

Hallettsville 1846 -1850

While discussing the development of Hallettsville during this time period, it should be remembered that Petersburg was officially the county seat of Lavaca County, not Hallettsville. As the center of local government during this time, Petersburg was attracting many individuals whose objective was to locate their businesses and homes in the county seat.

Block 1 (1846 – 1850)

Block 1 is located northeast of the Courthouse square and is bordered by First St. on the north, Second St. on the south, Main St. on the east and Front St. on the west. The block is comprised of eight lots each lot 80 varas X 80 varas.

Ira McDonald Blacksmith Shop and Home (Block 1 Lot 2)

One of the first businesses to locate on Block 1 was the blacksmith shop of Ira McDonald. McDonald, his wife and seven children along with his apprentice David Phelps were some of the first individuals to locate in the Hallet Settlement. The McDonald shop and residence were located across Main St. and just north of Collatinus Ballard's store which was located on Block 5.

Ira McDonald
1850 Census Blacksmith
Died May 1851 in Missouri

David Phelps (Felps)
1850 Census Apprentice Blacksmith

Free State of Lavaca p.161

For more information about Ira McDonald and his family please read the story “Forever Divorced: the Rest of the Story”

William Smothers Grocery (Block 1 Lot 6)

On May 15, 1850, Collatinus Ballard sold Lot 6 in Block 1 to Williams Smothers. Once Smothers had established Smothers Grocery on the lot which fronted on Main St., Ballard sold the lot to Smothers for \$1.00. When the county seat was moved from Petersburg to Hallettsville, court proceedings were held in Smothers Store.

William Smothers
1850 Census Grocer

**Hallettsville Tribune Jan. 8, 1974*

**Free State of Lavaca p.161*

**Lavaca County Deed A/620*

Block 2 (1846 – 1850)

Block 2 is located east of the Courthouse square and is bordered by Second St. on the north, Third St. on the south, Main St. on the east and Front St. on the west. The block is comprised of eight lots each lot being 80 varas X 80 varas.

Dr. Marshall Breazeale Bennett Drug Store Stand (Block 2 Lot 1)

In May 1846, Dr. Marshall B. Bennett, volunteered in Ben McCullough's Company and served as an assistant surgeon. Upon his return from the Mexican War, he located in Hallettsville on the NW corner of Block 2, where he set up his office and dispensed medicines. Collatinus did not give Ballard a deed to the property until 1851.

Dr. Marshall Breazeale Bennett
Tax Assessor Collector 1848 – 1852
1850 Census Doctor

**Free State of Lavaca p. 161-162*

**Memorial and Genealogical Records of Southwest Texas p. 155 – 156*

For more information about Dr. Marshall Breazeale Bennett please read "From Our Pioneer Memories" Lavaca County Tribune Herald Nov. 19, 1974

A.W. Hicks Hotel & Tavern (Block 2 Lot 2)

Aretus William Hicks and his wife, Fredonia, arrived in town in 1846 after a short stay in Houston. Collatinus Ballard staked Hicks to a location for a hotel and tavern on the west side of the town square, diagonally across from Ballard's log store and adjacent to M. B. Bennett's office. It was not until five years later, after the hotel was constructed and had established itself, that Ballard gave Hicks a deed to the property.

A.W. Hicks
1848 Lavaca County Coroner
1850 Census Innkeeper

**Free State of Lavaca p. 162*

For more information about A.W. and Fredonia Hicks please read "Hallettsville's Name Linked in Romance in Tennessee" San Antonio Express Oct. 13, 1938.

Block 3 (1846 – 1850)

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 4

(1846 – 1850)

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 5

(1846 – 1850)

Block 5 is located north of the Courthouse square and is bordered by First St. on the north, Second St. on the south, LaGrange St. on the east and Main St. on the west. The block is comprised of eight lots each lot being 80 varas X 80 varas.

G.W. Guthrie/Dr. Joel Ponton (Block 5 Lot 3)

On June 7, 1849, Dr. Joel Ponton purchased Lot 3 in Block 5 from G. W. Guthrie. On this lot was a house and improvements that were at the time occupied by an E.C. Clemments/Clements. The lot was described as adjoining the lot and improvements of Jesse L. Saunders.

