

# John B. Denton College Neighborhood Historic District (1882 – 1950)

## Historic Context



Denton, Denton County, Texas

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## Early Settlement and Denton County Formation

### 1839–1881

Denton's recorded history begins with the first instrument of conveyance in 1839. The Republic of Texas gave William Neill 640 acres of land as payment for services in the Texas-Mexican War of 1836.<sup>1</sup> The Republic of Texas' Secretary of War, A. Sidney Johnston, issued certificate #9324 on November 13, 1839, as a land grant to Neill, in the future region of Denton, Texas.<sup>2</sup> R. W. Woodruff acquired 100.5 acres in 1855 from the original 640-acre Neill track.<sup>3</sup> About 1856, Woodruff donated the eastern 20 acres of his parcel to create the future downtown area of the City of Denton to be anchored by a county courthouse in the downtown square. William Loving contributed 40 acres, and Hiram Sisco contributed another 40 acres to create the future north/south orientation of Denton along Elm and Locust streets.

The City of Denton was named the county seat in 1857, and the first city lots around the downtown square were auctioned.<sup>4</sup> In 1858, Woodruff's widow, Louisa E. Woodruff, subdivided and platted the remaining 80 acres into 14 lots.<sup>5</sup> These lots became the foundation of the western development of Denton, creating West Oak and West Hickory streets, linked with the earlier gift of 20 acres, which became the downtown Denton Square surrounding the Denton County Courthouse.

Denton grew from a frontier town, incorporating as a city in 1866. The first railway, Texas and Pacific, came to Denton in 1881, linking Denton to major cities, and promoting its role as an agricultural trade center. Farms and ranches became profitable while merchants and bankers advanced the business community. Denton's courthouse square became the focal point for business. Prime Denton residential real estate in the 1870s began close to the square, filling present-day Elm and Locust streets north and south with the homes of early pioneer families.

## City of Denton Growth

### 1882 to 1900

Augustus Koch's 1883 bird's eye map view of Denton depicts dense development around the courthouse square, beginning west of the square that was open to expansion, and away from the noise and commotion of the railroad. When Mr. O. K. Harry, a prosperous lumber mill merchant, built his home at present-day 609 West Oak Street in 1878, the street was just a dusty road linking Denton to Decatur.

By 1890, the city worked diligently to gravel some of its streets, enhancing transportation within the city. With the establishment of a Board of Trade in 1890, the city received numerous improvements that created cultural change and transformed the profile of Denton from a town to a city. These included a new brick plant in 1891, a private water works and electric lights in 1892, a new courthouse and jail during 1895-1897, and street roads for private cars and horse-drawn traffic in 1896, along with telephone services in 1896. A county fair flourished, along with a Chautauqua, an opera house, and

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.tshaonline.org/supsites/military/l/barrth9l.htm>, view May 18, 2014.

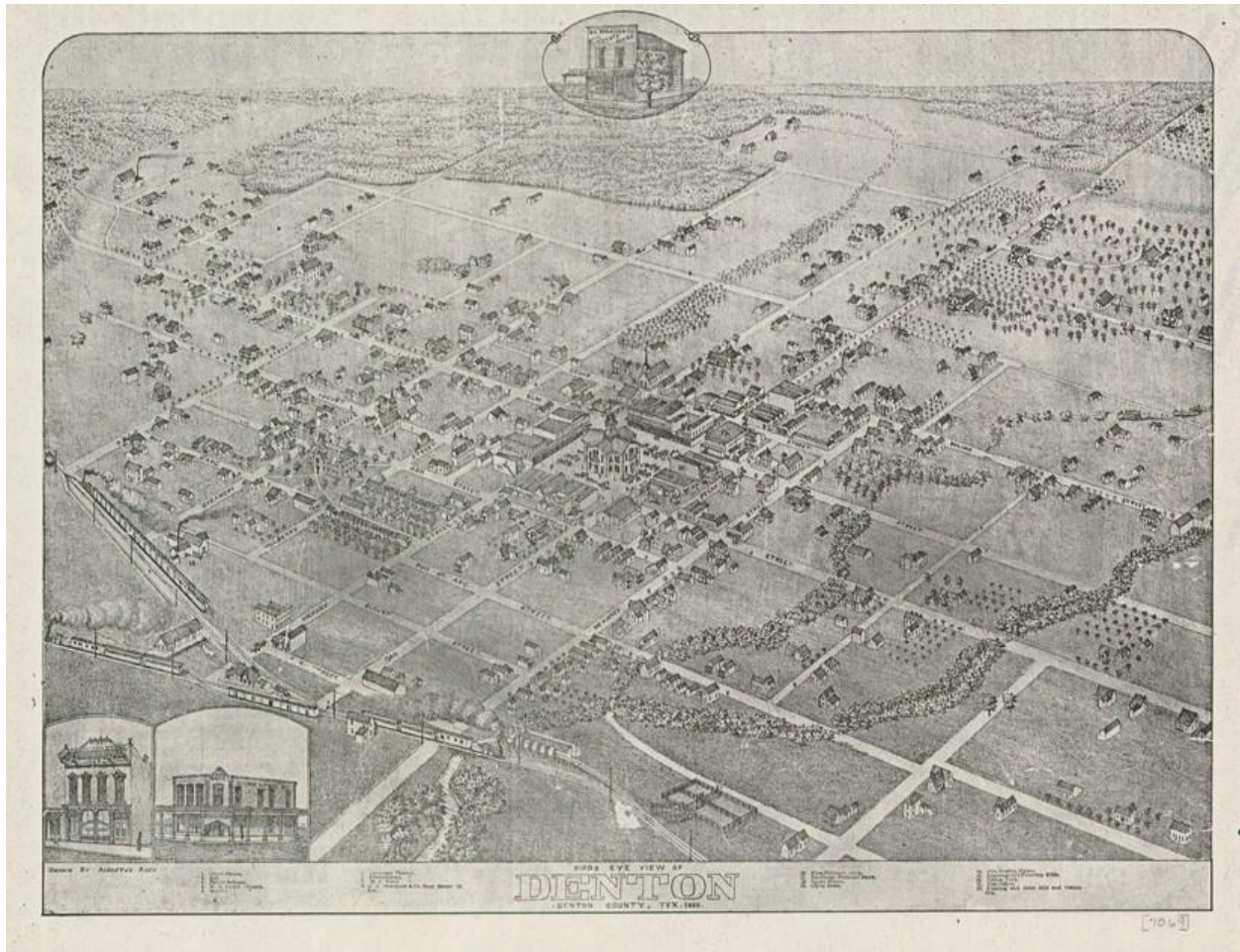
<sup>2</sup> Republic of Texas Deed Record, Private Collection of Annetta Ramsay and Randy Hunt, Denton.

<sup>3</sup> State of Texas Deed Record, Private Collection of Annetta Ramsay and Randy Hunt, Denton.

<sup>4</sup> Bridges, C.A. *History of Denton, Texas, From its Beginning to 1960*. Waco, Texas: Texian Press, 1978, Page 71.

<sup>5</sup> County Deed Record with Map, Private Collection of Annetta Ramsay and Randy Hunt, Denton.

many new businesses and residences. During this time, residential development blossomed west of the square; West Oak and West Hickory streets were known as “Silk Stocking Row.”<sup>6</sup>



Birds Eye View of Denton, Texas 1883 by Augustus Koch<sup>7</sup> - Denton College Neighborhood is towards the top right

Denton’s population expanded with railroad transportation. By 1890, the population in the city was 2,558, which showed double growth from the 1880 census of 1,194. Between 1880 and 1900, the population almost quadrupled to 4,187, marking the rapid expansion of residential neighborhoods.<sup>8</sup> Denton missed several major railroad lines and lacked any east-to-west railroad connections. For the next decade, city leaders focused on how to secure the future of Denton without dependence on railroads. They sought creative alternatives and developed their strategy based on higher education.

## 1900 to 1922

The first two decades of the twentieth century were prosperous years for the area, highlighted with municipal and cultural growth. In 1905, the city purchased the electric light and water plant from the

<sup>6</sup> Bullitt Lowry, *Preservation Plan, City of Denton*, 1986, page 11.

<sup>7</sup> Texas State Library & Archives Commission, <https://www.tsl.texas.gov/cgi-bin/aris/maps/maplookup.php?mapnum=7069>, view October 18, 2016.

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Census (1900), Denton County, Texas, Population Schedules, City of Denton.

privately-held Denton Water and Light Company (present-day Denton Municipal Electric).<sup>9</sup> The city built a sewer system in 1908, following a typhoid fever epidemic.<sup>10</sup> Entertainment facilities flowered between the downtown square and the two colleges in response to the presence of a vibrant student population. Numerous theaters and movie houses opened, along with grocery stores and businesses.

With new utilities, transportation, and proximity between the downtown square anchored by the new colleges, the Highland Park area was the desired location for new homes. Immediately across from John B. Denton College was Judge Carroll's parkland estate. J. A. Carroll (Carroll Blvd. namesake), the first Denton County judge, established the first bank in 1881, the Exchange National Bank. The Exchange bank received its national charter on May 7, 1883, with a capital of \$50,000. The bank's building was built on the southeast corner of the town square, replacing the law office of Carroll and J. M. Daugherty. Carroll was president of the bank until his death in 1891.<sup>11</sup> Other early officers were S. F. Reynolds, vice-president and later bank president<sup>12</sup>; W. A. Ponder, cashier; and J. C. Coit, assistant cashier who built his home at 904 West Oak Street in 1893, later to become the final bank president in 1928.<sup>13</sup> John (J. C.) Coit was the secretary and treasurer for the committee that brought the current Texas Woman's University to Denton, proposing the plan "to offer a cash bonus [\$30,000] secured by the business men of Denton, and to buy the site in Denton which the location committee would choose."<sup>14</sup>

## 1923 to 1950

By 1923, building permits reached \$1 million and increased to \$1.5 million by 1925. The residential boom created the need for a new sewage system in 1923, and a water well system in 1925.<sup>15</sup> West Hickory Street developed with the growth of the Normal College and boarding houses for students blossomed, and homes built by the college faculty flourished.

The city continued to develop facilities for new population growth as the city grew from 7,626 persons in 1920 to 9,587 in 1930. Street lights were added and streets were paved. A new city hall was constructed in 1928 in the popular Spanish Renaissance Revival style. The City Fire Department was relocated from the corner of Bolivar and West Oak streets, part of the original City Hall at 220 West Oak that also housed the Fire Department, to the new City Hall and Fire Department at 221 North Elm.

