

(Oct. 1990)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Bluit Sanitarium Building
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 2036 Commerce Street **NOT FOR PUBLICATION:** N/A
CITY OR TOWN: Dallas **VICINITY:** N/A
STATE: Texas **CODE:** TX **COUNTY:** Dallas **CODE:** 113 **ZIP CODE:** 75201

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this (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 (meets) (does not meet) the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant (nationally) (statewide) (locally). (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official _____
Date
State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
____ entered in the National Register ____ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
____ determined eligible for the National Register ____ See continuation sheet	_____	_____
____ determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
____ removed from the National Register	_____	_____
____ other (explain): _____	_____	_____

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	1	0 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	1	0 TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: N/A

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: COMMERCE / Doctor Office and Hospital, Retail Store

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: COMMERCE / Photography Studio

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT / Commercial Style

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION	CONCRETE AND BRICK
WALLS	BRICK
ROOF	ASPHALT (Rolled asphalt roofing)
OTHER	WOOD, GLASS

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-6 through 7-7).

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- A** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
- B** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- C** PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: COMMERCE, HEALTH/MEDICINE and ETHNIC HERITAGE/Black

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1904 - 1955

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1904 – 1909, 1910 - 1914

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: Dr. Benjamin R. Bluitt

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-8 through 8-23).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see continuation sheet 9-25 through 9-30).

PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- 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 #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

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

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
1.	##	#####	#####
2.	##	#####	#####
3.	##	#####	#####
4.	##	#####	#####

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Lot 17, Block 31/127, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION Nomination includes all property historically associated with building.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Marcel Quimby, FAIA

ORGANIZATION: Marcel Quimby Architecture/Preservation Inc. **DATE:** October 10, 2005

STREET & NUMBER: 3200 Main Street, Suite #3.6 **TELEPHONE:** 214/343-0011

CITY OR TOWN: Dallas **STATE:** Texas **ZIP CODE:** 75226

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see continuation sheet Map-#)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photos #1 thru #6)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME: Joe Grisham/Janet Healey

STREET & NUMBER: 2036 Commerce Street **TELEPHONE:** 214.231.0991

CITY OR TOWN: Dallas **STATE:** Texas **ZIP CODE:** 75201

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Bluitt Sanitarium
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

Narrative Description: Summary

Bluitt's Sanitarium, also known as the Bluitt Building, located at 2036 Commerce Street in downtown Dallas, is a vernacular two-part commercial masonry building located near the eastern edge of the Dallas Central Business District. Constructed in 1904, the building is located near the intersection of Commerce and Pearl Streets, in what was originally known as the 'Railroad Addition'. The building occupies the 25' x 90' relatively level lot. A public 10' wide concrete sidewalk fronts the north (front) façade of the building. The west façade is bordered by an asphalt paved parking lot and an alley runs along the south (rear) façade. The east façade adjoins the adjacent Purvin-Hexter Building (NR 2005).

Oriented north-south with the principle façade facing north, the building is 24'-11 1/2" in width and 89'-7 1/2" in length, and is three stories in height with the first floor level at approximately 3' below the elevation of the adjacent public sidewalk.

Exterior: North Façade

The three bay north (front) facade is faced with variegated tan brick laid in running bond. The ground floor storefront consists of two large fixed panes of glass in the center of the façade flanked on each side with a wood door with sidelights. Three historic eighteen-light transoms extend over the storefront at the second floor. The front facade is also framed by two three-story flat plaster columns that are detailed with rusticated limestone bases and vernacular, Romanesque-styled limestone capitals. The four one-over-one wood windows at the third (upper) floor sit on a continuous limestone sill above a single dentil course. The two limestone columns at the edges of the façade continue as brick columns to the parapet. Two additional semi-engaged brick columns flank the paired center windows above the upper floor; these four brick columns extend to form a stepped brick parapet with each column topped with smooth-finished limestone coping and a large limestone 'dome' shape cap. This parapet is broken horizontally by a brick string course supported by small corbelled brick modillions; this string course and modillions are broken by the four brick columns. The central portion of the parapet is raised above the adjacent parapets, with a blank frieze within this brick panel.

Exterior: West Façade

The west (side) façade is faced with variegated red brick laid in eight-course American bond, is topped with a two course projecting brick parapet that steps down towards the alley. Four chimneys that originally accommodated wood burning stoves project slightly above the parapet. There are no windows at the first floor and only one metal door near the south corner (near the alley). The second floor has three two-over-two wood sash window while the third floor has four two-over-two windows wood sash windows, three of which align with windows below. All windows have segmented arches laid in double row-lock courses and rusticated limestone sills. All windows are fitted with heavy cast iron, hollow hinges that are dimensioned equal to that of a single brick so that they could be installed by masons during construction; these hinges originally supported metal shutters which are no longer on the building.

The remains of several changes are evident at this façade; a small two-story light well between the first and second set of windows has been infilled and is clearly marked by mortar lines and a differentiation in brick color. This shallow light well is evident in early Sanborn maps and is also shown on the only early rendering of the building – an advertisement from Worley's City Directory (refer to Section 8). A heavy vertical line near the south end of this façade clearly indicates this south portion of the building was a later addition; this was added between 1916 and 1921 according to Sanborn maps. A large, faded and illegible ghost sign is located in upper north (left) corner of this façade. Additionally, the scar from the roofline of a previous one-story building is evident at this façade; this building was slightly shorter than the Bluitt Sanitarium building.

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Exterior: South Façade

A two course projecting brick cornice tops the three story South (rear) Façade. There are eight single-hung, two-over-two wood sash windows, four on the second floor and four on the third floor. All windows feature segmented arches that have been laid in double rowlock courses. Six of the windows have rusticated limestone sills while two at the second floor have sills of single rowlock brick. A large overhead door is the only existing opening on the first floor. A non-historic door at the first floor has been infilled with brick. A smaller opening at the first floor, cut to accommodate an air-conditioning unit has also been infilled. There are two roof scuppers located above the third floor ceiling line.

Building Interior

The interior structure of the building Sanitarium had been completely removed by previous owners, with some of this due to fire damage. Photographs provided by previous owners show areas of a fire damaged structure, missing floor structure and much of the roof structure. Floors have been re-installed based on location of floor joist pockets in the brick walls.

The main entry from Commerce Street, at the west side of this façade, leads to a small landing with a metal stair leading down approximately 3' to the first floor. The first floor has a concrete floor and exposed brick walls with the front half of the building at this lowered level while the rear (south) half of the floor is a raised concrete platform, approximately 3' in height – matching the height of the Commerce Street sidewalk. The outline of a brick lined well, recently filled in with concrete, is located approximately 10' north of the platform edge. A brick lined and concrete filled channel is located on the south side of the well and runs south beneath the platform. A brick flue projects from the face of the east (side) wall. Stairs to the upper floors are located at the north-east corner of the building (adjacent to the storefront) and at the raised back portion. A small toilet room has been added at the southeast corner of the raised platform.

The second floor contains an open studio and storage space, an employee darkroom, mechanical room and toilet located along the east wall. As the second floor bisects the exterior windows at the west façade, metal grating has been installed in the floor in front of these windows, allowing light to filter into the room. Finishes at this level are plywood floors and exposed brick walls. The third floor is an open studio space with a pine floor and exposed brick walls.

Changes since 1904

As with most historic buildings dating from the early twentieth century, the historic one-and-a-half story storefront facing Commerce Street had been removed in the past; the date of such removal is not known. The new storefront is of a similar design with the sizes of windows and door quite similar to the historic. The original appearance of the building was published in a 1909 lithograph in Worley's City Directory (see Section 8). Similar to a brownstone plan, the historic storefront had two entries, one on the east (left) side of this North Façade with exterior stairs up to a second floor entry door and a second entry at the west (right) side with stairs down to the first floor. The center portion of the storefront contained two large, divided-lite windows at the first floor level with horizontal wood panels above. Two large one-over-one windows were located in the center of the second floor; this new storefront provides full-height doors and windows at the sidewalk level instead of at the second floor level with a flight of stairs leading to these doors; this is in keeping with current accessibility and local code requirements. A sign with 'B. R. BLUIT, M.D.' was located on the brick above these second floor windows. Another sign noting 'BLUIT' was located in an enframed brick panel in the center area of the parapet; it is assumed these sign were removed when Dr. Bluitt vacated the building.

With the exception of this change to the storefront, the building has retained all other historic features of this façade: brick cladding and detailing, columns with capitals, window openings (with new 1/1 windows that match the historic), parapet form and detailing. In The west facade illustrated in the lithograph clearly shows the shallow light well that accommodates one window in the side wall (this

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light well was later infilled), the original window configuration (seven of the original ten window openings remain in place) as well as the shorter length of the building.

After Dr. Bluitt moved out of the building in 1914, Commerce Street began to change from a street of mixed retail businesses to that of an 'automobile row.' One presumes the storefront was altered during this time to function more efficiently for these retail tenants and possibly to appear more like those of surrounding low-rise commercial buildings. For years, the only indication that this building had been Dr. Bluitt's Sanitarium was a painted sign on the west façade that remained there for many decades. While this sign is still there, unfortunately it is now illegible. Subsequent changes to the original building include extending the west wall to the property line and closing in of the light well to recapture floor space at the second and third floors, addition at the south end of the building and the addition of an freight elevator at the south end of the building (in the addition). There are no records of when these changes were done although all are reflected in the Sanborn map of 1921. The 2002 – 2004 rehabilitation of the building returned the storefront to a design that is similar to that of the 1904 building.

Integrity of the Bluitt Sanitarium Building

The exterior of the Bluitt Sanitarium building has maintained a large amount of its architectural fabric and except for the modification of the storefront, all other historic features of this façade remain: brick cladding and detailing, columns with capitals, window openings (with new 1/1 windows that match the historic), parapet form and detailing. The Bluitt Sanitarium thus retains integrity of design, materials and workmanship relative to the period of significance, and particularly for its association with Dr. Bluitt for the years that he occupied the building (1904 – 1914) as well as for its association with the early commercial history of downtown Dallas.

The building also retains integrity of location, feeling and association. However, due to the demolition of the adjacent building and those across Commerce Street and replacement with surface parking lots, some of the historic setting has been lost.

Rehabilitation of this building utilizing the federal Investment Tax Credits was completed in 2003. The National Park Service has determined that the completed rehabilitation has met the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

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Statement of Significance

The Bluitt Building, located at the east end of downtown Dallas at 2036 Commerce Street, is a 3-story commercial building that is similar to remaining buildings from this era in downtown Dallas, and representative of a commercial building type common at the beginning of the 20th century. Constructed in 1904 with later modifications made to the primary façade, the Bluitt Building was part of the commercial development that replaced residential structures and neighborhoods on the eastern edge of downtown Dallas; this occurred in conjunction with the city's commercial expansion to the east. In conjunction with this growth, this eastern edge of downtown Dallas has experienced several distinct business concentrations from that of 'automobile row' in the 1910's and 1920's, to office supply establishments to commercial restaurant and refrigeration equipment in the 1950's and 1960's to neglect and demolition of many of its structures in the 70's and 80's to a current resurgence of these smaller buildings. The Bluitt Buildings' tenants have been representative of these successive generations of businesses that located at the fringe of a rapidly changing downtown.

