

TO THE HONORABLE COMMISSIONERS' COURT OF HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS:

Your petitioners, M. A. Ballentine, a feme sole, and J. A. Ballentine and A. L. Ballentine, respectfully represent that they together own Block No. 28 in the Town of Seabrook, in Harris County, Texas. That Andrew Avenue lies immediately West of said Block No. 28; that said Andres Avenue was dedicated to the public by the map of the Townsite of Seabrook filed in 1896; that a small portion of said Andres Avenue connects Kittrell Avenue with Highway No. 146; that the West Line of said Andres Avenue from Kittrell Avenue to Highway No. 146 is approximately $24\frac{1}{2}$ feet in length; that the East Line of said Andres Avenue from the South side of Kittrell Avenue to the West side of Highway No. 146 is approximately 70 feet in length; that said Andres Avenue, between Highway No. 146 and Kittrell Avenue can be shelled with an amount of shell not to exceed eighty (80) yards; that your Honorable body having heretofore been in need of 13,745 square feet of Block No. 29 of the Townsite of Seabrook for use as right of way, for said Highway No. 146, caused the same to be purchased from the Heirs of Christian Isensee, Deceased, paying therefor \$3300.00; that said property in Block No. 29 was encumbered with two old buildings; that the Agents of this Honorable Court have heretofore taken bids for said buildings, at which one bidder offered for both of the same the sum of \$51.00 and that another bidder offered \$75.00 for the largest building; that there is no substantial difference in the value of your Petitioners' property and that acquired from the Heirs of Christian Isensee, Deceased; that your Honorable body must acquire from these Petitioners 14,497 square feet of their said Block No. 28, or 752 square feet more an area than was acquired from the said Heirs of Christian Isensee, Deceased, in Block No. 29. That the Agents of this Honorable Court have only offered your Petitioners the sum of \$498.75 for the right of way desired of them, which is entirely out of line with the true value of their said property needed for said Highway No. 146, which they allege to be worth many times the said sum of \$498.75, and that the price so offered your said Petitioners is only about one-sixth ($1/6$ th) of the price paid for the similar

property acquired from the said Heirs of Christian Isensee, Deceased, as aforesaid. That certain agents or members of this Honorable Court are threatening the filing of a condemnation suit against your Petitioners; that your Petitioners are relatively poor people and will be ill-able to defend such suit; that there is no necessity for said suit, in that your Petitioners are willing to trade with this Court, as a whole, and to deed to Harris County the right of way needed by it in said Block No. 28 for a fair consideration, if the County will deal fairly with them, in such matter, and in this connection they ask that said Andres Avenue, from Kittrell Avenue to Highway No. 146, be graded and shelled. Your Petitioners further show that said Andres Avenue should be so graded and shelled in the interest of public safety, and in order that there may be a proper approach or connection from said Kittrell Avenue to said Highway No. 146; that the only other approach possible, going from said Kittrell Avenue into said Highway No. 146, will be at the intersection of said Kittrell Avenue and Highway No. 146, at which there is a sharp point, representing a portion of Block No. 29, still owned by the Heirs of the said Christian Isensee, Deceased.

That your Petitioners are willing to deed to Harris County the northerly corner of said Block No. 28 to the end that the same may be rounded off and used in connection with said Andres Avenue, so that a proper and safe approach may be had from Kittrell Avenue to Highway No. 146; that an approach so made, because of the lessening of the angle will be much safer than the present proposed approach through the junction of Kittrell Avenue and Highway No. 146, which it is proposed will go around the sharp point or tip of the Fraction remaining of said Block No. 29, in the Town of Seabrook.

Your Petitioners respectfully pray for a hearing in this matter, and that they be fairly and equitably dealt with in the premises.