## Transportation

### 1882 to 1900

Denton's population expanded with railroad transportation. The Texas & Pacific (T&P) Railroad completed its rail line from Texarkana to Fort Worth, opening its Denton station on April 1, 1881. The Katy (Missouri, Kansas & Texas) Railroad also opened the acquired Dallas & Wichita Railroad, linking Denton to Dallas at the same station in 1881.<sup>16</sup> The effect was to create the 'golden triangle' between Dallas and Fort Worth to Denton, opening new transportation of agricultural goods with easier route for

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<sup>9</sup> Bates, Ed, *History and Reminiscences of Denton County*, (Denton, Texas: McNitzky Printing, 1918), Page 265.

<sup>10</sup> Bates, Ed, *History and Reminiscences of Denton County*, (Denton, Texas: McNitzky Printing, 1918), Page 267.

<sup>11</sup> Bates, Ed, *History and Reminiscences of Denton County*, (Denton, Texas: McNitzky Printing, 1918), Page 65.

<sup>12</sup> Bates, Ed, *History and Reminiscences of Denton County*, (Denton, Texas: McNitzky Printing, 1918), Page 78.

<sup>13</sup> Frank Clark, *Denton History Page*, 2013, <http://www.dentonhistory.net/page93/>, viewed September 12, 2016.

<sup>14</sup> Bates, Ed, *History and Reminiscences of Denton County*, (Denton, Texas: McNitzky Printing, 1918), Page 223.

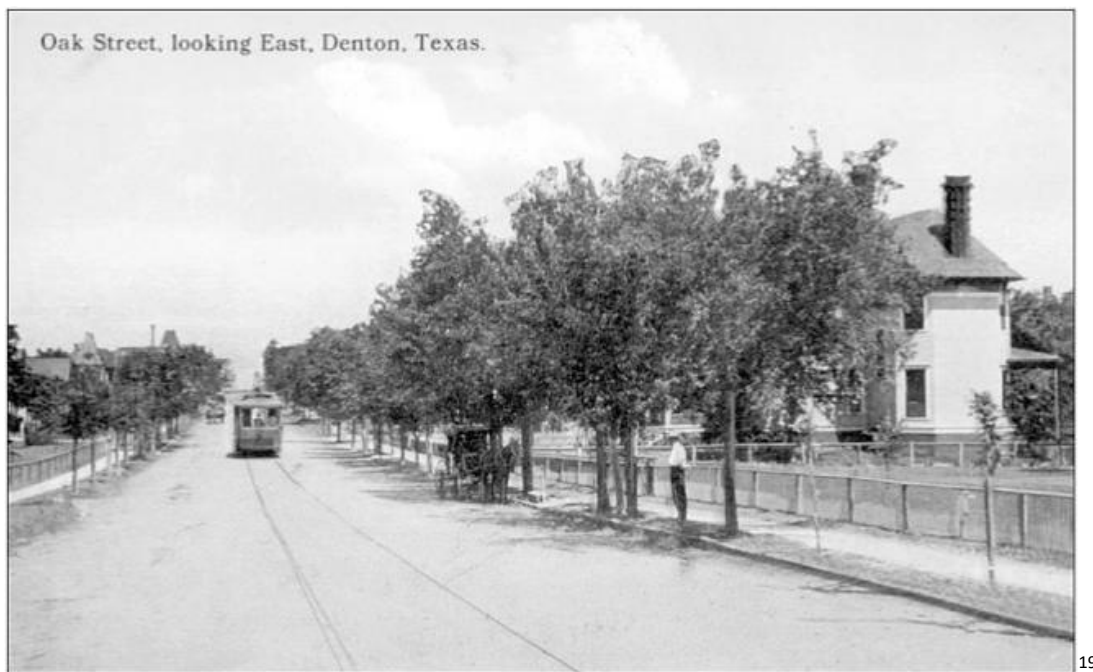
<sup>15</sup> Historical and Architectural Resources of Denton, Texas, Page 13.

<sup>16</sup> E. Dale Odom, *An Illustrated History of Denton County*, 1996, Page 41.

people to travel. By 1890, the population in the city was 2,558, which showed double growth from the 1880 census of 1,194. Between 1880 and 1900, the population almost quadrupled to 4,187, marking the rapid expansion of residential neighborhoods.<sup>17</sup> Denton missed the other major railroad, established in 1886, by the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe to connect Fort Worth with Oklahoma City. This line also ran north/south, but was west of Denton by six miles in the countryside. The prairie station houses established the towns of Justin, Ponder, Krum, and Sanger, bypassing Denton.<sup>18</sup> The lack of any east/west railroad connections discounted Denton as a major business center. For the next decade, city leaders focused on how to secure the future of Denton without dependence on railroads. They sought creative alternatives for future growth and developed their strategy based on higher education.

## 1900 to 1922

The Denton Traction Center began operating the street car trolleys in 1908, which influenced the day-to-day lifestyle of individuals living in Denton prior to the First World War. The trolley line west of the downtown square was begun as a streetcar line to develop the Highland Park area (present-day Denia Neighborhood). The line started at the power plant, located near the Denton railroad station. It traveled up East Hickory Street to the west side of the downtown square, turning north on Elm Street, and then west on West Oak Street. Trolley #30 traveled on West Oak Street to present-day Fry Street, turning south at the next corner to West Hickory Street, past the Normal College, then west on West Hickory Street to present-day Avenue D. The line ran to Highland Park and returned on the same route.



<sup>17</sup> U.S. Census (1900), Denton County, Texas, Population Schedules, City of Denton.

<sup>18</sup> <http://apps.dentoncounty.com/website/historicalmarkers/historical-markers.htm#Sanger%20and%20the%20Gulf,%20Colorado%20and%20Santa%20Fe%20Railway>, viewed September 2016.

<sup>19</sup> Jim Bolz, Tricia Bolz and the Denton County Museums, *Postcard History Series: Denton County*, Arcadia Publishing, 2010, Page 17, Post Card (Duke and Ayres, c. 1915).

Highland Park was a popular picnicking spot in the early 1900s. It was located on the hill where Apogee Stadium is now situated. The trolley ended at Highland Park for strolls and picnic lunches. This streetcar line consisted of a six-mile connection from the railroad station, to the square, past residential homes, to the North Texas Normal College, terminating at Highland Park. The trolley provided an inexpensive form of transportation (5 cents per day) and supported the social life in Denton during its operations from February 1908 until January 1918, providing passage to those without access to horse or carriage.

The original backers of the system hoped to boost sales for the new Highland Park subdivision. By 1909, R. J. and W. W. Wilson, owners of a hardware store, acquired control of the line. They added another north-south line to extend service from the square to present-day Texas Woman's University. By 1912, the city extended the boundaries west to encompass the new North Texas State Normal College.<sup>20</sup> This incorporated a new section of West Oak and West Hickory streets within the city limits to Avenue C.

## Ranching and Agriculture

Railroads through Denton and in the western part of the county provided great economic and demographic effects. Corn and vegetable crops used for subsistence foods for farms and ranches declined after 1882. Cattle grazing and ranching was being replaced with the cultivation of cash crops.

Rail transportation created new agricultural opportunities, with acreage in cotton and wheat increasing rapidly. Cotton accounted for 29,785 acres in 1880 and by 1920 grew to 115,078 acres dedicated to developing cotton. The Grand Prairie of western Denton County was perfect for the cultivation of wheat. With the demand of feed at the Fort Worth Stockyards and the ease of rail transportation of crops, wheat production increased with over 80,000 new acres of production between 1880 and 1900. Krum, a village near Denton, was reputed in 1900 to be the largest inland wheat producer in the United States.<sup>21</sup>

By 1900, agriculture replaced ranching. The new wealth created a new migration of ranchers to become residents in the developing 'Silk Stocking' district along West Oak and West Hickory Streets. The Evers' family retained their farm north of Denton, building their city home at 1035 West Oak Street. The Jim Christal family also maintained its Golden Hoof ranch, raising sheep and cattle, while building their city residence at 722 West Oak Street.

Ailsey (Forester) Martin grew up on the nearby cattle Forester Ranch (established 1852) and received one-third of the ranch when the "Two-I-Jinglebob" brand when it was divided in 1913, using funds to build the home at 811 West Oak Street.<sup>22</sup> The Gregg Ranch was influential to both the homes at 709 Pearl Street built by Susan (Gregg) Simmons, granddaughter of Darius Gregg who established the Gregg Ranch, and at 305 Mounts Street where Robert Mounts worked for and then managed the horses and cattle at the Gregg Ranch.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Bates, Ed, *History and Reminiscences of Denton County*, (Denton, Texas: McNitzky Printing, 1918), Page 263-264.

<sup>21</sup> *Handbook of Texas Online*, E. Dale Odom, "Denton County," accessed October 04, 2016, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/hcd06>.

<sup>22</sup> <http://apps.dentoncounty.com/website/historicalmarkers/historical-markers.htm#Forester%20Ranch>

<sup>23</sup> <http://apps.dentoncounty.com/website/historicalmarkers/historical-markers.htm#Gregg%20Ranch>

## Education

### 1882 to 1900

Education became prominent in 1882 with a bond election providing \$15,000 for the construction of the three-story brick Robert E. Lee school house designed for 'superior educational opportunities.'<sup>24</sup> Equally important, a tax levy was approved in 1882 for the purchase of a \$6,000 steam fire engine and the construction of a fire station.<sup>25</sup> By 1884, the Denton City School became the first independent school district in the county.<sup>26</sup>

In the wake of the 1890s depression, the Board of Trade searched for innovative ideas to stimulate the Denton economy. The solution was the founding of Denton as the educational center for North Texas. The establishment of higher education became the economic determinant for Denton. The key members of the Board of Trade were the business leaders in Denton, owning land and some building their homes in this area.<sup>27</sup> Included are:

- Judge Carroll, President of the Board of Trade, founder of the Exchange National Bank located on the Square, and owner of what would become Carroll Estates
- Colonel T. W. Abney, Vice President, who built his home at 716 West Oak Street, member of the building committee for the first school building built in 1882<sup>28</sup>
- James Williams, Secretary, namesake of Williams Street
- A. F. Evers, Secretary, owner of Evers Ranch and Evers Hardware on the Square
- H. F. Schweer, member, President of Denton County National Bank on the Square
- Sam Allison, member, who built his home at 213 Mounts Street and then at 620 Pearl Street, owner of a pharmacy on the Square
- E. C. Smith, member, home builder in the area
- A. E. Graham, member, merchant on the Square who built his home at 700 West Oak Street

The City of Denton contracted with Joshua Chilton for the creation of a private college, originally known as the North Texas Normal College and Teacher Training Institute.<sup>29</sup> In 1890, seventy students attended the first classes held above the hardware store at the northwest corner of the square at the intersection of West Oak and North Elm streets, current 200 West Oak Street.<sup>30</sup> A group of local leaders purchased and donated ten acres for the future campus, fronting West Hickory Street between Avenues A and B, led by Judge Carroll, President of the Board of Trade, and T. W. Abney, Vice President of the Board of Trade and resident of West Oak Street.<sup>31</sup> Several buildings were constructed by the city to create the private North Texas Normal College and Teachers Training Institute. The normal (teachers) college struggled until the Texas state legislature authorized the creation of state-supported public normal

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<sup>24</sup> Bullitt Lowry, *Preservation Plan, City of Denton*, 1986, page 12.