Dr. Benjamin R. Bluitt, an African American physician and surgeon, purchased this lot and constructed this building to serve as his medical offices and sanitarium – a clinic and hospital. Dr. Bluitt had already accomplished much by that time – he was the first African American surgeon in Texas and with this building, was to provide the first hospital facility for African Americans in Dallas. In addition to these accomplishments, Dr. Bluitt was also a successful businessman; owned much property in the Dallas area; was one of the founders of the first African American bank in Dallas (Penny Savings Bank); owned a pharmacy that served the African American community; was President of the Lone Star Medical Association; chaired the Dallas County Republican Executive Committee and was a Mason and involved in various professional and civic organizations – both in the African American and Anglo communities in Dallas. Dr. Bluitt occupied the building from 1904 – 1909, at which time he sold the building and moved his medical practice elsewhere. This was a short term absence as he moved his medical practice and the hospital back into this building in 1910 and remained there until 1914 when he left for the last time. Following this, the building was then occupied by a series of tenants, reflecting the changing use of this end of downtown Dallas.

This building is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, in the area of Commerce, at the local level of significance for its association with the early commercial history of downtown Dallas and particularly 'Automobile Row' in the 1910's and 1920's. It is also nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B, for its' association with Dr. Bluitt, a prominent African American physician in Dallas, at the local level of significance, in the area of Health/Medicine and Ethnic Heritage.

Historical Background – Dr. Benjamin R. Bluitt: 1865 – 1888.

Little is known about the early years of Benjamin R. Bluitt; different sources note his birth to ex-slaves Jarriet and Mariah Bonner Bluitt in 1864 in Mexia, county seat of Limestone County, Texas.¹ These discrepancies are probably due to his birth around the end of the Civil War, when birth and death records were seldom kept by African Americans, and when many slave families relocated following emancipation. However, sources agree that his parents were former slaves who relocated to Limestone County when Bluitt was a small child; it is thought they lived in a rural area of the county². The family consisted of Benjamin, two brothers and a sister although their names are not recorded.³

¹ Prather, Patricia Smith and Lee, Bob ed. 'Benjamin R. Bluitt,' Texas Trailblazer Series 2, No. 4: Houston, Texas, Texas Trailblazer Preservation Association of Houston, no date) or December, 1865 in Freestone County (Maxwell, Lisa C. 'Benjamin R. Bluitt' article, *The Handbooks of Texas Online*. Austin, Texas: Texas State Historical Association Online (www.tsha.utexas.edu), 2001.

² Prather, Patricia Smith and Lee, Bob ed. 'Benjamin R. Bluitt,' Texas Trailblazer Series 2, No. 4: Houston, Texas, Texas Trailblazer Preservation Association of Houston, no date, and Maxwell, Lisa C. 'Benjamin R. Bluitt' article, *The Handbooks of Texas Online*. Austin, Texas: Texas State Historical Association Online (www.tsha.utexas.edu), 2001.

³ S. Census, Limestone County, Texas 1870: 239 from Solamillo, Stan. *Part 1 – Evaluation for Historic Significance, Bluitt Sanitarium*, Dallas, Texas: April 2001; Texas Historical Commission files.

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Bluitt completed at least a primary education in a rural Limestone County although it is not known what school he attended or if he obtained his education at home. As Limestone County had no established public school districts until 1888 when the Shady Grove Community School for white children was established,⁴ the only options for the education of African-American children following the Civil War were schools established by the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands (commonly known as the 'Freedman's Bureau') or those established by church or missionary societies.

The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, commonly known as the Freedmen's Bureau, was established by Congress in March 1865 as a branch of the United States Army. The mission of the Bureau was to provide relief to the thousands of refugees, black and white, who had been left homeless by the Civil War; to supervise affairs related to newly freed slaves in the southern states; and to administer all land abandoned by Confederates or confiscated from them during the war. Aiding freed slaves in organizing schools and ensuring the safety of their teachers was a major responsibility of the Bureau. At the end of 1865, sixteen schools were serving just over 1,000 black pupils in Texas. By July of 1870, the last month of the bureau's activities, 150 schools enrolled 9,086 black students although it is not known if any schools were established in Limestone County.⁵ Following his early education, Bluitt then attended Wiley College in Marshall, Texas;⁶ the date of his attendance is not known but it is thought he began his studies there in the early 1880's.

Wiley College, Marshall, Texas

Wiley College, in Marshall, Texas was established in 1873 by the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church and chartered in 1882.⁷ Wiley was the second college established for African Americans in Texas and also the second such west of the Mississippi River; the first is Paul Quinn College, established in Austin in 1872 and now closed. Texas's first public black college - Prairie View State Normal School (now Prairie View A&M University) was not established until 1878. Wiley was one of many colleges established by Northern churches and missionary groups in an effort to prepare African Americans for citizenship through a wide range of educational and relief efforts. By 1869 the Freedman's Aid Society had founded fifty-nine elementary schools across nine Southern states and by 1878 had founded twenty colleges, seminaries, or medical schools in eleven Southern states.⁸

In the 1880's Wiley College offered vocational courses as well as college courses. The faculty was originally administered by white missionaries as it was during the time Bluitt attended. It appears that Bluitt received a good education at Wiley, and suggests that whatever subjects may have been lacking in his rural county schooling were compensated for at Wiley, preparing him for the rigorous training of medical school. It is thought that Bluitt graduated from the institution with the class of 1882.

Wiley College was named for Bishop Isaac D. Wiley, who had been a prominent missionary serving in China with the Methodist Episcopal Church, as well as a minister in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. When the Civil War began, Wiley was a vocal supporter of the Union war effort and the drive to abolish slavery. Following the end of the war, he was one of the founders of the Freedmen's Aid Society which was formed to both educate and Christianize former slaves. Wiley later served as vice president and

⁴ Maschino, Ellen 'Limestone County' article, *The Handbooks of Texas Online*. Austin, Texas: Texas State Historical Association Online (www.tsha.utexas.edu), 2001.

⁵ Harper, Cecil Jr. 'Freedman's Bureau' article, *The Handbooks of Texas Online*. Austin, Texas: Texas State Historical Association Online (www.tsha.utexas.edu), 2001.

⁶ Maxwell, Lisa C. 'Benjamin R. Bluitt' article, *The Handbooks of Texas Online*. Austin, Texas: Texas State Historical Association Online (www.tsha.utexas.edu), 2001.

⁷ Lentz, Sallie and Allen Gilbert, 'Wiley College' article, *The Handbooks of Texas Online*. Austin, Texas: Texas State Historical Association Online (www.tsha.utexas.edu), 2001.

⁸ Harper, Cecil Jr. 'Freedman's Bureau' article, *The Handbooks of Texas Online*. Austin, Texas: Texas State Historical Association Online (www.tsha.utexas.edu), 2001.

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president of the society.⁹ The college was reorganized in 1892 with installation of its first African American president – Bishop Isaiah B. Scott – and African American teachers gradually replaced the white teachers.¹⁰ Wiley College continues in operation as a Christian coeducational college in Marshall, Texas.

Meherry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee

Following graduation from Wiley College, Bluitt attended Meherry Medical Department of Central Tennessee Methodist Episcopal College in Nashville, Tennessee, an institution established by the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1868 - the same organization that founded Wiley College. Samuel Meherry and his four brothers provided a \$30,000 endowment to the college in 1876 for the purpose of establishing a medical department; the department was then named in their honor the following year.¹¹

During the 1880's when Bluitt attended Meherry, the course of study was three years in length with a curriculum that included 'anatomy, physiology, chemistry, botany, dissecting, and chemical analysis' in the first year with 'surgery, gynecology, obstetrics, surgical anatomy, theory and practice of medicine, histology, microscopy, and medical chemistry' in the second year. Medical jurisprudence and Bible history and doctrine were also required.¹² Classes included lectures, recitations, and frequent exams, supplemented by practical exercises.¹³ During the time that Bluitt attended, the following was incorporated as part of the standard course of study:

Students were doing laboratory work in chemistry that included qualitative analysis, urinalysis, and toxicology. In obstetrics and gynecology, they learned the use of instruments by means of a manikin. Surgical classes gave particular attention to venereal diseases, bandaging, and minor operations. Students also dissected cadavers and had access to the Medical Department's microscopy collection that contained hundreds of slides.¹⁴

In 1900 Central Tennessee College became Walden University. Meherry Medical College was incorporated in 1915 as a separate institution but as the two campuses were still adjacent to one another, their strong affiliation continued.¹⁵ In 1922 Walden relocated elsewhere in Nashville and the two institutions became totally separate at that time. Meherry Medical College continues today, and

⁹ Lentz, Sallie and Allen Gilbert, 'Wiley College article, *The Handbooks of Texas Online*. Austin, Texas: Texas State Historical Association Online (www.tsha.utexas.edu), 2001.

¹⁰ Lentz, Sallie and Allen Gilbert, 'Wiley College article, *The Handbooks of Texas Online*. Austin, Texas: Texas State Historical Association Online (www.tsha.utexas.edu), 2001.

¹¹ Summerville, James *Educating Black Doctors: A History of Emory Medical College*. Montgomery, Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1983: 15-16.

¹² Summerville, James *Educating Black Doctors: A History of Emory Medical College*. Montgomery, Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1983: 25-26.

¹³ Summerville, James *Educating Black Doctors: A History of Emory Medical College*. Montgomery, Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1983: 26.

¹⁴ Summerville, James *Educating Black Doctors: A History of Emory Medical College*. Montgomery, Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1983: 26.

¹⁵ Summerville, James *Educating Black Doctors: A History of Meherry Medical College*. Montgomery, Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1983: 57.

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remains the largest private, historically black institution exclusively dedicated to educating health care professionals in the country; in 1983 it has graduated approximately half of the African American doctors in the United States.¹⁶

Meherry was one of only a few medical colleges for African Americans in the South in the last decades of the 19th century, and many of Dallas' early African American physicians in Dallas are graduates: Dr. Anderson, Dr. Edgar Ward, Dr. Lee Pinkston, Dr. William Knox Flowers and Dr. Walter McMillian. Bluitt appears to have graduated from Meherry with the class of 1885 at the age of 20 or 21. As was customary for medical graduates during the period, he was licensed to practice medicine in several states and prior to arriving in Dallas, and is reputed to have done clinical work in Chicago, Illinois; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and New York City.¹⁷

Historical Significance: Dr. Bluitt's Medical Practice in Dallas (1888 – 1919)

By the 1880's, Dallas was an active, growing city with opportunities in industry partly due to the arrival of the railroad in the previous decade. The city's African American population had grown from 2,109 in 1870 to 4,947 in 1880¹⁸, and was attracting African Americans professionals as well as unskilled and laborers. With this growth in African American population, several settlements that had occurred during Reconstruction were developing into neighborhoods for African Americans: Short North Dallas, Hall & Thomas, Stringtown, and Deep Ellum.

