

THE
PEOPLE BEHIND
THE
STREET NAMES
OF
TAYLOR



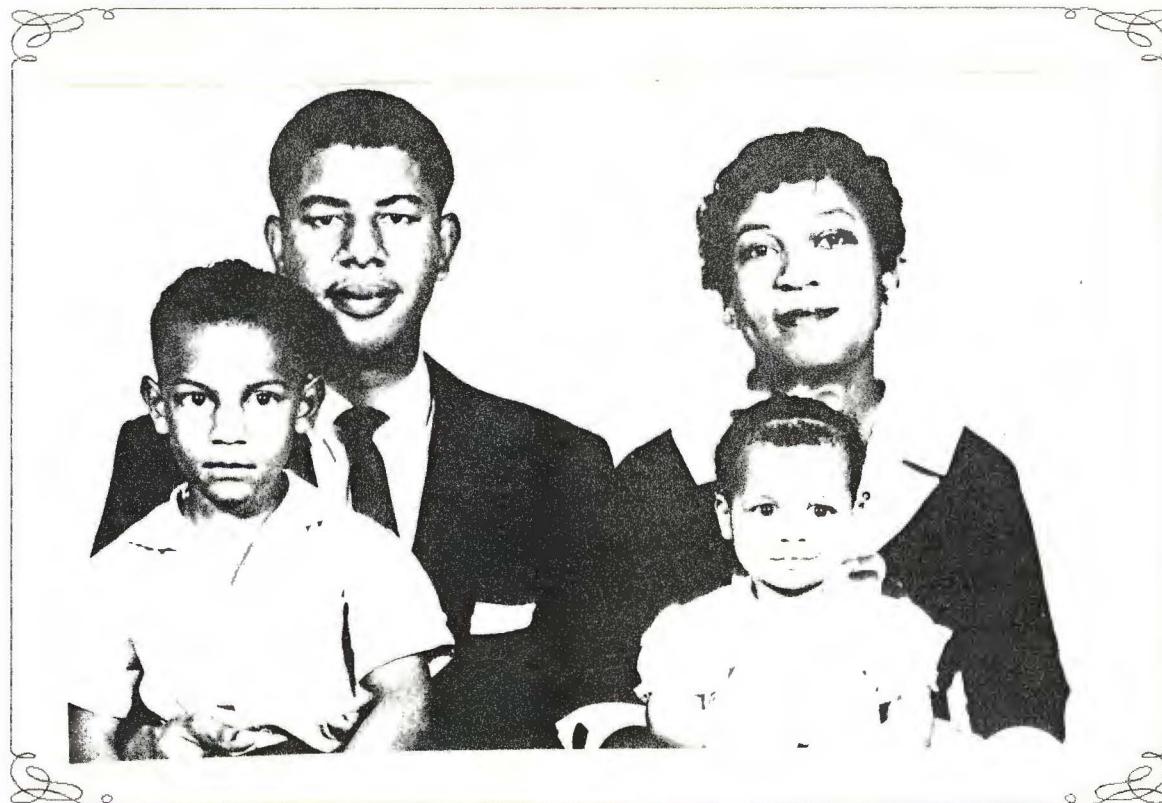


James "Candy Jim" Athas owned a movie theater and confectionary on Main Street. Eventually Howard Bland bought the theater and renamed it the "Howard".

Colonel Howard Bland (d. 1933)

For over 65 years, Colonel Bland and his associates owned businesses in feed, fuel, cottonseed, cattle and hogs operating under the name of H. Bland & Co. The Howard Theatre on Main Street was named after himself, his son, and Howard Hoke. The Colonel bought and sold land, served in the legislature and had a hand in almost everything that brought progress to Taylor. He served on the building committee of the First Christian Church in 1892 and gave generously to see that the landmark building was completed.

Colonel Bland moved to Texas from Ohio when he was a very young man. After two years of getting settled in a pioneer cabin near what is now Taylor, he returned home to Ohio for his bride, Gussie Schultz. He later built the first two story mansion in Taylor on Davis Street. A historic marker is on the land where he first had a ranch and it is still occupied by the Bland family. Howard Street runs north-south from 1st Street to Lake Drive and Bland Street runs north-south from Mustang to Oak Street in south Taylor.



