

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 722 West Oak Street in Denton City and County of Denton, Texas.

and is more particularly described as follows: See attachment # One

I/We herewith tender the filing fee of 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.

Charlette Favors Montgomery
NAME Laris Taylor Favors
ADDRESS 722 W. Oak
CITY Denton STATE Texas
PHONE 817-387-1772

Submitted this 13th day of October, 1980

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 criterion 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.

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

Attachment # One

All that certain lot, tract or parcel of land situated in the City and County of Denton, Texas, on the North side of West Oak Street, and being a part of Lot No. 14 of the Original Subdivision of the Wm. Neill 100 $\frac{1}{2}$ acre Survey, Abst. No. 971, as sold by Mrs. L. E. Woodruff, Administratrix of the Estate of R. W. Woodruff, deceased, to Joseph Bledsoe, and being a portion of the same lot conveyed by C. Metz and wife to A. E. Graham, described by metes and bounds as follows:

BEGINNING at the southwest corner of said lot conveyed by C. Metz and wife to said A. E. Graham, a corner on the north side of Oak Street;

THENCE North with the west line of said lot, 194.44 feet to the northwest corner of said lot sold to A. E. Graham;

THENCE East along the north boundary line of said lot, 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet to the northwest corner of a lot conveyed by J. R. Christal and wife to James G. Wright, by deed of record in Volume 100, page 280, Deed Records of Denton County, Texas and being the east portion of the lot conveyed by Caledonia Gidcumb to J. R. Christal by deed of record in Volume 91, page 568, of the Deed Records of Denton County, Texas;

THENCE South with the west line of said lot conveyed to James G. Wright, 194.44 feet to the north side of Oak Street, in the south boundary line of said original Graham lot, being also the southwest corner of said Wright lot;

Thence West 91 $\frac{1}{2}$ feet to the place of beginning, and being the same property described in a deed from Grace Christal Woolley. Individually and as Independent Executrix of the will of Margaret L. Christal, deceased, joined by her husband, B. L. Woolley, to M. S. Webster, by Deed dated January 16, 1939, and recorded in Volume 275, page 135 of the Deed Records of Denton County, Texas.

HISTORIC LANDMARK ZONING PETITION
Attachment # One

A high Victorian House in dominantly Italian Villa style with a wide veranda surrounding three sides. The veranda roof is supported by Corinthian columns used in threes at the entrance and singly otherwise and the wide overhanging roofline is supported by beautifully carved recumbant voluted brackets at both the upper and the lower levels. Festoons ornament the entrance entablature. A Romanoval arch springs from the floor of the open balcony above the entrance and the entire section is crowned by a huge Greek pediment containing an oval light. A Bay window and a pedimented dormer adorn the right half of the upper section. The entrance is 4 lighted Palladian with the original beveled-lead glass. The three windows to the right of the entrance also contain the original leaded beveled glass.
The material is white wood.
The interior is in the original arrangement, retaining its fireplaces and its copper dining room ceiling. Floors are oak and so is the millwork.

722 W. AK

John and Doris Favors purchased the house in 1957 and at the time had four children to rear in the home. At the time of purchase the original kitchen had an antique hot water heater which hung in the corner. The water heater was a round cast-iron cylinder about forty inches in height with copper tubing circled inside and as water ran through the tubing it was heated from a burner which ignited as the hot water tap was turned on. The kitchen also had a breakfast room and a butler's pantry which divided the kitchen into three very small rooms. The kitchen has been modernized with new cabinets and built-in appliances. A laundry and utility room was added on the northwest corner adjoining the kitchen.

The Favors family expenses grew and Doris felt the need to help supplement the family income. With four children and only a Business College education it was not advantageous for her to work outside the home. It was at this time she opened Favors Pæschool. With only the knowledge of a mother, the oldest of five sisters and brothers, and knowledge gained from observing a Nursery School that Ronald, The oldest son, was enrolled in while she attended Business College and John in Southern Methodist University, Doris felt the need for more formal education. She obtained this through research, seminars and workshops at Texas Womans University, Texas Christian University and various other colleges. As owner and operator of Favors Pæschool, Doris has helped hundreds of young children during their formative years. The school served, in the field of education, as a place of employment for parents and teachers. The house has been used, as a subject of art and history, many times by Junior Historians. Doris has retired from the Pæschool operation and is now an active member of The Denton Benefit League, The Arts Guild and helps with the Program for Aging.