Dr. Bluitt came to Dallas in April 1888, and started his medical practice that year.¹⁹ Although he was not the first African American physician to practice in Dallas, he was the first African American surgeon in Dallas as well as Texas.²⁰ The first African American physician in Dallas was Dr. George F. Smith, who first appears in the business listings of the local city directory of 1886-1887 and had an office at 441-1/2 Main Street.²¹ For unknown reasons, his tenure was short-lived and his name did not appear in successive years. Another Meherry graduate of the Class of 1885, Dr. J.W. Anderson was also included in the city directory in the same year that Dr. Bluitt first appeared in publication.

The first mention of Dr. Bluitt in the business listing of the Dallas city directory is 1889-1890, where he was described as a 'physician' with an office 'over 621 Elm' Street and 'r[oo]ms [at the] same address.'²² The following year's directory (1891-92) notes he resided at 351 Flora and had moved his office to 'over 527 Elm' Street. Maria Bluitt is also listed at his home address and in

¹⁶ Meherry Medical College website; www.mmc. edu.

¹⁷ Maxwell, Lisa C. 'Benjamin R. Bluitt' article, *The Handbooks of Texas Online*. Austin, Texas: Texas State Historical Association Online (www.tsha.utexas.edu), 2001.

¹⁸ U.S. Census Office 1891: 508; Solamillo, Stan. *Part 1 – Evaluation for Historic Significance, Bluitt Sanitarium*, Dallas, Texas: April 2001; Texas Historical Commission files

¹⁹ *Dallas Express* 1938: 4; Barr 1996: 95; (Prather, Patricia Smith and Lee, Bob ed. 'Benjamin R. Bluitt,' Texas Trailblazer Series 2, No. 4: Houston, Texas: Texas Trailblazer Preservation Association of Houston, no date; Maxwell, Lisa C. 'Benjamin R. Bluitt' article, *The Handbooks of Texas Online*. Austin, Texas: Texas State Historical Association Online (www.tsha.utexas.edu), 2001.

²⁰ Maxwell, Lisa C. 'Benjamin R. Bluitt' article, *The Handbooks of Texas Online*. Austin, Texas: Texas State Historical Association Online (www.tsha.utexas.edu), 2001; Prather, Patricia Smith and Lee, Bob ed. 'Benjamin R. Bluitt,' Texas Trailblazer Series 2, No. 4: Houston, Texas, Texas Trailblazer Preservation Association of Houston, no date.

²¹ Morrison & Fourmy 1886-1887: 280, 351; Solamillo, Stan. *Part 1 – Evaluation for Historic Significance, Bluitt Sanitarium*, Dallas, Texas: April 2001; Texas Historical Commission files.

²² *Morrison & Fourmy's General Directories of the City of Dallas* for years 1889-1890. Galveston, Texas: Morrison and Fourmy Compilers and Publishers: 110; Boykin, Lucille 'Research on Dr. Benjamin R. Bluitt' unpublished bibliography. Dallas, Texas: History & Social Sciences Division, Dallas Public Library, Sept. 1975.

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subsequent years she is listed as a nurse; it is possible that she was Bluitt's sister or other relative and lived with Bluitt and his wife Cornelia.²³

Of interest at that time is the *Memorial and Biographical History of Dallas*, published in 1892,²⁴ a book containing lists of professions in Dallas County. The 'Medical' heading notes: 'the following list of physicians of Dallas will be found some of the brightest minds in the medical world.' The list of all physicians in Dallas County follows, including Dr. Bluitt's name. What is unusual is that the other names are Anglo physicians and Dr. Bluitt is not identified as African American; this seems to establish Bluitt as a respected physician in Dallas.

In the city directory of 1893-1894, B.R. Bluitt was assisted by Lyman B. Bluitt, possibly a nephew²⁵ and they advertised their practice as "Bluitt & Bluitt Physicians & Surgeons;" their offices were at another location at 497 Main Street.²⁶ It is not known what happened to this partnership as Lyman (L.B.) Bluitt left the practice prior to the next city directory in 1894, yet continues to be listed in subsequent city directories as a waiter at the Oriental Hotel. However by 1909 Lyman is again listed as a physician with his own office at 596 Elm Street, and by 1910 was listed as living with Bluitt at 345 Flora Street. In the following year, however, he was not listed and never appeared in the city directories again.

Dr. Bluitt continued his practice at 497 Main Street²⁷ and in 1894 opened the Star Pharmacy adjacent to this office²⁸ this pharmacy was no longer listed in the city directory by 1897. One late twentieth century archaeologist later noted that "Star Pharmacy" medicine bottles were later found in significant numbers near the Texas & Pacific (T&P) rail yard, as well as on sites located on Bryan and Live Oak Streets. This amount and distribution of bottles suggests that Dr. Bluitt may have continued dispensing medication under his own brand name from his offices following the close of the pharmacy.²⁹ Shortly after the closure of Star Pharmacy, Dr. Bluitt's occasional investments in real estate speculation increased with the purchase of several properties located on Pearl, Peak, and Cochran Streets.³⁰

By 1900 the African American population in Dallas had increased to 13,646 persons.³¹ There were several African American physicians in Dallas at that time: Drs. Bluitt, Anderson, Nickens, and Roman, F.M. Brooks, Dr. Charles V. Roman (who described himself in that year as a "Specialist" in "eye, ear, nose, throat" ailments and related "surgeries."³² There were two African American dentists in Dallas at that time: Drs. Marcellus C. Cooper (who officed with Dr. Bluitt at 361 Commerce Street) and Dr. J. H. Holsey.

²³ *Morrison & Fourmy's General Directories of the City of Dallas* for years 1889-90. Galveston, Texas: Morrison and Fourmy Compilers and Publishers: 110.

²⁴ *Memorial and Biographical History of Dallas County, Texas*. Chicago, Illinois: Lewis Publishing Co., 1892, p. 209. Republished by Wadsworth Publishing Co.

²⁵ Payton 2000: personal communication with Stan Solamillo as recorded in Solamillo, Stan. *Part 1 – Evaluation for Historic Significance, Bluitt Sanitarium*, Dallas, Texas: April 2001; Texas Historical Commission files.

²⁶ Solamillo, Stan. *Part 1 – Evaluation for Historic Significance, Bluitt Sanitarium*, Dallas, Texas: April 2001; Texas Historical Commission files.

²⁷ *Morrison & Fourmy's General Directories of the City of Dallas*, 1894-5. Galveston, Texas: Morrison and Fourmy Compilers and Publishers: 79.

²⁸ *Evans and Worley Directories of the City of Dallas*, 1896. Dallas, Texas: John F. Worley Company; 507.

²⁹ Troup 2000: personal communication with Stan Solamillo, Solamillo, Stan. *Part 1 – Evaluation for Historic Significance, Bluitt Sanitarium*, Dallas, Texas: April 2001; Texas Historical Commission files.

³⁰ *Dallas County Deed Records*, Vol. 168: 275; Vol. 208: 258; Solamillo, Stan. *Part 1 – Evaluation for Historic Significance, Bluitt Sanitarium*, Dallas, Texas: April 2001; Texas Historical Commission files.

³¹ U.S. Census Office 1901: 602; Solamillo, Stan. *Part 1 – Evaluation for Historic Significance, Bluitt Sanitarium*, Dallas, Texas: April 2001; Texas Historical Commission files

³² *Worley's Directory of Greater Dallas*, 1900. Dallas, Texas: John F. Worley Company: 505-506.

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Dr. Bluitt purchased the lot at 504 Commerce Street in 1904, and construction began on his building later that year; it was thought to have been completed in late 1904 or possibly early 1905. Known as the Bluitt Building, it was occupied by Dr. Bluitt's medical practice and his tenants: Dr. Marcellus Cooper, attorney Daniel Mason (the first African American attorney in Dallas, arrived in 1895) and Roberts and Roberts. The medical offices were located at the second floor while the third floor housed the Sanitarium.

Bluitt received his license to operate the sanitarium from the state of Texas under the name "Bluitt's Sanitarium" in 1906 and advertised as such in the city directories from 1907 onward. Dr. Bluitt had a third sign added to the building's west (side) facade and it stated upon completion, "BLUITT'S SANITARIUM."³³ Bluitt ran an advertisement in the city directory that year, showing a lithograph of the building as well as his portrait in profile (as was customary for the period) and the following copy:³⁴

I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT MY SANITARIUM
is now open for the benefit of the general public where all of the most scientific
operations are being successfully made, at reasonable prices. For further information,
call on or address Bluitt's Sanitarium. 504 COMMERCE ST. PHONE MAIN 2775

As his medical practice and that of the hospital grew, the need for African American nurses increased. This recognition of this need was consistent with discussions held at Meherry Medical College in Nashville in 1901, where Dr. Daniel Hale Williams noted that every city in the South with a population of 10,000 African Americans must have a hospital and nurse training center.³⁵ Without a local or state school to provide this education, Dr. Bluitt headed a group of doctors who pursued forming a school for nurses. In November 1908, a meeting was held at the New Hope Baptist Church to discuss this topic; Dr. Bluitt was named to head the Ways and Means Committee for this effort. This article notes that the next Executive Committee meeting was held at the Bluitt Sanitarium.³⁶ In 1911 Dr. Bluitt and his clinic were described in the *Dallas Negro Business League*, a local black business directory:

In Dallas, we have 14 physicians, 4 dentists and [6] lawyers. It is the consensus of opinion that our physicians enjoy fully 90 per cent of the practice of our people. In Dr. B.R. Bluitt we have one of the best known and one of the most successful surgeons of the South. The Bluitt Sanitarium has been in operation for about five years The Sanitarium is owned and operated by Dr B.R. Bluitt, a surgeon of national reputation. He is ably assisted by the leading physicians of the city. The sanitarium is open to all regularly practicing physicians. It has had remarkable success.

In that year, William and Walter J. Franklin Brothers moved opened a cleaning business in the first floor of the building. The Franklin brothers are reputed in the oral tradition to have been cousins of Dr. Bluitt.³⁷ The daughter of M.C. Cooper, Marzelle Cooper-Hill, stated in 1988 that:³⁸

[My father's] office was. . . located in the Bluitt Building. Dr. Bluitt had a sanitarium down on the corner of Commerce and South Pearl. He had a cleaning establishment in the basement that his nephew ran. On the next floor was Dr. Bluitt's office, Lawyer Mason's office and my father's dental office. On the upper floor was Dr. Bluitt's Sanitarium where his patients were. Dr. Bluitt's Sanitarium was the only one where black doctors could practice.

