

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead
Other name/site number: Sharrock - Niblo Park
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & number: 6900 Grady Niblo Road
City or town: Dallas State: Texas County: Dallas
Not for publication: [ ] Vicinity: [ ]

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this
[n] nomination [ ] request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National
Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the
property [x] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following levels of significance:
[ ] national [ ] statewide [x] local

Applicable National Register Criteria: [x] A [ ] B [x] C [ ] D

Signature of certifying official / Title: Mark Wolfe, State Historic Preservation Officer
Date: 10/19/15
Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting or other official
Date
State or Federal agency / bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
[ ] entered in the National Register
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[ ] removed from the National Register
[ ] other, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Federal

**Category of Property**

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	1	buildings
0	0	sites
2	2	structures
0	0	objects
4	3	total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions:** DOMESTIC/single dwelling, DOMESTIC/secondary structure, AGRICULTURE/animal facility

**Current Functions:** Work in Progress

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification:** Other: Pre-Railroad Folk (Log Construction)

**Principal Exterior Materials:** Wood

**Narrative Description** (see continuation sheets 7-7 through 7-17)

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>A</b>	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
	<b>B</b>	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>C</b>	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
	<b>D</b>	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations:** N/A

**Areas of Significance:** Exploration/ Settlement; Architecture

**Period of Significance:** 1847 - 1881

**Significant Dates:** 1847 - 1853, 1853 - 1881

**Significant Person** (only if criterion b is marked): N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** (only if criterion d is marked): N/A

**Architect/Builder:** Everard Sharrock Jr. and family

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (see continuation sheets 8-18 through 8-28)

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

**Bibliography** (see continuation sheets 9-29 through 9-30)

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # TX-3535
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

### Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission, Austin*)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government (*City of Dallas*)
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

**Historic Resources Survey Number** (if assigned): N/A

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreege of Property:** 3.16 acres

### Coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (use decimal degree format)

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A

1. Latitude: 32.683991° Longitude: -96.939687°

**Verbal Boundary Description:** Block: A/8712; Lot: 54, partial; Land Survey: E. Sharrock Survey, Abstract 1314; City of Dallas; County of Dallas. The nominated site is almost in the shape of a quarter of a circle, located approximately in the middle of and comprising approximately 1/8 of the irregularly shaped lot owned by the City of Dallas, bounded on the west and the north sides by the City of Dallas property line (see Map 3 on page 33).

**Boundary Justification:** This boundary of the nominated site matches the City of Dallas Landmark designation site, and it is justified as follows: At the south and east the boundary is parallel to and located 100 feet away from the south and east face of the Sharrock log cabin; this distance was decided upon as to encompass all buildings and structures historically associated with the site, while still allowing access around the site within the City of Dallas owned property. At the west the boundary follows the City of Dallas property line, and at the north the boundary aligns with the City of Dallas property line.

## 11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Marcel Quimby, FAIA, with assistance by Andreea Hamilton, RA  
Organization: Quimby McCoy Preservation Architecture, LLP  
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Telephone: 214-977-9118  
Date: June 29, 2015

## Additional Documentation

**Maps** (see continuation sheet Map-31 through Map-41)

**Additional items** (see continuation sheets Figure-42 through Figure-52)

**Photographs** (see photo log on pages 5 and 6 and continuation sheets Photo-53 through Photo-59)

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## Photographs

Name of Property: Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead  
City or Vicinity: Dallas  
County, State: Dallas, Texas  
Photographer: Marcel Quimby, Andreea Hamilton  
Date Photographed: June 25, 2015 (unless otherwise noted)  
Number of Photos: 12

**The following images accompany this nomination document as high quality TIFs. For reference, these images are also included at the end of this document starting with page 53.**

TX\_Dallas County\_ Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead\_0001.tif  
Log Cabin South Elevation. Camera facing: North

TX\_Dallas County\_ Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead\_0002.tif  
Log Cabin Northeast Oblique. Camera facing: Southwest

TX\_Dallas County\_ Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead\_0003.tif  
Log Barn South Elevation. Camera facing: North

TX\_Dallas County\_ Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead\_0004.tif  
Log Barn Southwest Oblique. Camera facing: Northeast

TX\_Dallas County\_ Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead\_0005.tif  
Log Barn Interior View showing 'crib door'. Camera facing: Northeast

TX\_Dallas County\_ Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead\_0006.tif  
Root Cellar Interior View showing stair into cellar. Camera facing: Southeast

TX\_Dallas County\_ Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead\_0007.tif  
Root Cellar Interior View. Camera facing: Northwest

TX\_Dallas County\_ Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead\_0008.tif  
Hand Dug Well. Camera facing: South (January 1, 2007)

TX\_Dallas County\_ Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead\_0009.tif  
Farm House (noncontributing) Northeast Oblique. Camera facing: Southwest

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TX\_Dallas County\_ Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead\_0010.tif  
Chicken Coop (noncontributing) Southwest Oblique. Camera facing: Northeast

TX\_Dallas County\_ Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead\_0011.tif  
Overall View of the Site. Camera facing: South

TX\_Dallas County\_ Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead\_0012.tif  
Overall View of the Site. Camera facing: North

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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## Narrative Description

The Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead is located in the City of Dallas, Dallas County, Texas, and is approximately ten miles southwest of downtown Dallas. When originally settled, this site was in rural Dallas County, and the nearest community was a small community to the south, and now known as Duncanville. The site was annexed by the City of Dallas in the 1970s. The nominated property consists of 3.16 acres and encompasses all the extant buildings and structures historically associated with the property. The farmstead consists of a log cabin, a log barn, a well and a cellar dating from 1847 (contributing buildings and structures, dating from the time of the original settlers to the property); a farmhouse dating from 1872 (non-contributing building, due to loss of integrity over time); an early twentieth-century chicken coop and an early twentieth-century plank barn that has collapsed (non-contributing structures, due to being outside of the period of significance).

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## Site

The farmstead site is gently sloping with the earliest residential structures located at the south end (log cabin, cellar, and well dating from 1847, and the later farmhouse). The grade gently slopes down to the north where the log barn, the collapsed plank barn and the chicken coop are located. From the house, the grade sloped slightly to the north and south. With the escarpment at its west side, this would have been a rocky face with minimal vegetation. The land below the escarpment was relatively flat and also covered in prairie grasses.

The buildings and structures are located on the crest of the White Rock Escarpment - a geologic feature that extends from Dallas County south to Austin, Texas. When the early settlers, including the Sharrock family as part of the Peters Colonists, arrived in the area, this upper plain at the eastern portion of their land was prairie grass and suitable for farming. The crest of the escarpment where Everard Sharrock Jr. sited his farmstead was a high point, with several feet of soil over limestone bedrock and supported minimal vegetation. This site provided a good location for the needs of a farmstead - open land that would not be cultivated but was used for livestock and farming activities, and the location of the house on this crest was well positioned to take advantage of available breezes and to offer a remarkable view to the west. Limestone strata often accommodate underground water within the strata; the Sharrock family's hand-dug well provided a constant source of water and continues to do so today.

The immediate farmstead area is gently sloping, with a relatively thin layer of soil over and around the limestone. Buildings are situated in two areas - the residential buildings and structures are located to the south, and the farmstead's 'working' buildings and structures are located to the north, with an open space of approximately 200' between the two areas.

Few changes occurred at the site from the mid nineteenth century until 1980. Starting in 1980 however, the land was no longer farmed and became overgrown with cedar trees. The land to the east is currently under development for new single-family housing. The escarpment has been covered with trees, shrubs and other vegetation, as has the farmstead area. The City of Dallas has erected a temporary chain link fence around the historic structures and maintains this property.

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## Log Cabin – Physical Description

1847, Modified 1934, Restored 2015 (Contributing Building)

The one room, single-pen log cabin was constructed by Everard Sharrock Jr., for his wife Sarah Elizabeth and first child Amy Catherine; family history notes that Amy Catherine was born in this log cabin in October 1847.<sup>1</sup> It is assumed Everard Sharrock Jr. received this land in 1847, as this property was not included in the 1846 Dallas County Tax Assessment. Amy Catherine's birth in this cabin in October 1847 puts the construction of the cabin in early 1847. This cabin is constructed of hand-hewn logs typical of north Texas prairie construction of the period; it is approximately 15' x 14' and constructed of local materials – Eastern red cedar logs and white limestone from the site. The logs are exposed. The cabin faces south and remains on its original site, as illustrated by the presence of the cabin on the Sam Street's Map of Dallas County, Texas, 1900 in the same location as it occupies today. Additionally, the cabin today remains in the same location as in the early 1930's when Grady Niblo purchased the property.<sup>2</sup>

The hand hewn, medium and large logs of the walls vary in size but most are about 6" wide and from 6" to 12" high. These logs are rough hewn with the inner and outer sides of the logs hewn while the top and bottom of the logs are left rounded, a method called planking that was typical of log cabin construction in Texas.<sup>3</sup> The logs are V-notched - which is typical of cabins constructed by Peters Colonists and by other early North Texas settlers. It is thought that the V-notch corner was brought to Texas "by way of the Ohio Valley and Missouri,"<sup>4</sup> interesting to note as the Sharrock family lived in Ohio prior to moving to Texas.

Prior to the recent restoration, the exterior walls, with logs held by concrete daubing, were leaning and building paper covered a fourth of the north façade. The current owner, the City of Dallas Park and Recreation Department, began a restoration effort of the cabin in late 2014 that included repair and restoration of the individual logs using wood consolidant and epoxy wood replacement compound that allowed for 80 percent of the original logs to be retained. Samples of the logs were sent to Cornell Tree Ring Laboratory and found to be *Juniperus virginiana*, Eastern Red Cedar. Three logs on the south facade were *Ulmus alata*, Winged Elm, and had weathered badly. These were presumed to be non-original logs from a previous repair and were replaced with Eastern Red Cedar logs during the restoration. Twenty percent of the existing logs were either missing or deteriorated beyond repair; they were replaced with Eastern Red Cedar logs to match the original and were rough hewn using v-notch connections between logs.

The gaps between the logs would have been originally chinked - presumably with mud daubing with chinking (smaller wood or stone pieces wedged between the logs) but this was replaced with Portland cement based daubing in 1934 by Grady Niblo Sr. shortly after he purchased the site and its historic buildings.<sup>5</sup> Grady Niblo Sr. also poured a concrete slab over the original dirt floor at that time. No remains of this historic daubing had been found prior to or during the recent restoration effort. As a part of the 2015 restoration, the non-historic

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<sup>1</sup> Eiler, Homer. Our Ancestors: A Record of these Families: Sharrock, Everard, Stevens Grenola, Kansas: James S. Dancy, Printer, 1929. Frances James, Dallas, Texas obtained a copy of this document from a descendent of the Sharrock family, c. early 2000s.

<sup>2</sup> Niblo descendents recall Grady Niblo's pride in acquiring this historic cabin in 1934 and his desire to protect and preserve the cabin and other historic structures at the site. Discussions with Henry Niblo and William Niblo, June 1, 2015.

<sup>3</sup> Terry G. Jordan, Texas Log Buildings: A Folk Architecture, Austin: University of Texas Press, 1978, p. 36.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, p. 65.

<sup>5</sup> Domeier, Doug 'Log cabin, barn built around 1850 still stand on Dallas County farm', Dallas Morning News; November 15, 1975.



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Portland cement daubing was removed and will be replaced with daubing which more closely resembles the historic mud daubing (using a formula for daubing recommended by the National Park Service). During the current restoration, the concrete slab was removed and the dirt floor exposed. The cabin has a front and rear log sill which was typical of log structures with side facing gables.<sup>6</sup> These sill logs rested on perimeter stones exposed when the concrete slab and chinking was removed. This stone foundation is consistent with log cabins from this area. As Terry Jordan notes, “foundations in the interior central portions of Texas are lower and consist of flat stones.”<sup>7</sup> This perimeter stone grade beam has been restored.

The cabin has exterior door openings at the north and south facades; the opening for the north door had been expanded to accommodate an adjacent window. During the restoration it was found that the log above each door opening had a hand hewn notch indicating the size of the original opening, confirming that both the front and rear opening were original. During the current restoration of the cabin, the window adjacent to the north door was removed and the opening restored to the original size.

The original roof framing consisted of rough log rafters that extended from the roof plate to the ridge, where they were pegged to the opposite rafter; there was no ridge beam. The ceiling joists were also rough logs and pegged to the roof plate (top exterior log at non-gable elevations). This roof construction without a ridge beam was typical construction of log cabins in Texas.<sup>8</sup> There are eight pairs of rafters, with three rafters having Roman numerals carved at the top; these numerals would have been for the Sharrock family's use in assembling the cabin. The original and the newer rafters retain some areas of the original bark and have been flattened in areas to accept spaced wood boards that supported the roofing materials. The original and newer rafters have nail holes at approximately 16" o. c., presumably to support open boards for roof shingles or shakes. The gable ends of the cabin are constructed of horizontal logs, connected to the end roof rafters with wooden pegs. This is not typical gable end construction of log cabins in Texas, as typically the gables had vertical supports which were then covered with clapboards.<sup>9</sup> At the interior, plank boards had been added on top of horizontal logs at the ceiling line (for bracing); these boards were milled and were added at a later date to create an attic floor for storage. A corrugated metal roof supported by milled 1 inch x 5 inch roofing lath had been installed in later years as well; this appears in an early photograph from the Niblo family and may date from the 1930s. Prior to the recent restoration, the metal roof was deteriorated in areas, with several areas pulled up from the roof plane, allowing water to infiltrate into the cabin. As a part of the 2015 restoration, the roof and ceiling rafters were patched or replaced to match the historic and the non-historic attic floor, roofing boards, and metal roof were removed. Temporary 1x4 framing has been added to stabilize the roof rafters. The City plans to replace the temporary framing over the rafters with wood lath, cut from Eastern Red Cedar logs, and a cedar shingle roofing in late 2015.

The stone chimney is constructed of cream colored limestone ledge stones, cut flat and perpendicular to the bedding plane without visible mortar. It is thought that the limestone was taken from the adjacent escarpment face. Irregular lengths of rectangular stones from 2 inches to 5 inches thick form the chimney, with noticeably larger blocks used at the corners. A wood lintel spanned the face of the chimney above the fireplace and had

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<sup>6</sup> Terry G. Jordan, Texas Log Buildings: A Folk Architecture, Austin: University of Texas Press, 1978, p. 39.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, p. 32.