John served in World War II. He lost a hand while in France, following the D-Day invasion. After being discharged from service, he enrolled in Southern Methodist University with the intention of entering the field of law. He later changed his mind and transferred to North Texas University to secure a teaching certificate. John holds a B. A. and M. Ed. Degree from North Texas University and is beginning his twenty-second year as a government teacher in Denton High School. Many of Mr. Favors ex-students have completed their study of law and have established their own practice.

The Favors have two sons, Ronald and Jackie, and two daughters, Charlotte Favors Montgomery and Sherry Favors Yarbrough.

In 1977 Charlotte, the oldest daughter, purchased the house on Oak Street and at present it is serving as Happy Days Pæschool. Charlotte, with her only son Lonnie, will move into the upstairs and make it her home as soon as redecorating is completed.

Charlotte started working in her parents Pæschool at the age of eleven years. As she grew older she continued working after school and during the Summer months as a teacher in the Pæschool. She attended many seminars and workshops with her mother. Charlotte became a very good teacher. She was loved by all her students and was admired by the parents. Many experienced teachers who were enrolled in pæschool education courses at North Texas University and Texas Womans University came to observe the school and Charlotte's methods of working with young children.

Christal-Webster-Favors House, 722 West
Oak Street, Denton, Texas
William Neill Survey #971

Short History

The first instrument of conveyance of the property which later became the 700 block of West Oak Street goes back to 1839 when William Neill (Neil?) received 640 acres of land from the Republic of Texas as bounty land in payment for his services in the Texas-Mexican War of 1836. Certificate #9324 for 640 acres of land was signed by A. Sidney Johnson, Secretary of War, and dated November 13, 1839. The land changed hands several times and in 1855 one hundred and one-half acres were acquired by R. W. Woodruff. In 1858 his widow subdivided the acreage into fourteen lots and one extra lot of more than twenty acres which she donated to the City of Denton at the same time that similar contributions were made by Wm. Loving (forty acres) and Hiram Sisco (forty acres) as land for the new county seat. Lot 14, composed of 18.9 acres, was purchased by Joseph Bledsoe on January 28, 1859. After several further divisions a tract fronting 140 feet on what is now West Oak Street and 194+ feet on Mounts Street came into the hands of J. R. Christal (28), President of the Exchange National Bank of Denton and a member of the Board of

Regents, Texas Normal School (29). Mr. Christal and his wife Margaret planned and built the beautiful Italian Villa home in 1906 (30).

Mr. Christal was the son of Richard and nephew of John Christal. His father and three brothers newly come to Texas in 1862 set out to hunt buffalo. The brothers divided into two groups. Richard and John were never found although various pieces of clothing and hunting equipment were found (31). Young J. R. grew up in Denton County in the community known as Christal. He owned a horse farm named Golden Hoof Stock Farm five miles west of the Oak Street property. This property was sold at the time of the settlement of the estate.

The Christals lived in the house from 1906 until his death in 1936. Their two daughters were born there. One died at an early age. Grace Christal graduated from the College of Industrial Arts and was married to Bennett L. Woolley (a Dallas attorney) in the house in 1922 and three of their children were born in the front bedroom upstairs; they are Bennett L. Woolley, Jr., Margaret Woolley, and James Christal Woolley. Mr. Christal died in the house on November 14, 1936 (30).

The building at the back which is now two apartments was the old carriage house where Mr. Christal kept

his horse and buggy. He always walked to work at the Bank on the southeast corner of the square and did not buy one of those "new fangled" automobiles until the late 1920's. Bennett Woolley, Jr. thought this was a Buick. As long as the Christals owned the house it never had a mortgage on the property (30).