³³ Solamillo, Stan. *Part 1 – Evaluation for Historic Significance, Bluitt Sanitarium*, Dallas, Texas: April 2001; Texas Historical Commission files.

³⁴ *Worley's Directory of Greater Dallas*, 1909. Dallas, Texas: John F. Worley Company, 80.

³⁵ Summerville, James *Educating Black Doctors: A History of Emery Medical College*. Montgomery, Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1983: 44.

³⁶ 'Want Nurse Training School' article, Dallas Morning News, November 20, 1908: 10.

³⁷ Solamillo, Stan. *Part 1 – Evaluation for Historic Significance, Bluitt Sanitarium*, Dallas, Texas: April 2001; Texas Historical Commission files.

³⁸ McKnight, Dr. Mamie, ed. *First African American Families of Dallas: On the Inside Looking Out, Vol. 2*. Dallas, Texas: Black Dallas Remembered, 1990: 137

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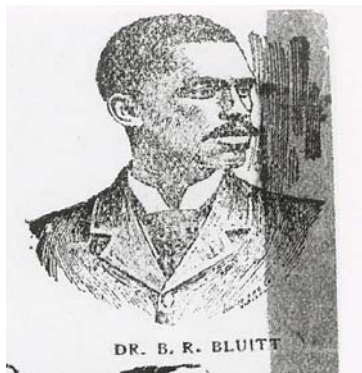
In late 1913 or 1914, Dr. Bluitt closed his Sanitarium and moved his medical office to 2411-1/2 Main Street, in Deep Ellum. He had operated the first and only African American clinic in the city for eight years and it would be a number of years before another hospital and clinic for the African American community would be opened. The hospital had provided a location for recuperating patients to recover in a stable, quiet and hygienic facilities. Not only was this a loss to the patients but also to the other African American physicians in Dallas who utilized the surgery facilities; without these facilities, they would lose the opportunity to perform surgery or assist Dr. Bluitt when he did so.

At that time the new Knights of Pythias Temple in Deep Ellum was under construction. Designed by Dallas' first African American architect, William Sidney Pittman, Deep Ellum's most impressive building at six floors, was the largest building owned and built by African Americans in the city of Dallas. Containing offices, retail space and a large ballroom at the upper floor, it became the preferred business address for successful African American professionals in Dallas as well as center of their social events. Dr. Bluitt moved into the building upon its' completion in 1916 and was one of its' first tenants. However, he remained in this building for approximately two years and moved his medical offices to 2667 Elm Street sometime in 1918.

He is reputed to have moved to Chicago later that year, but seems to have stayed for only a few months as he returned to Dallas in late 1918 or in early January, 1919. Bluitt was again listed in the 1919 city directory, and ran an advertisement in the January 18 and January 25, 1919 issues of the *Dallas Express* that stated:³⁹

Dr. Bluitt has returned to the City
and resumed practice.

This advertisement provides neither an address nor a telephone number and is the last evidence of him in any Dallas publication. He appears to have left once more for Chicago later in 1919 or early 1920 where he settled permanently.



Photograph of Dr. Benjamin Bluitt, c. 1905 (Dallas)
From lithograph at opening of Bluitt Sanitarium



Photograph of Dr. Benjamin Bluitt, MD, c. 1925 (Chicago)
'Souvenir of Negro Progress: Chicago, 1779-1925'
by John Taitt, published 1925.
(Courtesy Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York Public Library Digital Gallery).

³⁹ *Dallas Express*, 18 January 1919: 2; 25 January 1919: 6.

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The December 4, 1920 issue of the *Dallas Express* printed the following description of his new position under the headline, "Former Dallas Surgeon heads Chicago Hospital Staff:

That Dr. B.R. Bluitt, former prominent physician and surgeon of Dallas, is making an enviable record for ability and medical skill is made known by a special correspondent of the *Express* who visited the Fort Dearborn Hospital, whose operating staff, Dr. Bluitt heads. Quietly situated at 3831-35 Vernon [A]venue, we found the building [to be] a handsome three-story brick [structure]. . . Upon our request to see through the hospital, [a Dr. Cade]. . . showed us the building. . . We saw the laundry, boiler room, nur[s]e's dining room, wards, baths, private room[s] and operating rooms. . . The Fort Dearborn [Hospital] has 75 beds in wards, semi-private rooms of two and three beds, and private rooms. . . The building is fireproof. The operating room is commodious and is supplied with all the equipment known to modern medical practice. The president of the association is Dr. B.R. Bluitt. . . Many of the leading physicians and surgeons of the city are on the Fort Dearborn staff. Among them being such prominent ones as Dr. M.J. Brown, who is vice president; Dr. M.C. Cade, secretary; Drs. Daley, J.R. White, R.C. White, C.P. Cooper, and Wilberforce Williams. The hospital is owned by the Association. The Association is planning an Accredited Training School for nurses. Interns at the hospital will receive credit at any state board. The association is [also] planning a post-graduate school to be affiliated with the Chicago Medical School.

The exact reasons why Dr. Bluitt moved to Chicago is not known. However, conjecture is this decision was related (or due) to some thirty years of real estate speculation in the city culminating in financial problems. In 1918 and 1919 he liquidated assets including two automobiles, a late model Willys Knight touring car and a Chevrolet.⁴⁰ In addition, by 1920 there had been a successful lawsuit by a former associate (and prominent member of the African American community) Dock Rowen with several of Dr. Bluitt's remaining properties ordered sold in a sheriffs sale to the plaintiff for one hundred dollars.⁴¹ It is also possible that, at the age of 55, Bluitt desired a more stable medical practice than what he had experienced in Dallas; working for a large hospital would have both provided more financial stability than was available in Dallas as well as broader medical opportunities.

Dr. Bluitt's Visit to Dallas in 1938 to celebrate 30 years of practice (1888 – 1938).

Dr. Bluitt returned to Dallas for a brief visit in 1938 and attended a banquet that was held in his honor to celebrate fifty years in the medical profession. The occasion was recorded by a reporter for the *Dallas Express* under the Headline, "Bluitt Banquet Rare Feast of Experiences."⁴²

[On] Friday night. . . 60 or more well wishers sat in banquet order at the Moorland Branch W.M.C.A. and paid tribute to Dr. [B.R.] Bluitt on the occasion of his fiftieth anniversary in the practice of medicine: Dr. J.W. Anderson and the Honorable William "Goosneck Bill" McDonald literally stole the show as they carried their hearers back to the early days of the beginning of Dr. Bluitt's medical career.

Dr. Bluitt came to Dallas, April 8, 1888 and began his practice in the Slaughter Building on Commerce Street, downtown. Dr. Bluitt was the first negro physician to practice medicine in Dallas. His practice grew large and the territory he covered was wide. He established the first hospital for the care of Negro patients in Dallas, and he became a pioneer and leader in the field of business. Dr. R.T. Hamilton was toastmaster at the banquet and the following other

⁴⁰ *Dallas County Deed Records*, Vol.749: 345; Vol. 768: 482; Solamillo, Stan. *Part 1 – Evaluation for Historic Significance, Bluitt Sanitarium*, Dallas, Texas: April 2001; Texas Historical Commission files.

⁴¹ *Dallas County Deed Records*, Vol. 852: 628; Solamillo, Stan. *Part 1 – Evaluation for Historic Significance, Bluitt Sanitarium*, Dallas, Texas: April 2001; Texas Historical Commission files.

⁴² *Dallas Express*, Dallas, Texas: 16 April 1938: 4.

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speakers appeared on the program: Bonze Mayor E.E. Ward, Dr. A.H. Dyson, Grand Master William Coleman, Dr. Frank R. Jordan, Professor J.B. Richey, Dr. R.E.L. Holland, Mr. Chas. T. Brackins and [Dr.]P.M. Sunday.

Dr. Bluitt left Dallas 19 years ago and is now a practicing physician and surgeon in Chicago. He returned to Dallas recently to celebrate his fiftieth anniversary, and this banquet was given by his friends and former associates

There is no record of Dr. Bluitt returning to Dallas following this visit in 1938. It is reported that Dr. Bluitt died in Chicago in 1946 but an obituary was not published locally; various libraries and research facilities in Chicago have been contacted regarding this but to date, an obituary for Dr. Bluitt has not been located.

African American medicine in Dallas 1919 – 1950's.

Bluitt Sanitarium was the first hospital and clinic in Dallas for African Americans. Its' closure left the African Americans community without medical facilities for five years until 1918, when Drs. O. R. Bush and C. L. Morgan opened t he Morgan-Bush Sanitarium at 1027-1/2 Boll Street.⁴³ In 1920, the name was changed to the Morgan-Bush-Trotter Sanitarium and it appears to have closed in 1920 however.⁴⁴ Dr. Walter Ree McMillan opened the McMillan Sanitarium by 1921;⁴⁵ this was a 2-story complex at 2322 Hall Street that included doctor's offices with the surgical facilities upstairs, druggist, insurance offices, barber shop, café and tailor/cleaners. Dr. McMillan employed several other doctors, making this clinic the largest African American owned clinic in Dallas until the 1950's.

St. Paul Hospital was the first hospital in Dallas to hire African American doctors and grant local African American doctors hospital privileges, the other hospitals shortly followed this practice in the 1960's and the need for separate clinics and hospitals ceased.

Dr. Bluitt's other Commercial Activities and community affairs.

Dr. Bluitt held a unique position in Dallas – his medical practice was highly respected and he held leadership roles in the Lone Star Medical Association and he supported other African American doctors in Dallas. He regularly conducted business with whites and is reported to have served white patients at his medical practice. Bluitt was also a local real estate investor and the owner of several businesses; during his thirty-year career in Dallas, he was a prominent and influential African American community leader. His achievements provide a glimpse of how African Americans attained positions of relative privilege in Dallas in the decades after the Civil War and the first two decades of the twentieth century.

Dr. Bluitts' involvement with Dallas real estate began in 1890 with the purchase of a residential lot in the M. H. Hughes Addition (later becoming the Hall & Thomas Neighborhood) for \$850.⁴⁶ Later properties included residential and commercial properties downtown, in the North Dallas neighborhood and even in communities outside Dallas. In 1902 he attempted to purchase a building on Jackson Street (in downtown Dallas, near the intersection w/ Ervay Street) from the Dallas Electric Light & Power Company for \$4,000 although the transaction was not finalized; it is thought he intended to locate his medical practice and clinic there. Later that year, Dr. Bluitt vested the Anglo firm of J.W. Lindsley & Company with the Power of Attorney to collect rents from several

⁴³ *Worley's Directory of Greater Dallas - 1919*. Dallas, Texas: John F. Worley Company: 821.