<sup>8</sup> Terry G. Jordan, Texas Log Buildings: A Folk Architecture, Austin: University of Texas Press, 1978, p. 40,84.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, p. 87.

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deteriorated badly prior to the current restoration; this has been replaced with a cedar lintel during the 2015 restoration. The chimney is approximately 5 feet 8 inches at the base and at approximately 7 feet above grade it steps in for a height of five stones to a width of approximately 4 feet. The fireplace and chimney are disengaged from the log construction (as is typical for log house construction in Texas<sup>10</sup>) by approximately 3 inches on all sides. Prior to the recent restoration, the chimney was tapered to the top and leaning toward the log cabin, with the upper three feet of stone a poorly laid, later repair. A photograph from the 1930s shows that this upper portion of the chimney (above the height of approximately 9 feet 6 inches above grade) was not original to the construction. While this chimney was originally thought to be dry-stacked, large amounts of dirt and debris were found within the open joints and pockets of the chimney when the upper stones were removed; it is now thought this was the remains of a mud-based daubing used in the original construction of the chimney. During the recent restoration, the chimney was disassembled down to the height of the wood lintel so that the lintel can be replaced. The stones were retained and the upper portion of the chimney will be reconstructed to match the original configuration.

The cabin retains the seven aspects of integrity: location - the cabin remains on its original site; design - the original design has or will be restored during the on-going project (single room cabin with front and back door, stone chimney with wood lintel, wood shingle roof); the setting - while the surrounding neighborhood has developed over the years, the site is remote from this development and the city owns sufficient property surrounding the property to maintain the separation and allow the original setting to be observed; materials - 80 percent of the logs were maintained during restoration and the remaining 20 percent were replaced with materials to match the original, original stone were maintained and will be used to reconstruct the chimney to match the original; workmanship - the original joinery of the logs with v notches and pegs has been maintained and restored where missing, the original chinking and daubing of the logs will be restored; feeling - the cabin retains the ability to convey its connection to the historic settlement at this location; association - the cabin maintains the association to this original settlement of Texas.

### **Log Barn – Physical Description**

c. 1847, Modified prior to 1934, Stabilized 2015 (Contributing Building)

Although the exact date of construction of this log barn is not known, it is thought to date from the same time that Everard Sharrock built his log cabin and settled on this farmstead – c. 1847. The log barn is a double-pen building with a center passage constructed of rough hand-hewn Eastern Red Cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*) logs with V-notched corners, the same wood and construction type as the log cabin; it faces south towards the log cabin and is located approximately 200' north of the cabin. The log barn as originally constructed had five spaces – two large pens used to house farm animals with a center passage between each; two smaller enclosed cribs for storage of grain are located adjacent to each pen. These five spaces are covered with a gable roof; the roof was originally wood shingles or shakes but has since been replaced with corrugated metal panels. A lean-to shed was added prior to 1934 at the west side of the barn for use as a covered, exterior work area (fig. 7); this lean-to, of which only some horizontal and vertical wood members with pieces of corrugated metal roof remained (Fig. 8), was in deteriorated and unsafe condition and was dismantled in 2015 as part of the current stabilization project; the wood elements tagged and stored at the site.

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<sup>10</sup>Terry G. Jordan, Texas Log Buildings: A Folk Architecture, Austin: University of Texas Press, 1978, p. 99.

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The foundation of the two large pens is stacked white stones (limestone) that sit on the ground at the corners and perimeter of the these pens; these stones support log sills which are approximately 6 inches above grade. The wall structure of the pens is hand-hewn square wood logs, V-notched at corners. Logs are typically 6 inches wide and between 5 inches and 11 inches deep, similar to those found at the log cabin. Greater variation in size and shape is found in the construction of the log barn than in the cabin. The barn did not originally have chinking and daubing but was of 'open' construction. The floor within the two pens and passage is dirt. The north end of the center passage has been closed while the south end remains open with a later metal gate; earlier photographs (c. 1973) of this south opening by William Thomas Odum show a wood gate at this opening.

Two original 'crib door' openings in the upper portion of the walls between the passage and the pens remain; one of these crib doors is still in place, and is slatted with the top rail inserted into wood hinges; the door is mortise and tenon joinery and is still operational. This crib door was used to place hay into the animal pens or when used for hay or grain storage, to place hay from the back of a wagon into the pen.

The roof framing includes a combination of hand-hewn 4 inch wood beams at the upper portions of the wall, which support round logs at roof joists with 1 x 3 wood battens; the larger joists and beams are mortise and tenon joinery. The roof was originally wood shingles or shakes but has been replaced by corrugated metal panels; it appears to be approximately 6/12 pitch.

The west wall of the western pen has partially collapsed; this has been shored up as part of the recent stabilization effort.

The adjoining grain storage 'cribs' are supported on bois d'Arc piers; while many of these wood piers are intact, some are in poor condition and several are missing. The structure of these cribs is raised (to prevent access by animals and rodents), with heavy perimeter beam supporting vertical timber construction, with diagonal bracing at the corners and with plank boards lining the interior face – at floors, walls and ceiling; the structure is mortise and tenon joinery. The boards are tightly fitted to one another to contain the grain and to also prevent access by animals; the only access into these two cribs are by a small door (less than 2' wide by 3' high) from the passage; the grain was removed by a small slot in the wall at the exterior of the building. This type of construction is a variation of 'fachwerk' – a tradition that dates from the early wood building traditions of medieval Europe and is commonly found in the homes and structures in the Texas hill country – brought by German settlers to Texas. This type of construction would have been known to settlers in Texas as it provided a secure place to store grain and crops. Large, long beams extend from the outside corner of the open pens and continue over these enclosed cribs – thus supporting these rooms as part of the larger and original barn.

### **Plank Barn – Physical Description**

Early 1900s, Collapsed (Non-Contributing Structure)

The smaller plank barn is thought to date from around 1900 according to Niblo family descendents; the exact date of construction and who constructed it are not known. When first observed in late 2004 by the City of Dallas, the plank barn was in poor condition with a porch at the east façade remaining in place while the roof of another porch on the north façade was lying on the ground.

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Photographs taken in March of 1973 by William Thomas Odum show this original L-shaped porch at the east and north façades (Figures 9 and 10). Mr. Odum also observed a series of painted figures and buildings on the east façade – these were approximately 5” in height and in poor condition at that time; it is not known who painted these or when. These figures had disappeared by 2005 and no longer exist.

This barn was in very poor structural condition and due to removal of adjacent trees (which provided structural support) the east façade porch, roof, west wall and south corner of the barn collapsed during a storm in May 2007 (Figure 12).

A foundation of small flat stones support 6” to 8” diameter log sleepers (or beams) that supported rough milled 2” x 6” wood floor joists. Most of these beams sat directly on grade with the floor joists only a few inches above grade, and many of the beams had deteriorated in place. The floor boards were 9” x ¾” in size; much of the floor had deteriorated when this barn was first visited in late 2004. Walls were 2 x 4 milled wood, 24 inches on center with horizontal 1” planks nailed to the interior surface, leaving the wood studs exposed to the exterior; the ends of the planks overlapped at the outside corners. A large porch with metal corrugated roofing supported by rough hand-hewn timbers was attached to the east and north façades; the north porch was no longer in place by 2005.

The roof framing consisted of 2 x 4 milled rafters with sleepers for the wood shingle roof. The barn was largely without a roof although areas of corrugated metal panels (with some areas of remaining wood shingles) remained on the building prior to its collapse. The plank barn has collapsed on itself and no material has been moved or modified as a part of the current stabilization efforts on site; it remains as a pile of original material.

### **Root Cellar – Physical Description**

c. 1847, Stabilized 2015 (Contributing Structure)

The root cellar was hand dug into the sloping limestone escarpment some 20 feet west of the log cabin. It is believed to have been constructed around the same time as the log cabin (c. 1847) to provide a place for food storage at a low temperature and steady humidity. Like many cellars in the upper south areas of the country and particularly in rural areas of North Texas, cellars were commonly built as separate structures from the house and recessed into the ground (dugout type).<sup>11</sup> The cellar does not align nor is parallel to the log cabin which is unusual but is placed at approximately forty-five degree angle to the cabin; this is thought to be due to constraints due to the proximity to the nearby edge of the escarpment.

The cellar is approximately 9 feet by 10 feet and the finished floor level is about 6 feet below the underside of the wood roof structure. The walls and floor of the cellar were hand cut out of the limestone escarpment, and remain exposed. A straight-run stair with steep risers (over 12” in height) was also hand carved from the limestone; this stair led from the yard adjacent to the log cabin into the cellar. The original exposed limestone steps have been worn down over time and brick steps were later constructed on top of these and remain largely intact. The remains of a newer metal door are still present at the site, although the original door would have been a hinged, wood plank door in the horizontal plane above the stairs.

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<sup>11</sup>Terry G. Jordan, [Texas Log Buildings: A Folk Architecture](#), Austin: University of Texas Press, 1978, p. 142.

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Undressed hand-hewn logs spanned the roof opening and sat on the edges of the exposed limestone walls. The northwest and southeast perimeter beams extended several feet past the rectangular opening of the cellar and into the grade, and provided structural rigidity for the roof structure. A center undressed beam ran north-south, and rested on these perimeter beams. The top surface of this beam was slightly notched to accept (and provide mid-span support) to undressed, level, roof rafters that spanned the width of the cellar, and were supported mid-span by the center beam. These beams and rafters appear to be Eastern red cedar - the same wood species as the farmstead's log structures. These rafters, approximately 6" - 8" in diameter, were laid side-by-side and appear to have been level. Smaller pieces of wood would have been added on top, with additional layers of twigs, hay and the borrowed dirt placed on top with turf - forming what appeared to be an earthen, grassy mound. Vertical posts were located on the inside face of the stone perimeter walls; these are thought to have been later additions to provide additional support for the perimeter beams as the adjacent top soil would have moved with time and water infiltration occurred. This top soil was 12 to 24 inches higher than the adjacent ground, which provided insulation and drainage away from the cellar; this earthen mound was approximately 20 to 25 feet in diameter. This type of root cellar is identified by James E Gage as a 'below ground level root cellar' and the Sharrock cellar with its earthen mound is typical of this type.<sup>12</sup>

The roof structure had largely collapsed and the logs and dirt had fallen into the cellar and trees and brush were growing in the mound when the property was acquired by the City. The cellar was excavated as part of the 2015 stabilization effort, the logs exposed, tagged with brass tags, photographed and removed to a secure location at the site. Approximately 18" of dirt was removed from the cellar floor - including the debris from the collapsed mound above the cellar.

This debris (dirt and rocks) was removed under the observation of archeologist Missy Green with Cox|McClain Environmental Consultants. Cultural materials found in the cellar date to the twentieth century. Most of the materials recovered were found near and at the floor of the cellar. Although there was some recent trash (broken glass, plastic, paper, metal, wire, etc.) in the roof-fall in or near the entranceway, most of the materials found were canning and pickle/condiment jars. These jars were on shelves that lined the north and south walls of the cellar. When the roof collapsed, the shelves were broken or pushed over causing the jars to fall to the floor. The majority of the jars were found intact as the soil from the roof cushioned the fall. Canning jar names included KERR SELF SEALING, BERNANDIN/MASON, PERFECT MASON, and PRESTO/SUPREME/MASON and included both quart and pint specimens in round and square shapes, other bottles or jars identified included small milk bottles, green hobbleskirt Coca-Cola bottles (from the Dallas Bottling Company), one 7-UP bottle (from the Denton Bottling Company, two pesticide bottles, three perfume or cologne bottles, and two 4-ounce OVALE NURSER (baby bottles). All of the jars and bottles recovered were clear, except the Coca-Cola and 7 UP bottles. These jars were removed from the cellar and remain at the site.

Ms. Green recently spoke to Frank Bracken, an adjacent property owner, who remembers the cellar being used by the last tenant family until the early 70s.<sup>13</sup> Mr. Bracken mentioned that the posts along the wall may have been to help support the roof, and shelves were attached to them as well at the north and south walls. He said

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<sup>12</sup>James E. Gage, Root Cellars in America: Their History, Design and Construction 1609-1920, Amesbury, Massachusetts, Powwow River Books, 2009. © James E Gage, p.48.

<sup>13</sup>Discussion between Missy Green and Frank Bracken, held at the site, May, 2015.

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that at that time there was a wooden slat floor which always seemed to be wet - probably from water filtration from the limestone. He didn't recall if the original flooring was dirt or stone. Mr. Bracken noted that by the 1960s, a single electrical wire extended to the cellar and a single light bulb provided light within the cellar. He also noted that the cellar always cool, regardless of the seasons. He recalls visiting the cellar as a child.

In *Root Cellars in America; Their History, Design and Construction 1609-1920*, Gage notes that depending on the type of wood used, wood roof structures lasted between ten and fifteen years before they needed to be replaced.<sup>14</sup> In Texas's drier climates, wood roof structures would have lasted longer but would typically have been replaced with concrete or corrugated metal roof structures which are commonly seen today. The Sharrock root cellar remained in use by tenant farmers and was intact until at least the 1970s. Its survival and structural integrity for over 120 years is testament to the quality of its original construction, good drainage and maintenance by its owners and tenant farmers and the use of Eastern red cedar for its structural members. This species of cedar is a slow-growth, dense and hardy sapwood that resists moisture and can be used in direct contact with dirt with minimal deterioration - as evidenced by its common use for fence posts throughout the state. Although the cedar roof logs had collapsed, many were broken and some had been exposed to the elements for decades, several retained their structural integrity when removed from the cellar as part of the 2015 stabilization work.

While log roof structures at cellars were thought to have been common in the 1850s in North Texas, neither the archeologists nor architects at Texas Historical Commission that were consulted were aware of any other historic log roof cellars remaining in Texas.<sup>15</sup> With these findings from the disassembly of the root cellar and the observation the roof's log structural members during the 2015 Stabilization effort, the structure of the cellar's walls and roof are clearly understood. Even in its deteriorated condition, this c. 1847 log roof structure told the story of how an early settler in North Texas constructed an in-ground root cellar with log structured roof using only materials found at the site - limestone, wood and dirt.

The root cellar is currently open, exposing the original walls carved into the limestone, and the original steps carved into limestone and now paved with brick are also exposed. As part of the 2015 stabilization project, a temporary metal structure to protect the cellar from the elements and a curb to stabilize the edge of the adjacent dirt from erosion will be provided. The cellar will be restored in the future when funding becomes available.