<sup>25</sup> Denton Centennial Commission, *Centurama: History of Denton, 100 Years of Progress*, 1957.

<sup>26</sup> E. Dale Odom, *An Illustrated History of Denton County*, 1996, Page 53.

<sup>27</sup> Denton Centennial Commission. *Centurama*, book, 1957-04~; (texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph24941/: accessed September 24, 2016), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; crediting Denton Public Library.

<sup>28</sup> Bates, Ed, *History and Reminiscences of Denton County*, (Denton, Texas: McNitzky Printing, 1918), Page 192.

<sup>29</sup> <http://apps.dentoncounty.com/website/historicalmarkers/historical-markers.htm#Texas%20Normal%20College>

<sup>30</sup> Bullitt Lowry, *The Historical Markers of Denton County*, Texas, 1980, Page 36.

<sup>31</sup> Mike Cochran, *Denton History Page*, 2013, <http://www.dentonhistory.net/page63/>.

schools for the training of teachers in 1899. Denton was selected as the site for the state's North Texas State Normal College, the site and buildings donated, and operations began in the fall of 1901.<sup>32</sup>

## 1900 to 1922

In addition to the current auditorium at the North Texas State Normal College, a new Main Building was constructed in 1904, a science building in 1910, and a library in 1913. Enrollment swelled during summer terms with working teachers seeking additional training between the regular sessions of public school. The State Board of Education managed the college with a local board of three members appointed by the State Board. Various members included prominent Denton business leaders, such as F. E. Piner (Piner Street namesake), Emory C. Smith, Alvin Owsley and W. A. Ponder (Ponder Street namesake). In 1911, a State Normal School Board of Regents, appointed by the governor, oversaw the management of the state's normal school.

The private John B. Denton College was established in 1901 on land set aside on the Neill Plat of 1858 for a school.<sup>33</sup> The residents of Denton, led by businessman J. N. Rayzor, desired a private college to entice students with multiple educational interests, naming the college after John B. Denton.<sup>34</sup> As the previous downtown College transformed into the North Texas Normal College for educating teachers, they raised \$20,000 in capital stock<sup>35</sup> to organize a new private college to appeal to more varied undergraduate scholars.<sup>36</sup> Most of this stock was held by individuals who were also members of the Christian Church (present day Church of Christ).<sup>37</sup> The city created access from West Oak Street and named the street after the college as John B. Denton Street, later shorted to Denton Street.

On June 9, 1901, the regents of the new College selected the building plans of the John B. Denton College designed by W. A. Petser of Bonham, Texas, and bids were let for the construction of the college building.<sup>38</sup> The college building was constructed at 300 Denton Street as a two-story building and named after John B. Denton, the frontier lawyer and minister for whom the county and city are named. The College, located as part of the Silk Stocking Row, became part of the residential development area and a major influence in the development of this district west of the downtown square.

The first day of class at the College began in a wood frame structure on the College campus in September 1901. Miss Bertie Atchison of Decatur, Texas, was one of the first students to attend the College<sup>39</sup> and Miss Georgia Lish of Saunemin, Illinois, was the first instructor of "elocution, physical culture and voice" at the College.<sup>40</sup> John B. Denton College opened on September 10, 1901, with O. H.

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<sup>32</sup> Willard Robinson, *Temples of Knowledge: Historic Mains of Texas Colleges and Universities*, Southwestern Historical Quarterly, LXXVII, #4 (April 1974), Pages 469-470.

<sup>33</sup> John B. Denton College, clipping, June 23, 1901; (texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapht29625/: accessed September 26, 2016), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; crediting Denton Public Library.

<sup>34</sup> <http://apps.dentoncounty.com/website/historicalmarkers/historical-markers.htm#John%20B.%20Denton>

<sup>35</sup> E. Dale Odom, *An Illustrated History of Denton County*, 1996, Page 59.

<sup>36</sup> *Handbook of Texas Online*, R. L. Roberts, "Southland University," accessed September 16, 2016, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kbswg>.

<sup>37</sup> E. Dale Odom, *An Illustrated History of Denton County*, 1996, Page 59.

<sup>38</sup> The Houston Post (Houston, Texas) · Tue, Jun 11, 1901 · Page 5.

<sup>39</sup> Wise County Messenger (Decatur, Texas) · Fri, Sep 13, 1901 · Page 1.

<sup>40</sup> The Pantagraph (Bloomington, Illinois) · Thu, Aug 29, 1901 · Page 4.

Thurman, a native of McMinnville, Tennessee,<sup>41</sup> formerly a science teacher and librarian at Texas Normal College, as president.<sup>42</sup>

The College was well established by 1902. A real estate ad to sell 1,500 acre Denton County ranch entices future buyers with, "Denton has the North Texas Normal College (a state institution), with 500 students and the John B. Denton College, with 200 students".<sup>43</sup> The first football game was played between the "Normals" and the "John B. Dentons" on November 17, 1902, when the "North Texas State Normal team defeated the John B. Denton college eleven [team] on the fairgrounds gridiron this afternoon by a score of 21 to 0."<sup>44</sup> The first baseball games were played during the second semester.



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The initial commencement exercises were hosted by the college on June 11, 1902 at Wright's Opera House.<sup>46</sup> A list of graduates included their Thesis subject as reported by the Houston Post<sup>47</sup>:

- Bert Swift Chandler – "Expansion"
- Whitney Crow Wright – "Unpainted Pictures"
- Roller Herbert Scales – "Observations"
- John Marion Sones – "Vision and Culture"
- Joseph Johnston Cridebring – "Dreamland"

<sup>41</sup> The Anniston Star (Anniston, Alabama) · Fri, Oct 2, 1931 · Page 2.

<sup>42</sup> *Handbook of Texas Online*, R. L. Roberts, "Southland University," accessed September 16, 2016, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kbswg>.

<sup>43</sup> The Inter Ocean (Chicago, Illinois) · Sun, Feb 16, 1902 · Page 23.

<sup>44</sup> The Houston Post (Houston, Texas) · Wed, Nov 19, 1902 · Page 3

<sup>45</sup> Denton County Office of History and Culture, Photo, *First Class of the John B. Denton College*.

<sup>46</sup> Commencement Exercises John B. Denton College, clipping, June 12, 1902; (texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapht29626/: accessed September 20, 2016), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, texashistory.unt.edu; crediting Denton Public Library.

<sup>47</sup> The Houston Post (Houston, Texas) · Fri, Jun 13, 1902 · Page 7

- Garnett M. Roberts – “Age of Chivalry”
- Willie Eliza Dunavan – “Henry W. Longfellow”
- John August Ellederg – “Husks”
- Ruby Rachell Terrill – “Robert Burns”
- James Edward Horne – “Onward”

The College faculty expanded in 1903, represented by the addition of Arthur Palmer of Moberly, Missouri, who became the secretary and music director<sup>48</sup> who assisted with hosting the Denton Chautauqua Assembly for a 10 day summer music feasible.<sup>49</sup> The Cameron Herald newspaper reporting on the construction progress for the main building for the future Girl’s Industrial College in Denton (present day Texas Women’s University) included that “Denton is a most attractive place for parents who desire to educate their sons and daughters. The North Texas State Normal school, the John B. Denton College... are well established. And when the Girl’s Industrial College is added to her list, Denton may well boast of being the Athens of Texas.”<sup>50</sup>



The presence of two institutions of higher education, the John B. Denton College and the Normal College, in the new residential west of the downtown square had a profound influence on Denton and the area began major development of new homes. As a commitment to its educational facilities, the residents voted in 1902 to prohibit the sale of liquor in order to reinforce an image as a beneficial environment for students.<sup>53</sup>

During the first three years, the college’s enrollment reached over 150 students; however, 1904 found a declining student admission that continued with the opening of the second state funded college in

<sup>48</sup> Moberly Evening Democrat (Moberly, Missouri) · Tue, Aug 4, 1903 · Page 1.

<sup>49</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle (Denton, Texas) · Thu, Jul 17, 1975 · Page 8.

<sup>50</sup> The Cameron Herald (Cameron, Texas) · Thu, Sep 10, 1903 · Page 3.

<sup>51</sup> UNT Library Special Collections, 1903-1904 Session, President Thurman.

<sup>52</sup> Denton County Office of History and Culture, Photo c. 1902, John B. Denton College.

<sup>53</sup> Debbie Cottrell, *Pioneer Woman Educator: The Progressive Spirit of Annie Webb Blanton* (College Stations: Texas A&M Press, 1993), Page 21.

Denton, which appears to have attract several key faculty members to the future Texas Women's University. The private stockholders, after operating the College as a private, non-church-related school was led by the Board chair, J. N. Rayzor, to consider an offer from the Southwestern Christian College, part of the Conservative Branch of the Christian Church (present day Church of Christ) for the John B. Denton College to become part of the Christian College.<sup>54</sup> The College Board members included, A. E. Graham of 700 West Oak, S. W. Kanady, E. C. Smith, J. W. Shaw and T. F. Jasper.<sup>55</sup> The Board accepted the offer.

The John B. Denton College was closed, the land and all property deeded to the Church of Christ, the college renamed to the Southwestern (South Western) Christian College, and the Church of Christ assumed the administration of the college on September 27, 1904.<sup>56</sup> <sup>57</sup> The new college ran ads in the Denton Record Chronical newspaper in 1904 to announce A. G. Freed as president of this college which offered "Twenty-One Distinct Course of Study".<sup>58</sup> In 1908, the college reorganized as Southland University. A split occurred in the college leadership; and in 1909, the Church relocated the major college body to Abilene, where it became the Abilene Christian College, presently Abilene Christian University. Another part of the college relocated to Cleburne to create Clebarro College. The John B. Denton College, School of Oratory, held classes until 1912.<sup>59</sup>



With Denton's selection as the site for a new school for women in 1902, comparable to Texas A&M. Encouraged by the donation of 67 acres for the new campus, the Girls Industrial Institute and College of Women was formed.<sup>62</sup> This second state college in Denton first held classes in the fall of 1903 and was renamed in 1905 as the College of Industrials Art (present-day Texas Woman's University). The competition from two state supported colleges became too great for the private college.