⁴⁴ *Worley's Directory of Greater Dallas - 1921*. Dallas, Texas: John F. Worley Company: 1148.

⁴⁵ *Worley's Directory of Greater Dallas - 1921*. Dallas, Texas: John F. Worley Company: 1845; Figure 22.

⁴⁶ *Dallas County Deed Records*, Vol. 135: 251; Solamillo, Stan. *Part 1 – Evaluation for Historic Significance, Bluitt Sanitarium*, Dallas, Texas: April 2001; Texas Historical Commission files.

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properties; this may have been done to minimize the time required to service his real estate activities and concentrate on his medical practice.⁴⁷

On December 11, 1903, Dr. Bluitt and his wife Cornelia purchased Lot 17 in Block 31/127 of the Houston & Texas Central Railroad Addition from C. L. Moss and his wife⁴⁸ - this became the site of the Bluitt Sanitarium Building at 504 Commerce Street. As building permit records were not maintained by the City of Dallas until 1905, there are no records of the site's value.

Over the years he bought and sold numerous pieces of property, both residential and commercial. He owned lots on Allen Street, Cochran Street, multiple lots or houses on Flora and Florence Streets, Floyd Street, Good Street, Jackson Street, Juliette Street, Pearl Street, Peak Street, multiple properties on 3717, St. Mary's Temple (address unknown), St. Clair's Temple (address unknown) and Floyd Street; these represent a portion of the total investments in property he made during the 1890's and 1900's. These investments were made individually and with both Anglo and African American partners.

As previously noted, Dr. Bluitt sold 504 Commerce Street in 1909; the reasons for this are now known. Other real estate transactions of 1909 included the purchase of residential property from the Chicago-based Women's American Baptist Missionary Society and the sale of three lots in Hutchins, Texas⁴⁹. He again hired another Anglo' firm, Murphy & Bolanz, to collect rents from several more of his properties.⁵⁰

Dr. Bluitt was liquidating assets by the late 1910's - both properties and two cars - a late model Willys Knight touring car and a Chevrolet.⁵¹ In addition, by 1920 there had been a successful lawsuit by Dock Rowen, a former associate, and several of Dr. Bluitt's properties were ordered sold in a sheriff's sale to the plaintiff for one hundred dollars.⁵² One can only speculate on the impact of these apparent financial difficulties on his decision to move to Chicago.

Another of his business ventures was opening the Star Pharmacy in 1894, located at 497 Main Street;⁵³ this was the second African American owned pharmacy in Dallas. He purchased 'Star Pharmacy' bottles to distribute his medicines in; these have been found in archeological sites near the Texas & Pacific railyard as well as on sites at Bryan and Live Oak Streets.⁵⁴ The pharmacy appears in the City Directory for only this one year, and is thought to have closed within a year or two. It has been suggested that the presence of

⁴⁷ *Dallas County Deed Records*: Vol. 276: 549; Solamillo, Stan. *Part 1 - Evaluation for Historic Significance, Bluitt Sanitarium*, Dallas, Texas: April 2001; Texas Historical Commission files.

⁴⁸ *Dallas County Deed records*; Vol. 310:429; Solamillo, Stan. *Part 1 - Evaluation for Historic Significance, Bluitt Sanitarium*, Dallas, Texas: April 2001; Texas Historical Commission files.

⁴⁹ *Dallas County Deed Records*, Vol. 469: 159; Vol. 436: 206; Solamillo, Stan. *Part 1 - Evaluation for Historic Significance, Bluitt Sanitarium*, Dallas, Texas: April 2001; Texas Historical Commission files.

⁵⁰ *Dallas County Deed Records*, Vol. 481: 295; Solamillo, Stan. *Part 1 - Evaluation for Historic Significance, Bluitt Sanitarium*, Dallas, Texas: April 2001; Texas Historical Commission files.

⁵¹ *Dallas County Deed Records*, Vol. 749: 345; Vol. 768: 482; Solamillo, Stan. *Part 1 - Evaluation for Historic Significance, Bluitt Sanitarium*, Dallas, Texas: April 2001; Texas Historical Commission files.

⁵² *Dallas County Deed Records*, Vol. 852: 628; Solamillo, Stan. *Part 1 - Evaluation for Historic Significance, Bluitt Sanitarium*, Dallas, Texas: April 2001; Texas Historical Commission files.

⁵³ *Morrison & Fourmy's General Directories of the City of Dallas* for years 1895-6. Galveston, Texas: Morrison and Fourmy Compilers and Publishers: 507.

⁵⁴ Troup 2000: personal communication with Stan Solamillo; Solamillo, Stan. *Part 1 - Evaluation for Historic Significance, Bluitt Sanitarium*, Dallas, Texas: April 2001; Texas Historical Commission files.

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such bottles in different locations suggests that Dr. Bluitt may have continued dispensing medication from his medical office after the pharmacy closed.

Dr. Bluitt's invested in the Penny Savings Bank of Dallas which was the city's first African American-owned financial institution in Dallas. Penny Savings Banks were opening across the county, primarily to encourage African Americans to utilize banks for savings and other financial activities. The bank, located on 595 Elm Street was organized June 21, 1909⁵⁵ with Dr. Bluitt one of the original investors. The bank existed only three years and went into receivership per Judge Muse's 44th District Court on April 18, 1912. Records show that Dr. Bluitt was involved with the institution in several real estate transactions of the period.⁵⁶

He was a Trustee of St. James A.M.E. Temple in Deep Ellum. The church hired William Sidney Pittman, the city's first African American architect, to design and supervise the construction of a new church on Good Street (now Good-Latimer); this church was dedicated on January 1921. Bluitt's name appears on the cornerstone of the church, as he was a trustee when Pittman was hired and construction began on the new building.

Bluitt was also active in the Lone Star State Medical Association (LSSMA), an association of African American doctors throughout the state. The organization was founded in 1886 following the statewide medical association's denial of membership to two African American physicians from Galveston - Drs. J. H. and L. M. Wilkins, both Mehary alumni. It was the second organization of black medical professionals to be formed in the country after the Colored Medical Association, founded by the first Meherry alumni in Nashville in 1880.⁵⁷ The membership of the LSSMA was expanded when the organization changed its name to the Lone Star State Medical, Dental, and Pharmaceutical Association in 1901⁵⁸. Dr Bluitt served as president of LSSMA in 1906.⁵⁹

In 1897, a Dallas Morning News article states that E.H.R. Green, chairman of the State Executive Committee of the Republican Party of Dallas, announced that 'Dr. Benjamin R. Bluitt was made [new] chairman of the Dallas County Republican Executive Committee' and further noted he had not yet announced his fellow committeeman.⁶⁰ This article makes no mention of his race; one can then assume this chairmanship was in fact as stated, which would have been a prominent position for an African American at that time.

Dr. Bluitt was a mason, as well as a member of several African American fraternal organizations. He was also a member of the Negro Chamber of Commerce.⁶¹

⁵⁵ *Dallas Morning News Archives*, Dallas Morning News, Dallas, Texas; April 18, 1912.

⁵⁶ *Dallas County Deed Records*, Vol. 508: 5; Vol. 542: 600; Vol. 543: 596; Solamillo, Stan. *Part 1 – Evaluation for Historic Significance, Bluitt Sanitarium*, Dallas, Texas: April 2001; Texas Historical Commission files.

⁵⁷ Summerville, James *Educating Black Doctors: A history of Meherry Medical College*. Montgomery, Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1983: 42; Solamillo, Stan. *Part 1 – Evaluation for Historic Significance, Bluitt Sanitarium*, Dallas, Texas: April 2001; Texas Historical Commission files.

⁵⁸ Prather, Patricia Smith and Lee, Bob ed. 'Benjamin R. Bluitt,' Texas Trailblazer Series 2, No. 4: Houston, Texas, Texas Trailblazer Preservation Association of Houston, 1966.

⁵⁹ *Dallas Morning News Archives*, Dallas Morning News, Dallas, Texas; October 10, 1906.

⁶⁰ *Dallas Morning News Archives*, Dallas Morning News, Dallas, Texas; October 12, 1897.

⁶¹ Solamillo, Stan. *Part 1 – Evaluation for Historic Significance, Bluitt Sanitarium*, Dallas, Texas: April 2001; Texas Historical Commission files.

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Dr. Bluitts' residences

Of the 31 years he spent in Dallas, Bluitt lived for at least twenty-five years on Flora Street in 'North Dallas,' an African American community located north-east of downtown Dallas. By 1894 his residence is listed as 351 Flora Street; Sanborn maps show this as a large house and quite suitable for a promising physician. This block of Flora contained many of the larger homes in North Dallas. The surrounding blocks were residential – varying from shotgun houses to larger, impressive one and two-story homes. This location was central to the African American Community with Colored School #2 nearby at 245 Flora, and the new Booker T. Washington High School would be built several blocks away in 1922. The Houston, Texas & Central Railroad, flanked by 'Central Avenue' was at the east end of this block with a few commercial building adjacent to this road.

By 1905 Bluitt had moved to the adjacent home at 349 Flora Street; this home was larger than the house at 351. It appears Bluitt liked this location but desired a larger home as by 1910 he had moved to the adjacent house at 345 Flora Street at the northeast corner of Flora and Allen streets. Sanborn maps reflect this as new house, replacing a more modest one at this location;⁶² it is assumed that Dr. Bluitt had the previous home demolished or moved and constructed a new home at this location. This was one of the larger homes in the neighborhood. 'The Negro in Medicine' book⁶³ includes a photograph of this impressive two-story house with large wrap-around porch, bay windows and several chimneys. In 1911 the street numbers throughout Dallas were changed and the new address became 2903 Flora.



Bluitt's home at 345/2903 Flora, 1910 - 1918.
from: *The Negro in Medicine*. Tuskegee, Alabama, 1912.

Bluitt's address changed in 1919 to 2907 Flora; this house had been his previous home at 349 Flora (1905-1910). This may have reflected his eminent move to Chicago and the sale of his larger home; it is not known if he still retained ownership of 2907 Flora at that time.

⁶² Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Dallas, Texas. New York, New York: Sanborn Map & Publishing Co., 1921.

⁶³ Kenny, John Andrew. *The Negro in Medicine*. Tuskegee, Alabama, 1912. Images available from New York Public Library - Digital Library (www.digitalgallery.nypl.org)

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Unfortunately, the African American community of 'North Dallas' was largely demolished for the construction of the first phase of Central Expressway in the late 1940's. This included the 2900 block of Flora which now lies at approximately the intersection of Central Expressway and Woodall Rogers Freeway. Ironically, Kessler's Master Plan of 1911 called for replacing the HT&C railroad tracks with a central highway – a goal that was accomplished almost four decades later with the building of Central Expressway⁶⁴ and resulted in the demolition of a large part of the African American heritage of Dallas.