At the time of Mrs. Christal's death in 1938 the property passed to their daughter, Mrs. Grace Christal Woolley of Dallas, who sold it in January 1939 to Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Webster. The Websters and their two children, Lillie Webster Wisely, Denton, and Marshall Webster, deceased, and two grandchildren lived in the house for seventeen years. Most of the Christal furniture passed to the Websters with the house. Some of it burned in a fire in the carriage house but the breakfast room furniture and the large four-poster bedroom furniture from the master bedroom was rebought by Mrs. Woolley and taken to Dallas. Some of the furniture which Mrs. Webster kept was sold to the Favors along with some of her own furniture when she sold the house after the death of her father in 1957 (32).

John P. and Doris Favors purchased the house on March 4, 1958 and from that time until February, 1975 Mrs. Favors conducted a school for children (Favors Pre-school).

Many of the children from Denton and miles around had a good educational beginning because they were loved and taught by Doris Favors and her staff. The Favors thought of all these children as their own and their hearts are proud when they are asked to write a letter for boys like Larry Uland recommending him for an appointment to West Point in 1974. They had cared for him from age fifteen months. Mrs. Favors was able to bring up her own children in a wholesome atmosphere and at the same time help many mothers who were in college or working in the Dallas and Denton areas. She moved several of the chandeliers to her new house on Jamestown when she converted the house completely to the school. Most of the remaining furniture was also reconditioned and removed to the new house where very good care is taken of it (28).

Now the house faces a new future. It has been part of the grand social and political circle, then part of the educational field. What will be the next exciting life for this regal Italian Villa house?

