

HISTORY

North Benbrook, the part of the city of Benbrook that extends north along Loop 820 up into and almost surrounded by Fort Worth, lies about nine miles west of the Fort Worth Central Business District. Benbrook had its beginning, as did most of Tarrant County, as part of the Peters Colony.

W. S. Peters, a Kentucky businessman, was invited to Texas in 1841 by Sam Houston when Texas was a Republic. The Peters Colony land covered all of what became Tarrant County. Indians inhabited the land, and the first white settlers began coming to the present Benbrook area as early as 1854.

Among the first settlers were Edward and Nancy Wilburn, who helped build the first church, school and meeting hall, located all in one building. During the Civil War, the building was neglected and became uninhabitable. In 1880, Marinda, the daughter of the Wilburns, and her husband, John Snyder, donated five acres at the intersection of today's Mercedes and Winscott Plover Rd. for use as a school. It became known as the Marinda School, and the neighborhood around it became known as Marinda.

In 1874, James M. Benbrook arrived from Illinois. He was instrumental in getting a railroad depot built in Marinda. The depot was named Benbrook in his honor and by 1884, the community and school were called Benbrook. About 20 families lived there at the turn of the century.

Another early settler was Winfield Scott, who later owned Thistle Hill, the cattle baron mansion in Fort Worth. Scott owned 12,000 acres in Benbrook. His ranch house was on Winscott-Plover Rd. (named for him,) located south of today's lake. Another famous resident was Elliott Roosevelt, who lived on a 1,300 acre ranch on Dutch Branch. His father, President F. D. Roosevelt, visited him several times during World War II.

During World War I, an airfield was built in Benbrook located in today's Lakeside addition. First called Taliaferro Field, it was soon renamed Carruthers Field. Capt. Vernon Castle, an internationally known dancer, was a flying instructor and was killed in a training accident at the field.

Benbrook's population remained around 40 until World War II. At

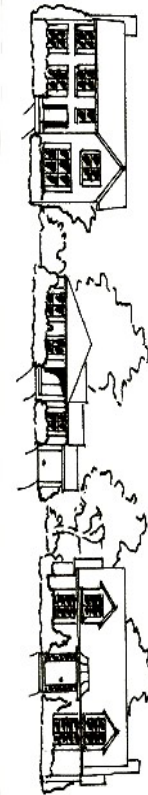
this time the population steadily grew as workers came to work at the "bomber plant", Convair, later known as General Dynamics and now Lockheed Martin.

After the big flood in 1949, Benbrook finally incorporated. The Corps of Engineers began building Benbrook Lake as a flood control project and recreation area.

Benbrook today has about 26,000 residents, most of whom work in Fort Worth. It has a mayor, city council, fire department, police department water and sewer systems, and considerable pride in the community.

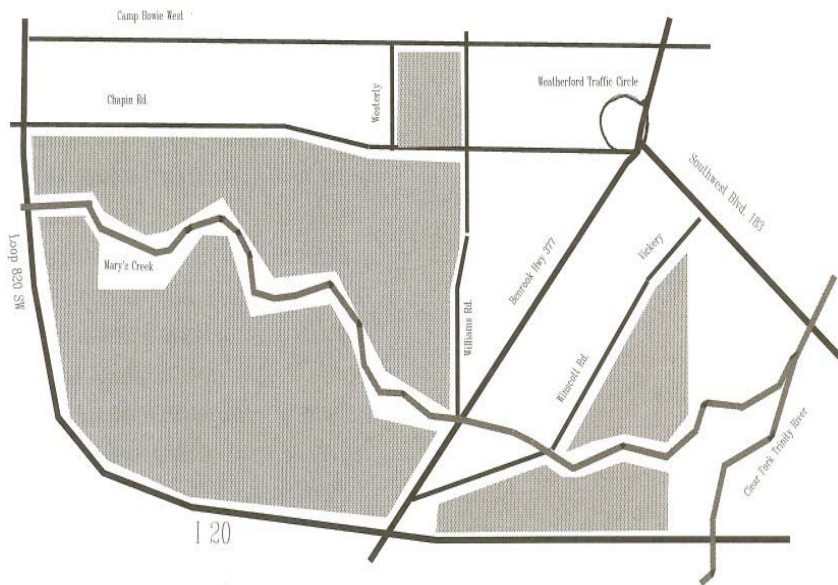
NEIGHBORHOOD DESCRIPTION

North Benbrook's homes are predominantly brick ranch style one story homes with large trees shading the quiet streets. Along Mary's Creek the streets curve to fit the contour of the creek and the trees are even larger. Even though North Benbrook is largely cut off from the rest of the city of Benbrook by I-20, the residents still take an active interest in the events at Benbrook City Hall.



Greater Fort Worth Association of REALTORS®

NORTH BENBROOK



This information was conceived, researched and written by Wini Klein, REALTOR®, for the Greater Fort Worth Association of REALTORS®, with assistance from the City of Fort Worth Planning Department, Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County, Historic Fort Worth, Inc., Texas Christian University, Junior League, Fort Worth Independent School District, Tarrant County Tax Office, League of Neighborhoods and encouragement from the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce.

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SCHOOLS

Elementary:

Waverly Park Elementary,
3604 Cimarron Trail,
817/560-5660

Middle School:

Leonard Middle School,
8900 Chapin Rd., 817/560-5630

High School:

Western Hills High School,
3600 Boston, 817/560-5600

OTHER INFORMATION

Nearest Fire Station: 528

Mercedes, 817/249-1727,
emergencies: 911

Nearest Medical Facilities: Baylor
All Saints Hospital City View,
7104 Oakmont Blvd.,
817/346-5700

Nearest Post Office: Benbrook
Station, 9500 Hwy. 377 S,
817/249-3070

Nearest Grocery Shopping: Hwy.
80, Hwy. 377 S.

Nearest Mall: Ridgmar Mall
City Council District Number: At
large

School District Number: 6
Voting Precinct Number: 4009,
4337

FORT WORTH FACTS

History: Fort Worth was established as a frontier army post in 1849 and named for Gen. Wm. Jenkins Worth. The outpost became a stopping place on the Old Chisholm Trail and a shipping point for great herds of cattle being sent to northern markets.

Population: 700,000

Land Area: 293 square miles

Altitude: 670 feet above sea level

Weather: Normal sunshine
averages 250 days a year

Average mean temperature: 65.5 F
Annual avg. precipitation 29.46 in.

Medical Facilities: 46 hospitals

Education: 66 elementary schools,
19 middle schools, 12 high
schools, 13 special education
schools, 11 major private and
parochial schools, 9 college and
university campuses.

Libraries: 1 main library with 1
regional library and 9 branches

Museums: 11

Parks : 9,026 + acres

Churches and Synagogues: more
than 910 with 45 denominations

Communications: 1 daily
newspaper, 2 weekly papers, 10
TV stations plus cable