### **Hand Dug Well – Physical Description**

c. 1847, Stabilized 2015 (Contributing Structure)

The well, believed to be constructed around the same time as the log cabin (c. 1847), is situated some 40 feet due west of the log cabin and adjacent to the later farm house. The original hand dug well shaft is about 5' in diameter and extends through limestone for approximately 12' feet, then opens out to a larger volume for a total depth of about 25 feet. Standing water remains in the well, suggesting it is situated above a natural aquifer that after 150 years still remains active. When measured on several occasions, the water level has been 13' to 15' below grade, even during the recent drought (2011-2014).

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<sup>14</sup> Gage, James E., *Root Cellars in America*, 56.

<sup>15</sup> Various THC staff were contacted in April 2015 by Missy Green with Cox McClain and Elizabeth Cummings with Quimby McCoy Preservation Architecture, LLP.

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The lowest level of construction at the upper wall of the well is dry-stack stones placed on bedrock that extends to grade. As limestone was plentiful at the site, it is assumed that the original above grade well wall would have been constructed of this natural stone; however there are no remains of this wall remaining. The means of obtaining water could have originally been by hand or pulley system.

When the property was acquired by the City of Dallas, a newer single-wythe wall of approximately 30" in height existed around the wall and was several feet in height; this wall was in poor condition. Adjacent to the well is a later concrete box trough containing an electric pump; this water source was used for many years, serving the adjacent farm house. Modern piping connected the well with the concrete trough pump and the farm house.

As part of the 2015 stabilization project, the brick wall was rebuilt and a wooden enclosure was built over the well as temporary protection to prevent access to the well. The well will be restored in the future when funding becomes available.

### **Chicken Coop - Physical Description**

Early 1900s (Non-Contributing Structure)

The chicken coop is located to the northwest of the log barn and measures approximately 40 feet by 17 feet; it appears to have been constructed of salvaged materials, including round creosote impregnated poles (similar to telephone poles), square (milled) poles, and a variety of metal sheets, used for cladding of walls. Boxes for chickens are located within this open air structure. Wire mesh ('chicken wire') is located at the exterior wall openings and other locations within the structure. Because it dates from outside the documented period of significance, it is considered noncontributing.

### **Farm House – Physical Description**

c. 1872, Modified 1980 (Non-Contributing Building)

Located to the west of the historic log cabin, this rectangular farmhouse is sited near the edge of the escarpment with a steep slope just to its west. This one-story 3-room house is approximately 40' in length with the living room of 18' in width and a bedroom and bath area of 25' in width; a recessed porch (facing the log cabin) extends along the front of the house adjacent to the living room. A small linear rear addition accommodates a kitchen.

According to Niblo family descendents, who still live on a nearby property, the farmhouse was constructed in 1872 by Andrew Young, who owned the property at the time. The house is constructed of wood beams that sit on stone piers with wood joists over a minimal crawl space. Walls are constructed of rough-hewn vertical cedar posts of 5" to 8" in diameter that support the roof structure; the roof joists are also rough-hewn cedar posts. The roof framing consists of rough log rafters that extend from the roof plate to the ridge, where they are pegged to the opposite rafter, without a ridge beam. The ceiling joists are also rough logs and pegged to the roof plate. Diagonal bracing of rough-hewn cedar posts are located at the exterior corners; this is often found at homes of similar construction.<sup>16</sup> According to William Thomas Odum, architect for improvements at this house for

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<sup>16</sup>The original Caruth log cabin in Dallas (c. 1850s) is also constructed of vertical rough-hewn construction with diagonal bracing.

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Grady Niblo Jr. and his wife Barbara in 1980, the exterior siding was single-wall of approximately 1" x 12" vertical boards; the interior partitions are also single-wall construction.<sup>17</sup>

A brick chimney is currently located at the north wall of the house (facing the living area). This brick chimney replaced an earlier limestone chimney that was destroyed in a fire in 1979.

During the time the land was owned by Grady Niblo Sr., it was leased for farming and the house occupied by the tenant farmers. Originally clad in wood siding, the house was later clad with asphalt shingles that imitated brick with composition roofing; this was commonly used in the 1940s thru the 1960s. The asphalt shingles cladding has since been removed by Grady Niblo Jr.

An earlier dressed stone chimney was located at the north wall of the house (facing the living area), where the brick chimney is currently; it is not known whether or not this chimney was original to the house. In April 1976, due to its poor condition, the stone chimney was disassembled and the stones numbered. The stone chimney was re-built with the stones re-installed in their original locations. William Odum was the architect for this work and documented these stones and their graffiti.<sup>18</sup> These dressed stones were unusual for a small farmhouse that sits on an escarpment with available limestone nearby – and these stones were assumed to have been re-used from another building or site elsewhere and brought to this site. These chimney stones had historic graffiti on them – names (some with dates) of the previous owners – including ‘MR Willie Myers 1905’ (Myers family lived on property to the north), ‘Horrace Parker 1905’, ‘EM Hale’, ‘John Pelt 1893’ (upside down) and ‘J W Cannady’. Some names are upright while others are upside-down, indicating some names were carved when the stones were in a different location and direction, and later moved to the chimney where additional names were added. The three stones with a date of 1905 (Willie Myers, Horrace Parker, and GH) are assumed to have been carved when the stones were in originally installed at this chimney. These dates suggest that while the house predates 1905, the chimney may have been added in 1905 by B. P. Hale who owned the land from 1894 – 1909

In November 1979, a fire destroyed a portion of the north wall, including the limestone chimney. A pre-fabricated metal fireplace with metal flue was installed and the chimney rebuilt in brick. These dressed stones were removed at that time and their condition and location are not known.

Improvements were made to the house in 1980 in preparation for occupancy by Grady Niblo Jr. and wife Barbara. This work included the installation of insulation at the exterior walls and application of drywall on the interior wall surfaces, installation of new Pella windows and new doors, removal of the ceiling in the living room and exposing the rough-hewn cedar roof joists, creation of usable loft space above the bedroom, insulation of the roof and addition of new skylights, updating of the kitchen and bathroom, repair of the existing pine flooring, new electrical, mechanical and plumbing work, installation of horizontal wood siding at the exterior, and new composition roof. William Thomas Odum of Dallas was also the architect for this work. The contractor was Charles Truesdall of Dallas.

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<sup>17</sup> Odum, William Thomas, unpublished material dated July 22, 2012 and conversation with Odum, Trent Williams and Marcel Quimby, July 20, 2012.

<sup>18</sup> Odum, William Thomas, unpublished material, dated July 22, 2012, included photographs and sketches of these stones and graffiti.



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### **Overall Integrity of the District**

As a district, the Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead contains a significant concentration of resources that represent the settlement-era architecture of southern Dallas County. Although the setting of the district has been somewhat compromised by the intrusion of a new subdivision, this is not readily visible from the farmstead. Collectively, the resources that comprise the district possess a high degree of historic integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association to convey its significance in the areas of settlement and architecture.

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## Statement of Significance

The Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Exploration and Settlement for its contribution to the settling of the greater Dallas County region. The property is also nominated under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its representation of the Pre-Railroad Folk log construction. Nominated at the local level of significance, the property's period of significance spans from 1847 to 1881 to encompass the length of ownership of the first two families at the site, the Sharrocks and the Youngs, coinciding with settlement of the area and construction of the most significant structures at the site.

The nominated property is of exceptional historical significance, representing one of few remaining collections of mid-nineteenth century buildings and structures on their original site in the City of Dallas and in Dallas County. The log cabin was constructed in 1847 and its existence has been documented at least to October 27, 1847, when Everard Jr.'s daughter, Amy Catherine, was born in this cabin.<sup>19,20</sup> This time frame places the log cabin and associated structures as one of the few sites that date from the first years of Texas' statehood remaining on their original site in the City of Dallas and Dallas County. The property is also of historical significance for their association with Everard Sharrock Jr., a Peters colonist. Peters Colonists were among the early settlers in North Texas – with some arriving in the early to mid-1840s, shortly after John Neely Bryan established Dallas as the first permanent settlement in this area in 1841. Few structures by these colonists remain in Dallas and the North Texas area, and the vast majority of those that do are log cabins similar to this. The nominated historic resources – the log cabin, the large log barn, the well and root cellar – comprise a remarkably intact collection of structures that illustrate how these early colonists provided for their livelihood, the circumstances in which they lived and thrived, and illustrates their use of locally available materials to provide structures for protection of their families and domestic stock. These buildings were constructed of wood logs, with wood roof shingles, and used limestone (white rock) for foundations – all of which were readily available on the face and top of the escarpment.

This collection of historic structures retains a remarkable degree of historic integrity, and tells the story of the lives of some of Dallas County's earliest settlers, and how they lived. These buildings also set the stage for later owners who continued to farm this land, that was uniquely located at the crest of 'Cedar Bluff' (now known as White Rock Escarpment) and was so near to the City of Dallas yet so distant in environment and character.

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The site of these historic structures, originally owned by Everard Sharrock Jr., followed by Thomas J. Young and Andrew A. Young, and most recently associated with Dr. Grady Niblo Jr., has a long history of documented ownership dating from the Peters Colony settlement. The historic structures remaining today include a mid-nineteenth century log cabin and log barn, a newer plank barn (now collapsed), a tin chicken coop, and a late nineteenth century farmhouse.<sup>21</sup> Also in the vicinity of these buildings, a root cellar and a well comprise the features of this historic property.

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<sup>19</sup> Eiler, Homer. Our Ancestors: A Record of these Families: Sharrock, Everard, Stevens Grenola, Kansas: James S. Dancy, Printer, 1929. Frances James, Dallas, Texas obtained a copy of this document from a descendent of the Sharrock family, c. early 2000s.

<sup>20</sup> Correspondence with Chris Love, great-great granddaughter of Everard Sharrock Jr., and Marcel Quimby; July 14, 2011

<sup>21</sup> The larger farmhouse was most recently inhabited by Barbara Cowling Niblo.

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John Neely Bryan settled on the east bank of the Trinity River in 1841 in what was then the Republic of Texas, in the environs of the modern city of Dallas.<sup>22</sup> Bryan's original intent was to establish a trading post; for this he found a narrow point in the Trinity River that was easy to cross, not far from the current location of Downtown Dallas. This crossing point became a north-south route for the settlements in the Republic and the United States. Ultimately Bryan decided to form a permanent settlement instead. In 1842 he persuaded settlers from a community nearby to join his settlement, and in 1844 he convinced J. P. Dumas to survey and plat the settlement of Dallas, which later became Downtown Dallas. Bryan's presence in the area led to the beginning of the small settlement of Dallas, which would become a commercial hub for Dallas, Dallas County and the surrounding region.

### **Peters Colony**

In the tradition of the Midwest, “colonies” for settlement were established in the Republic of Texas to attract families to immigrate and populate the Republic. The Peters Colony refers to the empresario land grant made in 1841 with William Smalling Peters (an Englishman living in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania but who located his company in Louisville, Kentucky), his partners and the Republic to colonize a significant area of North Texas. Four separate contracts were signed for the Peters Colony, with the first signed on August 30, 1841 and the second very shortly after, on November 9, 1841, every subsequent contract expanding the area of the colony. The fourth and last contract was signed on January 20, 1843. The Peters Colony extended over 16,000 square miles in several North Texas counties, including land that would become Dallas County and was the south-easternmost portion of the colony. Colonists were provided with land allotments of 640 acres to families and 320 acres to single men with requirements that they must reside on and improve the land.<sup>23</sup> Colonists were required to provide and live in a permanent dwelling for three years as well as work the land to receive permanent ownership. The first settlers in the Peters Colony arrived in North Texas in early 1842 and settlement continued until 1848 when the colony’s contract (then with the State of Texas) expired. The Federal Census for Dallas County in 1850 included 395 Peters Colony settlers out of a county population of 2,370.

### **Everard Sharrock Sr. and the Sharrock Family**

Everard Sharrock, Sr. was the son of James Sharrock, a Liverpool-born college educated man who, as a ganged soldier turned American revolutionary, served from 1778-1781 with the Westchester County Militia of the Continental Army.<sup>24</sup> James became a Methodist Minister and with his wife, Jane Everard, is known to have settled in Peekskill, New York. In 1803 the family, with eight children, moved to Guernsey County, Ohio – the year Ohio gained statehood.<sup>25</sup> Everard Sr. was born in New York City about 1790, and married Amy Stevens in 1813; they had nine children. Sharrock family history describes Everard Sr. as having ‘a roving disposition.’ In 1832 the Sharrock family moved to Flat Branch, a small community near Tower Hill in Christian County, Illinois.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Brown, John Henry. History of Dallas County, Texas: From 1837-1887 (Dallas: Milligan, Cornett & Farnham, Printers, 1887): 12.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Eiler, Homer. Our Ancestors: A Record of these Families: Sharrock, Everard, Stevens Grenola, Kansas: James S. Dancy, Printer, 1929., 3.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid., 5

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

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In the mid 1840s, Texas was in governmental flux. By 1845, the Republic of Texas was in discussion with the United States about admission to the union. This was formalized effective December 29, 1845, when Texas became the 28th state of the United States. The state of Texas then modified several counties which had been established by the Republic and, on March 30, 1846, Robertson County was divided into several smaller counties – including Dallas County.

Everard Sharrock Sr. and his family moved to what would become Dallas County, State of Texas, in 1846 with the Peters Colony; this family move appears to have arrived in two groups: James Sharrock, the eldest son of Everard Sr., arrived in 1845 and is listed in Robertson County's Tax Assessment of 1845 as owning two cattle but with no note of owning land. It is assumed his early arrival was to prepare for the arrival of the remainder of the family. James soon became a Constable for Dallas County in July 1846, and served for two years.<sup>27</sup>

The larger family group left Illinois following the February 28, 1846 marriage of daughter Amy Ann to Jephtha May; May family history notes that 'within six weeks of the marriage he (Jephtha) moved to Dallas, Texas' presumably with his in-laws.<sup>28,29</sup> The group included Everard Sharrock Sr., wife Amy, sons Everard Jr. and George, daughters Amy and husband Jephtha May, Jane Sharrock Noyer and husband Peter Noyer, Rachel Sharrock Bell and husband John Robertson Bell.<sup>30</sup> Another daughter, Phoebe Sharrock, and her husband George Alvey, followed the family to Texas soon thereafter.<sup>31</sup> Upon arrival in Dallas County, assumed to be in the summer of 1846, Everard Sr., James, Jephtha May, John Bell, Peter Noyer and George Alvey received 640 acres each from the Peters Colony as head of households, while Everard Jr. and George received 320 acres each as single males. These land grants were located near each another and all were on flat land to the east of the crest of the 'Cedar Bluff'.