<sup>54</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle (Denton, Texas) · Mon, Nov 17, 1930 · Page 2.

<sup>55</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle (Denton, Texas) · Thu, Nov 27, 1930 · Page 2.

<sup>56</sup> E. Dale Odom, *An Illustrated History of Denton County*, 1996, Page 59.

<sup>57</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle (Denton, Texas) · Sun, Jul 4, 1976, Page 102.

<sup>58</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle (Denton, Texas) · Sun, Jul 4, 1976, Page 102.

<sup>59</sup> *Handbook of Texas Online*, R. L. Roberts, "Southland University," accessed September 16, 2016, <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/kbswg>.

<sup>60</sup> Denton County Office of History and Culture, Photo c. 1904, John B. Denton College, now South Western College.

<sup>61</sup> UNT Library Special Collections, Postcard c. 1909, John B. Denton College School of Oratory.

<sup>62</sup> Bullitt Lowry, *Denton Preservation Plan*, 1986, Page 13.

Public schools in Denton were growing which increased crowding in the available space for students. By 1911, 244 high school were congested at the Robert E. Lee School making it apparent that a school was needed to house these high school students in a separate building.<sup>63</sup> In 1912, the Church of Christ approached the Denton City School. The original John B. Denton College building was acquired by the Denton City Schools and became the first city high school in the fall of 1912.<sup>64 65</sup> The captions below these images indicate that the water fountain from the artesian well quenched the thirst of many students from the initial John B. Denton College to the Denton High School and then Junior High School after a new High School was built adjacent to the College building in 1917.



Water from cool artesian wells quenched many a thirst at the Denton High School building on Denton Street. The water fountain is gone today as Congress Junior High School occupies the site which in past years has served as campus grounds for the John B. Denton College, Southwestern Christian College, high school and junior high school.



Denton high school students attended classes in a separate building in 1913 as the local school district once again moved to offset cramped facilities. The City of Denton purchased the building and grounds of the Southwestern Christian College in 1912 and a year later students were using the facilities. The building was replaced by a new high school structure in 1917.

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Following the creation of a high school in the former John B. Denton College building, the area east of the high school between John B. Denton Street and Carroll Street was platted as Carroll Estates in 1913, to recognize the former estate of Judge Carroll. Pearl Street received its name because it was the most desirable street in the Carroll Estates. During this time period and under the leadership of President Bruce (1906-1923), the North Texas State Normal College enrollment reached 4,736, compared to 781 students in 1901. The college ranked sixth nationally in enrollment for teacher-training institutions and third in size of faculty.

The former John B. Denton College building, now the Denton High School, continued to serve in the role of education. Soon after 1912, the building experienced overcrowding, and in February 1916 ground breaking began for a new building north of the old college, at the corner of Denton and Gregg streets. This stimulated the development of the Mounts 2 addition and opened Mounts Street the length of John B. Denton Street. The School Board bought the land west of the former College building in March 1916

<sup>63</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle (Denton, Texas) · Sun, Jul 4, 1976 · Page 97.

<sup>64</sup> Mike Cochran, Denton History Page, 2013, <http://www.dentonhistory.net/page27/page3/>, 2016.

<sup>65</sup> Jim Bolz, Tricia Bolz, Denton County in Post Cards, Arcadia Publishing, 2010, page 61.

<sup>66</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle (Denton, Texas) · Sun, Jul 4, 1976 · Page 100.

giving the school the entire south frontage of land between these two streets which current is present.<sup>67</sup> The land north of the former College building became the High School football field.<sup>68</sup>

The budget for building the new high school was \$60,000 which was designed by Sanguinet and Staats, architectural firm in Fort Worth, Texas. With the opening of the new high school in 1917, the college building was used to house a music room, manual arts classrooms, and a gymnasium, seen in the postcard below.<sup>69</sup>



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The original bell in the John B. Denton College bell tower is currently located at 201 South Locust Street in the courtyard of the First United Methodist Church. The Denton County Historical Commission Foundation placed the bell in this public area in 1984.<sup>71</sup>

<sup>67</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle (Denton, Texas) · Tue, Mar 19, 1935 · Page 2.

<sup>68</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle (Denton, Texas) · Mon, Oct 1, 1934 · Page 2.

<sup>69</sup> Jim Bolz, Tricia Bolz, Denton County in Post Cards, Arcadia Publishing, 2010, page 62.

<sup>70</sup> Jim Bolz, Tricia Bolz, Denton County in Post Cards, Arcadia Publishing, 2010, page 62.

<sup>71</sup> <http://apps.dentoncounty.com/website/historicalmarkers/historical-markers.htm#John%20B.%20Denton%20College%20Bell>

## 1923 to 1950

In 1924, the state legislature changed the North Texas State Normal College's name to North Texas State Teachers College. The presence of the college had a significant impact on the economic and social life between the downtown square and the college campus.<sup>72</sup>

In 1922 came the announcement of construction of a new senior high school building on the north end of the campus of the Denton High School and former John B. Denton College. The previous Denton High School building, adjacent to the original John B. Denton College building, became the Denton Junior High School. Wiley Clarkson designed the Denton Senior High School building, located at 709 Congress Street, as a three-story building containing 68,310 square feet of space.<sup>73</sup>



High School 2 plat in 1923 platted lots along Egan Street (namesake of W. F. Egan, a first sheriff of Denton County<sup>75</sup>). The new senior high school building, fronting Congress Street, opened in 1924 and the original buildings on the south end became the junior high and elementary schools.<sup>76</sup> The 1924, High School 3 Plat developed new lots creating Panhandle Street, named for the panhandle-shaped plat.

The former John B. Denton College building was declared abandoned in the early 1930s and condemned. In March 1935, the announcement was made that the building was to be razed.<sup>77</sup>

<sup>72</sup> Historical and Architectural Resources – page 15.

<sup>73</sup> Jim Bolz, Tricia Bolz, Denton County in Post Cards, Arcadia Publishing, 2010, page 63.

<sup>74</sup> <https://www.flickr.com/photos/mikecochran/albums/72157627794628933/page1>

<sup>75</sup> Bates, Ed. History and Reminiscences of Denton County, (Denton, Texas: McNitzky Printing, 1918), Page 70.

<sup>76</sup> Mike Cochran, Denton History Page, 2013, <http://www.dentonhistory.net/page27/page3/>, 2016.

<sup>77</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle (Denton, Texas) · Mon, Jul 22, 1935 · Page 1.

The Denton Record Chronical newspaper provide this editorial in October 1935<sup>78</sup>:

### **RAZING EDUCATIONAL LANDMARK**

*Razing the old John B. Denton College building is not to be dismissed with the bare news mention of the fact, for that old structure is one of the educational landmarks in Denton. And the spirit that built it is the same spirit which is responsible today for the fact that this is a college town and proud of it.*

*Denton always has been interested in education. At a time when many public schools were called socialistic, Denton was one of the first towns in Texas to take advantage of a new law permitting the levying of a special tax for public school purposes.*

*Later when an Indiana educator looking for a college location cam to Denton, he found the same spirit willing to go around existing law to vote bonds for a college. And so Professor Chilton's North Texas Normal came into being, ultimately to become one of the great teachers' colleges of the State. That was the germ which created in Denton an appreciation of what educational institutions meant to a community that led the way for the securing of the CIA [College of Industrial Arts, presently Texas Woman's University], the greatest woman's college in the United States. And it was responsible also for the establishment by popular subscription to its stock of the John B. Denton College, whose main building is now in course of destruction.*

*Today, with it thousands of college students and its outstanding public school system, we of this generation are the beneficiaries of the educational interest that first manifested itself in the early 80s [c1880s] and that has continued to manifest itself every time an opportunity has come further to improved and enlarge our educational facilities.*

A following article was published in the October 28, 1935 newspaper<sup>79</sup>:

*Denton people are planning to observe the passing of one of the city's landmarks – the John B. Denton College building, now on the campus of the Junior High School and which is being razed to make room for a projected enlargement of the public school building. The John B. Denton building served the early-day college of that name and later was the main building of the Southwestern Christian College. The Chamber of Commerce is joining with the school authorities in planning the program that is to given when the old cornerstone is removed. A list of all former students of both the John B. Denton and Southwestern Christian Colleges is wanted and all who once attended either institution are asked to send their names to the Chamber of Commerce office.*

The College building was razed in November 1935, recorded in this article<sup>80</sup>

### **First Pay Checks for WPA Labor**

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<sup>78</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle (Denton, Texas) · Mon, Oct 21, 1935 · Page 2.

<sup>79</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle (Denton, Texas) · Mon, Oct 28, 1935 · Page 2.

<sup>80</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle (Denton, Texas) · Tue, Nov 5, 1935 · Page 3.

*The first pay checks for a WPA job in Denton County were received here Tuesday, when G. E. Allmon, projects manager, got by mail checks totaling \$250 for 31 men employed in razing the old John B. Denton College Building. The checks were to be distributed in the afternoon to the men who have been working on the job about two weeks. Razing of the building has been almost completed.*

In addition to those already named, these persons were directly associated with the John B. Denton College:

- Anna Lee Foster – Student; Early pioneer of Lee County, New Mexico, location of Foster Ranch<sup>81</sup>
- Arthur Palmer – Professor; Violin and music instructor at the College<sup>82</sup>
- Blake Timmons – Student; Pitcher for the College Baseball team<sup>83</sup>
- Chance Wilks – Student; from Little Elm, Texas<sup>84</sup>
- Fannie May Johnson – Professor; Voice and music; Married Will Evers in Denton in 1909<sup>85</sup>
- Fred Botlorff – Student; Early Denton pioneer, Lawyer, elected Denton County Judge in 1916<sup>86</sup>
- George Barnett – Student; from Krum, Texas<sup>87</sup>
- Oliver Thurmond – Student; Became an insurance executive with Mutual Benefit<sup>88</sup>
- Marvin Jones – Student; From Cooke County; Elected US Congressman in 1916; Chair of the Agriculture Committee of the House for 10 years; Became the Washing Federal War Food administrator; Appointed president of the United Nations Food Conference<sup>89</sup>; Was Chief Justice of the U.S. Court of Claims.<sup>90</sup>

Special notation is associated with Ruby Terrill, a native of Denton and student at the College. In the engagement announcement for Miss Terrill to John Lomax, the article provides these details<sup>91</sup>:

*An announcement of engagement and approaching marriage of Miss Ruby R. Terrill to John Avery Lomax made in Austin Saturday will be of much interest to a large number of friends and relatives here as well as over the state in literary and educational circles. Miss Terrill is a former resident of Denton, where she received her early education, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Terrill, pioneer residents. She is the sister of Mrs. J. S. Stover of Lewisville, and Lomax is the brother of R. P. Lomax of Denton.*