Dr. James Lee Dickey (d. 1959)

Dr. Dickey made world wide news when he was the first black man to be named Taylor's "Outstanding Citizen of the Year". He came to Taylor in 1921 to practice medicine and made some of the most important public health accomplishments in the history of the city. When the typhoid fever epidemic struck in 1933, he persuaded the city commission to open one hydrant in each section of the city for the poor people to get drinking water from instead of the contaminated Bull Branch. Dr. Dickey gave more than 3,000 typhoid injections to every Negro adult and child who came forward and started a modern 15-bed hospital at 401 Bland Street.

Accepting the Outstanding Citizen Award he commented"I could have found a place where I might have made more money, but I am certain I could not have found a place where I could have been of more service to my people...nor more appreciated than here in Taylor." Dickey Street is located near the Country Club in south Taylor and runs east-west from Main Street to Doak Street.



Bird's-eye View, Looking Northwest, Taylor, Texas.

Colonel William Elliott

Colonel Elliott came to Taylor in 1876 as a civil engineer to help lay out the original city plan for the Texas Land Co. He served as the auctioneer for the first lots and supervised the construction of the first house which was built for the Dickson family. Colonel Elliott also served on the first vestry of the Episcopal Church on 7th Street. Elliott Street runs north-south between 1st Street and 7th Street on the east side of town.



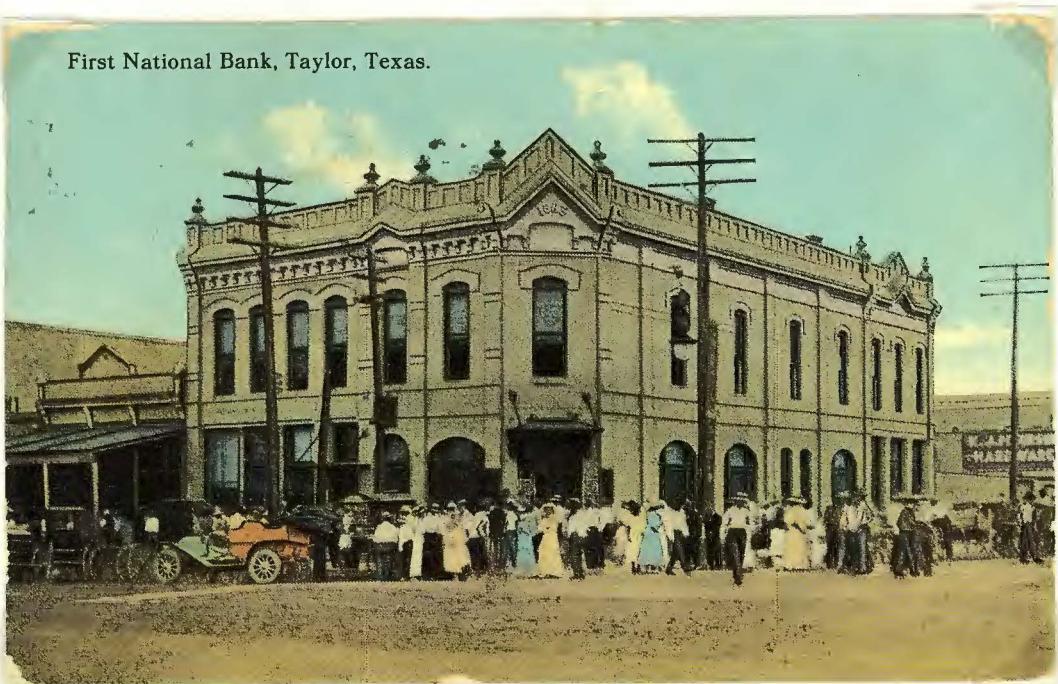
The Doak Pavilion located at 7th and Sloan, "the end of the line" for the streetcar system built by Dr. A. V. Doak.

Dr. A. V. Doak (1838-)

After graduating from the University of Virginia Medical School Dr. Doak served as the senior surgeon of a calvary brigade in the Confederate Army. After the war, Dr. Doak came to Taylor employed by the I & GN and MKT Railroads, and soon opened up his private medical practice. Aside from his medical accomplishments, Dr. Doak is best remembered for the construction of a street railway with the cars pulled by mules. The rail ran from downtown on 2nd and Porter Streets to Sloan and back from 1889-1890 and brought many citizens to the Doak Pavilion where social activities were plentiful.

Doak was identified with nearly every enterprise of a public nature in Taylor during his lifetime. With his help over \$45,000 was raised to build the imposing new school designed by Henry Struve on 8th Street between Fowzer and Vance. The school was three stories high made of brick and metal.

