



African-American Settlement Survey Travis County, Texas

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which was located near today's Manchaca Elementary School at Manchaca Road and FM 1626. Dodson Park was the site of yearly celebrations for Juneteenth and the end of slavery.³⁶⁸ According to an account in 1958 by Manchaca residents Tom and Buck Carpenter, Dodson Park was "practically donated by the colored butcher" and was "used for picnics and baseball games by white and black alike."³⁶⁹ The Travis County Road Book, Precinct 3, 1898–1902 clearly shows today's Manchaca Road with the neighboring landowners of Chatham Perry and Jack Dodson, among others.

The Sorrells were African-American landowners in the area who purchased approximately 80 acres in the late nineteenth century.³⁷⁰ Some of the Sorrells descendants provided interviews for the oral history portion of TxDOT's Ransom and Sarah Williams Farmstead Project, published in a 2012 book titled *I'm Proud to Know What I Know: Oral Narratives of Travis and Hays Counties, Texas, ca. 1920s–1960s*.

Manchaca includes another African-American cemetery known as Brown No. 2 Cemetery. Located at Elm View Drive and Twin Creek Drive, it is thought to have been named for freedman Brown Bunton.³⁷¹ His wife, Susan Rose, has the earliest dated headstone from 1877.³⁷² The cemetery is located within a fenced area on a small rise at the edge of a largely residential area. The cemetery includes a large number of upright monuments and grave markers.

According to the St. John Regular Missionary Baptist Association, Manchaca was one of several areas to have an African-American church established by the 1880s.³⁷³ Reportedly, African-American settler Jack Dodson was an early church organizer.

The 1932 *Topographic and Road Map Travis County* and the TCHC's *African American Rural Schools* report identify the Manchaca "Negro School" south of today's FM 1626 along Twin Creeks Road. The list of students from the 1934–1935 school year includes several last names of founding community members such as Alexander, Dotson, Hargis, and Sorrells.³⁷⁴

II.E.8. Kincheonville & Kincheon Subdivision Sections 1 & 2

The area once known as Kincheonville was established in 1865 by freed slave Thomas Kincheon (or Kinchion).³⁷⁵ The area is roughly bounded today by Paisano Trail, Davis Lane, Brodie Lane, and Longview Road. Thomas Kincheon developed a successful farm of nearly 300 acres with a number of tenants. Early settlers of the area were reportedly African Americans, Hispanics, and whites.³⁷⁶ An Official Texas Historical Marker for Kincheonville commemorates the area's African-American history. The historical marker is located on Paisano Trail on the grounds of the Zion Rest Missionary Baptist Church.

Zion Rest Missionary Baptist Church was established in 1903 and is a member of the St. John Regular Missionary Baptist Association. A school also developed at that time and originally met in the church building. According to information on the church's website, the original plot of land for the church was donated by three community members: Mr. [sic] Strickland, Joe Davis, and Rick Dawson.³⁷⁷

"Strickland," however, may actually be "Strickling," as the 1898–1902 Travis County Clerk Records: Road Book Precinct 3 map identifies the land in the vicinity of the church as that of the heirs of Jessie

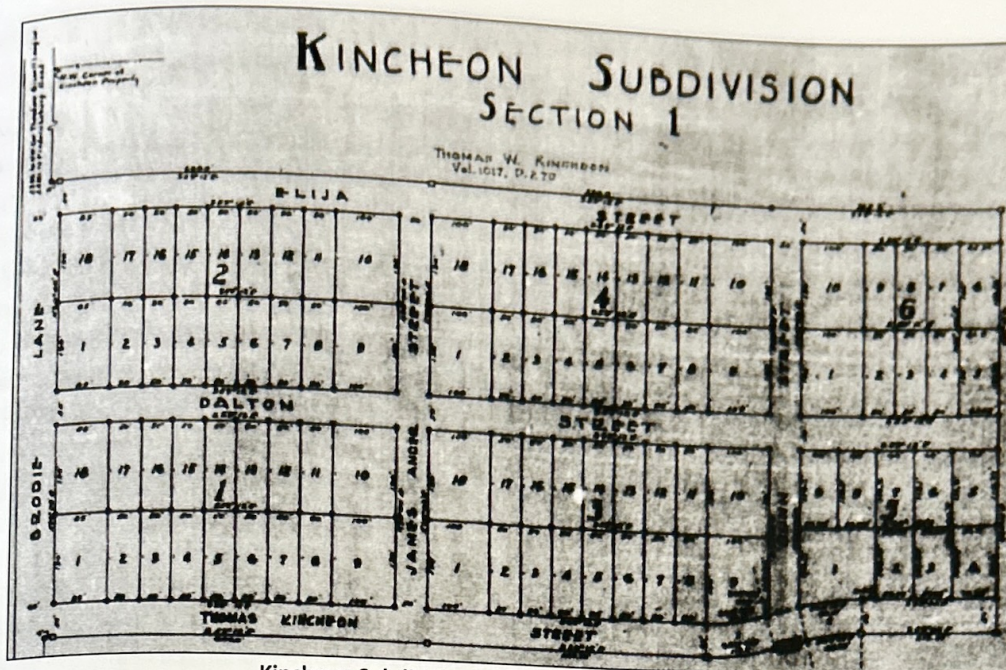
Strickling.³⁷⁸ One of the early church leaders was Reverend Elijah Kincheon, a descendent of community founder Thomas Kincheon.³⁷⁹ A new church building was constructed in 1963, and a second sanctuary was built in 1987. Both of these later structures remain in use today, but there was no evidence during the field survey for this report of the former historic-age church building.

