

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 610 West Oak

Denton, Texas

and is more particularly described as follows:

All of Lot 13, Block 475 of Wm. Neill Survey, Abs. 971

I/We herewith tender the filing fee of Twenty-five Dollars \$25.00 ~~One Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$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 Jacqueline Swanson
ADDRESS 610 West Oak
CITY Denton STATE Texas
PHONE 382-9060

Submitted this 10th day of November, 1980.

Stick style
Prairie style

original owner
successive owners

Swanson
610 W. Oak

The two-story Stick-Prairie Style house located at 610 West Oak Street stands on approximately one-third acre of land originally given to William Neil for his service to the Republic of Texas.

The white frame house was built about 1913 on a pier and beam foundation with brick skirting. The Stick style of the mid 1800's lacked the rich ornaments and curvatures of the Victorian period. The straight and simple lines were emphasized. The first floor front porch has large overhanging eaves with stick-style supports exposed. The upper level roof does not have the large overhanging eaves. Corners of the house are free of articulations and emphasis is on the horizontal.

Characteristic of the Prairie-style, the roof is low and hipped with a double pitch. Although the Prairie style never had dormers, the house has one, which is a carry over from the Victorian style. A single-second story wing reaches out on the east facade. Originally

this room was a screened-in sleeping porch, which was important during the long, hot summer nights prior to air-conditioning. The porch has been closed-in with twelve double hung wooden framed windows. Under this wing is a carport which was used during inclement weather. The supports are massive rectangular piers of brick with simple frame cappings. The drive-thru is too narrow for today's automobiles. On the west facade a two-story wing projects; each level contains only one room.

The south side, facing oak street, has an open porch extending across the entire front of the house. It is supported by rectangular brick piers that are massive in appearance and have frame rectangular caps. The exterior of the house is covered with narrow ship-lap and wooden shutters adorn the front windows. The exterior windows have a decorative cornice and wide framing. From the

exterior two massive end chimneys are seen; however, the house contains three interior fireplaces. There is also an inner chimney which arises from the kitchen and was the flue for the woodburning stove used at the turn of the century for cooking, as well as, heating the house. This is still a major source of heat today, as are the fireplaces.

On the back or north side of the house is a screened-in porch for storing fresh fruits and vegetables from the garden.

The walls of the house are constructed of 1x12's on both sides of the studs, as well as, were all the exterior walls. The nails used were square. ~~iron~~. All interior doors are solid wood with fine panels running vertically. Most of the original doorknobs remain which are hexagonal shaped solid brass with matching brass face plates. Door hinges are also solid brass.

The floors on the first level are oak while upstairs they are pine. The bathrooms have the original hexagonal white tile. All the interior windows have large frames and cornices. Those in the living and dining rooms are stained oak.

The lower level ceiling is ten feet high and has deep exposed beams designed in squares and rectangles with plaster between them. The ceiling design is from the Greek Pantheon. The heavy oak front door contains twenty-one beveled glass lights and is flanked by twenty-eight beveled glass lights (fourteen on each side). Typical of the period are the group windows in sets of two's and three's each containing two large lights. Multi-lighted (16) beveled glass short windows of oak frames (stained) flank two of the three fireplaces and are also in the formal dining room (set of four). An unusual feature of these windows is that they slide

up into the wall when raised. Huge solid oak doors which slide into the wall when open separate the formal living room from the formal dining room. The kitchen ~~contains~~ is large and contains a butlers pantry and a breakfast room studded with windows and a back staircase. The kitchen and breakfast area are separated by an arch flanked by squared Egyptian columns arising from four and half foot walls. The breakfast room also contains built-in shelves and drawers across one end. The house has a central hall which was a feature of an earlier style. The foyer contains a built-in oak bookcase across the entire end of the living room. It has multi-lighted (8 per door) glass doors. A heavy oak staircase which turns once leads upstairs. The stairwell is over twenty feet high.

The second floor has nine foot ceilings and a wide hall containing

large built-in cabinets and drawers once and still used to store the many blankets used ~~to~~ for warmth during the cold winters. The fireplace in the master bedroom is faced with a black ornate metal ~~and~~ frame and detachable door and a grate believed to be used for burning coal.