### **Everard Sharrock Jr.**

Everard Sharrock Jr. was born in Richland County, Ohio in 1826, and was the sixth child of Everard Sr. and Amy Stevens Sharrock.<sup>32</sup> Upon Everard Jr.'s arrival in Dallas County as an unmarried male, he received 320 acres - the east 320 acres of Abstract 1315.<sup>33</sup> This tract of land is flat and is near the edge of what was referred to as 'Cedar Bluff' (the White Rock escarpment). The 1846 Dallas County Tax Assessment notes Everard Jr. owned 320 acres of land; it is presumed that at the time of this assessment he was single and living on the first 320 acres. This assessment makes no reference to a structure, but he could have had a temporary structure or could have lived with his parents or other family members on their nearby property.

Everard Jr. married Sarah Elizabeth Robbins, from Illinois, in 1846 or possibly in early 1847 – the date of their marriage in Dallas County is unknown. It is not known if they met in Illinois or in Dallas County

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<sup>27</sup> Brown, History of Dallas County, Texas: From 1837 – 1887.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid., 24.

<sup>29</sup> Eiler, Homer May-Hanson-Pollard-Philips Families Grenola, Kansas, as referenced by Larry Kuttler who noted that the Sharrock family move to Texas occurred following this wedding; email to Frances James, October 27, 1999.

<sup>30</sup> Eiler, Our Ancestors: A Record of these Families: Sharrock, Everard, Stevens (Grenola, Kansas: James S. Dancy, Printer, 1929),

<sup>31</sup> Ibid., 23.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid., 23.

<sup>33</sup> Dallas County Survey Records 1840-1900, Dallas Public Library, Roll 4, Book B, p. 175. Also Refer to "General Index to Surveyor's Records, Dallas County, Texas" p. 105.

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following separate moves to the county with their families.<sup>34, 35</sup> With his marriage and change in status as head of household, Everard Jr. received an additional 320 acres (the western 320 acres of Abstract 1314); this additional land was located to the west of his first grant and is situated at the crest of Cedar Bluff. It is assumed Everard Jr. and Sarah received this land in 1847 as this property was not included in the 1846 Dallas County Tax Assessment.

Colonists were required to provide and live in a permanent dwelling for three years as well as work the land to receive permanent ownership. According to family history, Everard Jr. built a small log cabin on the subject site, and his first child, Amy Catherine, was born in this cabin October 27, 1847 – dating the cabin between early 1847 and the date of his daughter’s birth in October 1847.<sup>36</sup>

This cabin and other historic structures are located at this western acreage, near the edge of the bluff, and take advantage of south-western and southern breezes during the summer, as well as the view to the west. The log barn is of similar construction and it appears to also date from this timeframe, as do the well and root cellar.

Everard Jr. and Sarah had three children while living at the subject site – the second child, George Alvey, was born October 24, 1849 and the third child, Charles Augustus, in 1850.<sup>37, 38</sup> The first U.S. Census for the new State of Texas in 1850 counted 2,473 residents in Dallas County and noted that 395 were Peters Colonists. This census included Everard Sharrock Sr., Jr. and wife Sarah, children Amy Catherine and George Alvey, as well as family member Everard Sr., brothers George, James, and David Sharrock.

Amy Stevens Sharrock died in 1848 and was buried in Five Mile Cemetery in Dallas County; husband Everard Sr. returned to Illinois several years later.<sup>39</sup> In 1849 several of the Sharrock men in Texas and Tower Hill, Illinois traveled to California in pursuit of the riches promised by the California Gold Rush; there are no records of who made this trip but it is known that Everard Sr.'s son, John Sharrock from Illinois, did so.<sup>40</sup> Although the group was unsuccessful in their gold mining efforts, they decided to later return to California with their families to live.<sup>41</sup> Rachel Bell died in childbirth of her first-born child in 1849 and was buried in Five Mile Cemetery next to her mother, Amy Stevens Sharrock.<sup>42</sup> Rachel’s child Timothy Carpenter Bell lived and later moved with the Sharrock family to California and Oregon. James Sharrock and his family (including two children who were born in Texas) returned to Tower Hill, Illinois due to his views on slavery in 1852.<sup>43</sup>

Surveyors officially set the metes and bounds of Peters Colony land in 1850, and recorded them in the office of the County Survey of Dallas County on December 1850; this survey notes Everard Sharrock Jr. as the

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<sup>34</sup> 1850 US Census, Dallas County.

<sup>35</sup> Eiler, Homer Our Ancestors: A Record of These Families: Sharrock - Everard – Stevens; Grenola, Kansas, 1929; p. 23.

<sup>36</sup> Correspondence from Chris Love (great grand-daughter of Everard Sharrock Jr.) to Marcel Quimby, July 14, 2011.

<sup>37</sup> Both Amy Catherine (Amy C.) and George Alvey are included in the 1850 Dallas County Census; family history notes that Charles was probably born later in 1850 after the Census was taken.

<sup>38</sup> Correspondence from Chris Love to Marcel Quimby, July 14, 2011.

<sup>39</sup> Eiler, Homer., Our Ancestors. 9.

<sup>40</sup> Eiler, Homer., Our Ancestors. 16.

<sup>41</sup> Correspondence from Larry Kuttner to Frances James, October 25, 2004.

<sup>42</sup> Eiler, Homer., Our Ancestors. 23.

<sup>43</sup> *Ibid.*, 15.

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owner of the subject property. Everard Jr. received Colony Certificate No. 3, Vol. 1 for 320 acres in the area described as “Cedar Bluff 9 ¾ miles south 50° west from Dallas” on April 1, 1850 (Title of Land Abstract No. 1314 and 1315)<sup>44</sup> – providing legal ownership for the first installment of land in Abstract 1315.<sup>45</sup> In April 1853, he received the second installment of his Peters’ Colony Certificate lands, another 311 2/10 acres to the west of his original property (west 320 acres of Abstract 1314).<sup>46</sup> However, by the time he received this second certificate, he was in the process of leaving (or had already left) Dallas County.

The Peters Colony administrators experienced difficulties with assigning legal titles to the colonists’ property prior to the dissolution of the Peter Colony’s contract with the State of Texas in 1848. The State Legislature became involved with this ongoing problem following an incident in 1852 between the colonists, members of the Dallas community and the Peter Colony’s local administrator, Henry Hedgcoxe. It would take another twenty years for many land titles to be fully resolved. However, the Sharrock family members appear to have not been adversely affected by this title dispute.

By 1853 the Illinois and Dallas County members of the Sharrock family had finalized their plans to move to California and the two groups met in New Orleans. The family then boarded a ship sailing to Havana, Cuba and sailed to Colon, Panama where they traveled across the Isthmus of Panama. The railroad was not yet complete, so they had to walk or ride donkeys on the mountainous remainder of the trail.<sup>47</sup> They then took a sailing ship to San Francisco, and traveled by wagon to Tuolumne County (near what is now Yosemite National Park) to settle.<sup>48,49</sup>

It is not known why the Sharrocks left Texas and Illinois but several possible factors have been mentioned in the family history – the loss of the family matriarch Amy Stevens Sharrock and her daughter Rachel, the desire for adequate land for the entire family to own property and the family’s concern about the slavery. Another possible reason is the Sharrock family’s tendency to follow America’s ever-changing western frontier – as evidenced by the family’s past moves from New York to Ohio in 1803, to Illinois in 1832 and to Texas in 1846.

Everard Jr.’s wife Sarah and the youngest child, Charles Augustus, died of measles in California in March of 1854.<sup>50</sup> Everard Jr., his daughter Amy and son George remained in California where Everard Jr. died in Sonora, Tuolumne County, California, January 19, 1913.<sup>51</sup>

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<sup>44</sup> Texas General Land Office, Land Grant Search. File Number 001795.

<sup>45</sup> Dallas County Survey Records 1840-1900, Dallas Public Library, Roll 4, Book B, p. 175. Also Refer to “General Index to Surveyor’s Records, Dallas County, Texas” p. 105.

<sup>46</sup> Dallas County Survey Records 1840-1900, Dallas Public Library, Roll 4, Book B, p. 448. Also Refer to “General Index to Surveyor’s Records, Dallas County, Texas” p. 106.

<sup>47</sup> ‘Ninth May Generation Biographical Sketches – Jephtha May.’ Powerpoint presentation, May 2008. Author unknown (available from link from Dallas County Pioneer Association) (<http://mayhouse.org/family/essays>); accessed July 14, 2011.

<sup>48</sup> Correspondence from Larry Kuttler, October 1999: Sharrock Archives, Rootsweb; Sharrock-L, [www.archives.rootsweb.ancestry.com](http://www.archives.rootsweb.ancestry.com).

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> <http://DallasPioners.org/stories/FrancesJames>, October 2004.

<sup>51</sup> Eiler, Homer. Our Ancestors, 30.

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Other family members resettled to Oregon, where they were granted land in Clackamas County, Oregon and where Everard Sr. remained until his death in 1866.<sup>52</sup>

### History of the Site after 1853

On June 19, 1856, Thomas J. Young became the assignee of Everard Sharrock Jr. for 320 acres of land (Abstract 1314).<sup>53</sup> It is thought that Young took possession of the property in 1853 and received the deed and title at a later date – which was not uncommon for Peter Colonists properties. Young was a first generation Irish immigrant, born in Londonderry, Ireland in 1799.<sup>54</sup> As a ten-year-old immigrant with his widowed mother, Young lived in Maryville, Tennessee until moving to Missouri with his wife Rebecca Houston and seven children (Sam Houston Young, Andrew A., Clarinda, Sophia, Elizabeth, Sally, and Hetty).<sup>55</sup> From Johnson County, Missouri, the 56-year-old Thomas J. Young and family settled in Texas;<sup>56</sup> where he owned the 320 acre plat in the Cedar Bluff area of North Texas until 1867.

Thomas Young's second son, Andrew A. ('Andy'), has been described as a tall young man, with curly red hair that hung down to his shoulders and a red beard – and was known to be an unruly young man.<sup>57</sup> Andy Young openly stated that if he found unbranded cattle stock on the open range, he would take them on as his own property – thus acquiring a reputation as a cattle rustler. Lucretia Barker Vinyard's book *The History of the Cedar Mountains* notes that he "refused to fight in the Civil War and hid out in a cave on the side of the mountain southwest from his home." Vinyard also notes that "the log cabin where he lived bore evidence of many gun battles." For these escapades, Andy Young was locally known as the 'Giant of the Mountains.'

In 1867, Thomas J. Young deeded the property of the E. Sharrock Survey to Andy and his wife Alice Young.<sup>58</sup> However by this time Andy Young had settled down, was raising cattle on his land and appears to have been a respectable citizen of the area. He is listed in the 1870 census of Dallas County as a stock raiser of 26 years of age.<sup>59</sup> By 1880, he, his wife and children, and Andy's mother, Rebecca, show up on a census of Coleman County, Texas.<sup>60</sup> By this time, Rebecca Young was widowed; Thomas J. Young having passed in 1875 at the age of 75 and buried in the Horton Family Cemetery in Dallas.<sup>61</sup> A descendant of Thomas J. and Andy Young, Royce Young, confirms this information from his genealogical research; Royce Young's family continues to live in Coleman County and cares for the ranch that Andy established there in 1876. Andy still held the subject 320 acres in Dallas County until 1881 when he sold to H. K. Hale for \$2,100.<sup>62</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> Ibid., 8.

<sup>53</sup> "Abstract of Land Titles" Dallas Public Library, 368. See Also Texas General Land Office, Land Grant Search, File Number 001795. The deed was made with Everard Sharrock Jr. in California.

<sup>54</sup> Susanna Clark-Smith, "Horton Family Cemetery, History and Description," [www.cemeteries-of-tx.com](http://www.cemeteries-of-tx.com).

<sup>55</sup> Correspondence from Royce Young (descendant of Thomas J. Young) to Leah McCurdy, May 1, 2009. Rebecca Houston Young is purported to be the niece of the famous Sam Houston, being the daughter of his brother, John Houston.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> Vinyard, Lucretia Barker, "The History of the Cedar Mountains, 1841 - 1952." Printed by Rhea Printing Co., Inc., Dallas, Texas, 1952. Copyright by The Estate of Mrs. C. O. (Lucretia Barker) Vinyard, 1972, p. 58.

<sup>58</sup> Dallas County Official Public Records, Deed Records, Vol. K, p. 186.

<sup>59</sup> Correspondence from Judy Artley to Leah McCurdy via Genforum, [www.genealogy.com](http://www.genealogy.com).

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.

<sup>61</sup> Susanna Clark-Smith's research at the Horton family cemetery.

<sup>62</sup> Dallas County Official Public Records, Deed Records, Vol. 54, p. 349.

Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

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In the 1881 - 82 Dallas County Directory, H. K. Hale is listed as a farmer in the Sprowles (postmaster) area “ten miles southwest of Dallas.”<sup>63</sup> Very little family information has been found on the Hale line in north Texas. H. K. Hale deeded the 320 acres to his son B. P. Hale in 1886.<sup>64</sup> The original surveyed land title remained intact as 320 acres until 1894 when B. P. Hale sold the northern 100 acres to another farmer, D. E. Myers.<sup>65</sup> By 1900, the “Sam Street’s Map of Dallas County” depicts two houses on the property of Abstract 1314, labeled “D. Myers” on the northern location and “B. P. Hale” on the southern location.<sup>66</sup> This southern house, located in the center of the property and sitting on the crest of the escarpment, corresponds closely with the location of the historic buildings on the site today. The northern location, noted as D. Myers’ residence, appears to have been located near the current intersection of the east service road of Spur 408 and Niblo Road, near the north property line of the original property.

B. P. Hale held the lower 220 acres until deeding the southern-most 100 acres to E. M. Hastings in 1908.<sup>67</sup> The remaining 120 acres were released to E. M. Hastings on B. P. Hale’s death by the executrix of his will, his wife Sarah Hale in November of 1909.<sup>68</sup>

This 120 acres was then transferred by E. M. Hastings to his son, John Hastings shortly there-after in December of 1909.<sup>69</sup> Between this time and 1921, E. M. Hastings deeded the last 100 acres to John. During a period of seven years, from February 1921 to May 1928, John Hastings was party to a transfer of the Deed of Trust of these 220 acres to four companies (Boren & Stewart Co., Blair & Hughes Co., Huey & Philip Hardware Co., and Waples Platter Grocery Co.).<sup>70</sup> The deed refers to this transfer as a transaction used to settled debts that John Hastings incurred with these companies.