Dr. Doak married Martha Tabb Ferguson and lived with his wife and son, Ned Doak, in a home that still stands on 7th street today and is occupied by the Ruzicka family. Property known as the "Doak Addition" include streets named for his children: Annie, Ferguson, Lizzie, Vernon, Edward, Wyeth, and Sloan. Doak Street runs north-south from Rio Grande to 6th Street, on either side of the railroad tracks.



First National Bank, Taylor, Texas.

Tim Kelly was the man who made the first brick buildings in Taylor in 1870, including the First National Bank on Main Street.

Tim Kelly

Kelly was a prominent mason and builder that was responsible for building the first brick buildings in Taylor in the 1870's including the First National Bank (corner of Main and 2nd Streets), Taylor Hardware (2nd Street), and Goldstein's Department Store. Tim married Miss Scott and settled in a house on the corner of Main and 5th Streets.



E. U. Kimbro

The Kimbro family was one of the leading farm families of Williamson County after settling in Texas in 1837. E. U. Moved to Taylor in 1861 and became a lumber man, cattleman, and was quite well known as a blacksmith famous for his "Kimbro stirrup" made for saddles. Raised in Taylor as a young man, he moved to Bastrop County, and Travis County and served in the military under Colonel Mann's regiment before returning to Taylor again in 1891.

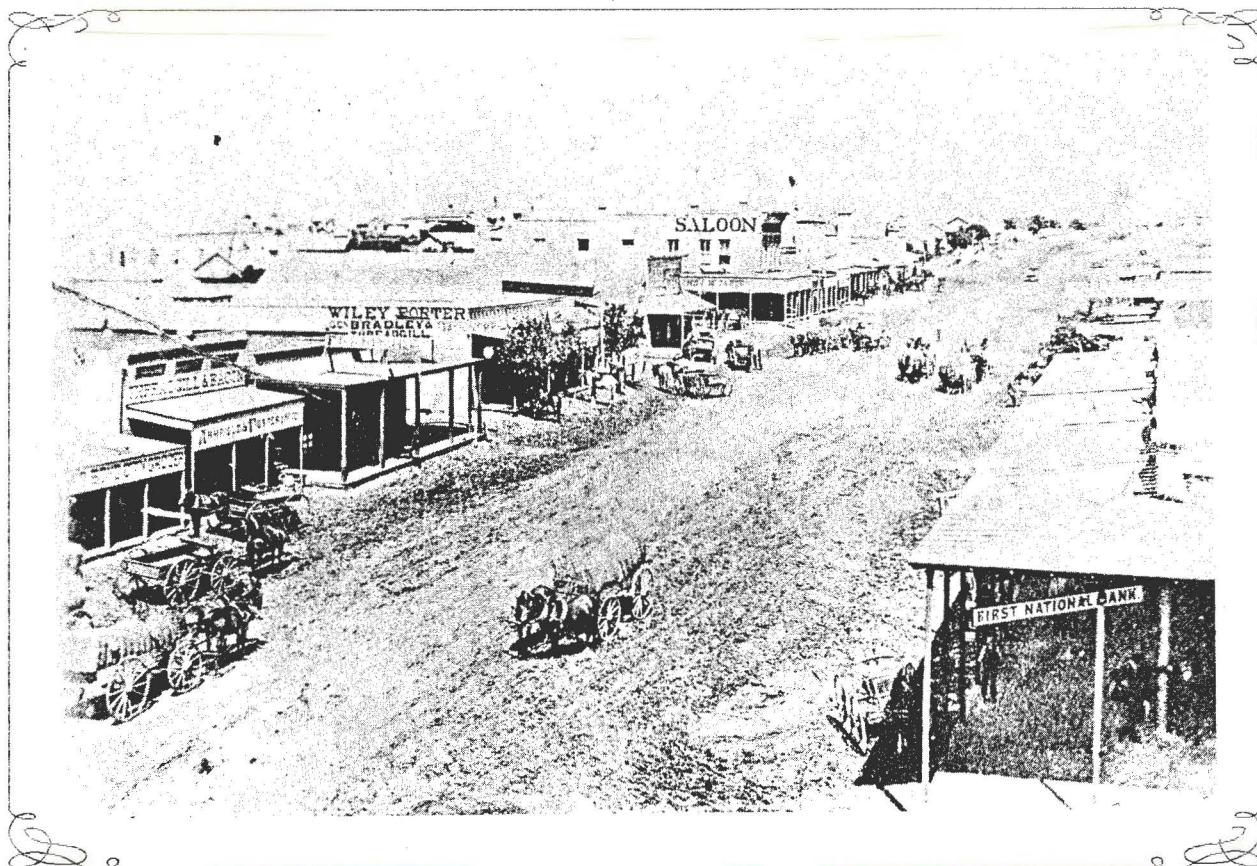


Murphy Park

Dan Murphy

The City of Taylor bought 60 acres of land from **Dan Murphy** in 1925 with a \$25,000 bond issued to provide a city park with swimming facilities, a bath house and a two story pavilion. It was dedicated in 1936 as Murphy Park and is located on the corner of Lake Drive and Main Street.