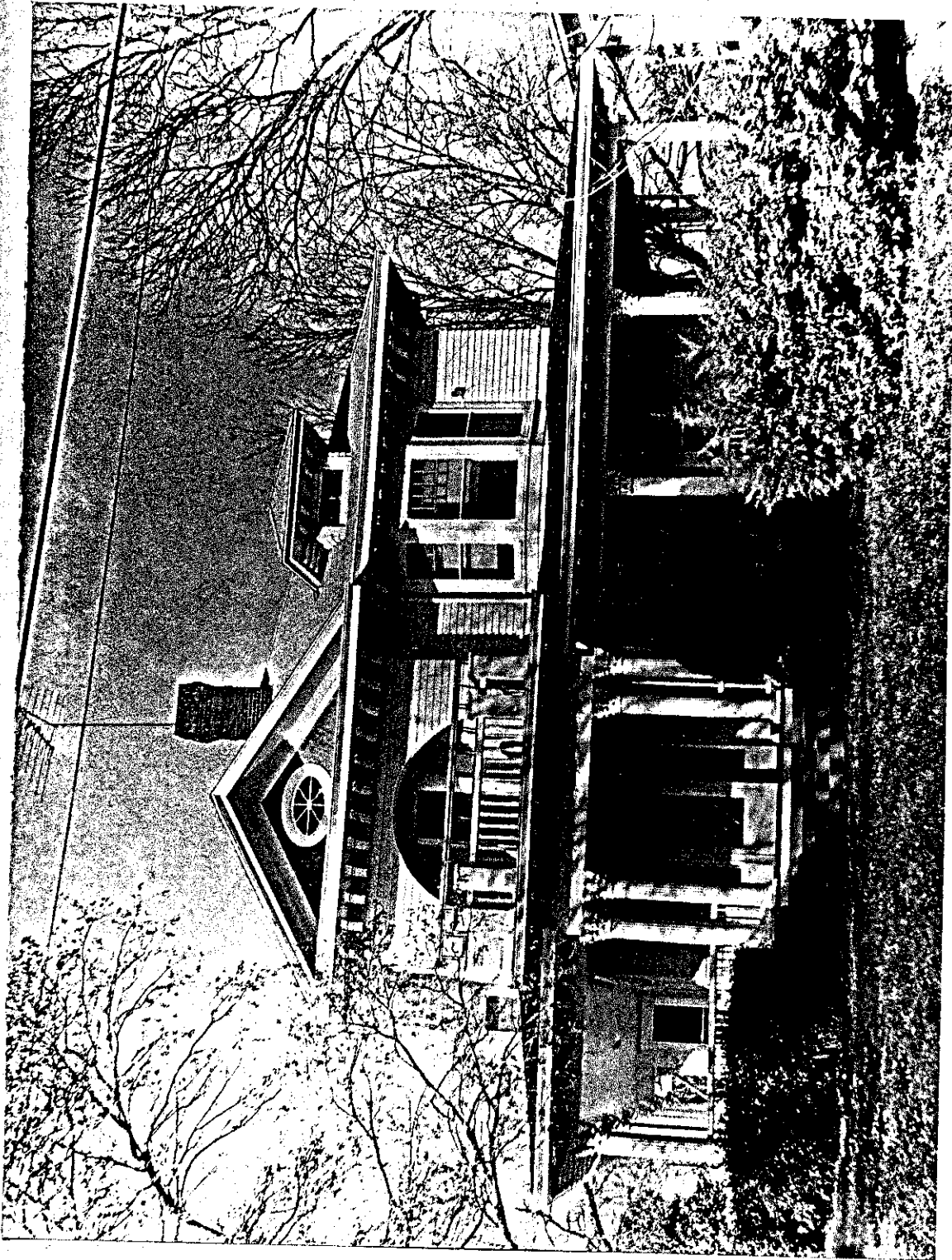


Fig. 69B. Christal-Webster-Favors House, 722 West Oak, Denton, Texas



Fig. 70A. Christal-Webster-Favors house, columns, capitals, festoons, Roman oval arch and brackets.

Design Adaptations

Fig. 70B. Brackets



Fig. 70C. Corinthian capital and column.

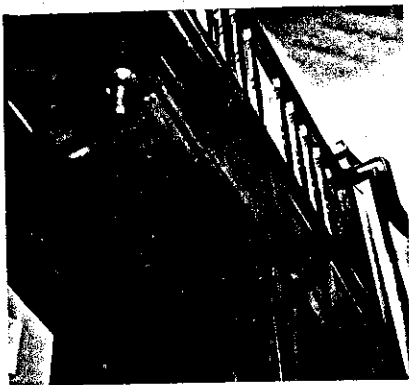


Fig. 70D. Entry and stairs

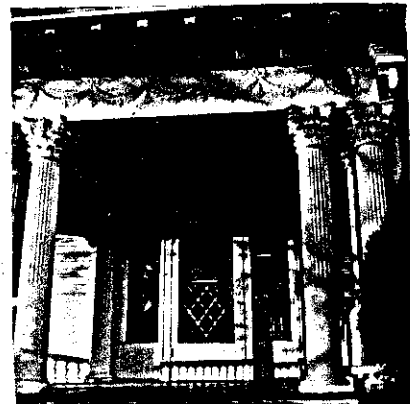


Fig. 70E. Palladian entry

Corinthian columns and capitals support a festooned entablature beneath beautifully carved brackets (Figure 70A). A Roman oval arch springs from the floor of the balcony and the entire section is crowned by a huge Greek pediment.

Balustrades guard the open second floor balcony. The layering of horizontal forms, orders, balustrades, festoons, Venetian pilastered entrances, and the use of decorative geometric designs, all are characteristic of the asymmetrical Italian Villa. Combine these with the Victorian white and the elegance of wood and you have a Victorian eclectic house of great distinction. The bay window and the pedimented dormer just add to the already handsome house.

Figure 71A and Figure 71B on the following pages show the copper coffered dining room ceiling. In the ovolo of the coffer is the egg and dart pattern with palmette in the corners. These geometric coffers have been in use for ceiling ornamentation since the time of the Roman Pantheon and other Roman Italian and Baroque buildings if not before. The material of the ceiling is copper. Rosettes in squares design the corners of the interstices of the coffers. This designing of squares with circles is a favorite of the antique. Artificial foliage designed to fit the space covers the rest of the interstices. The first interlacement band is a Greek border made by the interlocking of two rows of circles (33). The second and large bordering band is a diapering pattern of caning which reaches back to ancient Syria where they used it to cover large surfaces with brick. It was also used by the



Fig. 71A. Copper coffered dining room ceiling.