*The announcement Saturday was at a luncheon in the Student Union Building of the University of Texas given by the Delta Kappa Gama Society, of which Miss Terrill is a member, and amount the hostesses where Miss Annie Webb Blanton, Miss Clara M.*

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<sup>81</sup> Hobbs Daily News-Sun (Hobbs, New Mexico) · Thu, Jun 28, 1973 · Page 5

<sup>82</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle (Denton, Texas) · Sat, Dec 29, 1934 · Page 1

<sup>83</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle (Denton, Texas) · Wed, Apr 12, 1950 · Page 2

<sup>84</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle (Denton, Texas) · Thu, Aug 2, 1956 · Page 2

<sup>85</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle (Denton, Texas) · Thu, Oct 21, 1954 · Page 1

<sup>86</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle (Denton, Texas) · Thu, Feb 5, 1942 · Page 6

<sup>87</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle (Denton, Texas) · Thu, Mar 29, 1956 · Page 2

<sup>88</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle (Denton, Texas) · Tue, May 14, 1935 · Page 1

<sup>89</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle (Denton, Texas) · Fri, Dec 31, 1943 · Page 2

<sup>90</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle (Denton, Texas) · Tue, Apr 1, 1952 · Page 3

<sup>91</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle (Denton, Texas) · Mon, Apr 2, 1934 · Page 4

*Parker and Mrs. Cora Martin, all former members of the [North Texas State] Teachers college faculty.*

*Miss Terrill is dean of women and associate professor of classical languages in the University of Texas, and will continue her work after marriage. She received her education in the old North Texas Normal and the John B. Denton College. Lomax is listed in "Who's Who in North American Literature" as the author of "Cowboy Songs and Other Frontier Ballads", and is accepted as an authority on ballads.*

## Neighborhood Development

### 1882 to 1900

West Oak Street became Denton's preferred residential area with the construction of several fine homes by leading Denton business leaders. In 1883, Jessie and Addison E. Graham, early merchants on the downtown square, built a home in High Victorian Style, dubbed the 'house of seven gables' at present-day 700 West Oak Street (now demolished). Addison E. Graham also served in multiple local roles, like as a member of committee to secure the College of Industrial Art (present-day Texas Woman's University) to Denton.<sup>92</sup>



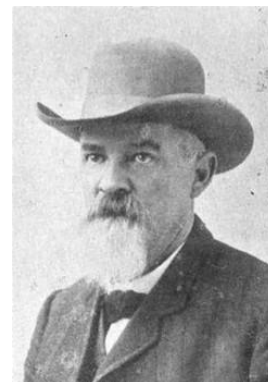
Dr. Curvier Lipscomb supported the new community with his medical practice from his family home, built in 1885 at 802 West Oak Street (now demolished). In 1886, Annie and Robert C. Scripture, grocers

<sup>92</sup> Bates, Ed, History and Reminiscences of Denton County, (Denton, Texas: McNitzky Printing, 1918), Page 233.

<sup>93</sup> Dorothy Bertine, Watercolor of the "House of Seven Gables", the Addison E. Graham House.

and merchants at the Scripture building on the Denton Square, built their home at present-day 819 West Oak Street. Others soon followed, displaying newfound wealth with homes built to convey grandeur, splendor, ambition, and achievement.

The Raley family built their home at present-day 801 West Oak Street in 1895, with Raley commuting to the downtown square initially to his pharmacy and then as president of the Denton County National Bank. Priestly Lipscomb, Dr. Lipscomb's brother, built a home for his bride in 1895 at present-day 918 West Oak Street. The Mount family built mirror-image homes in 1896 at present-day 305 and 403 Mounts Street on their farm land after the original homestead burned on the "Mount's street." Otis Graham, merchant on the downtown square, built a Queen Anne style home at present-day 723 West Oak Street in 1898. George Henry (G. H.) Blewett, Denton Milling Company founder, built his home in 1900 at present-day 903 West Oak Street. Ed. Bates provides this biography for George Blewett:



Born in Warren County, Kentucky, November 15, 1846. Came to Texas in 1853 and lived in Richardson, Dallas County, until 1890, when he moved to Denton County. In 1873, he married Miss Elizabeth Skiles.

Blewett organized the Denton Milling Company and was its president and a director in the Denton County National Bank from its organization. He was an elder in the Presbyterian Church for many years. He died in Denton, June 4, 1917.<sup>94</sup>

There were 14 structures built by year during this period:

- 1 home – 1878
- 1 home – 1883: A.E. Graham Home (demolished)
- 1 home – 1885: Dr. Lipscomb Home (demolished)
- 1 home – 1886
- 2 homes – 1890
- 1 home – 1893
- 3 homes – 1895
- 1 home – 1897
- 3 homes - 1898

## 1900 to 1922

The area around West Oak Street continued to develop. Successful ranchers and farmers built city homes, supported by their agricultural accomplishments. A representative story is the influence by George Blewett on Jim Christal to build a home on West Oak Street while Jim was president of the Denton Milling Company. James Russell (Jim, also known as J.R.) Christal, purchased the land at present-day 722 West Oak Street at the corner of West Oak and Mounts streets on April 4, 1905.<sup>95</sup>

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<sup>94</sup> Bates, Ed, *History and Reminiscences of Denton County*, (Denton, Texas: McNitzky Printing, 1918), Page 69.

<sup>95</sup> Deed Record, Private Collection of Annetta Ramsay and Randy Hunt, Denton.

Jim Christal and his wife Margaret Louisa McKenzie owned the Golden Hoof Ranch, 5 miles west of Denton. They designed and built their city home in 1906, using the Christal's knowledge of Greek and Italian architecture for the exterior of the home while the interior was influenced by a new American style that became known as Craftsman. The family lived in their unusual home during weekdays, returning each weekend to the Golden Hoof Ranch via horse and buggy housed in their carriage house behind their home. As a Denton city resident, Jim Christal became president of the Exchange National Bank of Denton on the downtown square and served on the new Board of Regents of Texas Normal School beginning in 1911.<sup>96</sup>

West Oak Street became the street for downtown homes for other ranchers. The Evers owned a ranch north of Denton at the site of present-day Evers Elementary School and Evers Park. The downtown business, Evers Hardware, was a favorite place to purchase items for home construction and repairs. The Evers built their home at 1035 West Oak Street in 1903. The Rayzor family owned a ranch west of Denton at the site of present-day Rayzor Ranch. Their ice company supplied the city with 10-, 25-, 50-, or 100-pound blocks of ice for ice boxes. They built their home in 1913 at 1003 West Oak Street.

The encouragement for the Carroll Estates residential development occurred with the leadership of Jim Christal, president of the Exchange National Bank in 1913. The Simmons family built the first home in the area in 1915 at 607 Pearl Street. Gregg Street is the namesake of family of the Gregg Ranch.

Denton City Schools built a new Denton High School building; and by 1915, the former John B. Denton College building was fully incorporated as part of the city's high school. This triggered the creation of a new residential area, replacing the original Mounts family farm. Mounts 2 Plat was created in 1916 by John Mounts; the *Denton Record-Chronicle* noted this development:

### ***Three new streets to open in Mounts Addition***

*John Mounts, who was here in Denton last week from Frederick, Oklahoma, has made arrangements to open up several streets in the Mounts Addition just west of the High School and expects to put the lots on sale in the near future.*

*Work has already started opening up Haynes Street, running west just north of Gregg Avenue, the house in which W. W. Wright lived having to be moved. Mr. Wright has purchased the old Mounts homestead and has already moved into it. Another new street, to be called Anderson Street, is being opened up north of Haynes Street, and a third, called Amarillo, is to run the length of the addition from Gregg Avenue to the Scripture Addition.*

*All three of the streets are to be graded up and possibly concrete sidewalks will be built about the fifty lots that will be opened up for sale. The small five-room house which Mr. Wright has been living has been moved to Anderson Street and will be remodeled entirely and modern conveniences added.<sup>97</sup>*

High School 1 Plat was generated in 1917, creating Congress and Egan streets. Lots along Congress Street began development in 1917, and the south side of Egan Street started growth in 1921. Home

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<sup>96</sup> Bates, Ed, *History and Reminiscences of Denton County*, (Denton, Texas: McNitzky Printing, 1918), Page 213.

<sup>97</sup> *Denton Record-Chronicle*, September 30, 1916.

builders and new homeowners increasingly looked toward plan books and floor plans offered by the local lumberyards. House plans began to shift from custom homes to standardized floor plans with preference to four-square styles and Craftsman style bungalows. New housing flourished along West Hickory Street between the North Texas State Normal College and the downtown square. The same occurred around the new location of Denton High School on the John B. Denton College campus. Craftsman style homes proliferated in these newly platted areas for residential development. There were 89 structures built during this period:

- 1 home – 1900
- 2 homes – 1903
- 1 home – 1904
- 2 homes – 1905
- 1 home – 1906
- 1 home – 1907
- 1 home – 1908
- 1 home – 1909
- 4 homes – 1910
- 1 home – 1911
- 1 home – 1912
- 2 homes – 1913
- 3 homes – 1914
- 1 home - 1915
- 7 homes – 1916
- 6 homes – 1917
- 4 homes – 1918
- 11 homes – 1919
- 11 homes – 1920
- 13 homes – 1921
- 15 homes – 1922

## 1923 to 1929

In the mid-1920s, Denton promoted itself as “The Ideal Home City” and suburbs to the downtown area developed rapidly as more efficient modes of transportation evolved.<sup>98</sup> A majority of this development was incentivized with the opening of the senior high school on Congress Street, as lots on surrounding streets along West Oak and West Hickory streets, Carroll Estates, and the Mounts areas became filled with new residential homes.

The residential area flourished with building of new homes. The 1924 opening of the Senior High School at 709 Congress created the development of High School Plat 2 in 1923 and High School Plat 3 in 1924.<sup>99</sup> The large number of Craftsman style homes in the area is a reflection on the 12-year period of growth

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<sup>98</sup> U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Historical and Architectural Resources of Denton Texas. May 1999, Page 17.