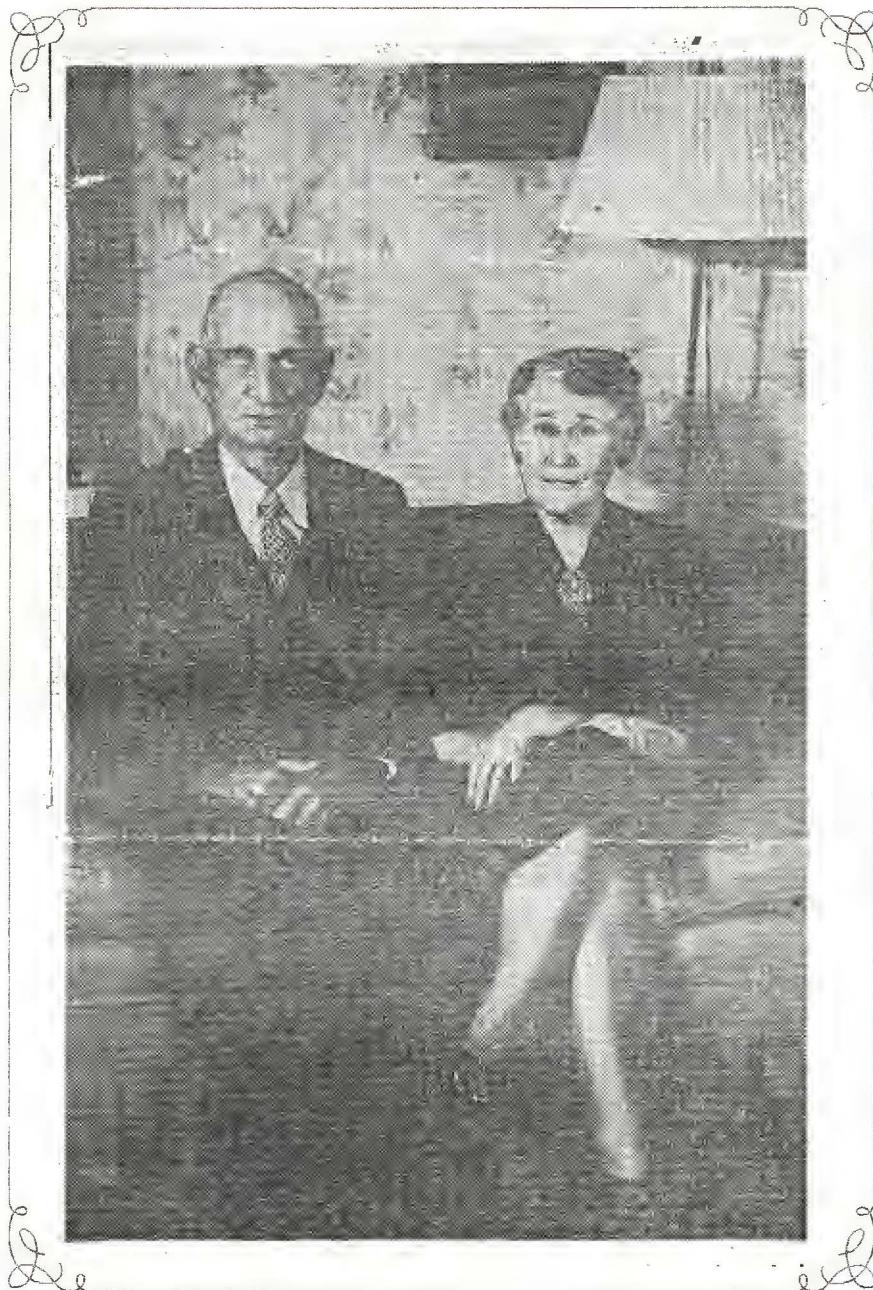
The Murphy family also had established one of the earliest hotels in Taylor. The Murphy Hotel offered the traveler a haven until 1917. **Murphy Street** is located just behind City Hall and slightly east of St. Mary's Catholic Church.