Historical Background – Bluitt Sanitarium Building at 2036 Commerce Street

The Bluitt Sanitarium building, located at the east end of downtown Dallas at what was originally 504 (and now 2036) Commerce Street, is a 2-story commercial building that was part of the commercial development that replaced residential structures and neighborhoods on the eastern edge of downtown Dallas; this occurred in conjunction with the city's commercial expansion to the east at the beginning of the 20th century.

Prior to the construction of Bluitt's building, the lot was vacant and with the exception of 506 Commerce to the east, the remaining properties on the block were residences.⁶⁵ Constructed and owned by Dr. Bluitt in 1904-5, this vernacular commercial masonry building was known as Bluitt's building, and was occupied by Dr. Bluitt's medical practice and his tenants: Dr. Marcellus Cooper, an attorney Daniel Mason, and Roberts and Roberts.

The building was built with brick supplied by the Texas Brick Company of Ferris to be of 'fireproof construction' and its north (front) storefront was modeled after an eastern brownstone.⁶⁶ It had two recessed entries, one with stairs going up to a second floor on the east side and the other, with stairs going down to a basement. Windows installed above a paneled storefront provided light to the mezzanine floor and additional windows below the storefront provided light for the basement. Obviously proud of the new facility, Dr. Bluitt had two signs for the front facade. One was a signage band that carried the physician's name and degree - B.R. BLUITT, M.D. - and the other, installed within a brick panel at the top of the facade's parapet and presumably molded in plaster, read: BLUITT. Consequently, the facility was also referred to in the vernacular as the "Bluitt Building" after its opening.

Dr. Bluitt opened his Sanitarium in the building in 1904; it was operational at this location through 1909, and again from 1910-1914.⁶⁷ An advertisement for the Sanitarium published in the 1909 City Directory included this lithograph of the building:

⁶⁴ Governor, Alan and Brakefield, Jay. *Deep Ellum and Central Tracks – Where the Black and White Worlds of Dallas Converged*. Denton, Texas: University of North Texas Press, 1998; 183.

⁶⁵ *Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Dallas, Texas*. New York, New York: Sanborn Map & Publishing Co., 1899, 1905.

⁶⁶ Solamillo, Stan. *Part 1 – Evaluation for Historic Significance, Bluitt Sanitarium*, Dallas, Texas: April 2001; Texas Historical Commission files.

⁶⁷ *Worley's Directory of Greater Dallas, 1909*. Dallas, Texas: John F. Worley Company.

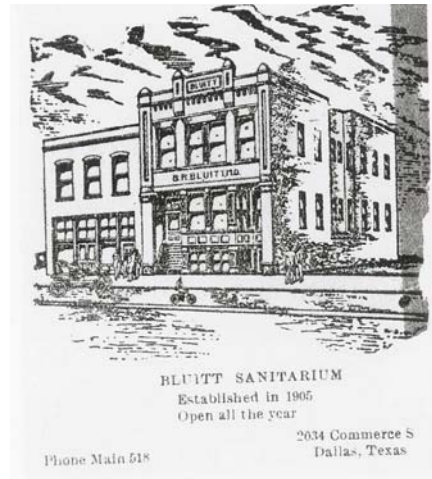
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Bluitt Sanitarium
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas



Advertisement for Bluitt's Building
Worley's City Directory, Dallas, 1909

Dr. Bluitt sold the building in 1909 to Mr. S.P. Jones for \$9,400⁶⁸ and relocated his medical practice to 595 Elm Street and the Sanitarium to 123 Florence Street⁶⁹ (Boykin/City Directory 1910, page 127). However, this relocation was short-lived and Dr. Bluitt moved his medical practice and Sanitarium back into 504 Commerce in 1910, although as a renter; he remained there until 1914.

⁶⁸ Dallas County Deed Records, Vol. 455:91; Solamillo, Stan. *Part I – Evaluation for Historic Significance, Bluitt Sanitarium*, Dallas, Texas: April 2001; Texas Historical Commission files.

⁶⁹ Boykin, Lucille 'Research on Dr. Benjamin R. Bluitt' unpublished bibliography. Dallas, Texas: History & Social Sciences Division, Dallas Public Library, Sept. 1975.

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Bluitt Sanitarium
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

Dallas' 'Automobile Row' – from the early 1900's thru 1930.

(taken largely from the adjacent Purvin Hexter Building National Register Nomination, 2005, Marcel Quimby).

The first automobile in Dallas was brought to town (by rail car) by Colonel E. H. R. Green in 1899 but it was not until 1902 that the Colonel maintained an automobile in Dallas for his regular use. Ironically, Colonel Green's townhouse was located in the same block of Commerce Street as the Bluitt Building; this townhouse would later be demolished for the Annex to the Municipal Building in 1956. The arrival of the automobile had begun to transform the character of Dallas streets' in the early 1900's.

In 1902 Lipscomb and Garrett, the first automobile dealership in Dallas and agents for the short lived Locomobile Company of America, opened at 301 Main Street⁷⁰. By 1905 there were several other dealerships, including Part in & Orendorff Implement Company, who sold Cadillacs at 156-158 Elm Street, and the Fort Worth & Dallas Automobile Company, who operated an agency, garage and store room at 319 Commerce for Winton, Columbia, and Oldsmobile. In addition, the S.H. Boren Automobile Company at 361-371 Commerce Street and Studebaker Bros. Manufacturing Company at 317 Commerce Street rounded out the first listings for the city's automobile dealerships⁷¹.

By 1910 there were thirty-seven such automobile companies⁷² and an 'automobile row' had developed near the 500 block (now 2000 block) of Commerce Street and included several automobile dealers: Eller Motor Car Company (398 Commerce Street), Overland Automobile Sale Company (349-251 Commerce), Maxwell-Briscoe-Handley Company (Studebaker dealer, at 305 – 307 Commerce), R. L. Cameron Automobile Company (Diamond Six dealer, 306-308 Commerce), Ford Motor Company of Dallas (445-447 Commerce), Roberts Motor Car Co. (Thomas Flyer dealer, 317 Commerce)⁷³. As would be expected, there were numerous automobile accessories and parts businesses located in the immediate area including Williams Top Co. (426 Commerce Street), Goodrich Tires (428-430 Commerce). These automobile businesses did not yet extend to the Bluitt Building at 504 Commerce Street. While the vast majority of the dealers and related businesses were located on Commerce Street, several other dealers were located nearby on Elm and Jackson Streets and on South Ervay, south of downtown.

In 1912 Dallas had 420 miles of paved roads and with 2,944 automobiles registered, ranked first among cities of its size in the number of motor cars on the streets⁷⁴. Dallas was greatly impacted by this influx of automobiles in many ways – the role of the city as a major regional distribution center for automobiles and related products impacted businesses while the common use of the automobile opened up new residential areas such as East Dallas, Lakewood, Oak Cliff and Highland Park. Dallas had become by the 1920s what one period writer described as "the chief distributing center for automobiles and [automotive products]"⁷⁵. This appetite for new automobiles also created a large service industry for the parts that were needed to make these undependable vehicles operate: gasoline, oil, repair shops and above all, rubber tires. These accessory businesses were located alongside the automobile dealerships, creating a true 'automobile row' at the east end of downtown in what was then the 300 and 400 blocks of Commerce Street. By the late 1910's commercial uses had expanded to the east, and the Commerce Street residences on the east side of Pearl (the 2100 and 2200 blocks) were quickly replaced with one, two and the occasional 3-story commercial buildings. Like the Bluitt Building, these lots were typically 25' wide although two or more were later combined for larger lots as automobile dealerships needed more property to showcase and store their automobiles for sale.

⁷⁰ Solamillo, Stan, *Part I- Evaluation for Historic Significance, Purvin-Hexter Building*, April 2001.

⁷¹ Simpson, 1563, p 3.

⁷² Solamillo, Stan, *Part I- Evaluation for Historic Significance, Purvin-Hexter Building*, April 2001.

⁷³ *Worley City Directory*, 1910.

⁷⁴ Holmes, Maxine and Saxon, Gerald, ed. *The WPA Dallas Guide and History*, p 87.

⁷⁵ *Dallas* magazine, 1922, page 24.

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By 1914, the majority of properties on this blockface were new commercial structures that had replaced these residences; the Commerce Street residences on the east side of Pearl (the 2100 and 2200 blocks) were quickly replaced with one, two and the occasional 3-story commercial buildings. Following Dr. Bluitt's tenure in the building, the Bluitt Sanitarium buildings' tenants have been representative of these successive generations of businesses that located at the fringe of a rapidly changing downtown. Following Bluitt's second and last move from the building in 1914, Commerce Street had begun to change from a street of mixed retail businesses to that of an "automobile row." Davis Turney Automobile Co. had moved into the building followed by another dealership, Dallas Chalmers Motor Car Company in 1916. In 1919 the building was occupied by the Dallas Velie Company, who sold Morton Cars and Trucks.

In 1920, 'automobile row' was at its' height with 45 automobile-related businesses located on Commerce Street between St. Paul and the Houston & Texas Central railroad tracks (now Central Expressway), with additional automobile dealerships and businesses located on Commerce Street. By this time, many of the automobile dealers had expanded with multiple sales locations to meet the public's increasing need for automobiles and their desire to locate nearer the residential areas. In addition to their downtown location, Ford had four dealerships in the adjacent residential areas such as South Dallas, Oak Cliff residential and Oaklawn. Some automobile companies and dealers had closed their downtown location in favor of the outskirts where land was cheaper and larger properties were available such as Ross Avenue, Oak Cliff, and South Ervay.⁷⁶

The 1925 City Directory shows a changing picture for the 'Automobile Row' of Commerce Street; only 30 automobile businesses remained with just a few of them automobile dealers. Unlike previous years this 1925 Directory also included a number of used automobile businesses. By the late-1920's, the demise of these blocks of Commerce Street as 'automobile row' is clear and the new occupants reflect those businesses that will be moving into this area of downtown: office and commercial food-service equipment and supplies. Bluitt Sanitarium building was then occupied by McCray Refrigeration/Hobart Manufacturing companies; these new occupants reflect those businesses that would be moving into this area of downtown: office and commercial food-service equipment and supplies. McCray and Hobart would later move to the adjacent Purvin Hexter Building (NR 2005) and later expand back into the Bluitt Sanitarium. However by 1927, the tenants had changed again and Toledo Scale Companies now occupied the building.

