

THE JOURNIES OF THE 7 CAMP BOWIE CHAPELS

For some time, Frank Hilton and I have been trying to discover the fate of the 7 chapels that were at Camp Bowie during WWII. We knew of the location of three of the chapels here in Brownwood, but did not know what had happened to the other four.

With the help of Vicki Roberts, locating the chapel at Marak near Cameron, Texas and Rev. Curt Norman, identifying the chapel in Stephenville, Texas, there were two more to be located. I searched through online newspaper archives and located news articles identifying the last two "lost chapels". The next "found" chapel was the one on the 1600 block of Melwood, here in Brownwood, which was originally the Melwood Avenue Church of Christ, now Primera Iglesia Bautista Mexicana Church and the last to be found, The Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Eastland, Texas.

So we now have a list;

- 1.) Cornerstone Fellowship Church at 377 and 6th Street - Brownwood
- 2.) First Church of The Nazarene at 7th Street - Brownwood
- 3.) Primera Iglesia Bautista Mexicana Church at 1600 Melwood - Brownwood (formerly Melwood Church of Christ)
- 4.) Seventh Day Adventist Church at 2211 Avenue E - Brownwood
- 5.) Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in - Eastland, Texas.
- 6.) Marak Saint Cyril Methodius Catholic Church - near Cameron, Texas.
- 7.) St Luke's Episcopal Church - Stephenville, Texas.

There were over 400 structures moved from Camp Bowie with many here in Brownwood or Brown County. There may have been other chapels that were at Camp Bowie, but we are not aware of any others. The chapels were purchased, by small congregation churches, for a nominal fee by those that applied for one and had their applications approved by the War Assets Administration. The cost of moving the structures and re-assembling them, was an expense the churches were willing to pay. This same thing happened at many Wartime Military Installations across Texas. - Clay Riley



Cornerstone Fellowship
Pentecostal Church -
BWD



First Church of The
Nazarene - BWD



Primera Iglesia Bautista
Mexicana Church - BWD



Seventh Day Adventist
Church - BWD

The Seven Chapels of Camp Bowie



St Lukes Episcopal
Church - Stephenville



Marak Saint Cyril Methodius
Catholic Church - Marak



Holy Trinity Episcopal -
Eastland