



November 4, 2025

Texas Historical Commission  
History Programs Division  
1511 Colorado St  
Austin, TX 78711

Re: Undertold marker application for Doty School

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing this letter to express the Undertold McKinney Community Advisory Group's emphatic support for the City of McKinney's application for a historic marker honoring E.S. Doty School. The Undertold McKinney Community Advisory Group is a group of individuals united by a shared mission of preserving McKinney's stories, neighborhoods, and history for generations to come. The group was convened in July 2025 with the intention of combining efforts in pursuit of a historic subject marker for E.S. Doty School. Our members represent the following organizations:

- McKinney Legacy Neighborhood Association
- McKinney Historic Neighborhood Association
- Legacy Keepers of Old East McKinney
- Chestnut Square Historic Village
- City of McKinney Office of Historic Preservation

We are honored to submit for your consideration a subject marker for Edward Sewell "E.S." Doty School; the first school to serve Black students in Collin County since the prohibition of legalized enslavement. Enclosed with this application are letters of support from family members, religious institutions, and individuals that have an intimate connection with E.S. Doty School. It is our hope that through their words of support, in addition to the historical information we have collected, you will come to hold E.S. Doty School with the same reverence as we do.

With Gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Torrey Brown", written over a horizontal line.

Torrey Brown, City of McKinney Office of Historic Preservation

October 29, 2025

Texas Historical Commission  
History Programs Division  
1511 Colorado St. Austin, TX 78711

Re: Undertold Marker Application for Doty School

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing this letter to express my support for the City of McKinney's application for a historic marker honoring E.S. Doty School.

The former E.S. Doty School, located in the heart of the Lewisville neighborhood, represents a time in our city's history when communities of color came together to improve education and quality of life for segregated families and everyone living in Old East McKinney – the East Side.

The McGowen family is a Legacy family of the East Side of McKinney, Texas, and E. S. Doty School. I am blessed to likely be the last of the living Black educators from E.S. Doty School. Along with many in the community and greater church family of McKinney, I was blessed to serve along with Leonard "Coach" and Julia Evans; Albert A. and Iola Davis Malvern; Reuben and Evelyn Johnson and my lovely wife, June, who passed away in September of this year.

I am the Father of Sherry and an E. S. Doty Class of 1959 graduate. Before studying Social Sciences at Texas College, I was educated in E. S. Doty Elementary and High School. I grew up in the Lewisville community in McKinney, raised my family and continue to reside on the same street in Legacy Lewisville neighborhood. Born to Mr. Jesse "Jack" and Mrs. Mildred McGowen, I was the eldest sibling to W M, Luvenia and Deborah.

I taught all high school grades, coached football, basketball, track and coached many state-level winners and some future professional athletes while at Doty. Driving the bus was a natural part of my day in ways that would greatly impact the community. Teachers Calloway, Doty, Blanton, Jeter, Evans, Johnson, Malvern and others roll off of my lips so easily, recalling them as family. I was blessed to be the first Black Counselor and GED Examiner in McKinney ISD. I am also the namesake of Jesse McGowen, Jr. Elementary in McKinney, TX.

It is my hope that I will be able to see such a marker in our neighborhood. It will pay tribute to many generations of Black and Latino educators and those of all cultures, along with faith leaders, and community organizers who worked tirelessly to improve the education and quality of life for McKinney's Black and Brown residents. A historic marker at this site will create a valuable and lasting connection point for our neighborhood for generations to come, a much-needed opportunity. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of support.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jesse McGowen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jesse B. McGowen, Jr.

October 27, 2025

To the Community Advisory Group  
Undertold Marker Pilot Project

My name is Linda C. Jacours

I received my early childhood development years from E.S. Doty School. My family goes back many generations that went to E.S. Doty School. My mother and dad graduated from Doty in the 1940's at Doty, I developed educationally, as well as socially.

E.S. Doty School was an integral part of the community as it gave children a sense of belonging and support.

E.S. Doty not only provided McKinney children with education, but accepted students from surrounding towns that had schools that only went to the 8th grade. These students from Collier County's surrounding towns were bused to Doty each day as freshmen through their senior years.

The formative years that I attended Doty School, prepared me to accept the challenge when I enrolled as one of the first nine students that integrated McKinney High School as a sophomore.

10/27/25

Linda C Jacours  
Linda C Jacours



McKinney Historic Neighborhood Association  
508B N. Tennessee St. - McKinney, TX 75069

October 1, 2025

Texas Historical Commission  
History Programs Division  
1511 Colorado St  
Austin, TX 78711

Re: Undertold marker application for Doty School

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of the McKinney Historic Neighborhood Association to share our heartfelt support for the City of McKinney's application for a historic marker honoring the E.S. Doty School. Our association is made up of neighbors who care deeply about protecting the history, culture, and character of McKinney's historic communities.

The E.S. Doty School, at the heart of the Lewisville neighborhood, represents so much more than a building. It tells the story of a time when communities of color came together with determination and hope to create better opportunities for families living "east of the train tracks."