Kincheon's son, Thomas Wesley Kincheon, was born in 1870 and was instrumental in helping to further develop the area of Kincheonville.³⁸⁰ With the assistance of his own son, Thomas Kincheon III, Thomas Wesley Kincheon subdivided and platted a southern section of the family's land to develop Kincheon Subdivision Sections 1 and 2 in the early 1950s.³⁸¹ The areas included approximately seven streets, many of which were named for his children, including Minnie, Blumie, James Ander, and Thomas Kincheon.

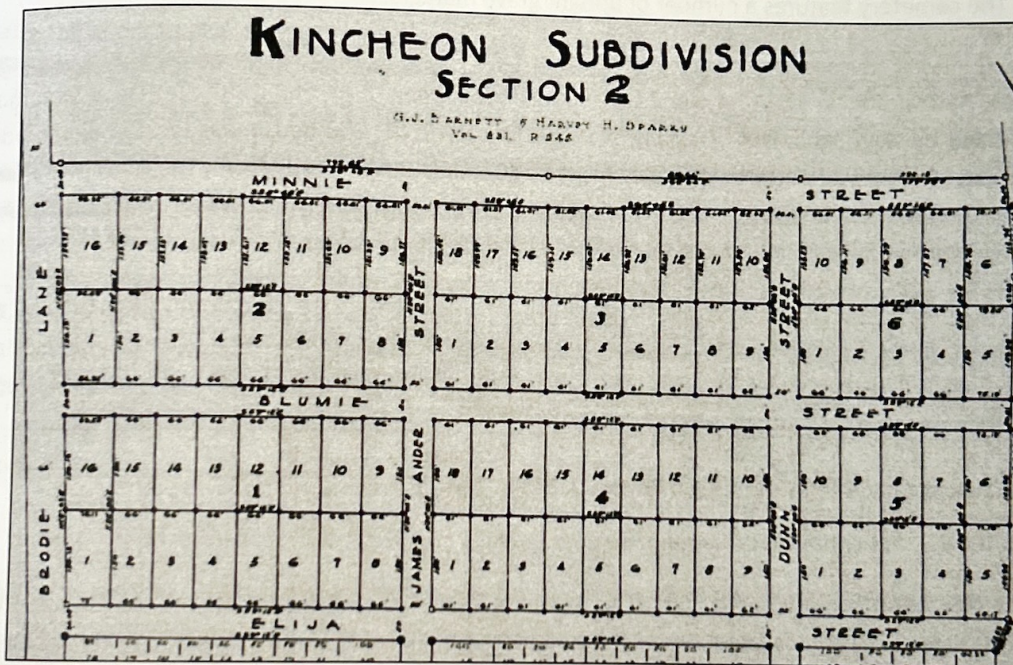
The general area was very sparsely settled in 1954, but historic aerial photographs reveal that the existing street grid of Kincheon Subdivision Sections 1 and 2 were under development at that time. A very small number of structures are visible at the southern end of the neighborhood near today's Brodie Lane. Establishment of the subdivisions may have been delayed somewhat, as newspaper articles from 1950 indicate that the County Commissioners Court did not initially approve the subdivision plats due to the lack of a ban on pit toilets. According to one of the articles, all new subdivisions at that time were required to have a restriction on open (pit) toilets.³⁸² Despite this, however, the area had a small number of homes by 1964. Development continued to be fairly sparse through 1973. By 1985, the surrounding streets adjacent to the Kincheon Subdivisions were entirely built out with residential construction.

Dunn's Memorial Baptist Church at 3416 Elija Street is an active African-American church within the community. According to the cornerstone, it was organized in 1957 by Reverend Robert M. Dunn. It was established through the efforts of the St. John Regular Missionary Baptist Association.

Today, the original subdivision has been largely altered by modern infill development. The majority of structures are non-historic-age homes. The small number of earlier homes in the neighborhood are single-story, minimal traditional-style houses from the mid-twentieth century. One home at 3421 Minnie Street appears to be much older than the other homes in the area. It is a Folk Victorian-style home with a shed-roof front porch; tall, narrow two-over-two-light wood windows; and an original door with leaded glass and a transom. The house does not appear on historic aerials until after 1954, indicating that it may have been moved to this location at that time. The community is bordered on the east by Longview Park and on the north by the Stephenson Nature Preserve and Outdoor Education Center. A small farmstead with a house and outbuildings remains along the east side of Longview Road south of the park.



Kincheon Subdivision Section 1 Plat. July 29, 1950.
Instrument #: 414391, Book 5, Page 115. Travis County Clerk.



Kincheon Subdivision Section 2 Plat. October 28, 1952.
Instrument #: 414740, Book 6, Page 56. Travis County Clerk.