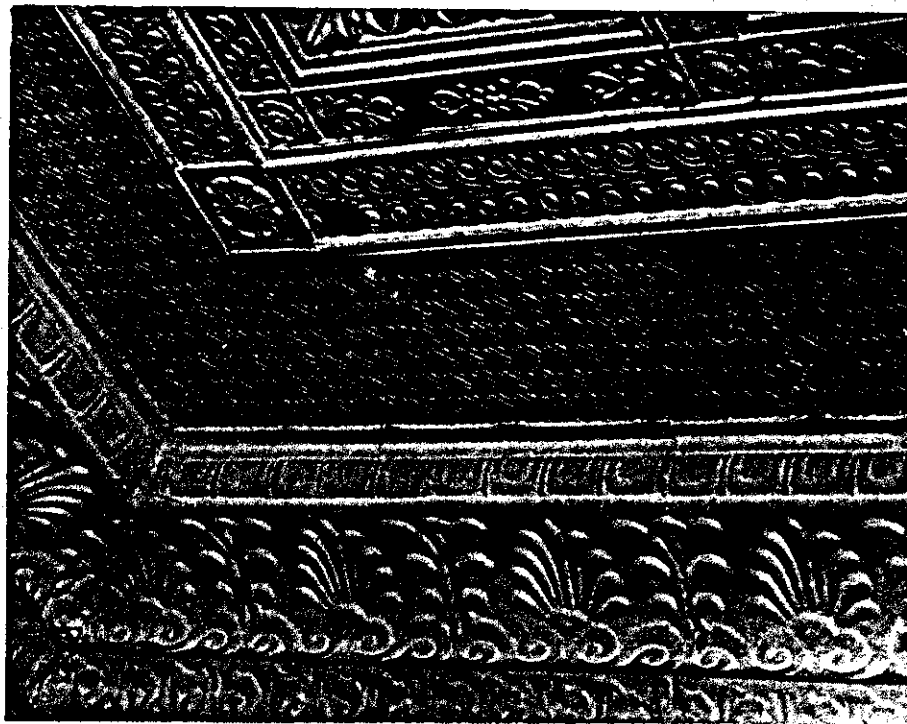


Fig. 71B. Cima reversa and diapering designs from dining room ceiling

Greeks and the Byzantines and has been found on ancient Iranian buildings dating from the tenth century A.D. The first design on the cima recta is the Hawk's beak molding which was used by all the Doric buildings on the edge of the cornice and as a crown for the horizontal cornice below the pediment (34). The first Cima reversa contains the link border foliated band with the stylized palmette. Below that is a second band with another foliated meander design. The link borders and interlacement bands can be

expanded left and right without limit but the diaper patterns can be expanded four ways (35).

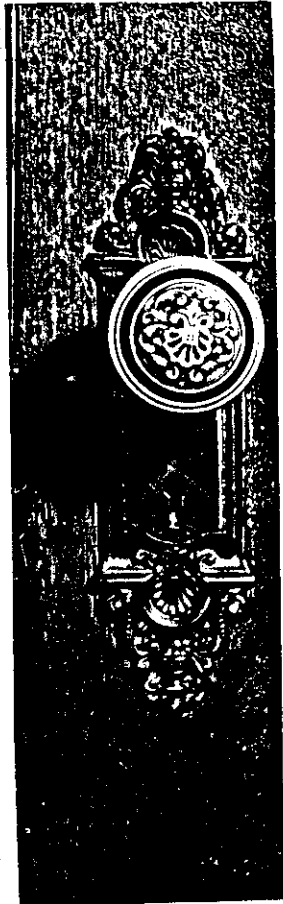


Fig. 72. Brass door knob, west entry.

The brass door knob (Figure 72) is composed of a combination of a large oblong rectangle and an asymmetrical matched design on each end. The knob is a non-repetitive design with a circle. Such designs were Venetian applied ornament features as compared to the enclosed, balanced designing methods of the Byzantine-Romanesque (see door knobs from the Bayless-Selby house, Figure 68).

In summary, the Christal-Webster-Favors house is dominantly rectangular shape. It is dominantly straight in line and it is dominantly textured in surface. The form is horizontal.