower Mound lies a small but prominent cretaceous mound. Though no great battles were fought here, and though no great men ever lived on the mound, it is the most important landmark of the community. Even though the mound has been in private hands since the settlers first arrived, the people of the community have always considered the mound itself as a place of public pride and interest, especially since they adopted the name of the mound as the name of their community. Legend says that no structure has ever been built upon the mound. Those who have attempted to do so have met with unfortunate circumstances. The legend is perhaps a warning to those who would try to build upon the mound in the future.

Until 1846, the area of Flower Mound was inhabited by Indians of the Wichita tribe.¹ In 1841, an investor, W. S. Peters from Louisville, Kentucky, was one the first and largest impresarios to bring settlers to the Republic of Texas. (He and his group of investors called their enterprise the Texas Agricultural, Commercial, and Manufacturing Co.) The grant was issued to the company by the Texas congress and was based upon four contracts which eventually comprised all or parts of twenty-six counties.²

Flower Mound is located in an area of Texas called the Eastern Cross Timbers, originally composed chiefly of a thick forest of small post oak and blackjack. The cross timbers received their names because travelers from north to south had to cross them during their journey. Cutting through the Eastern Cross Timber region are several open areas called prairies.³ The prairies in the Peter's Colony were know as Hallford Prairie, Warren's Prairie, Long Prairie, and Grand Prairie. The settlers who came to this area named those prairies and chose those names to designate their settlements. The Flower Mound settlement was made on Long Prairie, which was known by that name even before it was settled. Long Prairie is a narrow strip of land only about four miles wide. located just south of Hallford Prairie.⁴

Prairie land such as Long Prairie provided good soil for farming. Most of the settlers who came to the Peter's Colony were farmers who

originated in the Ohio Valley in states such as Kentucky, Tennessee, Missouri, and Illinois. None of the colonists were slave holders and few could be considered wealthy. Neither could they be considered poor. Rather than frontiersmen, these people were simple farmers who would make up the backbone of the local economy.⁵

In 1844, John R. Wizwell brought his wife, Edy, and their five children to Long Prairie from Illinois. The Wizwells settled on the 640 acre tract which included the mound on its southern boundary. Soon afterward, before 1847, John Wizwell died. His widow soon married Dr. Burnett J. Doen. Their life together was short, for Edy was widowed again before 1854. On January 28, 1854 she married Mr. Higgins. Three years later, on December 23, 1857, Edy Higgins sold the land containing the mound to George L. Beavers. The mound then remained in the Beavers family until well into the twentieth century.⁶

Bellaham Land Development Corp. acquired the land containing the Mound from the Federal Housing and Urban Development (H.U.D.). Recognizing the historic importance of the Mound, Bellaham deeded the land to the Mound Corporation, a non-profit corporation who is the present owner. The deed was filed in Denton County in September 1983. The Mound Corporation was formed with the intention of having the Mound declared a historic site.

When the settlers arrived, they noticed the small bluegrass mound in Long Prairie. Due to the abundance of wild flowers which grew atop the mound they gave it the name Flower Mound. Possibly a more profuse crop of flowers one year in the 1840's prompted the settlers to adopt the present name. Flowers are more prolific there in certain years. Because of the mound's prominence, the community has identified itself with the mound since settlement in the area first began. Some records have even supposed the mound to be public domain. By the 1850's the name Flower Mound was the most common name of the community on Long Prairie and it has remained so to this day.⁷ The Flower Mound Presbyterian Church was the first to use the name officially in 1854. The church has already been designated a Texas historical site.

Never have there been any trees or buildings on the mound. One tradition relates that the Presbyterian Church was to be build there,

Materials stacked on the mound for the construction of the church were said to have been blown away by a tornado. The church was then built in its present location to the east of the mound. Another tradition relates a similar story of a house to be build on the mound. Again the materials were readied on the mound for construction and were again swept away by a tornado. The builder relocated his house to the north side of the mound where it remains to this day.⁸

Because of the agricultural nature of the community, there was never a need for a town center. Until recent times Flower Mound has not had a varied society. Earlier there were no merchants, lawyers, bankers, etc. Most of its citizens were farmers who attended one of the two churches in the area. Due to its natural isolation from other communities, most of the families intermarried so that nearly all the descendants of the original settlers are kin to each other.⁹

Now, however, Flower Mound is a growing residential community. Due to the growth of Dallas and Fort Worth and the construction of Dallas-Fort Worth Airport nearby, many find the rural atmosphere of Flower Mound an attractive place to live. The recreational aspects of Lake Grapevine bordering Flower Mound add to the community's attractiveness. The city is now planning streets, highways, and a town center. The mound, located along the east side of FM 2499 and along the north side of FM 3040, is right in the heart of the district to be developed.

The mound, so much a part of Flower Mound's history, and thus a part of Texas' history, deserves to be set apart with a sign declaring the side a Texas historic landmark.

Footnotes

- ¹Historical/Cultural Report, Flower Mound New Town Area, June 28, 1972
The Green Group, Historical/Cultural Studies, Dallas, Texas p. 3
- ²Historical/Cultural Report, p. 9
- ³Ibid., pp. 24, 25
- ⁴Ibid., p 23
- ⁵Ibid., p. 63
- ⁶Ibid., p. 58
- ⁷Ibid., p. 38
- ⁸Conversation with Otto Consalvo, longtime resident of Flower Mound,
August 1982
- ⁹Historical/Cultural Report, pp. 63-64

Bibliography

- Bates, Ed F., History and Reminiscences of Denton County, Terrill
Wheeler Printing Co., Denton, Texas, 1976
- Interview with Otto Consalvo, August 1982
- The Green Group, Historical/Cultural Studies, Dallas, Texas,
Historical/Cultural Report, Flower Mound New Town Area,
June 28, 1972
- Webb, Mary, Sweet Flower Mound Land, a dramatic play