By 1930, only twelve automobile-orientated businesses remained in the 1700 – 2200 blocks of Commerce Street, and the tenants were the most diverse and in the streets' history: Pan Am Paint and Wallpaper, Wisconsin Deluxe Doll Co., Lowe and Campell Athletic Goods, the Umbrella Hospital, Daughton Practical Business College and several printers, office supply companies and commercial kitchen equipment representatives. In 1930 Texas Sales and Co. occupied the Bluitt Building. The immediate area continued to house companies associated with the commercial kitchen equipment and refrigeration industry well into the 1960's, including Jack Langston commercial refrigeration, Gene Fanning scale repair, McCray Refrigeration, Ed Friedrich Sales Corporation, Texas Butchers Supply, Stockman Barbecue, Texas Butchers Supply and Robert J. Burke food machinery manufacturing. American Distributors (vending machines) occupied the building in 1950 and C. Hall Cleaners had moved into the building by 1960.

This area of Commerce Street was characterized by neglect and demolition 1970's, 80's and 90's and the Bluitt Sanitarium building was no exception. It was vacant for a number of years and suffered from both neglect and fire. However, the Bluitt Sanitarium building is now typical of the current resurgence of these smaller buildings with its new use as a photographic studio.

Currently, this area of the eastern fringe of downtown Dallas is entering a slight resurgence with numerous buildings undergoing rehabilitation. The current uses in this area are varied including offices, nightclubs, publishing, small theatre, and boxing gymnasium.

⁷⁶ Quimby, Marcel. *Purvin Hexter Building National Register nomination*. Dallas, Texas, 2005 (NR 2005).

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Bluitt Sanitarium
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

Historic Significance of the Bluitt Sanitarium Building

Constructed in 1904, the Bluitt Sanitarium building was part of the commercial development that replaced residential structures and neighborhoods on the eastern edge of what was then downtown Dallas; this occurred in conjunction with the city's commercial expansion to the east. Since that time, this eastern edge of downtown Dallas has experienced several distinct business concentrations from that of 'automobile row' in the 1910's and 1920's, to office supply establishments to commercial restaurant equipment in the 1950's and 1960's to neglect and demolition of many of its structures in the 70's and 80's. Currently a resurgence of these smaller buildings is occurring with offices, nightclubs moving into the area. The Bluitt Buildings' buildings' tenants have been representative of these successive generations of businesses that located at the fringe of a rapidly changing downtown. This building is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, in the area of Commerce, at the local level of significance for its association with the early commercial history of downtown Dallas.

Constructed by and originally occupied by Dr. Bluitt who played an important role in the African American community in Dallas in the last decades of the nineteenth century and the first two decades of the twentieth. He was a respected physician and the first African American surgeon in Texas. Dr. Bluitt owned the building from 1904-09, and maintained his medical office and Sanitarium at this location until 1914 (with the exception of one year shortly after he sold the building).

In addition to these accomplishments in the medical field, Dr. Bluitt was also a successful businessman, owned much property in the Dallas area, was one of the founders of the first African American bank in Dallas (Penny Savings Bank), owned a pharmacy that served the African American community, was President of the Lone Star Medical Association, chaired the Dallas County Republican Executive Committee, was a Mason and involved in various professional and civic organizations – both in the African American and Anglo communities in Dallas. This is the only remaining building in Dallas associated with Dr. Bluitt.

This building is significant for its association with Dr. Bluitt and his Sanitarium which played an important role in Dallas' history. For these reasons, it is also eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B, in the area of Health/Medicine and Ethnic Heritage, at the local level of significance for its association with the original owner, Dr. Benjamin R. Bluitt.

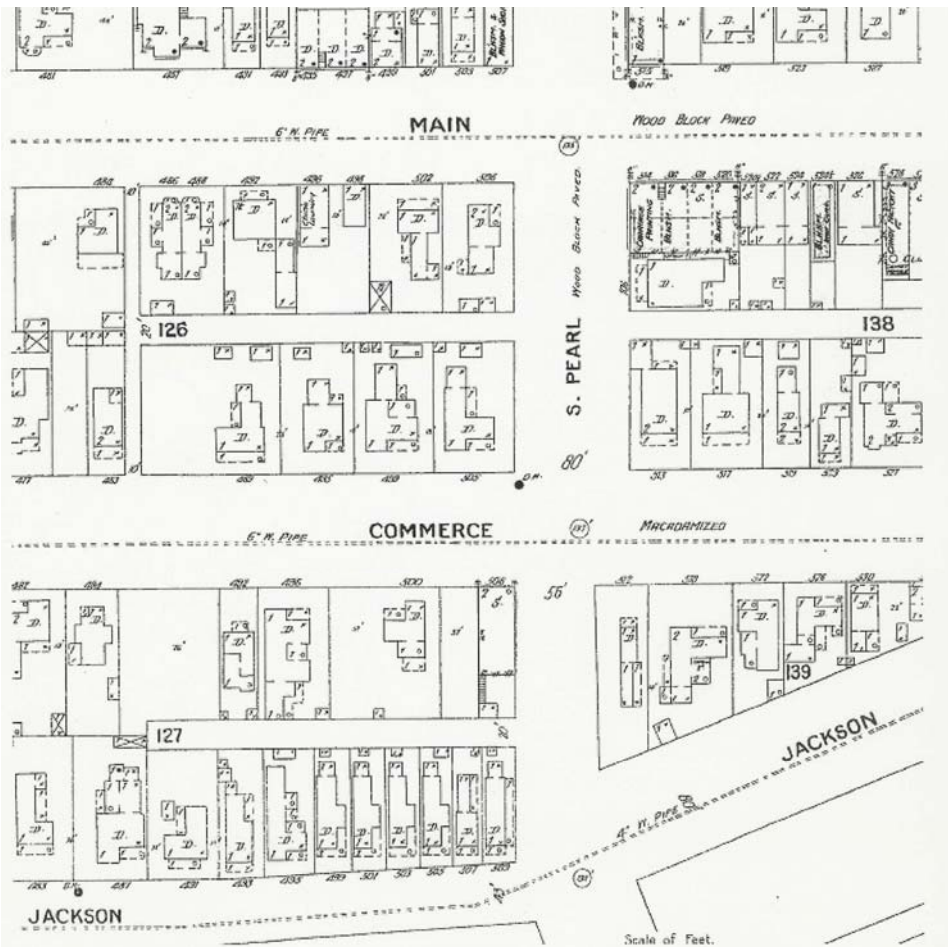
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Dallas, Dallas County, Texas



Sanborn Map – 1899

(Sanborn Map & Publishing Company of New York. *Insurance Maps, Dallas, Texas.*
New York: Sanborn Map & Publishing Co., 1899).

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Sanborn Map – 1905

(Sanborn Map & Publishing Company of New York. *Insurance Maps, Dallas, Texas.*
New York: Sanborn Map & Publishing Co., 1905).

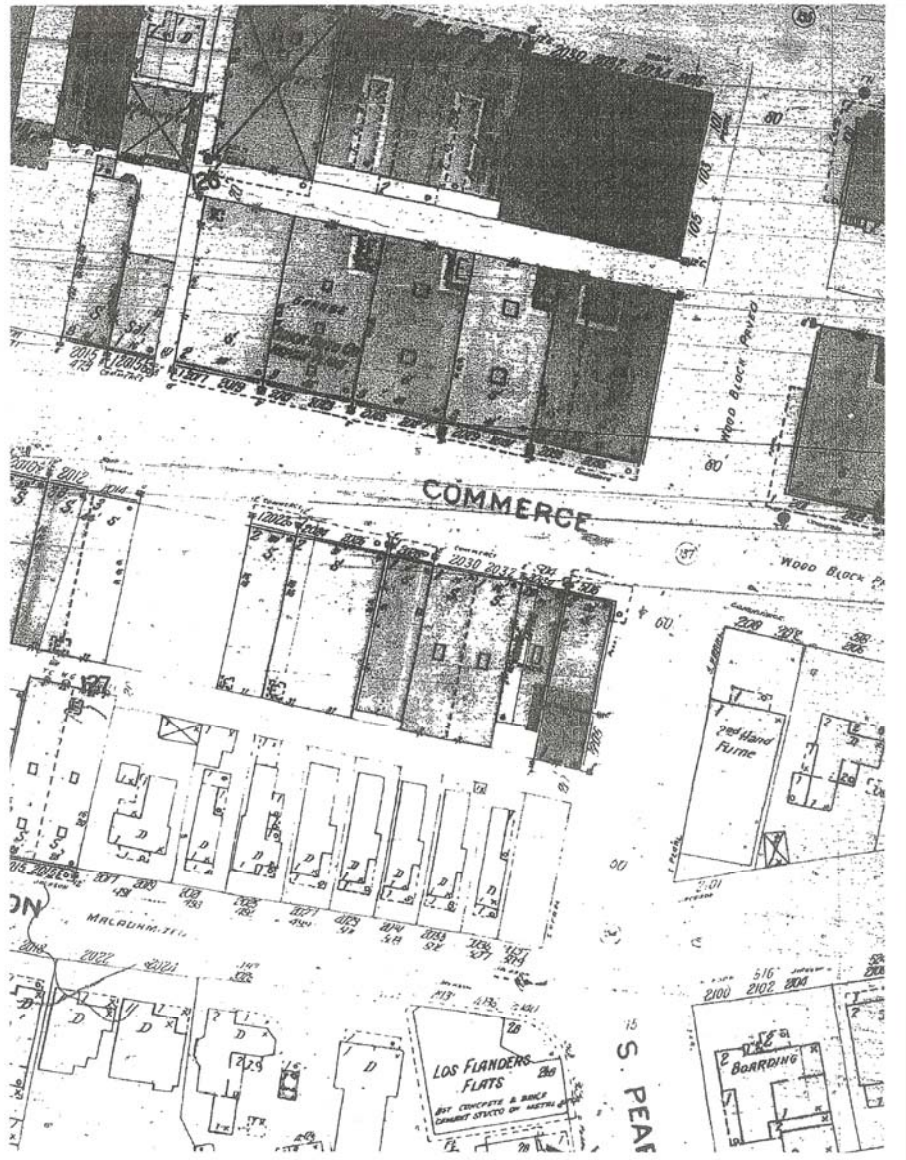
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Sanborn Map – 1916

(Sanborn Map & Publishing Company of New York. *Insurance Maps, Dallas, Texas.*
New York: Sanborn Map & Publishing Co., 1916).