James A. Simons (1852 -)

Simons settled in Circleville in 1873 and had a store with his step father, C. P. Vance. Simons and Vance opened a second mercantile store in Taylor called Vance and Co., Simons and McCarty and eventually Simons, Root & Co..

Simons helped organize the Building and Loan Association of Taylor and also served as president. He married Elizabeth C. Eubank and raised two children, Vernon and Mattie. After Mrs. Simons death in 1876, Mr. Simons married Miss Mattie C. Townes. Simons served several terms as alderman in Taylor and helped organize the First Christian Church where he also served as Sunday School Superintendent. Simon Street runs between Rio Grande Street and Walnut Street in the southeast part of the city.



*Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Sloan, Sr., celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in Taylor.
Mr. and Mrs. Sloan were married in Taylor February 24, 1891*

David McCurdy Sloan (1827-1912)

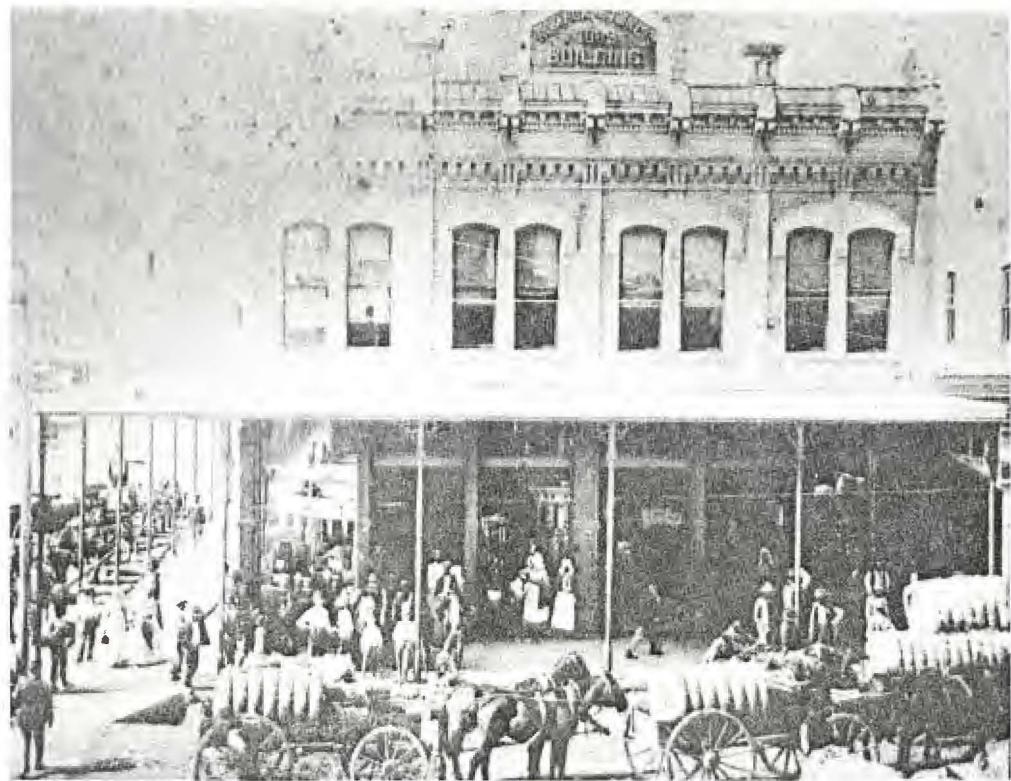
David and wife Mary Elizabeth Easly came to Texas from South Carolina and settled between Circleville and Georgetown. Finished lumber for the home was hauled by ox cart from Houston. Other lumber from bottom land was hand-hewed by slave labor.

Saturday Afternoon, Second and Main Streets, Taylor, Tex



John Speegle

John Speegle came to Williamson County in 1875 and settled at Bagdad on the Brushy Creek west of what is now Leander. Bagdad was the town through which the stage coach passed in the early days. The Speegle family were ranchers and farmers and lived in Leander until 1906 when they moved to Taylor. They brought ten children with them including Frank, Wallace, Fred, Joe, and two daughters. The Speegle Grocery and the Speegle Bakery were both located on Main Street in 1898.