The interior walls have been restored with canvas and historical wallpapers. The large rooms also contain large cornice molding. And the large family bathroom still has the old porcelain footed tub and porcelain pedestal sink.

Mrs. Mae Wilkerson, who recently lived across the street her entire life in the oldest house in Denton (ie 906 W. Oak) watched the house being built in 1913. However, the earliest tax records are dated 1918.

In 1920 the deed records at the Court house list L. Bailey and his wife, Idella, as owners. L. Bailey was a local banker and prominent landowner in Denton.

On April 10th, 1920 L. Bailey sold the house for \$20,000⁰⁰ to R. E. Moore and his wife, M. E. Moore. The Moore's were from Wichita City.

On March 19, 1921 the Moore's sold the house for \$15,000⁰⁰ to R. M. Phillips and his wife, H. P. Phillips, who were from Grayson County.

~~On March 31, 192~~

Twelve days later they sold the property to Lee Pool for \$11,500 of which \$7000 was paid in cash and the remaining \$4000 was secured with a vendor's lien, due March 31, 1932.

It is not known who Lee Pool sold the property to. The deed records recorded J. B. Burks and wife, Connie Cooper Burks, sold the house to Joel Bowers and wife, Ethel, on January 10, 1925 for \$13,500 cash. The Bowers were from Montague County.

On January 26, 1927 the Bowers sold the house back to L. Bailey for \$10,000 and four years later he sold it to Jasper B. Wells and wife, Sue T. Wells, ^{for \$7000.} Jasper B. Wells was also a prominent landowner and local banker in Denton.

In 1935 Mrs. Sue T. Wells, now the widow of Jasper B. Wells, sold an "undivided half interest" to Mrs. Cecil Jamison and husband Alonzo W. Jamison. Alonzo W. Jamison was a member of the Texas Legislature and his wife is from a prominent Denton family. It is not clear what the statement "undivided half interest" means. However, Lola C. Rogers, who

maybe a relative, owned the other half interest and in 1942 made a quick claim deed relinquishing her interest to Mrs. C. Jamison.

On July 24, 1942 Mrs. Cecil Jamison and Alonzo Jamison sold the property for \$6000 to Joe^s Gambill and wife, secured by a vendor's lien. Joe S. Gambill was a well known attorney in Denton County.

It is not known when he sold it. The Pi Kappa Phi, Properties, a North Texas State University Fraternity purchased the house about 1970 and retained it until 1976 when they sold it to Charles S. Barton^{and wife, Ellie} on July 1 for approximately \$16,000⁰⁰ secured by a loan from North Texas Savings. Charles S. Barton was a retired plumber or heating and air-conditioning repairman. He was responsible for updating the plumbing and wiring in the house.

On August 17, 1978 the present owners James S. Swanson and wife, Jacqueline bought the house. He operated one of

the local drug stores and has property holdings in Denton. His wife is assistant professor of nursing at Texas Woman's University. They have five children and are in the process of restoring the grand old house to its original beauty and style.

Criteria to be used in Historical Landmark Designation

The petitioner will be responsible for furnishing data to the Planning and Community Development Department for submittal to the Landmark Commission substantiating that the property meets at least one or more of the following 13 criteria for Historic Landmark designation:

1. Character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City of Denton, State of Texas, or the United States.
2. Recognition as a recorded Texas historic landmark, a national landmark, or entered into the National Register of Historic Places.
3. Embodiment of distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type or specimen.
4. Identification as the work of an architect or master builder whose individual work has influenced the development of the city.
5. Embodiment of elements of architectural design, detail, materials or craftsmanship which represent a significant architectural innovation.
6. Relationship to other distinctive buildings, sites or areas which are eligible for preservation according to a plan based on architectural, historic or cultural motif.
7. Portrayal of the environment of a group of people in an area of history characterized by a distinctive architectural style.
8. Archaeological value in that it has produced or can be expected to produce data affecting theories of historic or prehistoric interest.
9. Exemplification of the cultural, economic, social, ethnic or historical heritage of the City, State or United States.
10. Location as the site of a significant historic event.
11. Identification with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the culture and development of the City, State or United States.
12. A building or structure that because of its location has become of value to a neighborhood, community area, or the city.
13. Value as an aspect of community sentiment or public pride.