

Terrell County Memorial August, 2018
Sanderson, Texas
Museum News
Church of Christ



Photo: Bill Smith

The Church of Christ of Sanderson sits at the corner of Persimmon and Mansfield, the original site of the third school house in Sanderson. This building was built in its place in 1925.

Although there were many members of the Church of Christ faith in Sanderson from an early time, the first families to hold regular services were

the J. B. Harrell family and Mrs. George Fenley, wife of the first sheriff of Terrell County and a local rancher, and her children. This all oc-



Photo: Terrell County Museum

This bird's-eye photo of Sanderson in 1930 shows the church as it appeared shortly after construction of the parsonage at its side. Notice the white bee hives to the rear of the building. The building sits at the corner of Mansfield and Persimmon. In the distance to the left is the brand-new First Baptist Church, the new high school and the old brick elementary school. This was taken from a vantage point high up on Mount Baldy, aka, Hominy Hill. A local family in this area was known for making hominy, which christened the mountain. The old school sat on this spot, near the back of the lot, from 1907 until the new school was completed in 1911, then it was abandoned.

curred shortly after the turn of the 20th century.

The first meetings were held in the old school house which sat at the top of Persimmon Street, where the Church of Christ building now stands. That building was vacated as a school when the new red brick

school was completed in 1911, although Church of Christ services could have been held there previous to that time. Services were also held in the Terrell County Courthouse. The congregation organized formally in 1917.

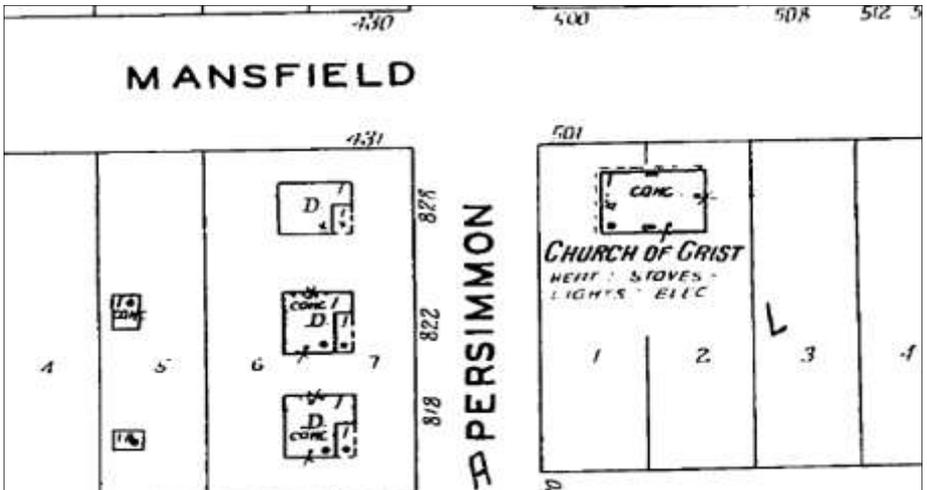
In the early 1920s Mr. J. B.



CHURCH OF CHRIST, SANDERSON

A revival meeting will begin Sunday, June 17 at the Church of Christ, to continue eight days. Services will be conducted twice daily, at 10 a. m. and 8 p. m. Evangelist Frank Trayler, minister of the church, will do the preaching and the singing will be in charge of local leaders. Evangelist Trayler makes the following statement: "Many of our friends have shown interest in a revival. This series of services is for you our friends, and the church, too. All are welcome. Last year we had a great revival; this year we expect a greater one."

Early newspaper ad inviting the public to a revival meeting at the Church of Christ. This ad dates from June of 1928. The front of the building was altered at a later date and the parsonage was moved to the south to allow the construction of a fellowship hall.



Sandford Insurance Co. map of Sanderson, 1927, showing the Church of Christ property at Manssfield and Perimmon.

Harrell purchased the property where the old school stood and donated it to the church. In 1925 the old school building, which sat towards the back of the lot on Persimmon, was demolished and a new building constructed in the present spot near the street. Mr. Earl Hardgrave, a rancher north of Sanderson and a faithful church member, came to town during the week and ran the construction of the new building. Materials were purchased at Kerr Mercantile and work was begun. In October of 1927 a parsonage was completed just to the south of the new building.

Robert E. Griffith was the first preacher to live in Sanderson and work with the

church. Before that, visiting preachers came and went on a monthly or weekly basis, as available. Protracted meetings, or, "revivals" were held often and the membership increased.

Venice Wunneberger of Austin was selected as second pastor in September, 1927.

Frank Taylor was pastor in 1928-30.

Rev. Griffith was pastor once again in 1931.

At a much later date a fellowship hall was built adjacent to the sanctuary.

Today the congregation has grown smaller, as with all the churches of Sanderson, and the present pastor is Kenn Norris.



Sanderson
Church of Christ