

By: Davis of Dallas

H.R. No. 1936

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, The proud history of New Hope Missionary Baptist
2 Church in Wheelock is being recognized with the dedication of an
3 Official Texas Historical Marker on May 6, 2017; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1895, former slaves Sam and Lucy Bell Stubbs
5 Mitchell and their 12 children moved from Georgia to Wheelock,
6 Texas, where they raised fruit, vegetables, dairy cows, and
7 chickens on 200 acres as part of a community of African American
8 landowners; and

9 WHEREAS, Many members of that community worshipped at New
10 Hope Missionary Baptist Church, which was originally located west
11 of the Spring Creek settlement; in 1911, the congregation decided
12 to move the church to a more accessible location, and Lucy Mitchell
13 donated two acres of land to accommodate the new sanctuary; the men
14 of the church disassembled the original church and moved the pieces
15 by wagon to the new site, where a local carpenter constructed the
16 present building; and

17 WHEREAS, Between 1880 and 2003, New Hope MBC was served by
18 four ministers, the Reverend R. A. Smiley, the Reverend Aaron
19 A. Manning, the Reverend R. M. Blocker, and the Reverend
20 W. C. Adams, and the church sponsored such auxiliaries as a Sunday
21 school, a Mission Society, the Baptist Training Union, and the
22 Brotherhood Starlight Band and Choir; and

23 WHEREAS, Over the years, the church has also served as a vital
24 community center, a site for meetings, classes, revivals, reunions,

1 political events, and Juneteenth celebrations; on the first Sunday
2 of each June, members and friends of the church gather to celebrate
3 its rich history and the families who have sustained it; and

4 WHEREAS, One such family member is Estelle Adams, a
5 granddaughter of Sam and Lucy Mitchell; it is thanks to her
6 dedication and hard work that New Hope is being honored with a state
7 historical marker; and

8 WHEREAS, The only remaining African American church in the
9 Wheelock area, New Hope Missionary Baptist continues to provide a
10 spiritual and cultural home to the local black community, and it is
11 truly deserving of this special recognition from the Texas
12 Historical Commission; now, therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 85th Texas
14 Legislature hereby commemorate the dedication of an Official Texas
15 Historical Marker at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church and extend
16 to all those present sincere best wishes for a meaningful and
17 memorable event.