

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 819 West Oak Street

and is more particularly described as follows:

North part of Lot 10, Block 1, of the McKennon Addition of the William Neill Survey

I/We herewith tender the filing fee of ~~One Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$150)~~ ^{Twenty-five (\$25.00)}. 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 Carroll G. Rich
 ADDRESS 819 West Oak
 CITY Denton STATE Texas
 PHONE 817-382-5758

Submitted this 14th day of November, 1980.

819 W. Oak

SCRIPTURE-RICH HOUSE

819 West Oak
Denton, Texas

The mission style brick house located at 819 West Oak Street stands on land originally given to William Neill for his service to the Republic of Texas. In 1856 William Woodruff donated twenty acres of the Neill survey as a part of the one hundred acres to be used for the new county seat of Denton. Woodruff's donated land was the northwest part of the proposed town plat and included the site for the public square. The following year, on February 4, 1857, Woodruff sold 15.14 acres of farmland in the Neill survey west of the square to James M. Smoot, a merchant. Three years after the Civil War, Smoot's widow Martha in turn sold it and an adjoining twelve acres to a Virginia-born farmer named John Carter for \$1,600. On February 2, 1872, Carter and his wife deeded 10.2 acres of this farmland to their youngest daughter Sarah and her husband R. A. McKennon,

On January 19, 1878, Sarah Carter McKennon, now a widow, divided the land into lots as an addition to the town of Denton. The lot on which the present house stands was the westernmost of ten. It was still owned by Mrs. McKennon when on November 11, 1880, she married a neighboring widower, William Andrew Wilson.

A bird's-eye view of the town drawn in 1883 by Augustus Koch, the city engineer, shows a one-story frame house on the lot. The Carter-Wilson structure of this date seems to have burned or to have been torn down, for the Wilsons sold the property on June 1, 1885, to Annie L. Scripture for \$380, a price which indicates only the cost of the land with no standing house--or at most only foundation stones. Mrs. Scripture's husband Robert is not named as buyer on the deed.

In 1885-86 the Scriptures built a two-story Italianate brick house, the oldest portion of the present structure; it was evaluated for county taxes at \$2,500. On May 10, 1890, they sold the house for \$3,800.

The new owner was Edmund L. Hann, a well educated and comfortably fixed young dentist, who paid cash for the property and then four days later, on May 14, 1890, transferred its title to his father, Robert Hann, who agreed to repay his son the \$3,800 in seven installments over a span of a year, at no interest.

Robert and his brother John A. Hann, owner of a dry goods store on the south side of the square, were instrumental in founding the college which was later to become North Texas State. They were in the ten-man "Syndicate" which donated land west of town for a campus. In 1905 Robert Hann and his wife Mary sold the house to a banker named B. H. Deavenport for \$5,000.

Deavenport was the first owner of the house to make extensive changes. He hired M. B. Whitlock, a local contractor in business since 1900, to supervise the renovation.

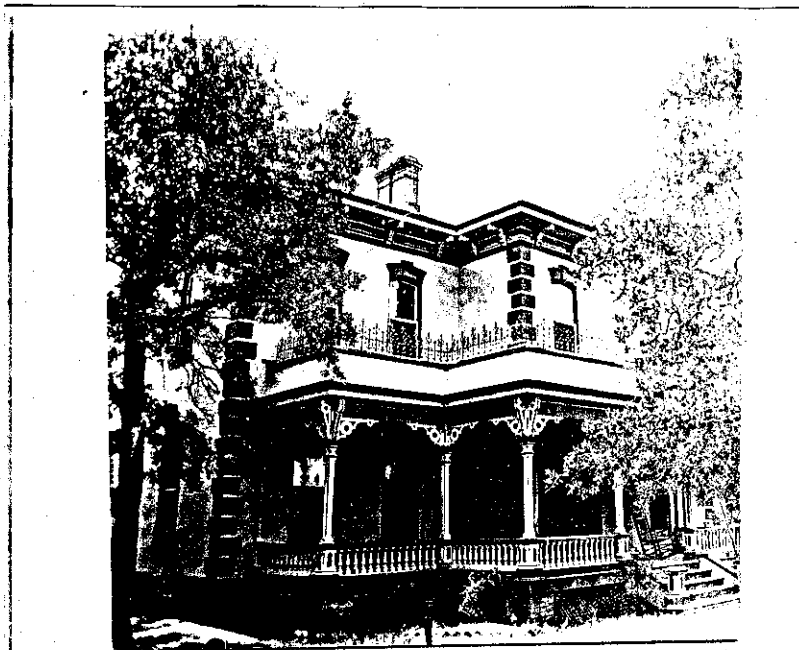
The new construction more than doubled the floor space for the Deavenports and their five children. Around the original brick walls of the Scripture house were raised other brick walls, extending higher than the original ones and forming tall curvilinear gables. A rose window was designed for the north attic gable. Across the front of the house the Deavenports had Whitlock build an arcade porch and another at the rear of the house.

In 1919, the year following her husband's death, Mary Deavenport sold the northern part of the property and the house on Oak Street to Mrs. A. D. Turner, the widow of a banker and stockman, who had himself died only two years earlier.

For twenty years Mrs. Turner lived on Oak Street with her children and grandchildren until she died at 82. In 1941 Grover Graham, a poulterer, bought the house from the Turner estate. He and his wife Emma lived there through the war years and until 1946, at which time the house was sold to Ben and Olgie Ivey, who were to make extensive changes, both structural and decorative. The original walls were cleaned down to the bricks and then replastered. Four of the seven fireplaces (none of which was functional) were sealed and plastered over; the two chimneys were repaired, cleaned, and opened again for use. The back porch was extended six feet toward the south, and for the front porch a slab was poured on which red quarry tiles were laid; wrought iron railings were installed between the front porch arches.

On the second floor a door opening into the hall was closed to create a master bedroom suite with dressing room and bath. A monogrammed mantel was installed over the fireplace in this suite. Two additional bathrooms were added for the other bedrooms on this floor.

After her husband's death in 1969, Olgie Ivey continued living in the house until 1973, when it was sold to Lawrence Wilson, a retired businessman from Dallas. During the short time he was in the house, Wilson levelled it, resupported the underpinnings, and added storm windows, central heat and airconditioning. An oil heating system still remained from the time of the Iveys' residence, and much of the old ductwork was still useable. In 1976 Wilson moved to Arlington, Texas, and sold the house to its present owners, Carroll and Betty Rich.



819 West Oak as it appeared c. 1902-04, when it was the Hann residence.



Scripture-Hann House Blewett House

c. 1902-04

Photographs from the Hann family records