John P. Sturgis (1851-)

John P. Sturgis moved to Texas with his family in 1851. He came to Taylor on horseback with J. W. Womack in 1877. Near the end of the century, many businesses were contributing to the growth of Taylor. Womack and Sturgis started their first business with the building of the Kamp Hotel and then a mercantile business on the corner of First and Main Streets. The general store was on the first floor with an opera house upstairs on the second floor. When the Kamp Hotel burned to the ground in 1880 the families moved to new homes on East Fourth Street. The Sturgis home still stands and Womack home is directly west of the Sturgis home on East Fourth Street. The street that bears the Sturgis name is located in south Taylor near the Country Club.

Smith Street

Walter Smith and Decker Smith were two prominent residents of Taylor at the turn of the century. Walter Smith built a house on Lake Drive where the John Nelson family now resides. His brother, Decker, was a large landholder near Circleville. His daughter Jennie married into the Womack family and named her twin sons Decker and Frame. They lived in a frame house on 7th Street made of stucco. Smith Street runs north-south from Kent Street to Mallard Lane.

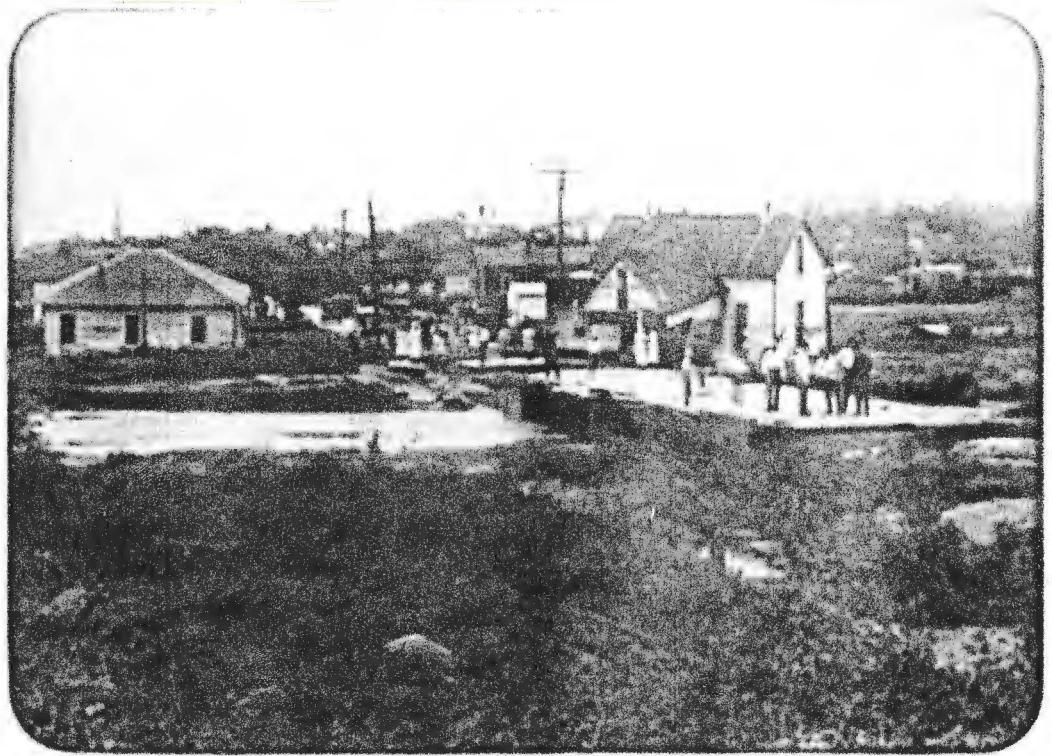
Joe Stasny

Stasny was an early Czech settler who followed the influx of Irish brought in by Dan Murphy and the German settlers brought over by Mr. Frame. Stasny bought land and amassed several farms that he rented out to fellow Czechs. He owned a general merchandise store on Main Street between 3rd and 4th Streets early in the 1800's.



Charles P. Vance (1828-1920)

Vance joined a company of Texas Rangers at a young age but was mustered out after three months due to sickness. After an encounter with Indians on the Blanco River, he moved about and tried ranching and selling goods from a wagon. He purchased a store in Circleville, stocked it with goods and had his step son J. A. Simons run it. In 1876, they moved the store to Taylor. He married Mrs. A. D. L. Simons (nee Hewlett) and raised four children. After the death of his first wife he married Mrs. Fannie G. Conch in 1892. He was a member of the Christian Church and donated the large stained glass window on the east side of the church in memory of his wife.



Washburn

A tornado touched down on September 9, 1921 on Washburn Avenue.