<sup>99</sup> <http://apps.dentoncounty.com/website/historicalmarkers/historical-markers.htm#Denton%20Senior%20High%20School>

from 1916 to 1927 when 170 homes were completed, more than 50% of the homes built in the district. New home construction peaked in 1924 with the completion of 42 new homes. There were 110 homes built between 1923 and 1929:

- 23 homes – 1923
- 42 homes – 1924
- 23 homes – 1925
- 11 homes – 1926
- 4 homes – 1927
- 4 homes – 1928
- 3 homes – 1929

### 1930 to 1950

The Great Depression had impact on this area. In 1930, the North Texas State Normal College began conservation training on topics like how to halt erosion. Over 700 persons enrolled in classes, but closer to 3,000 actually attended. The city encouraged any vacant residential lots to be used by the local community as vegetable garden plots. With the creation of the federal Works Progress Administration (WPA), new construction projects began, including the paving of residential sidewalks, many of which continue service in this area. The WPA also provided new water and sewer lines, along with flood control projects in creek beds on the north boundary of this area. Residential housing growth continued as war plant workers in the Dallas and Fort Worth defense plants found homes in this area. Employees at these defense plants received rations of gasoline and tires to ease their commute from Denton along new roads created by the WPA linking Denton with the Dallas and Fort Worth region. By 1938, Denton began to recover from the Depression.<sup>100</sup> Building permits rose steadily from 1935 to 1941; however, the advent of World War II halted almost all construction in the city.

The local private airport, Hartlee Field, opened a pilot training facility in 1941, shortly before the beginning of World War II, which quickly expanded with the beginning of the war. Between 1941 and 1943, over 4,000 pilots received training, some housed in dorms constructed by the WPA at North Texas State Teachers College, while others lived with residents in this area, walking to classes. Many area residents housed future pilots and students who could not find housing in the limited availability of campus dorms.<sup>101</sup>

Post-war construction beginning in 1946 more than doubled the number of building permits from 1941, assisted with home loans available through the G.I. Bill. Residents also supported students attending the college by renting rooms and converted garages. The population of Denton increased over 90% in ten years with an influx of residents and students. The 1940 population of 11,192 grew to 21,345 in 1950. The end of the war marked the construction of the Homer Flow Memorial Hospital, fronting Ponder Street. There were 76 structures built during this period:

- 1 home – 1930
- 3 homes – 1931
- 1 home – 1933

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<sup>100</sup> Dale Odem, *An Illustrated History of Denton County*, Pages 80-82.

<sup>101</sup> National Park Service. *Historical and Architectural Resources of Denton Texas*. May 1999, Page 20.

- 1 home – 1935
- 5 homes – 1936
- 3 homes – 1937
- 6 homes – 1938
- 10 homes – 1939
- 14 homes – 1940
- 4 homes – 1941
- 1 home – 1945
- 11 homes – 1946
- 5 homes – 1947
- 6 homes – 1948
- 1 home – 1949
- 4 homes - 1950

## Denton Recent Past (1950-present)

The town of Denton became a burgeoning city by the mid-1950s. The original city limits were expanded as the city of Denton grew, in part with pressures created by the North Texas State University development as well as the construction of Interstate 35 during the 1950s supporting major vehicle transportation between Denton to Fort Worth and Dallas. Retail shopping areas developed into strip shopping centers along University Drive, a mile north of the square. The downtown square was bypassed as the center of business activities.

Expansion focused away from the downtown square with the 1954 relocation of the Federal Civil Defense Administration offices from Dallas to Denton, now known as FEMA Region 5 located in east Denton. This national defense underground control facility, constructed during the height of the Cold War, also brought the development of the Federal Nike Missile Base north of Denton and the creation of the National Guard Armory west of Denton. Additional public institutions followed, like the Denton State School for mentally challenged persons built south of Denton.

Denton development expanded around the exterior of the city, leaving the downtown square isolated. Businesses moved to new locations; and by the 1980s, few businesses remained on the square. There was discussion of destroying the county courthouse in the center of the square to attempt a revitalization of the downtown area. Bullett Lowry, chair of the Denton County Historical Commission and Professor of History at the North Texas State University, realized the potential economic development benefits of preservation. With support of residents living between the downtown square and the University, pressured by the destruction of residential areas, Lowry led preservation efforts for the City Council's adoption of a Historic Preservation Ordinance in 1980 to support the preservation of remaining historic resources. The establishment of a downtown Main Street program followed with the 1986 restoration of the Denton County Courthouse in the middle of the square. With Lowry's leadership, the downtown square was recognized in 2000 as the Denton County Courthouse Square Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places.<sup>102</sup>

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<sup>102</sup> <http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/tx/denton/state.html>

## Architects, Builders and Contractors

Very few homes built prior to the 1920s were designed by architects. When future home owners were ready to build a new home, they would select designs from pattern books. Builders would then customize the patterns to the desires of the home owners. These early homes were very individualized in order to satisfy the owners and resolve solutions by the builder to construct the homes. The only common factor was that wood was shipped by rail to Denton and design elements were typically purchased in one of the hardware stores, like Evers Hardware on the square.

For the John B. Denton College neighborhood, several outstanding builders, contractors, and architects created a number of well-crafted homes. The homes referenced below are present structures, unless referred to as having been demolished.

Builders and contractors were typically local men who gained knowledge of carpentry and other skills from other masters. Architects designed major buildings until the mid-1920s when they also created custom home designs for future homeowners.

### Frank Craft – Builder (5/9/1859 – 3/28/1924)

Frank Craft represented versatile skills in building various styles of homes from Queen Anne, Renaissance Revival to Italian Villa. Before the inclusion of architects, Craft worked with the home owners from design books that ranged from Victorian to Classical Revivals with elaborate touches from Gothic, Italian and the new style of Craftsman. Craft also helped in the construction of multiple buildings in Denton, like the Methodist Dormitory built at the CIA (College of Industrial Arts, present-day TWU) in 1907<sup>103</sup> (demolished in 1955) and the home of Edmund Bates<sup>104</sup>, author of “History and Reminiscences of Denton County” and teller at the Exchange National Bank, working with then-president Jim Christal.

Born in Adams, Illinois, in 1859, Frank moved to Denton, Texas by 1884<sup>105</sup>, became a contractor and builder, and married Julia Carlton from Tarrant County on August 14, 1887. Craft was a member of the Denton County Old Settlers Association<sup>106</sup> and added his name in his donation for the sidewalk created in 1923 for the Robert E. Lee School.<sup>107</sup> He and his wife are buried at the IOOF Cemetery in Denton.

Homes credited to Frank Craft:

- 1898:
  - 723 West Oak Street built for Otis Graham (Son of A. E. Graham)
- 1903:
  - 1035 West Oak Street built for the Evers Family
- 1906:
  - 722 West Oak Street built for the Christal Family
  - 719 Sycamore Street built for the Edmund Bates Family
- 1907:
  - Methodist Dormitory at the College of Industrial Arts, present-day TWU

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<sup>103</sup> Denton Record-Chronical, Jan 28, 1951, Page 1.

<sup>104</sup> Denton Record-Chronical, Jan 28, 1976, Page 3A.

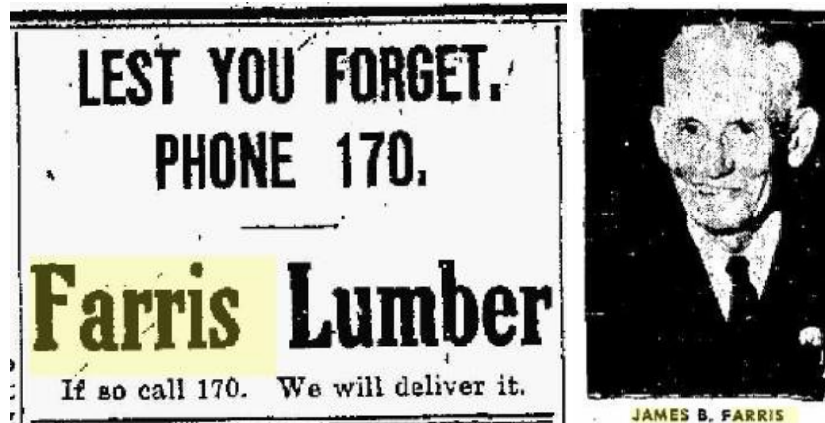
<sup>105</sup> Denton Record-Chronical, Jul 4, 1976, Page 4E.

<sup>106</sup> Denton Record-Chronical, Jul 3, 1955, Page 2.

<sup>107</sup> Denton Record-Chronical, Jun 27, 1976, Page 11A.

### J. B. (James Binkley) Farris – Homeowner and Builder (9/19/1873 – 4/13/1951)

Farris is recognized as one of the early business leaders of the new town of Denton.<sup>108</sup> He was a lumber merchant in Denton by 1918, shipping lumber to Denton via railroad box cars.<sup>109</sup> He owned the Farris Lumber Company for about 25 years while engaged in farming, ranching, and the cotton business in Denton, as well as lumber and hardware business in Oklahoma.<sup>110</sup>



A native of Denton, Farris was one of the first students at the North Texas Normal College, earning a certificate in business. He married Sallie Glenn Robinson in Denton on October 21, 1896. About 1902, they moved to Johnston, Oklahoma, returning to Denton about 1909.<sup>111</sup>

In 1913, he became the original home owner of 610 West Oak Street designed as a Prairie style bungalow. He built his next home in 1924 at 818 West Oak Street as a Craftsman style brick bungalow. His third home, built in 1935, was at 300 Amarillo Street where he and his wife resided and where Sallie operated a child care facility. J. B. and Sallie Farris are buried at the IOOF Cemetery in Denton. Homes credited to J. B. Farris:

- 610 West Oak Street built in 1913
- 818 West Oak Street built in 1924
- 300 Amarillo Street built in 1935

### C. C. Yancey – Builder and Real Estate Developer (9/30/1876 – 2/22/1944)

Charles (C. C.) Yancey was born in Maxville, Kentucky, and his family moved to Texas by 1886. He married Maggie McNeil, a native of Denton, on June 20, 1900 in Denton.<sup>112</sup> In 1908, he became a realtor in Denton<sup>113</sup>, building his residence in 1911 at 715 West Hickory Street. The father of two daughters, he was part of the organizing board creating the Denton Girl Scouts in 1912.<sup>114</sup> His wife was a school

<sup>108</sup> Bates, Edmund Franklin, *History and Reminiscences of Denton County*, (Denton, Texas: McNitzky Printing, 1918), Page 70.

<sup>109</sup> Denton Record-Chronical, 11 Nov 1918, Classified Advertisement Page.

<sup>110</sup> Denton Record-Chronical, 15 Apr 1951, Page 2.

<sup>111</sup> <http://person.ancestry.com/tree/25506507/person/26146131061/facts>

<sup>112</sup> <http://person.ancestry.com/tree/70059111/person/32213127330/facts>

<sup>113</sup> Denton Record-Chronical, 23 Feb 1944, Page 2.