George W. Guthrie

Lavaca County Civil Case #20 (Toliver B. vs. Bennett M. B.) May 2, 1848

George W. Guthrie was not available to testify in the case because he is now and had been for a long time absent from the county in the Army of the United States.

1850 Census (Sheriff)

Lavaca County Sheriff 1850 – 1852

Died 24 October 1852

E.C. Clements

Married Mary Hornburg 23 March 1848 in Victoria County Texas

**Lavaca County Deed A/439*

**Hornburg Story p.434*

Jesse L. Sanders Residence/ James Short Residence (Block 5 Lot 5)

On November 10, 1848, Collatinus Ballard sold to Jesse L Sanders Lot 5 in Block 5 being the same lot upon which James Short and the said Jesse L. Sanders and wife now live. This residence was directly behind the store of Ballard' which was located on Lot 7.

Jesse L. Sanders

Lavaca County Constable #4 1850 – 1853

1850 Census (Farmer)

James Short

Lavaca County Commissioner 1847

1850 Census (Farmer)

Elvira Hallum Short (wife)

Died 15 January 1852

Lavaca County Deed A/321
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Collatinus Ballard Store (Block 5 Lot 7)

While Margaret Hallet had, for many years, maintained a store in the settlement, in 1841, a larger and more imposing log structure was built by Collatinus Ballard on the NW corner of the town square, the corner of Second and Main Streets. Ballard maintained a freight line from Lavaca (Port Lavaca) his wagons hauling produce there and returning with the staple items and sundry goods.

Collatinus Ballard
1850 Census Merchant

Free State of Lavaca p. 154, 161
Hallettsville Herald Oct. 17, 1907
Hallettsville Herald Feb. 10, 1888

Block 6 **(1846 – 1850)**

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 7 **(1846 – 1850)**

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 8 **(1846 – 1850)**

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Hebron Tolleson Private School

On July 2, 1850 Collatinus and Mary Jane Ballard sold sold three acres of land of land adjacent to the SW corner of Block 8 to Hebron Tolleson. It is likely that the school conducted by Tolleson was situated here.

In the first months of 1849, a school was listed in Hallettsville, when it was designated as the election box for the town. Hebron Tolleson, a native of Tennessee, was possibly the teacher at the time.

Hebron Tolleson
1850 Census School Teacher

Married Amanda Rebecca Bennett 13 June 1849 in Lavaca County Texas

Amanda was the sister of Dr. M. B. Bennett

**Lavaca County Deed A/522*

**Free State of Lavaca p. 169*

**Hallettsville Tribune Jan. 22, 1974*

**Lavaca County Marriage A/31*

Block 9

(1846 – 1850)

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 10

(1846 – 1850)

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 11

(1846 – 1850)

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 12

(1846 – 1850)

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 13

(1846 – 1850)

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 14

(1846 – 1850)

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 15

(1846 – 1850)

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 16

(1846 – 1850)

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 17

(1846 – 1850)

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 18

(1846 – 1850)

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 19

(1846 – 1850)

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Block 20

(1846 – 1850)

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.

Fractional Block 3 Lot 4 and 5

(1846 – 1850)

Fractional Block 3 is located directly north of Block 5 and is bordered by First St. on the south, LaGrange St. on the east and Main St. on the west. On the north is the boundary of the original town tract.

Peter McDermott Residence (Fractional Block 3 Lot 4)

Peter McDermott Gin (Fractional Block 3 Lot 5)

Peter McDermott and his family located in the Hallet Settlement prior to 1850 and established their double log house a block north of Ballard's store and adjacent to the tract where McDermott built a horse powered gin. On January 3, 1850, Collatinus Ballard sold McDermott two acres and 355 square varas as well as 4000 square varas in two separate deeds for \$1.00 and in consideration of improvements, including a cotton gin having been built and put into operation.

Peter McDermott

1850 Census Merchant

Died 28 January 1853

**Lavaca County Deed A/480*

**Lavaca County Deed A/481*

**Hallettsville Herald Oct. 17, 1907*

**Free State p. 162*

Fractional Blocks 1, 2, 4 & 5

(1846 – 1850)

No documented building and/or businesses on this block during this time period.