Within a month, in June of 1928, Norman Hamilton and William A. Sailer purchased the deed for the 220 acres from those four companies for \$8,800.<sup>71</sup>

### **Grady Niblo (1889 – 1961) and Dr. Grady Niblo Jr. (1923 – 2005)**

Between April 26, 1934 and May 17, 1935, Grady Niblo of Dallas purchased, in two transactions, the southern 220 acres of the E. Sharrock survey, Abstract 1314.<sup>72</sup> Niblo held the 220 acres intact until 1949, when he sold the southern-most 100 acres to Dr. Frank L. Bracken. Niblo used the land for weekend and personal uses – primarily hunting and fishing. He leased the northern and eastern portion of the land for farming by tenants. Niblo bought this land for future residential development, however this did not happen during his lifetime. Upon Niblo’s death in 1961, his wife retained the property, which was then transferred to their only child, Dr. Grady Niblo Jr. and his wife Barbara Cowling Niblo, upon her death in 1985.<sup>73</sup>

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<sup>63</sup> Jim Wheat, “Dallas County Texas Archives,” <http://freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~jwheat/index.html>.

<sup>64</sup> Dallas County Official Public Records, Deed Records, Vol. 74, p. 265.

<sup>65</sup> Dallas County Official Public Records, Deed Records, Vol. 167, p. 87.

<sup>66</sup> “Sam Street’s Map of Dallas County, Texas,” Library of Congress, Geography and Maps Division.

<sup>67</sup> Dallas County Official Public Records, Deed Records, Vol. 395, p. 548.

<sup>68</sup> Dallas County Official Public Records, Deed Records, Vol. 1481, p. 364-366.

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

<sup>70</sup> Dallas County Official Public Records, Deed Records, Vol. 1481, p. 364.

<sup>71</sup> Dallas County Official Public Records, Deed Records, Vol. 1482, p. 596.

<sup>72</sup> Dallas County Official Public Records, Deed Records, Vol. 1847, p. 334 and Vol. 1905, p. 375. See also Dallas Morning News, June 13, 1935, Section II, p. 12, “Real Estate Transfers.”

<sup>73</sup> Dallas County Official Public Records, Warranty Deed, Instrument No. 198500373049 (Book 85037, p. 755).



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Grady Niblo Jr. and Barbara remodeled the farmhouse and moved to the site in 1981; it is thought that at this time, the farmland ceased to be leased to tenant farmers, and the eastern portion of the land became overgrown with cedars. In 2005 Niblo Jr. sold 78.33 acres to Marlin Atlantis White Ltd. for residential development but retained a 'Life Estate' on 1.19 acres of land – which included the historic structures and the farmhouse, where he and Barbara lived. Dr. Grady Niblo passed away in August 2005, after living on the property for almost 25 years. Barbara remained at the site for several years before moving to live with her son; she passed away in January 2010, ending the Niblo family's 75-year long relationship with this land and its historic structures.

### **Grady Niblo Estates**

By 2005, when Dr. Niblo and Barbara sold the property to Marlin Atlantis White Ltd, the land that was once farmland was covered with thick cedar trees.<sup>74</sup> This land, which had not been farmed in several decades, included approximately 44.58 acres of relatively level blackland prairie land at the eastern side of the property, and 33.73 acres of land (the subject site) at the western edge that is either on or near the upper portion (or face) of the White Rock Escarpment.<sup>75</sup> This property also included the 'Life Estate' for the Niblos. In 2006, Marlin Atlantis Ltd. donated the western 25.58 acres to the City of Dallas for future park use. This land at the White Rock Escarpment is heavily wooded and contains the subject historic structures. They subsequently donated the northwest 8.33 acres to the City of Dallas; this additional acreage is heavily wooded and slopes slightly up to the crest of the escarpment. Currently, the city's future park site is 33.74 acres.

“Grady Niblo Estates,” a 45.58-acre single-family housing development, is currently under construction on the remainder of the property originally owned by Everard Sharrock Jr. and most recently associated with Grady Niblo and Dr. Grady Niblo Jr.

### **Master Plan for Sharrock/Niblo Park, 2009**

Following acquisition of the property by the City of Dallas for future park use, the city commissioned a Master Plan for the future park site; this was provided by Marcel Quimby Architecture/Preservation, Inc.<sup>76</sup> This master plan identified the historic core of the site and recommended this historic area be open to the public to showcase this unique historic asset. The other areas of the site are largely wooded with hiking trails planned to showcase the unique natural environment of the White Rock Escarpment.

### **City of Dallas Landmark Designation for Sharrock/Niblo Farmstead, January 2013**

The Sharrock/Niblo farmstead site was designated as a City of Dallas Landmark on January 9, 2013. The period of significance focuses on its earliest settlement and the Sharrock family. The area of designation includes the historic Sharrock farmstead site and is approximately 3 acres in size that is bounded on the west and north by the City of Dallas property line and extends 100' to the east and south of the log cabin. This is the same boundary as proposed for the National Register nomination.

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<sup>74</sup> Original Niblo property purchased in 1934 and 1935 was 220 acres. By 2005, Grady Niblo Jr. and wife Barbara sold 78.33 acres to Marlin Atlantis White, Ltd. Remaining portions of this property are not relevant to subject site and are not included in this report.

<sup>75</sup> Dallas County Official Public Records, Deed Records, Special Warranty Deed, Instrument No. 200503282174 (Book 2005054, p. 126).

<sup>76</sup> Now known as Quimby McCoy Preservation Architecture, LLP.

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City of Dallas Landmark designation includes Preservation Criteria which govern future changes to the property.

### **Stabilization work at the Sharrock Farmstead, 2015**

The preservation of the historic structures Preservation and the need for interpretation at this historic site will be a multi-year effort, and accomplished in multiple phases. The first phase identified was the Stabilization of the original log cabin, the log barn and the cellar - the original (c. 1847) buildings and structures at the site. Details of the work underway as of July 2015 are described in the Physical Description section of this document. Work is anticipated to be complete in early fall, 2015. Additional preservation efforts will be accomplished pending funding in future City of Dallas bond programs.

Quimby McCoy Preservation Architecture, LLP of Dallas was the architects for the Stabilization project; Jaster Quintanilla Dallas LLP were the structural and civil engineers. The general contractor was Phoenix 1 Restoration and Construction, Ltd. of Dallas, with Siebler Inc. of Dallas and Heritage Restorations of Waco providing specialized services using period (1840s) construction techniques for the historic log cabin.

### **Log Cabin Building Type**

A scholar of Texas log cabin architecture, Terry G. Jordan, notes the log cabin building type was originally introduced to America by Swedish and German immigrants and was soon adopted by other immigrants (including the English and Scotch-Irish), primarily in the Middle Atlantic colonies.<sup>77</sup> As immigrants from England and Scotland arrived in the colonies, the cabin type was modified to reflect their influence as well as modifications made to accommodate the use of local materials. Later characteristics of the cabin type due to Scotch-Irish and English immigrants included “single-pen,” or one-room, single-storied, rectangular floor plan design, “side-facing gables,” “a gable-end chimney and a centered front door directly opposite a rear door.”<sup>78</sup> Based on these traditions, the features listed above are integrated into a “square single-pen” design, usually conforming to the standard of a 16’ square space.<sup>79</sup> The Sharrock Farmstead cabin includes all these features of a square single pen design—side facing gables, a gable end chimney, and a centered front and rear door. The Sharrock cabin is 15 feet by 14 feet wide, close in dimension to the 16’ square.

The log cabin’s construction materials were easily available in forested environments, making it the preferred building type as migration began to the west - to Appalachia, then west and southwest to Illinois, Indiana, Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Mississippi and Arkansas. By the early nineteenth century, another wave of settlers to the new Republic of Texas (and following 1846, the State of Texas) brought with them this log cabin tradition. However, these log cabins bore little resemblance to the cabins constructed centuries before by Swedish and German immigrants in the Middle Atlantic area, as they had evolved to reflect the ‘diverse ancestry and mixed heritage’ of its builders as well as the different climates and cultures of the new locations.<sup>80</sup> However, the Sharrock cabin maintains many of the original characteristics of English and Scotch-Irish log cabin building type. Typical to Scotch-Irish construction, the Sharrock cabin has side facing

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<sup>77</sup>Terry G. Jordan, author, Bettie A. Regester, Sheldon A. Wallace, catalogue, Elina Wilkinson, photography, Log Cabin Village: A Historic and Guide; Austin: Texas State Historical Association in cooperation with Tarrant County Historical Society, 1980. pgs 2-4.

<sup>78</sup>Terry G. Jordan, Texas Log Buildings: A Folk Architecture, Austin: University of Texas Press, 1978.

<sup>79</sup>Ibid., 111. Jordan notes that the standard of 16’ derives from the English “rod measurement” or sixteen feet.

<sup>80</sup>Ibid, 4.

Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

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gables, a gable end chimney, and a centered front and rear door. It is a square single pen design close to 16 feet square, which evolved from the one bay house of England.<sup>81</sup>

The Sharrock log cabin appears to be a typical cabin for the Peters Colonists; similar single-pen cabins within the Peters Colony remain in Collin County and other counties to the west. It is thought the cabin was built by Everard Sharrock Jr., possibly with the assistance of other family members. As the Sharrock family had made multiple moves to less settled areas of the frontier over the last half-century (to Ohio in 1803 and Illinois in 1823), Everard Sr. and some of his sons would have been experienced in building log structures. Sharrock family history notes that Everards' brother John 'had prepared a log cabin in the vicinity of his father's in Flat Branch,' so some family members had experience in building log cabins.<sup>82</sup> The Peters Colony Company was eager to place people on their land and occasionally assisted a settler with the construction of log cabins, but as several Sharrock family members had such experience, it is not thought that such help would have been necessary.

The Sharrock log cabin measures approximately 15' x 14', a nearly square single room with the front door facing due south. Directly opposite and centered, the back door faces due north; this opening was found during restoration to be an original opening.<sup>83</sup> Gables open on the eastern and western elevations with the stone chimney rising on the west gable-end. The stone chimney and low firebox are distinctly British log building characteristics, both related to the Scotch-Irish and English traditions.<sup>84</sup>

Typical pioneer settlements included between five to ten outbuildings for various uses.<sup>85</sup> The Sharrock farmstead included a well, root cellar, and barn which are believed to have been constructed at the same time as the log cabin. The barn is a double crib, linear type, constructed of logs which match the species and joinery of the log cabin. With these buildings, the settlers would have had a source of fresh water, and a storage space for root vegetables, grain, and livestock. The later construction of a larger, log house was common as the time at the settlement continued and the desire for larger living quarters arose.<sup>86</sup>

### **Historic Log Cabins Still Remaining in Dallas County**

Of the historic log cabins still remaining in Dallas County, it appears that the only other known cabin still on its original site, aside from the Everard Sharrock Jr. cabin, is a one-room school house (single-pen cabin) at the John Penn Farm. Founded in 1859 and also known as Old Penn Farmstead, John Penn Farm is located in what is currently Cedar Hill State Park, southwest of Dallas in Dallas County. Similar to the Sharrock Farmstead, the Penn Farmstead also contains a collection of early log structures still on their original site in Dallas County. Further research is needed in order to determine if the school house existed at the site before John Penn settled his farmstead there in 1859, or if this cabin is a decade older than the Sharrock cabin.

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<sup>81</sup> Ibid., 111.

<sup>82</sup> Eiler, Homer Our Ancestors, 16.

<sup>83</sup> Additional investigation is required to make this determination.

<sup>84</sup> Terry G. Jordan, Texas Log Buildings: A Folk Architecture, 95.

<sup>85</sup> Ibid, p 161.

<sup>86</sup> Ibid, p 105.

Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

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Below is a list of other surviving log cabins in Dallas County, all of which have been moved from their original location with the purpose of preserving them. All of these cabins date from around the same time as the Sharrock cabin, and all except for one were originally located in what were rural areas within Dallas County, in the southern portion of the County. These areas largely remain as residential and lightly developed and as such, are conducive to retention of historic buildings and properties.

1. Miller Log Cabin, c. 1845 - Original location at Miller Plantation (Millermore) near Cedar Crest area in Dallas (approximately 5 miles southeast of downtown Dallas); moved to Dallas Heritage Village, Dallas
2. Hord Log Cabin, c. 1845 - Original location near Dallas Zoo, Oak Cliff area (approximately 3 miles south of downtown Dallas); moved to front of American Legion Post at 2804 S. Cockrell Hill Rd., Dallas
3. Samuel Sloan Cabin - Original location 1907 East Ledbetter Drive, Lisbon area, southern Dallas County (approximately 6 miles southeast of downtown Dallas); moved to the campus of Northwood University, Cedar Hill
4. Lively Cabin - Original location near Bluff View area in what is now northeast Dallas; moved to Dallas Heritage Village, Dallas

### **Summary of Significance**

The Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as a historic district under Criterion A in the area of Exploration/Settlement and under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, both at the local level of significance. Not only is the site associated with settlers of the Peters Colony, among the earliest settlement efforts in North Texas, the resources also represent one of few remaining collections of mid-nineteenth century buildings and structures on their original site in Dallas County. The nominated historic resources – the log cabin, the log barn, the well and root cellar – comprise a remarkably intact collection of resources that illustrate how these early colonists provided for their livelihood, the circumstances in which they lived and thrived, and illustrates their use of locally available materials to provide structures for protection of their families and domestic stock.

In 2007, the farmstead was documented through the Historic American Buildings Survey program by students at Texas A & M University's Center for Heritage Conservation, under the direction of David Woodcock, FAIA. For their documentation efforts, the students received a Charles A. Peterson Award honorable mention.