<sup>114</sup> Denton Record-Chronical, 9 Mar 1952, Section Two.

teacher in Denton, beginning before the 1900s, and was very active in Denton, including her involvement with the United Daughters of the Confederacy.<sup>115</sup>

In 1920, the largest planned development to date by a single builder occurred when C. C. Yancey purchased the large block of land east of the Evers House from Mr. A. F. Evers for \$18,000.<sup>116</sup> This was heralded by the *Denton Record-Chronicle* as “one of the largest residential property [developments] made in a number of years in Denton.” The lot had frontage on West Oak and West Hickory Streets of 240 feet and a depth of 320 feet.

Seven homes were built on this lot:

- 1920:
  - 1023 West Oak for Judge J. W. Sullivan
- 1922:
  - 1006 West Hickory built as an investment
  - 1004 West Hickory for Mrs. J.C. Weaver
  - 1000 West Hickory for W.T. Bolton
- 1923:
  - 1015 West Oak for Daisy Cunningham
  - 1010 West Hickory built as an investment
- 1929:
  - 1011 West Oak Street for Elizabeth & James Anderson

With the success of real estate dealing, he then built a new home for his family in 1922 at 918 Haynes Street. Charles and Maggie Yancey are buried at the IOOF Cemetery in Denton.

### H. F. Davidson, Contractor (5/22/1859 – 6/12/1931)

Henry Francis (H. F.) Davidson was a prolific builder of structures in Denton. Born in Tennessee in 1859, he married Willie Salyer in Williamson, Texas on April 9, 1891.<sup>117</sup> In 1904, they relocated to Denton with their family of six children, while expecting a son who was born in Denton in 1907. They are both buried in the IOOF Cemetery in Denton.

He constructed a house in 1904, originally located at 607 Bell Avenue in the African American community of Denton called Quakertown. The house is now located at 317 West Mulberry Street and Carroll Boulevard in the Historical Park of Denton County, Denton. The Denton County African American Museum is located inside this “Quakertown” house.<sup>118</sup> In 1928, he completed the Women’s Club Building at 610 Oakland Street.<sup>119</sup> Davidson was contractor for five homes in this area:

- 1914:
  - 1018 West Oak for Eva & J. A. Long
- 1922:
  - 1108 Congress Street for Harry Smith

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<sup>115</sup> Denton Record-Chronical, 22 Nov 1959, Page 2.

<sup>116</sup> Denton Record-Chronical, 01 Jun 1920, Page 2.

<sup>117</sup> <http://person.ancestry.com/tree/29492627/person/12186242712/facts>

<sup>118</sup> <http://apps.dentoncounty.com/website/historicalmarkers/historical-markers.htm#Quakertown%20House>

<sup>119</sup> Jim Bolz, Tricia Bolz. Denton County in Post Cards, Arcadia Publishing, 2010, page 19.

- 1923:
  - 1015 Egan Street for Robert Storrie
- 1924:
  - 1109 Congress Street for Elaine & George Morrell
- 1926:
  - 911 West Oak for Ailey & Dr. Martin, behind their home at 812 West Hickory Street

### I. T. Naugle, Contractor (7/16/1878 – 10/7/1949)

Ira Thomas Naugle was born in Itasca, Texas, on July 16, 1878, and married Georgia Vestal on May 6, 1900, in Hillsboro, Texas.<sup>120</sup> The picture is of the newly married couple on their wedding day.<sup>121</sup>



They moved to Denton in 1913, with their four surviving children, where he became a contractor of multiple homes and businesses for 35 years until his death in 1949.<sup>122</sup> Ira and Georgia are buried at Roselawn Memorial Park in Denton.<sup>123</sup> Naugle built 16 homes in the boundaries of this area, some with partners, plus his own home at 525 Denton Street:

- 1919:
  - 423 Mounts Street for Junia E. & Ethel L. Hudspeth
  - 309 Amarillo Street for Loula M. & John T. Baird
  - 409 Amarillo Street for Ernest R. and Annis McClendon
- 1920:
  - 405 Amarillo Street for Ernest R. and Martha A. McClendon
  - 407 Amarillo Street for DeWitt T. and Modena McClendon (demolished)
- 1921:
  - 906-908 Haynes Street for E.R. & Annie McClendon
  - 1102 Congress Street for Arlene Swofford (Naugle & Overall)

<sup>120</sup> <http://person.ancestry.com/tree/1667201/person/6095968738/facts>

<sup>121</sup> <http://mv.ancestry.com/viewer/cc4a82a7-d4a8-4c97-9a55-026ae927a1dd/1667201/6112005503>

<sup>122</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle, 11 Oct 1949, Page 2.

<sup>123</sup> <http://person.ancestry.com/tree/1667201/person/6112005503/facts>

- 1923:
  - 604 Pearl Street for Elizabeth DeLamatter (Naugle & Reeves)
  - 806 Anderson Street for Wright W. & Bertha Stevens
- 1924:
  - 511 Parkway Street for E.B. & Inez H. Tobin (Naugle & Reeves)
  - 501-503 Parkway Street for Sarah Gibbs (Naugle & Reeves)
  - 918 Panhandle Street for Louie E. Johnson (Naugle & Reeves)
- 1925:
  - 607 Parkway Street for T.B. Reeves
  - 517 Parkway Street for M.D. & Ruth Penry (Naugle & Reeves)
- 1926:
  - 603-605 Parkway Street for Maud Melton (Naugle & Reeves)
- 1931:
  - 1022 Congress Street for F.H. & Sallie E. Vestal

### T.D. Wynn, Contractor (7/3/1862 – 1/31/1938)

Thomas Douglas (T. D.) Wynn was a well-known builder of many homes and structures in Denton, such as of the present-day Fred Moore School, contracting with the Denton City Schools on June 20, 1915, to build a 'negro' school building using Acme Bricks from the Denton plant.<sup>124</sup> Born in Hillsboro, Texas in 1862, he married Martha Ann Grady of Denton on December 25, 1889, in Denton, Texas. The Wynn family with seven children lived in Denton by 1895.<sup>125</sup> Wynn built his own home at 817 Anderson Street in 1924. A member of the I.O.O.F. in Denton, he died on January 31, 1938, and he and Martha are buried in the IOOF cemetery.<sup>126</sup> Wynn built ten homes in the boundaries of this area:

- 1918:
  - 511 Pearl Street for Julian & Idella Scruggs, owners of a clothing store on the square
- 1923:
  - 417 Amarillo Street for Stephen H. and Zula Fay Wisdom
- 1924:
  - 614 Parkway Street for J.W. & Clellie Tackitt
  - 817 Anderson for T.D. & M.A. Wynn as their personal home
  - 917 Egan Street for J.W. & Byrdie Rochelle
  - 1003 Egan Street for B.P. & Eunice T. Wynn
  - 916 Panhandle Street for William C. and Mary Selman
  - 1010 Panhandle Street for L.H. and Alyne Ligon
- 1925:
  - 1018 Egan Street for C.P. & Hazel Hendley
- 1926:
  - 811 Anderson as a contractor which he sold the following year

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<sup>124</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle, 20 June 1934, Page 2.

<sup>125</sup> <http://person.ancestry.com/tree/86028064/person/38524060720/facts>

<sup>126</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle, 22 Feb 1938, Page 4.

**R. L. McGalliard, Contractor (12/9/1880 – 5/24/1971)**

Raymond Lealand (R. L.) McGalliard was a native of Lake Dallas in Denton County and was a building contractor in Denton.<sup>127</sup> The picture is of the McGalliard family, R.L is to the left of his mother.<sup>128</sup>



Back row L-R:

Nadia Christine, Lula Vivian (frat twin,) James Luther (frat twin,) Millard Mack

Middle row L-R:

Goeth Alva, Raymond Leland, Susan Samantha (mother) Thomas Alva (father) Geneva (Jean)

Front row L-R:

Myrtle Almeta, Vernia Venezuela.

He married Ella Caroline Masten in Denton on August 10, 1905. McGalliard built homes throughout Denton, one recorded permit was for a \$3,500 residence on Bell Avenue in 1937.<sup>129</sup> He built six homes in the boundaries of this area:

- 1925:
  - 916 Anderson Street for C.A. & Mildred Montgomery
  - 917 Anderson Street for D.N. & Alta Mae Womack
  - 904 Panhandle Street for D. L. & Maurine Myers
  - 1122 Panhandle Street for George W. Arthur
- 1926:
  - 414 Amarillo Street for David N. & Alta Mae Womack
- 1928:
  - 1002 Egan Street for A.S. & Lavinia Crout

<sup>127</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle, 24 May 1971, Page 2.

<sup>128</sup> <http://mv.ancestry.com/viewer/9406b0be-0e2b-4cf8-b4d1-01117124a2e7/76899876/42353165230>

<sup>129</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle, 06 Nov 1937, Page 1.

## G. W. Martin, Contractor (7/17/1872 – 3/20/1948)

George Washington (G. W.) Martin owned the G. W. Martin Lumber Company, begun by 1919.<sup>130</sup> Born in Arkansas in 1872, he married Eudora in Denton.<sup>131</sup> He and C. C. Yancey were members of the Denton Chamber of Commerce as early as 1919, sponsoring newspaper advertisements like the one below.<sup>132</sup> With the opening of the Denton High School next to the former John B. Denton College, he became very involved in the supply of materials for the new homes and was a member of the Lumberman's Convention through the 1940s.<sup>133</sup> George and Eudora are buried at the IOOF Cemetery in Denton. He built five homes in the area, one as his personal residence:

- 1921:
  - 820 Anderson Street for Eudora and G.W. Martin as their personal home
- 1924:
  - 1100 Egan Street for L.E. & Helen Akers
  - 1101 Panhandle Street for Carrie E. and R. L. McGalliard, home for another contractor
  - 1118 Panhandle Street for E.B. and Velma Wynn
- 1925:
  - 1103 Panhandle Street for John W. and Esther Ratliff

**Is Your House Your Home?**

*You Will Never Know the Real Happiness of Home Until You Are a Home Owner!*

You, Mr. Renter, in compelling your family to live in rented houses—this one now and another next year—not only deny yourself one of Life's greatest satisfactions—but *deprive your children of their natural birthright!*

Many of our fondest memories are those in our childhood homes. Would you withhold from your little ones those same sacred, happy memories in after years? It is in the Home that your children first base their concept of life—of duty and industry and responsibility. Denying them a home of their own *now* robs them of those memories and the high ideals, the saving influences, which would help carry them safely through life.

Too often the words of Failure are these: "I never had a chance!" You owe your children that chance—that opportunity to make good. You owe them your help, your support, your guidance. You owe them the safety and protection of a home, because it is in the *owned* home, in the home that is *theirs*, that the cardinal principles of life are most indelibly stamped.

