

PETITION FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION TO THE HISTORICAL LANDMARK COMMISSION, PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION, AND CITY COUNCIL OF DENTON, TEXAS:

I/We, the undersigned, owner(s) of, or party(s) with financial interest in, all property herein described, do hereby file this, my/our petition, asking that the said property be designated as a historic landmark under the provisions of Ordinance #80-30 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Denton, Texas. The said property is located at 609 OAK ST

and is more particularly described as follows:

Being Part of a lot number three (3) of the McKernan addition to the city of Denton. Out of William Neil Survey Abstract Number 971.

I We herewith tender the filing fee of ~~One Hundred and Fifty Dollars~~ ^{\$25} (\$150).

I authorize the City of Denton to place a sign or sign(s) on the above property for public notification of the proposed historic designation.

NAME Mike Cochran
ADDRESS 609 OAK ST
CITY DENTON STATE Tx
PHONE 3870995

Submitted this _____ day of October, 1980.

The May-Wilkerson House
609 Oak St.

When first built, this house had no distinctive architectural style. It was the house of a man who needed a place to live, quick and didn't have much money. The two rooms that comprise the part of the house built in 1880 are fascinating because of their simplicity. Originally of board and batten construction, this section had no studs to hold up the roof: only the board walls. The ceiling is the original three-eighths inch by six inch wide tongue and groove pine. This is called "Ceiling Board," and is very unusual in Denton. The floors are of three-quarters by six inch wide pine and are also unusual in this area. Square, cut nails were used to hold together the house and the window sash is pegged. The window style is called "Two Light", because of the two vertical panes in each section of sash. This style was popular between 1870 and 1900. Sections of the original board and batten exterior can still be seen on the East porch of the house.

The appearance of the house today is the result of the remodeling work of Mr. H.E. May in 1886. As it stands, the house is basically two rooms on each side of a central hall, with a kitchen and a bathroom added to the rear of the house. Facing Oak St. is a porch that covers two-thirds of the front of the house. The railing for the porch is of the "Chippendale" style and the porch roof is supported by smooth round "Tuscan" columns. The exterior of the house is covered by Cypress clapboard siding and is painted white, as it always has been. The six "Two Light" windows visible from the street each have two functional exterior shutters. These shutters are pegged together, still hung with their original hardware and painted green as they always have been. Eleven of the interior doors are of the "Four Panel" style and each of them has a pair of white porcelain door knobs.

The house at 609 Oak St. is significant to the City of Denton primarily because of its age. It is the oldest house on West Oak St. and because of its location provides a suitable gateway to Denton's historic "Silk Stocking Row".

As a general rule only the grand old manors are preserved by historic groups and because of this 609 Oak St. is especially important as an example of how the middle class man built his house. Unpretentious building styles and methods of construction are a valuable lesson for students of history and students of architecture.