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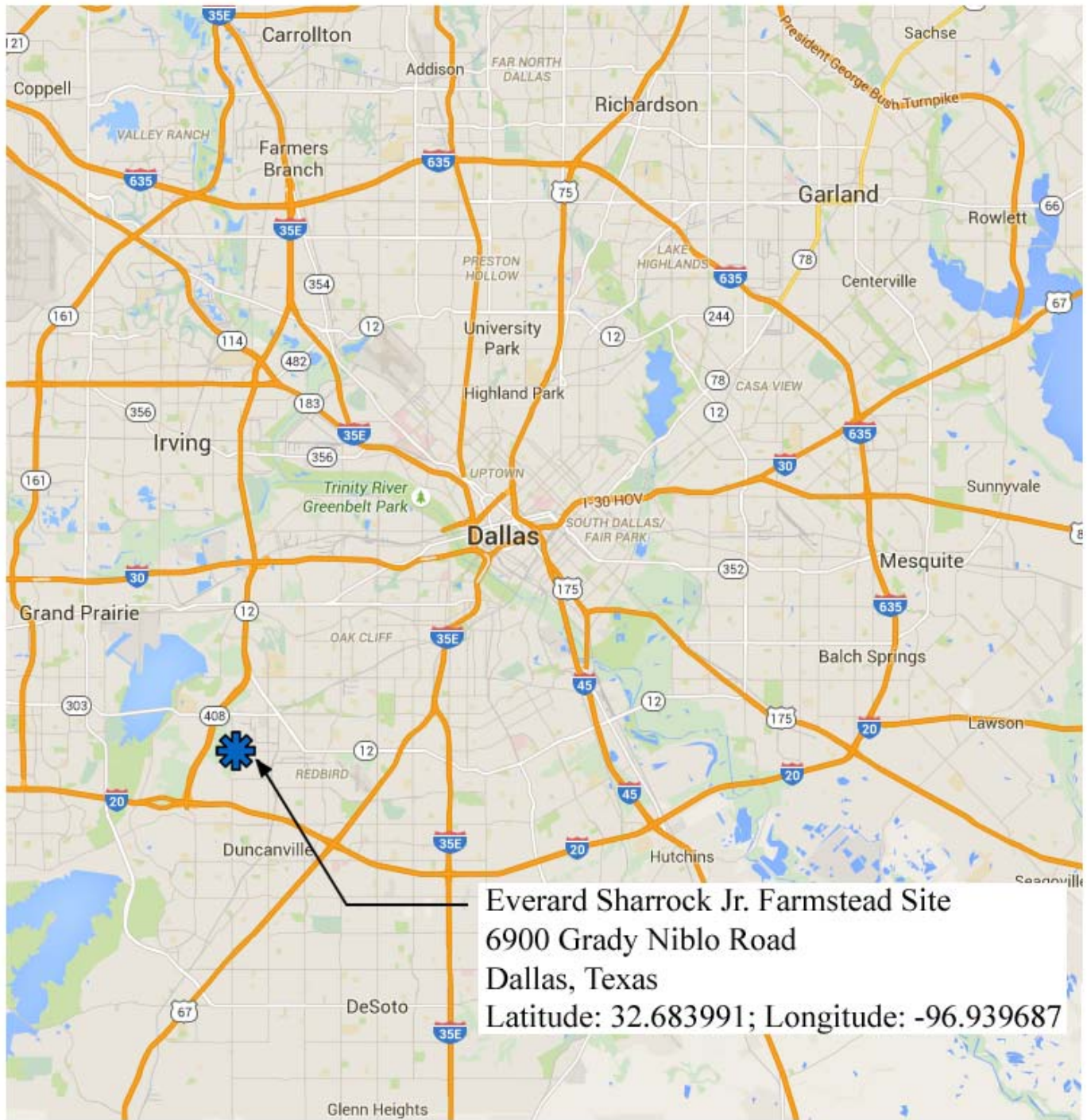
Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

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**Map 1** - Dallas, TX location within the United States

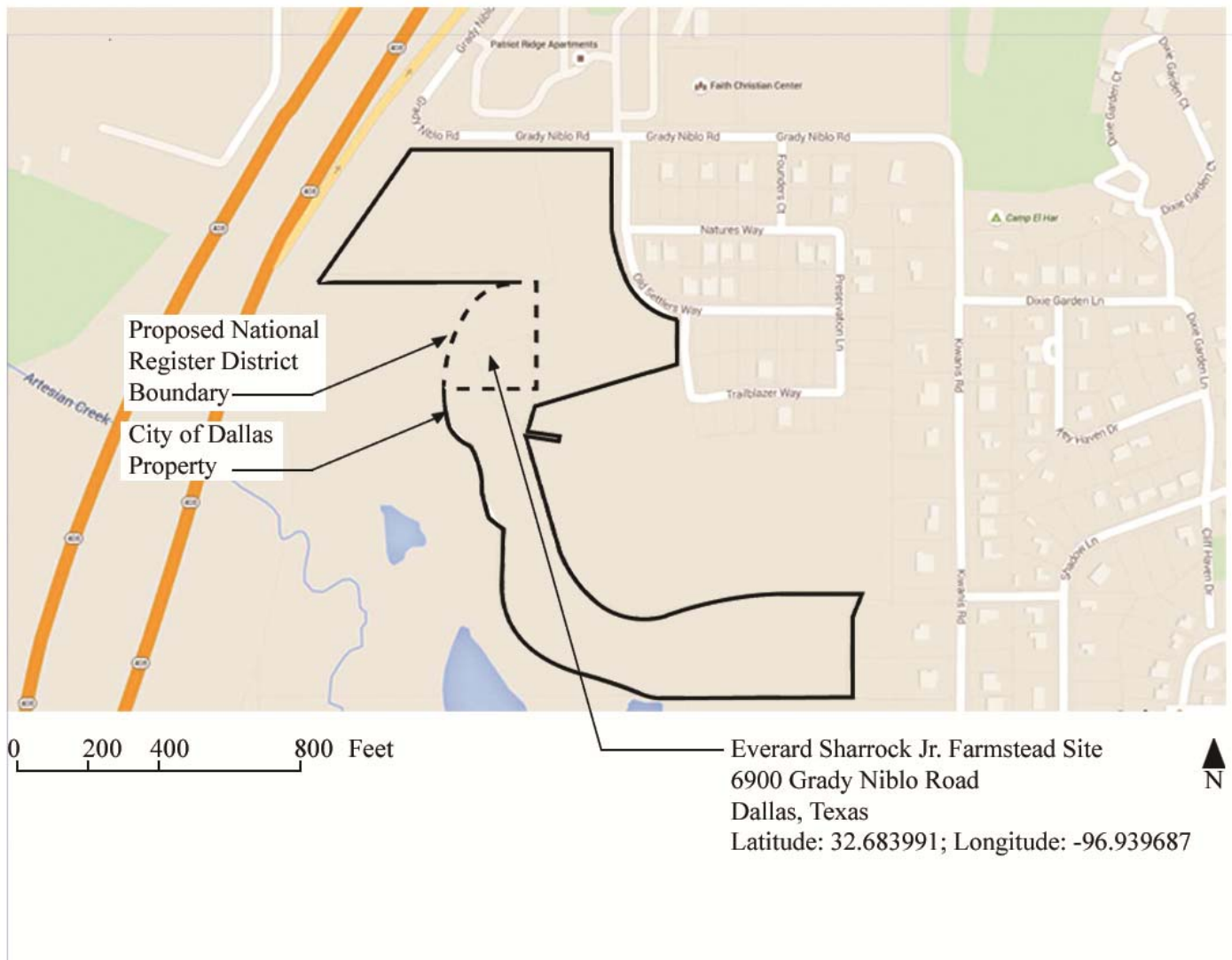
Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas



Map 2 - Location of the Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead within Dallas County (Google Maps)  
Section MAP, Page 32

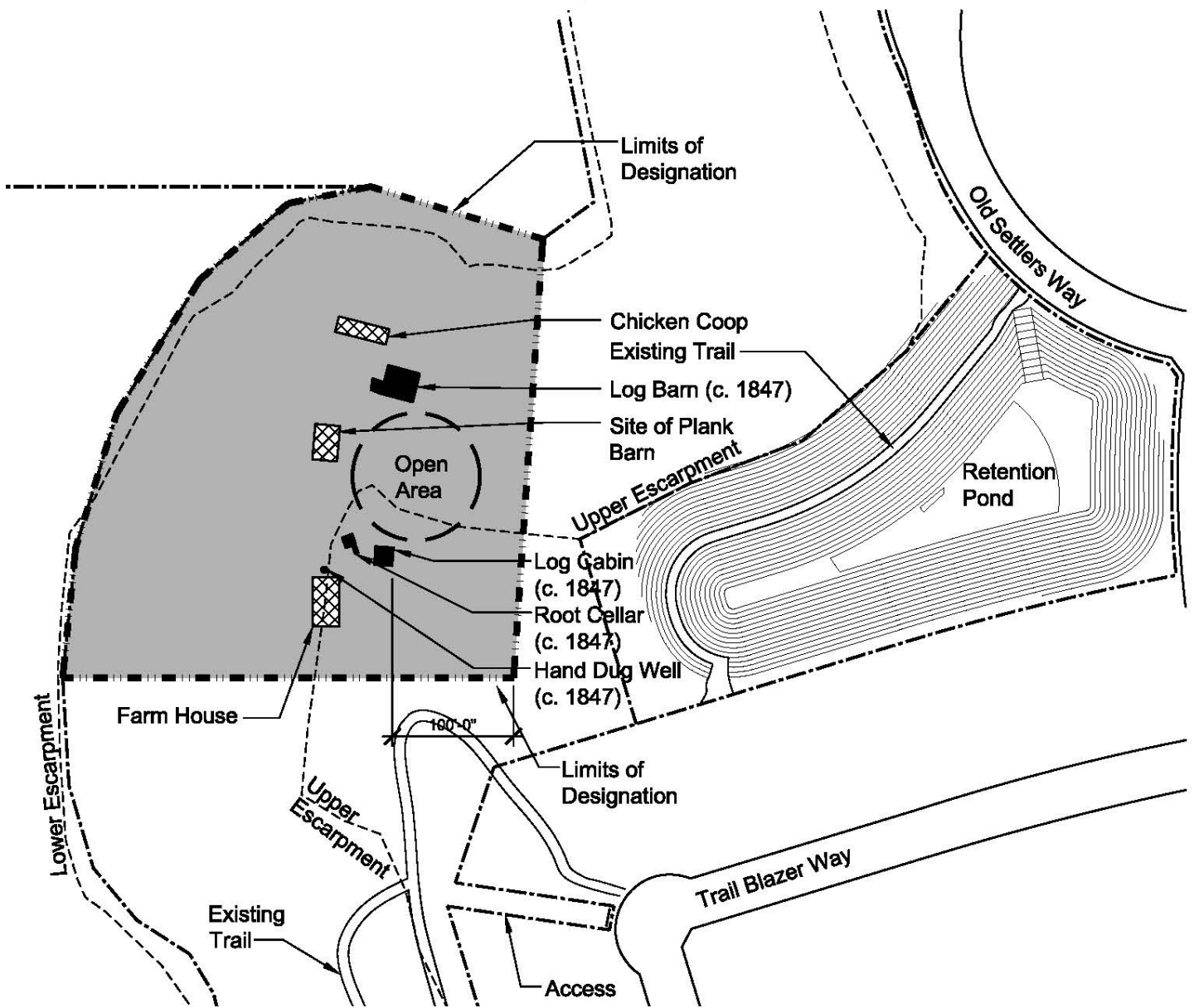


Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas



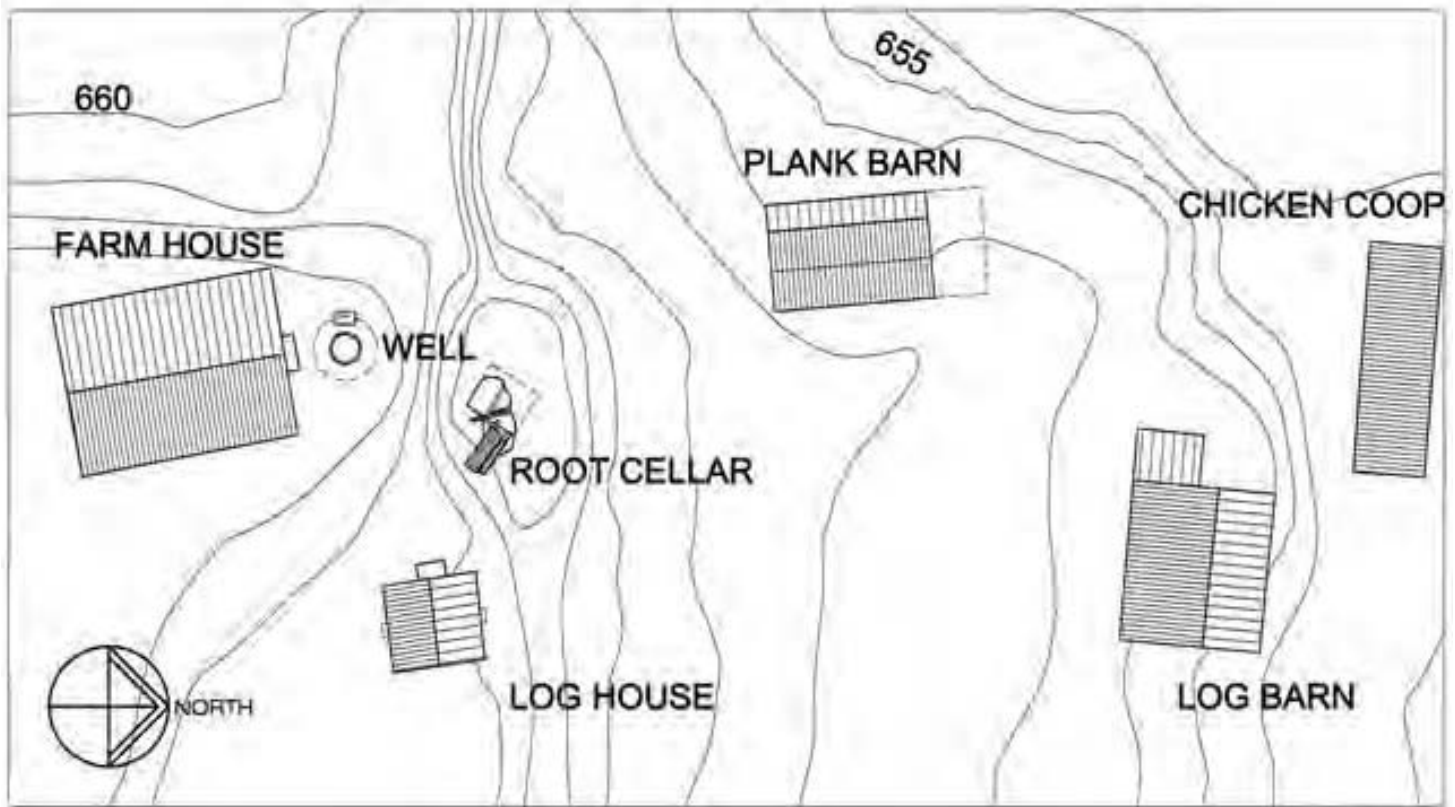
**Map 3** - Location of the Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead (Google Maps)  
City of Dallas Property shown with continuous lines; Proposed National Register District boundary shown with dashed lines.

Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas



**Map 4** - Site Plan of the Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead showing proposed National Register District boundary. Contributing buildings and structures shown in solid black; non-contributing buildings and structures shown hatched.

Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas



SITE PLAN

FEET 1"=30'-0"

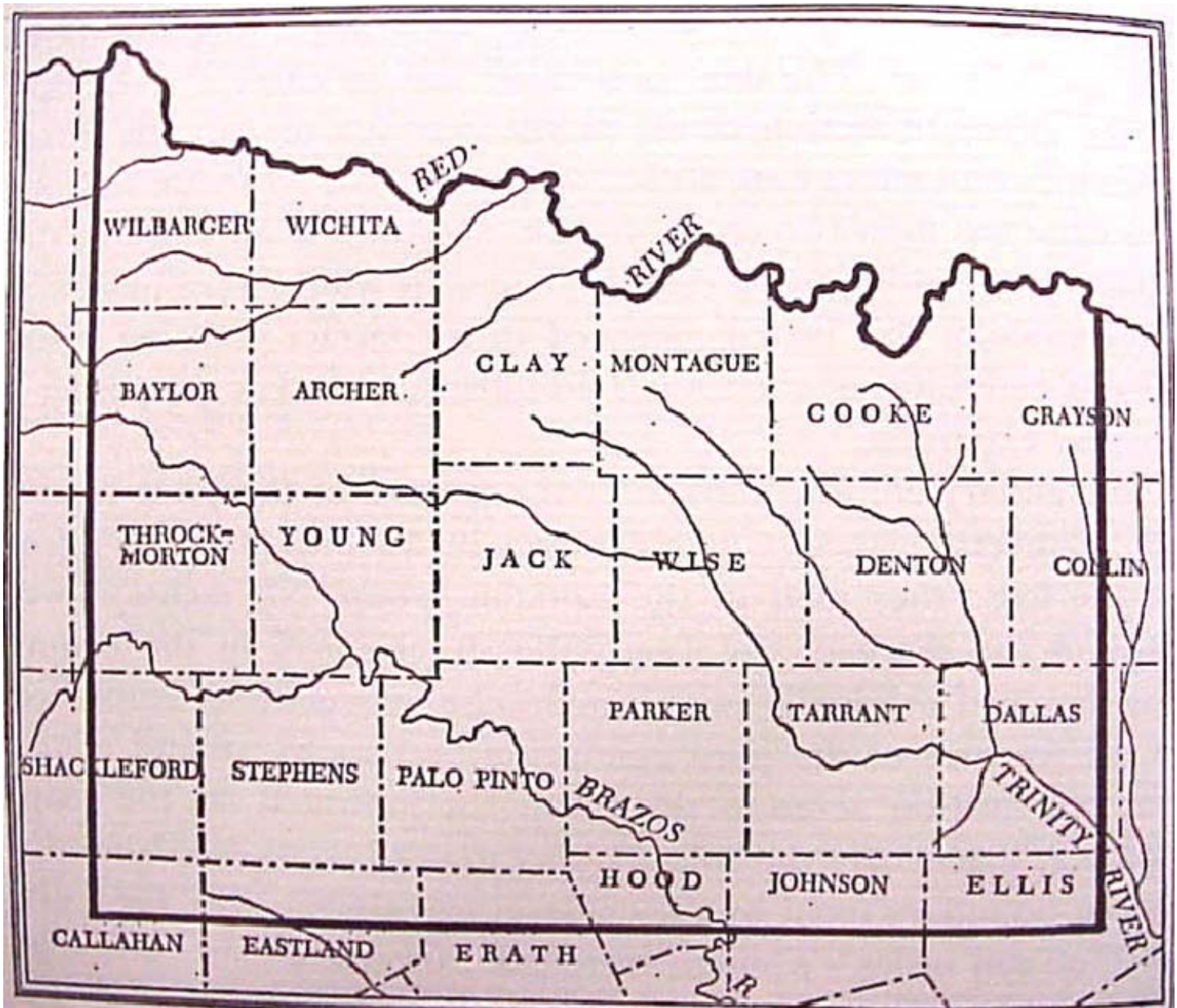
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METERS 1:360

0 10 20 30

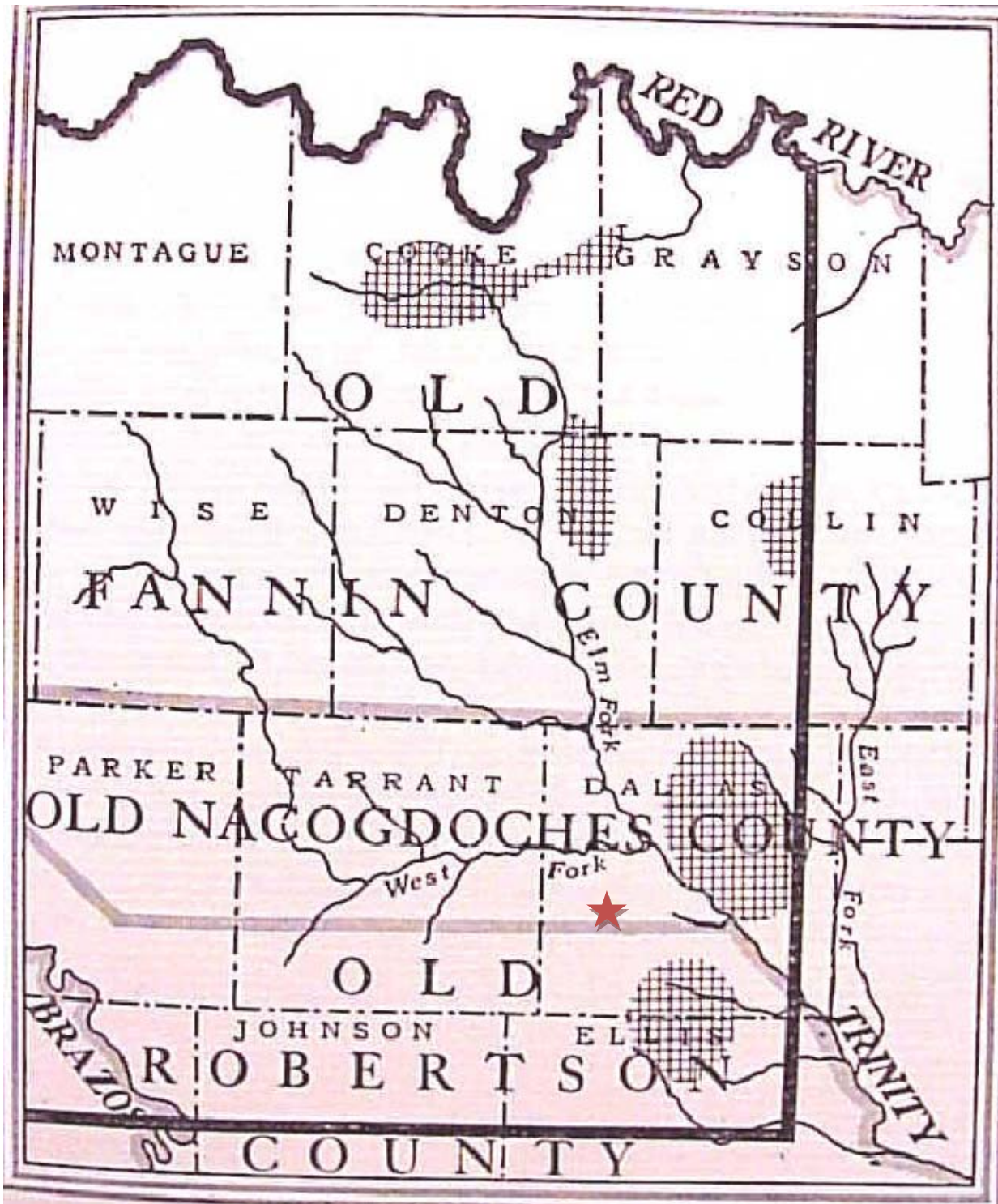
Map 5 - Site Plan of the Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead - NOT TO SCALE (Historic American Building Survey no. TX-3535)

Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas



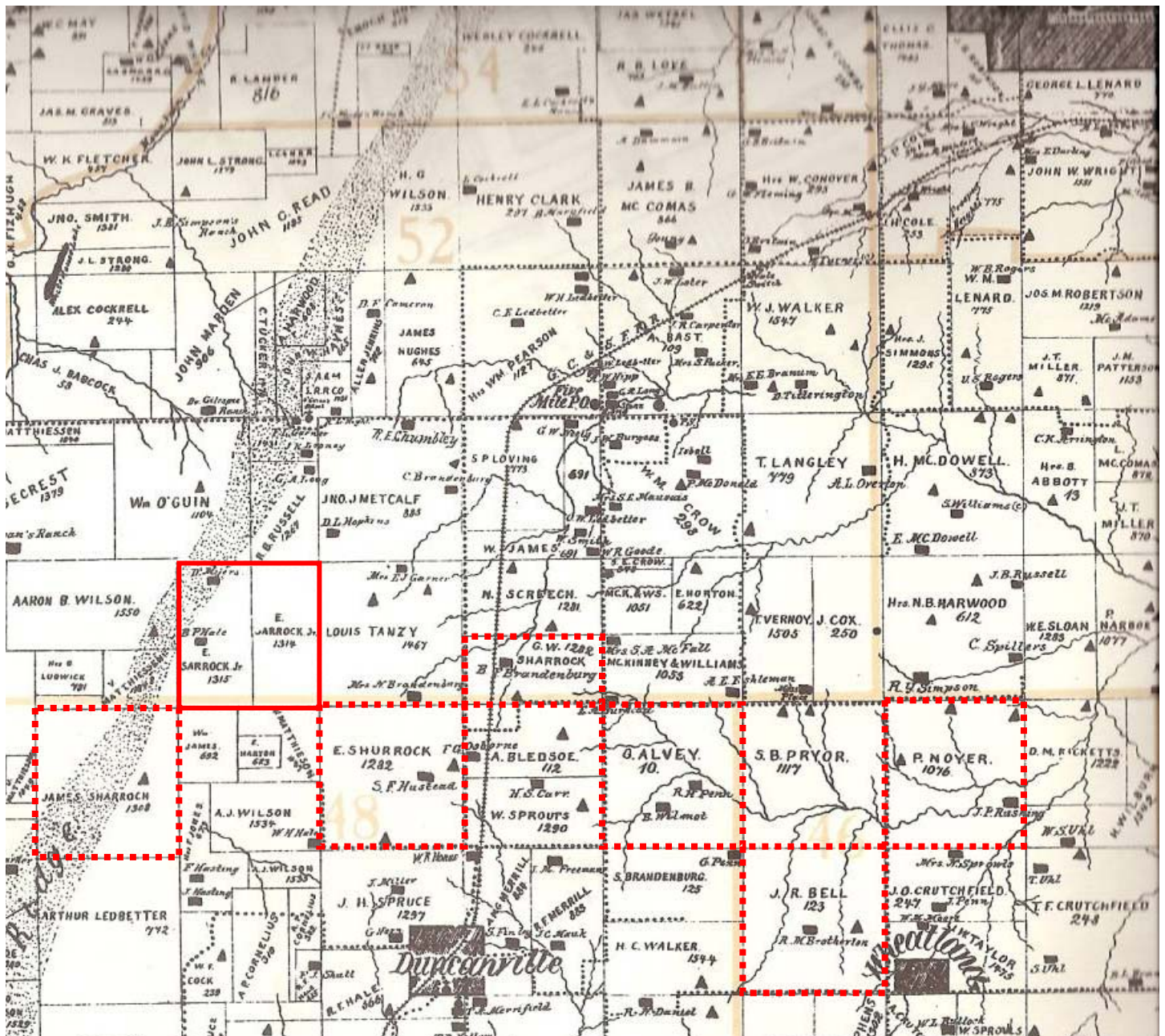
**Map 6** - Map of the fourth and final contract for the Peters Colony, signed on January 20, 1843. This contract dramatically expanded the size of the colony. Map obtained from *The Peters Colony of Texas: A History and Biographical Sketches of the Early Settlers* by Connors, Seymour V.

Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas



**Map 7** - Map of the actual settled area of the Peters Colony, representing approximately the eastern half of the fourth contract. Approximate location of the Sharrock Farmstead shown. Map obtained from *The Peters Colony of Texas: A History and Biographical Sketches of the Early Settlers* by Connors, Seymour V.

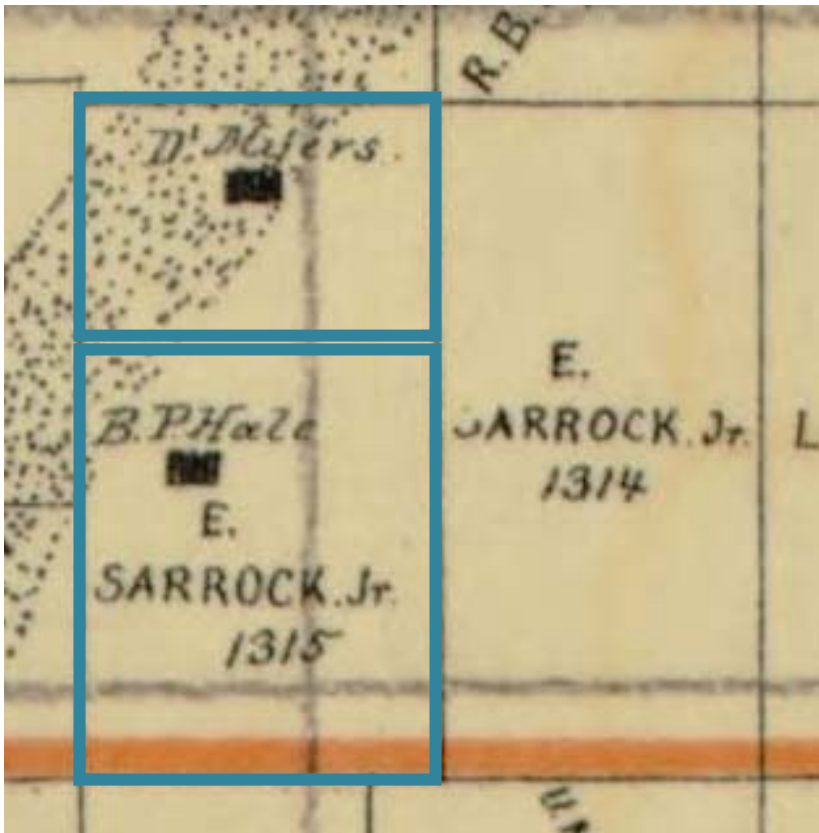
Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas



**Map 8** - Everard Sharrock Jr.'s 640 acres shown with solid red outline; property of other family members shown in dashed red outline include his father Everard Sr., brothers James and George; brothers-in-law George Alvey, J. R. Bell and R. Noyer.

Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

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**Map 9** - Sam Street's Map of Dallas County, Texas, 1900. Blue outlines designating the 320 acres survey split into the northern 100 acres and southern 220 acres. This is the first documented map of the location of the farmstead and its structures.

Note: the Abstract numbers on the two original properties – 1314 and 1315 – on this map are incorrect (this western property should be Abstract 1314 instead of 1315 as shown on this map).

Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

**Map 10 - Chronology of Land Ownership**

December 18, 1867

December 1881



Everard Sharrock Jr. granted 320 acres of land in Peters' Colony in Abstract 1314

Thomas J. Young patented 320 acres from Everard Sharrock Jr. in E. Sharrock Jr. Survey, Abstract 1314

A. A. Young deeded 320 acres from Thomas J. Young (father) in E. Sharrock Jr. Survey, Abstract 1314.

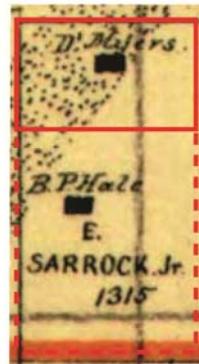
H. K. Hale (tenant) deeded 320 acres from A. A. Young in E. Sharrock Jr Survey, Abstract 1314.

March 17, 1886

January 6, 1894

1900

November 13, 1909



B. P. Hale deeded 320 acres from H. K. Hale (father) in E. Sharrock Jr. Survey, Abstract 1314.

D. E. Myers deeded 100 acres from B. P. Hale in E. Sharrock Jr. Survey, Abstract 1314.

Sam Street's Map of Dallas County (detail), showing D. [E.] Myers and B. P. Hale homesteads on E. S[h]arrock Jr. Survey.

E. M. Hastings deeded 120 acres from B. P. Hale (by executrix) in E. Sharrock Jr. Survey, Abstract 1314.

	Property Relevant to Deed of Specified Date		Location of historic Sharrock Homestead
	Boundary of Everard Sharrock's 320 acres (c. 1845)		"Life Estate" for Grady Niblo Jr. and wife



Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

December 27, 1909



John Hastings deeded 120 acres from E. M. Hastings in E. Sharrock Jr. Survey, Abstract 1314.

May 12, 1928



Boren & Stewart Company et al deeded 220 acres from John Hastings, George M. Field, and T. A. Slinger in E. Sharrock Jr. Survey, Abstract 1314.

June 3, 1928



Norman Hamilton and William A. Sailer deeded 220 acres from Boren and Stewart Company et al in E. Sharrock Jr. Survey, Abstract 1314.

April 26, 1934  
May 17, 1935



Grady Niblo deeded 100 acres in 1934 and another 120 in 1935 from Norman Hamilton in E. Sharrock Jr. Survey, Abstract 1314.

In 1985 following Grady Niblo Sr.'s death, property was transferred to Grady Niblo Jr. and wife Barbara Cowling Niblo.

March 18, 2005



Marlin Atlantis White Ltd. deeded 78.33 acres from Grady Niblo in E. Sharrock Jr. Survey, Abstract 1314, Dallas City Block 8712, to develop "Grady Niblo Estates." Grady Niblo and Barbara Cowling Niblo established 1.19 acres as "Life Estate."

May 2006 & 2007



City of Dallas deeds 33.74 acres from Marlin Atlantis Ltd. White for future park, including 1.19 acre Grady Niblo Life Estate.

Present



City of Dallas property 33.74 acres.

	Property Relevant to Deed of Specified Date		Location of historic Sharrock Homestead
	Boundary of Everard Sharrock's 320 acres (c. 1845)		"Life Estate" for Grady Niblo Jr. and wife

Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

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**Figure 1** - Log cabin, ca. 1934  
*Photo courtesy of the Niblo Family*

Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

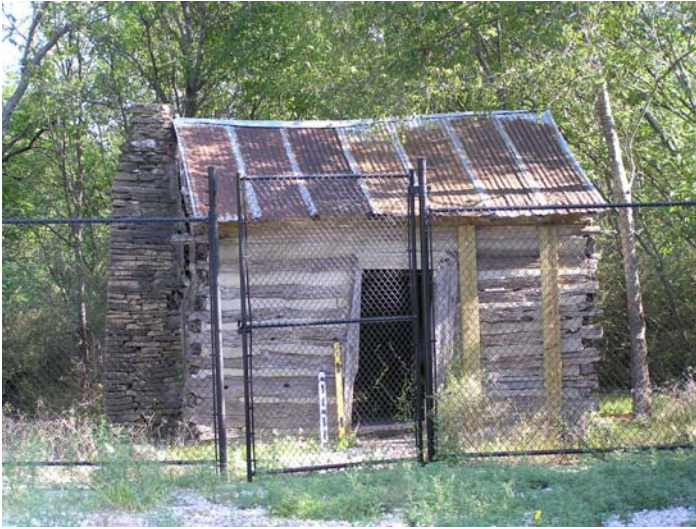
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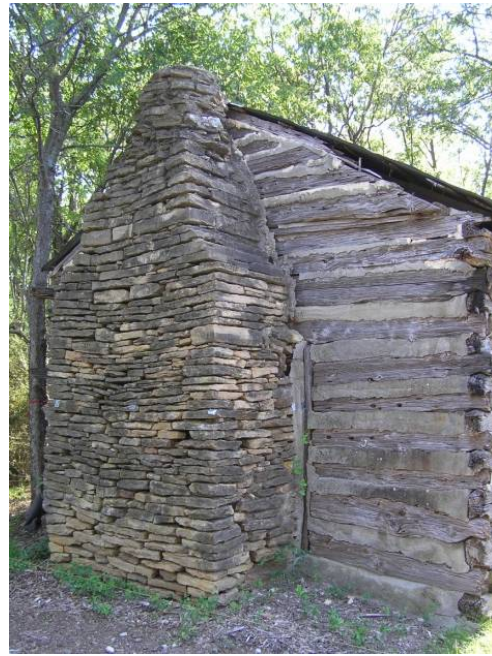
**Figure 2** - Log cabin and horse on earthen mound over cellar, date unknown.  
*Photo courtesy of the Niblo Family*

Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

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**Figure 3** - Log cabin with reinforcement, August 2007



**Figure 4** - Log cabin stone chimney, August 2007



**Figure 5** - Stone fireplace inside log cabin, February 2008

Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

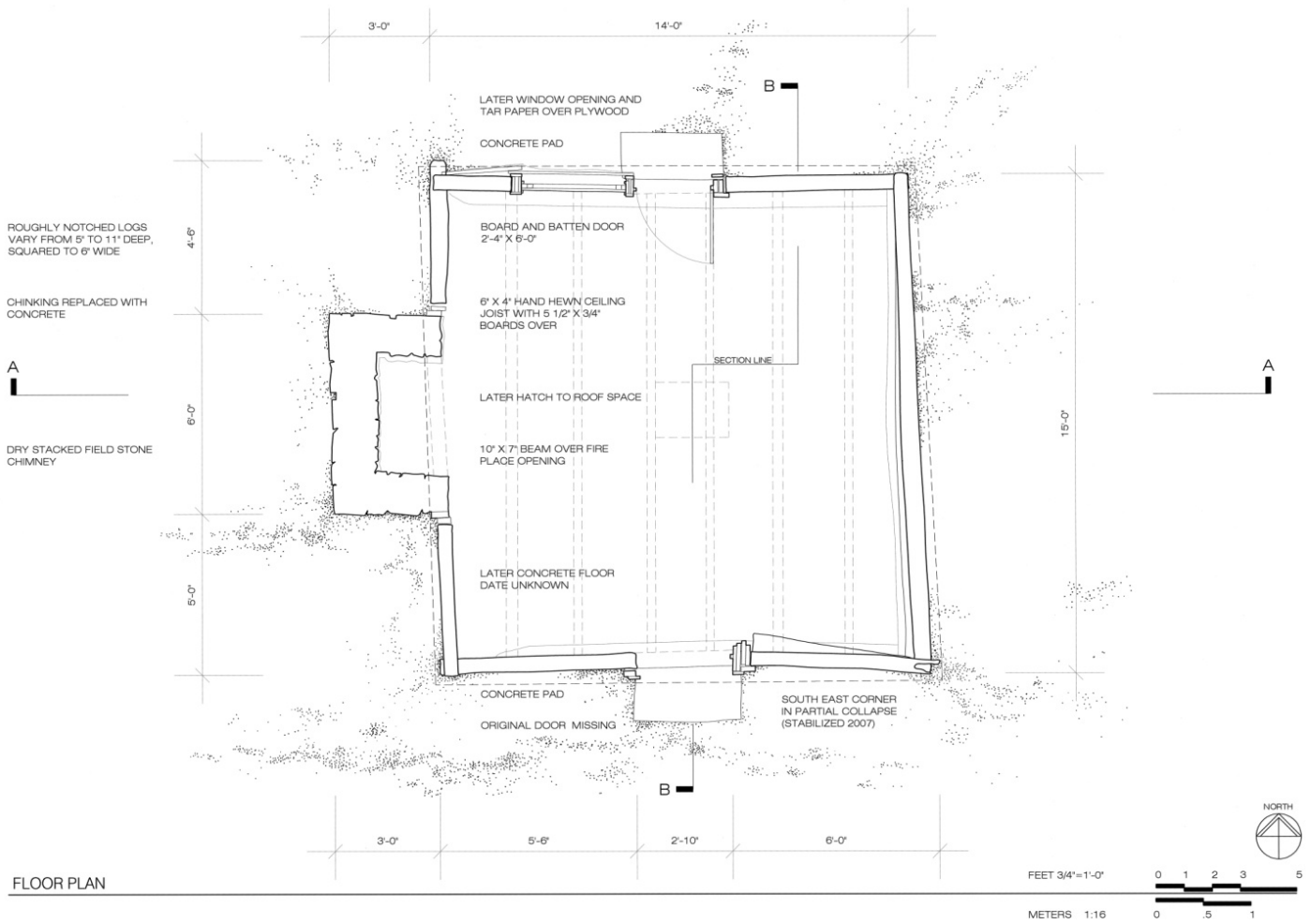


Figure 6 - Log cabin floor plan (Historic American Building Survey no. TX-3535-A)

Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

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**Figure 7** - Log barn, ca. 1934  
*Photo courtesy of the Niblo Family*

Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

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**Figure 8** - Overall view of the log barn with lean-to at left, February 2008



**Figure 9** - Log barn – details of crib with bois d’Arc piers, February 2008



**Figure 10** - Crib door in upper wall of log barn, May



**Figure 11** - Log barn foundation at crib, with slot for grain access, February 2008

Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

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**Figure 12** - Plank barn, March 1973, shows barn's appearance prior to collapse.  
*Photo by Architect William Thomas Odum*



*Grady Niblo Barn - Painted military(?) figure approx. 5" tall, probably done in late 19th Century*



*Grady Niblo Barn - Painted panel of church, about 5" tall, probably done in late 19th C. by an itinerant*

**Figure 13** - Figures of man in red uniform and sketch of church from east (front) side of plank barn, March 1973. Unfortunately these figures no longer exist on wood wall.  
*Photo by Architect William Thomas Odum*



Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

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**Figure 14** - Plank barn, 2005



**Figure 15** - Plank barn, February 2008



**Figure 16** - Chicken coop, June 2007

Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

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**Figure 17** - Root Cellar, December 2006



**Figure 18** - Root Cellar, December 2006



**Figure 19** - Root Cellar, Geo-Marine Inc., Feb 2010



**Figure 20** - Root Cellar, March 2015. Debris removal in progress; tagged roof logs visible

Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

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**Figure 21** - Well, December 2006



**Figure 22** - Well, December 2006



**Figure 23** - Well, December 2006

Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas



*Niblo Chimney dressd limestone block #43, in situ, Feb. 20, 1976  
Overlay tracing with enhanced rendering of inoised graffiti*

**Figure 24** - Farmhouse, north façade showing dressed stone chimney and detail of dressed stone with graffiti in 1976. Note name 'E M Hale' – was the property owner of site from 1894 - 1909. These stones with graffiti are no longer at chimney.

*Photo by Architect William Thomas Odum*



**Figure 25** - Farmhouse, east façade (facing log cabin), 2009

Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

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## **CURRENT PHOTOS OF THE NOMINATED PROPERTY**

*The following photos were also submitted as high quality digital images on CD.*

TX\_Dallas County\_ Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead\_0001.tif  
Log Cabin South Elevation. Camera facing: North



Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

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TX\_Dallas County\_ Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead\_0002.tif  
Log Cabin Northeast Oblique. Camera facing: Southwest



TX\_Dallas County\_ Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead\_0003.tif  
Log Barn South Elevation. Camera facing: North



Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

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TX\_Dallas County\_ Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead\_0004.tif  
Log Barn Southwest Oblique. Camera facing: Northeast



TX\_Dallas County\_ Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead\_0005.tif  
Log Barn Interior View showing 'crib door'. Camera facing: Northeast



Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

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TX\_Dallas County\_Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead\_0006.tif  
Root Cellar Interior View showing stair into cellar. Camera facing: Southeast



TX\_Dallas County\_Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead\_0007.tif  
Root Cellar Interior View. Camera facing: Northwest





Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

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TX\_Dallas County\_Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead\_0008.tif  
Hand Dug Well. Camera facing: South



TX\_Dallas County\_Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead\_0009.tif  
Farm House (noncontributing) Northeast Oblique. Camera facing: Southwest



Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

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TX\_Dallas County\_ Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead\_0010.tif  
Chicken Coop (noncontributing) Southwest Oblique. Camera facing: Northeast



TX\_Dallas County\_ Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead\_0011.tif  
Overall View of the Site. Camera facing: South



Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

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TX\_Dallas County\_Everard Sharrock Jr. Farmstead\_0012.tif  
Overall View of the Site. Camera facing: North