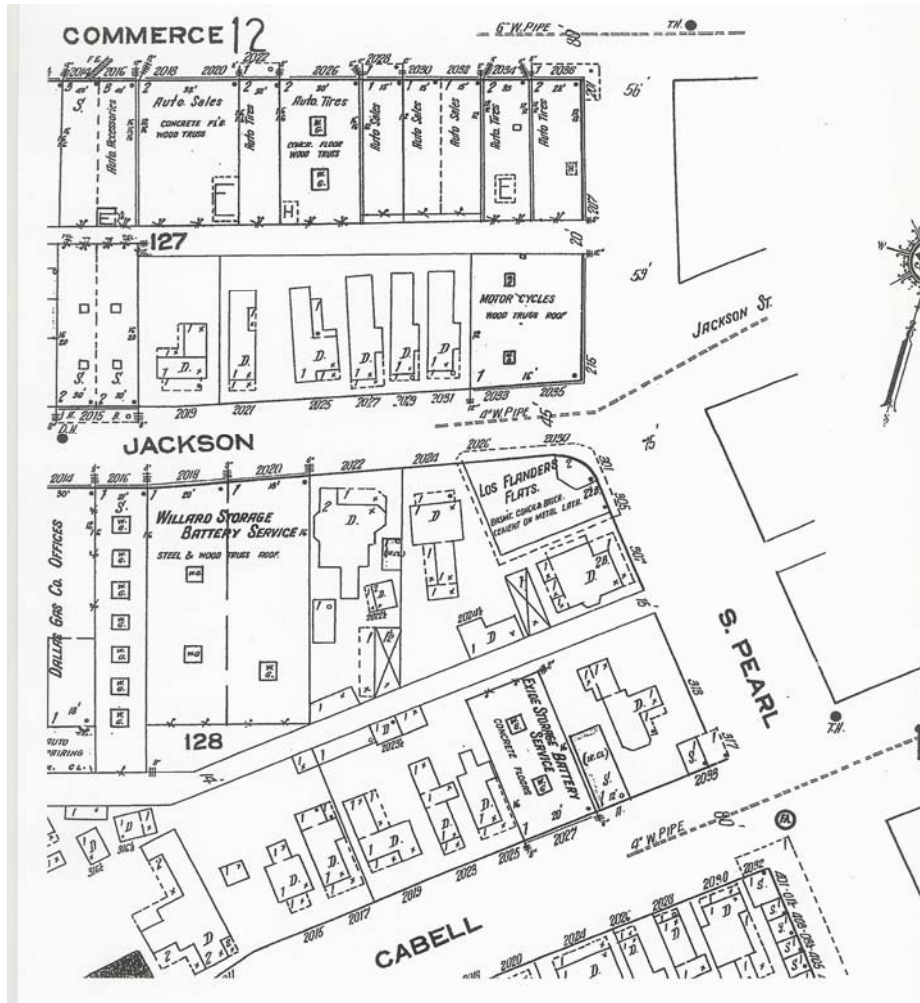
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Sanborn Map – 1921

(Sanborn Map & Publishing Company of New York. *Insurance Maps, Dallas, Texas.*
New York: Sanborn Map & Publishing Co., 1921).

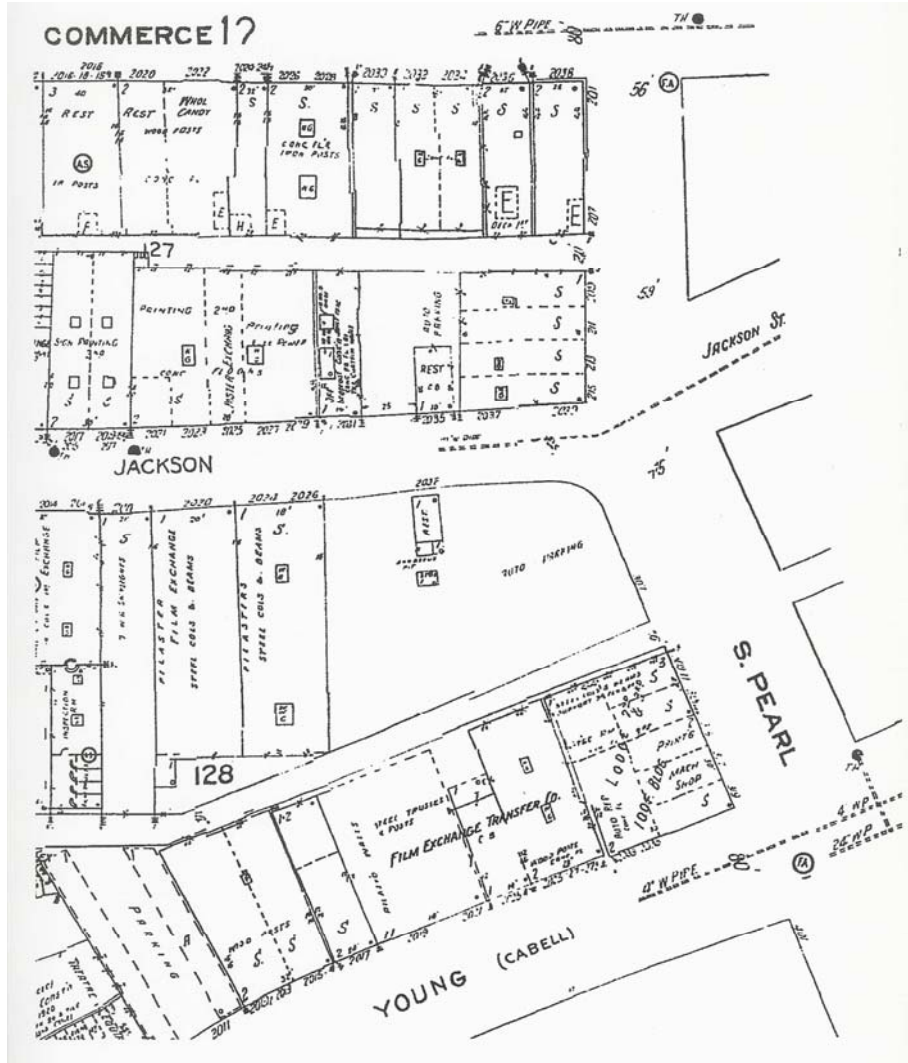
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Sanborn Map – 1952

(Sanborn Map & Publishing Company of New York. *Insurance Maps, Dallas, Texas*.
New York: Sanborn Map & Publishing Co., 1952).

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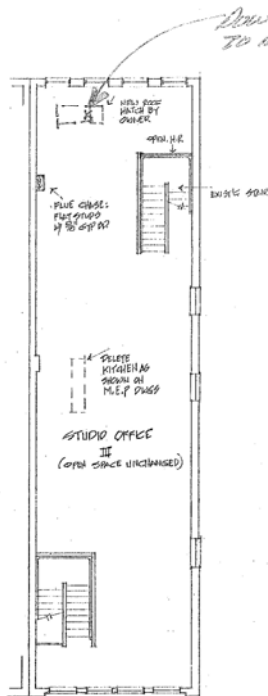
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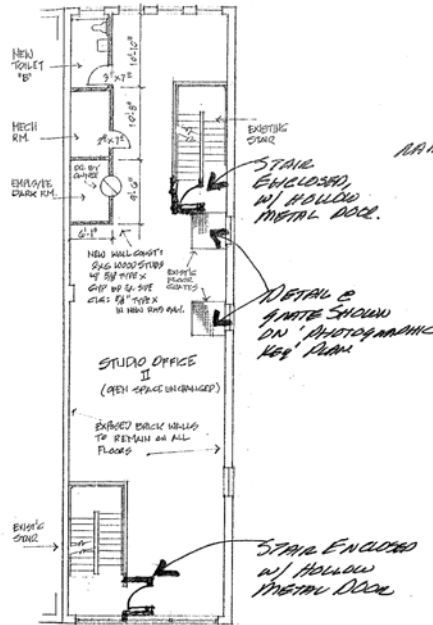
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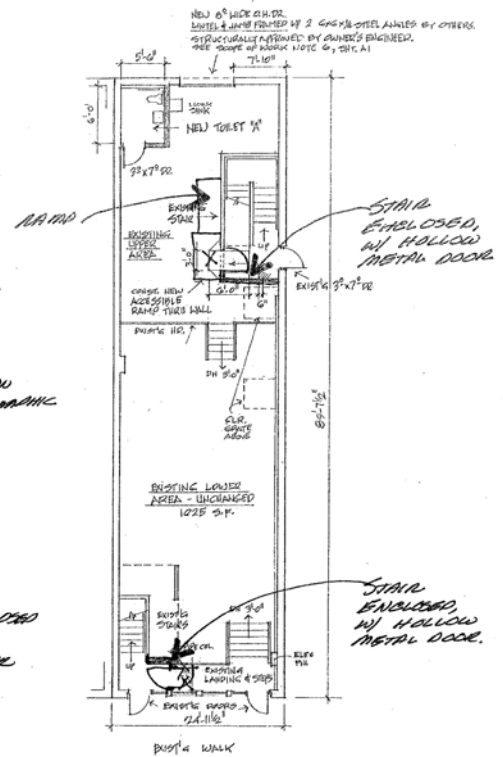
First, Second and Third Floor Plan
Bluitt Sanitarium
Charles Edwin Jones Architects, 2003



3 THIRD FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



2 SECOND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



1 FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



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Bluitt Sanitarium
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Bluitt Sanitarium Building – Photo #1.

Site Oblique
Camera facing Southeast, from Commerce Street
2036 Commerce Street, Dallas, Texas
Marcel Quimby, photographer
September 2005



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Bluitt Sanitarium
Dallas, Dallas County, Texas

Bluitt Sanitarium Building – Photo #2.

North Elevation

Camera facing South

2036 Commerce Street, Dallas, Texas

Marcel Quimby, photographer

September 2005



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Bluitt Sanitarium
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Bluitt Sanitarium Building – Photo #3.

Site Oblique

Camera facing Northeast, from the Alley between Commerce and Jackson
2036 Commerce Street, Dallas, Texas

Marcel Quimby, photographer
September 2005



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Bluitt Sanitarium
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Bluitt Sanitarium Building – Photo #4.
West Elevation
Camera facing East
2036 Commerce Street, Dallas, Texas
Marcel Quimby, photographer
September 2005



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Bluitt Sanitarium
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Bluitt Sanitarium Building – Photo #5.
South Elevation
Camera facing North
2036 Commerce Street, Dallas, Texas
Marcel Quimby, photographer
September 2005



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Bluitt Sanitarium
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Bluitt Sanitarium Building, Photo #6.

First Floor, interior view toward Commerce Street storefront

Camera facing North

2036 Commerce Street, Dallas, Texas

Marcel Quimby, photographer

June 2004



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Bluitt Sanitarium
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Bluitt Sanitarium Building, Photo #7.

First Floor, detail view of outline of well in floor and
raised 'rear' portion of this floor.

Camera facing Southeast

2036 Commerce Street, Dallas, Texas

Marcel Quimby, photographer

June 2004



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Bluitt Sanitarium
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Bluitt Sanitarium Building, Photo #8.

Second Floor, interior view towards Commerce Street

Camera facing North

2036 Commerce Street, Dallas, Texas

Marcel Quimby, photographer

June 2004



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Bluitt Sanitarium
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Bluitt Sanitarium Building, Photo #9

Third Floor, interior view of studio space and office space.

Camera facing South

2036 Commerce Street, Dallas, Texas

Joe Grisham, photographer

April 2005



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