We want to ensure that the legacy of the Doty School is preserved, protected, and celebrated. From its beginnings to its continued impact as Holy Family School, this place has been a source of strength and inspiration. A marker here would honor the Black and Latino educators, faith leaders, and community organizers who worked tirelessly to lift up McKinney's Black and Brown residents and open doors to a brighter future.

Most importantly, this marker would give today's and tomorrow's generations a place to connect with that legacy — a reminder of what can be achieved when a community stands together. It would be both a tribute to the past and a blessing for the future, reminding us all that the spirit of Doty School still lives in McKinney today

Sincerely,

*Theresa Strange Johnston*

MHNA President  
281.222.3700



October 29, 2025

Texas Historical Commission  
History Programs Division  
1511 Colorado St.  
Austin, TX 78711

Re: Letter of Support for Historic Marker Application – E.S. Doty School

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the McKinney Legacy Neighborhoods Association, it is our privilege to support the City of McKinney's application for a historic marker, recognizing E.S. Doty School.

The McKinney Legacy Neighborhoods Association is a group of residents dedicated to preserving the history and culture of McKinney's historic neighborhoods. We believe the historic marker will serve as a powerful tribute to an essential institution in our city's past, and a testament to educators and community leaders who shaped the lives and futures of countless residents.

The E.S. Doty School holds a distinguished place in McKinney's history as a beacon of education and hope for African American students during the era of segregation and provided a safe and nurturing environment for meaningful contributions to society.

Included in history are the profound contributions of black and brown educators and organizers, whose dedication went far beyond the classroom. They championed educational advancement, social justice, and worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life in the post-civil war south. Honoring the school's legacy with a historic marker will inspire future generations to value inclusivity, perseverance, and unity.

The McKinney Legacy Neighborhoods Association believes that recognizing historic landmarks such as E.S. Doty School is fundamental to our mission. The marker will serve

as a lasting legacy, and reminder of the pivotal role of educators and community advocates that helped to shape McKinney's progress.

We wholeheartedly endorse the application for a historic marker honoring E.S. Doty School and believe the placement of this marker will ensure the stories of those who taught, cared for, and uplifted our community are never forgotten.

Sincerely,

Deborah Bradford  
President

McKinney Legacy Neighborhoods Association  
1100 Garcia St.  
McKinney, Texas 75069

October 29, 2025

Texas Historical Commission  
History Programs Division  
1511 Colorado St. Austin, TX 78711

Re: Undertold Marker Application for Doty School

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing this letter to express my support for the City of McKinney's application for a historic marker honoring E.S. Doty School.

The former E.S. Doty School, located in the heart of the Lewisville neighborhood, represents a time in our city's history when communities of color came together to improve education and quality of life for segregated families and everyone living in Old East McKinney – the East Side.

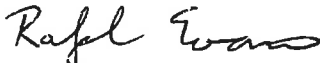
The Evans family is a Legacy family of the East Side of McKinney, Texas, and E. S. Doty School. My father, Leonard "Coach" Evans, Jr. (1924-2018), was husband of Julia (Berry) and father of Leonard Berry, Terrye Evans and myself. He was an E. S. Doty Class of 1942 graduate. Upon serving in the U S Army in World II and upon completion of a degree in Mathematics from Texas College in Tyler, TX, our Dad served as a Math Teacher, Coach, bus driver and Principal at Doty. He was also the first Black Teacher to integrate McKinney ISD at Fanny Finch Elementary School. He was also the first Black elected McKinney ISD Board member; a McKinney Driving School owner and namesake of present-day Leonard Evans, Jr. Middle School in McKinney ISD.

For our Dad, Doty was an extension of our family and our home, which was located just a few houses from Doty on the same street.

We believe this marker will pay tribute to generations of Black and Latino educators and those of all cultures, along with faith leaders, and community organizers who worked tirelessly to improve the education and quality of life for McKinney's Black and Brown residents. Furthermore, we believe a historic marker at this site will create a valuable and lasting connection point for our neighborhood for generations to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this letter of support.

Respectfully,

  
Ralph Evans



***The Historical St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church***  
*Recognized by the Texas Historical Commission in 1980*  
*Charles Samuel Wattley, Senior Pastor*

October 27, 2025

Texas Historical Commission  
History Programs Division  
1511 Colorado Street  
Austin, Texas 78711

Re: Undertold Marker Application for Doty School

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Charles S. Wattley and for the past 42 years I have pastored the Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church in McKinney, Texas. Saint Mark, originally called the Free Missionary Baptist Church, was founded in 1879 by a small group of former slaves on the Isaac Graves farm northeast of McKinney. The Church received its historical marker from the Texas Historical Commission in 1979.

As a native son of McKinney, a former student of Doty Elementary School from the first through the fourth grade, and as a local pastor in the city, I am writing this letter to express the support of the oldest Black church in McKinney for a historic marker honoring E.S. Doty School. It is my belief that a historical marker at the former site of the E.S. Doty School, located in the largest community of color in the city, would provide not only a source of pride for this area of town where many Blacks and Browns still come together to play, pray, and provide quality of life for their families, but it would also give a lasting connection point for this neighborhood and the city of McKinney for generations to come.

Respectfully,

  
Charles S. Wattley, Senior Pastor