A home that you own, by its very stability and permanency, will impress your family with that self-respect and responsibility which come through being an established part of a community. Children who live here today and elsewhere *never* acquire the home idea of satisfactions and constancy. Instead, they receive impulses to flight and shift which may follow them all through life!

It is only right and fair to your family that you provide them the safety and protection of their own home! And the most satisfactory way to secure that home is to *build it*! It can then be made in accordance with your ideals and desires and to meet the needs of your family. It can be *where* you would have it and *exactly what* you would have it.

**Build Now!** There is no possible reason why you should longer deny yourself and your family the privilege of *real* life. Not a thing is to be gained by waiting. Authorities are agreed that you can build *now* as economically as at any time in the future that can yet be foreseen. For your own peace of mind—for the happiness and contentment and safety of your family—because of the debt you surely owe your little ones, do not delay.

**Chamber of Commerce, Denton**

MEMBER LIST:  
L. S. BARNES LUMBER CO.  
C. C. YANCEY LUMBER CO.  
C. C. YANCEY LUMBER CO.  
C. C. YANCEY LUMBER CO.  
C. C. YANCEY LUMBER CO.  
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C. C. YANCEY LUMBER CO.

<sup>130</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle, 07 May 1919, Page 2.

<sup>131</sup> <http://person.ancestry.com/tree/41892708/person/29339559001/facts>

<sup>132</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle, 24 April 1919, Page 16.

<sup>133</sup> Denton Record-Chronicle, 15 Apr 1939, Page 1.

## Wiley Clarkson, Architect (11/28/1885 – 5/5/1952)

Clarkson was a prominent Texas architect who received his training at the Armour Institute of Technology and the Chicago Art Institute. He designed in the Neoclassicism, Gothic, and Italianate styles, later moving into Modern and Art Deco. Clarkson was appointed the supervising architect for the FHA and designed many works for the WPA. He designed a variety of building types, ranging from houses and schools to commercial buildings and courthouse.<sup>134</sup>

As the Denton City Schools designated the lower part of the John B. Denton College lot for the new Senior High School, Clarkson was selected as their architect. During the 1923-24 construction of the Senior High School at 709 Congress, Dr. Thomas Dobbins served as president of the school board. He contracted with Clarkson to design his new home at 915 West Oak Street built in 1926. Clarkson also designed the Women's Club Building at 610 Oakland Street, built by H. F. Davidson in 1928.

Based in Fort Worth, Clarkson designed a large number of the finest homes built in Fort Worth, the bulk of his work being in Ryan Place and Rivercrest. In 1919, his firm, W. G. Clarkson and Company, designed work of all types, including a number of banks and school buildings, residences, industrial buildings and Fort Worth landmarks, like First United Methodist Church and Methodist Hospital. Local structures include:

- 1922:
  - Robert E. Lee Elementary School (closed in 1957)
- 1923:
  - 709 Congress Street as the Denton Senior High School
- 1926:
  - 915 West Oak Street for Dr. Thomas Dobbins
- 1928:
  - 610 Oakland Street as the Women's Club Building



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<sup>134</sup> [http://www.clarksons.org/W%20G%20Clarkson%20Architech/wiley\\_gulick\\_clarkson.htm](http://www.clarksons.org/W%20G%20Clarkson%20Architech/wiley_gulick_clarkson.htm)

<sup>135</sup> <https://www.flickr.com/photos/mikecochran/albums/72157627794628933/page1>

## Significant Buildings within the District

### Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks

Recorded Texas Historic Landmarks (RTHL) are properties judged to be historically and architecturally significant. The Texas Historical Commission (THC) awards RTHL designation to buildings at least 50 years old that are worthy of preservation for their architectural and historical associations. This is a designation that comes with a measure of protection under state law. The purchase and display of the RTHL marker is a required component of the designation process. The owner's consent is required to nominate the property as a RTHL.

Name	Address	Construction Date	Marker #	RTHL Date
Scripture-Deavenport House	819 W Oak	1886, 1912	4207	1980
Rayzor-Graham House	928 W Hickory	1912	4617	1989
Martin-Russell House	811 W Oak	1926	13907	2007
Denton Senior High School	709 W Congress	1924, 1953	15689	2009
James & Eva Rayzor House	1003 W Oak	1909	17263	2012
Christal House	722 W Oak	1906	18102	2015
Mounts-Wright House	403 Mounts	1898		2016
Robert Mounts House	305 Mounts	1898		2016
Simmons-Maxwell House	607 Pearl	1915		2016

According to the provisions of [Texas Government Code, Chapter 442, Section 442.006 \(f\)](#), the exterior appearance of RTHL buildings and structures should retain their historical integrity after designation. A person may not change the historical or architectural integrity of a building or structure the commission has designated as a RTHL without notifying the commission in writing at least 60 days before the date on which the action causing the change is to begin. The THC has review authority on the exterior of the building or structure. Under the RTHL regulations, the THC has no review authority over most interior changes unless the proposed changes have the potential to affect the exterior of the building or structure. Unsympathetic alterations to RTHL properties result in the removal of the designation and marker with governing rules located at [Texas Administrative Code, Title 13, Chapter 26, Rule 21.11](#).

### Scripture-Deavenport House- 819 West Oak Street, built 1886

The original part of this house was built in 1885-86 for local grocer Robert C. Scripture and his wife Annie (Brown). It was later owned by Robert Hann, a merchant and civic leader. Constructed as an Italianate residence, it was remodeled and enlarged about 1912 during the ownership of banker B. H. Deavenport. The Mission Revival changes were completed by M. B. Whitlock, a local contractor, and feature a decorative rose window on the third floor. (THC RTHL marker #4207, 1980)<sup>136</sup>

Annie and Robert Scripture constructed the Scripture Building on the Square in 1882 to house their grocery business. In 1886, their home at 819 West Oak Street was completed, using locally fired brick handmade in Denton, of the same design as used at their business. The original house was a two-story Italianate style structure. They sold their home on May 10, 1890, to Edmund Hann, a dentist, who transferred the title to Robert Hann, his father. Robert Hann, who with his brother John Hann, owned

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<sup>136</sup> <http://apps.dentoncounty.com/website/historicalmarkers/historical-markers.htm#Scripture-Deavenport%20House>

the dry goods store on the south side of the square. Robert was active in the founding of the North Texas Normal College on the square and helped to secure the donated land on West Hickory which became the future home of the University of North Texas. Robert Hann sold their home in 1905 to Berry Deavenport. These two images are of the original structure built by the Scripture family.



Berry (B. H.) Deavenport (2/2/1858 – 11/12/1918) was the son of Colonel Mathew (M. W.) Deavenport, one of the earliest millers in Denton, owning a mill that ground grain into flour. Col. Deavenport was also a banker and one of the ten men who founded the North Texas Normal College. Berry Deavenport helped to organize the Denton County National Bank in 1892, where he was a director and the initial cashier. He also owned an insurance agency, was city treasurer and a member of the school board.



Berry and Mary Deavenport created extensive changes to the original home in 1912. The house was doubled in size and the exterior appearance altered to Mission Revival Style. They built two cottages behind their home in 1916 at 818 and 822 West Hickory Street. Following Berry's death, Mary moved to 822 West Hickory Street and sold the home to Mrs. Nannie Turner. In 1976, Carroll and Betty Rich purchased the home. Carroll secured the first RTHL marker for a home in Denton in 1980 as he worked with Bullett Lowry to secure the historical preservation ordinance efforts and historic landmarks.<sup>139</sup>

<sup>137</sup> 819 West Oak c1902, private collection of the Hann family.

<sup>138</sup> 819 West Oak with the Hann family, Blewett House on the right. Private collection of the Hann family.

<sup>139</sup> RTHL application to the Texas Historic Commission, provide by Carroll Rich.

## Rayzor-Graham House - 928 West Hickory Street, built 1912

Business and civic leader J. Fred Rayzor (1890-1965) had this home constructed in 1912 by local builder M. T. Goodwin. It was purchased in 1941 by W. E. Graham (1890-1963) and remained in his family until 1974. Features of the one-story American foursquare home include bungalow details in the door, columns, and windows. Also of note are the central entry in the deep attached porch, a hipped dormer, and washboard siding. (THC RTHL marker #4207, 1989)<sup>140</sup>

J. Fred Rayzor (9/25/1890 – 1965) married Lucile Edmonds (9/20/1892 – 1945) on 11/9/1910. They purchased the lot at 928 West Hickory from his father, J. Newton Rayzor (12/10/1858 – 6/4/1938) in 1911. The Rayzors contracted with M. T. Goodwin for a one-story frame house of six rooms on March 28, 1912, to be finished in 60 days for \$2,600.<sup>141</sup>



W. E. and Nannie Moody Graham moved from Lubbock, Texas to Denton in 1933. In 1941, they purchased this home from the Rayzors. When W. E. Graham died in 1963, Nannie continued to live in the house until she sold it in 1974. In 1986, John A. Kimmey purchased the house as his private residence. Kimmey historically restored the house and gained the RTHL marker for the house in 1988.<sup>142</sup>

KimmeY provided this summary in his RTHL documentation for the Rayzor-Graham House:

*The house was built at a time when Denton, and indeed, the rest of the country was on the brink of a new world. A new world of technological changes. A world in which the political and economic nature of the West would be forever changed with World War I. Architecture and all of the arts were looking to the future in the new century of change. The Victorian world was coming to an end and even the architectural style of 928 West Hickory speaks to these changes. The simpler more pragmatic style of the American Foursquare is intentionally the opposite of the flamboyant highly articulated Victorian style. Even though there were thousands of American Foursquare [homes] built between 1905 and 1925, they are fast disappearing from our neighborhoods. Unless some of them are preserved, there will be few left before many years have passed. Preservation and public recognition of them is a must.*

<sup>140</sup> <http://apps.dentoncounty.com/website/historicalmarkers/historical-markers.htm#Razor-Graham%20House>

<sup>141</sup> Mechanics Lien Records, Denton County, Texas, Vol. 2, pages 389-391.

<sup>142</sup> RTHL documentation provided to the THC. Private collection presented by Jimmey Kimmey, 2016.

*A community with no sense of its past has little hope for its future.*

### **Martin-Russell House - 811 West Oak Street, built 1926**

This prominent residence was built in 1925-27 at a cost of \$30,000 for Dr. M.L. Martin (1869-1941) and his wife, Ailsey (Forester) Martin (1890-1968). Ailsey grew up on the nearby Forester Ranch (established 1852) and received one-third of the ranch of the famous "Two-I-Jinglebob" brand when it was divided in 1913. Dr. Martin was born in South Carolina and received degrees from Peabody College (Nashville, TN) in 1892 and the University of Texas at Austin in 1899. He served in the medical corps during World War I and was a doctor in Denton for forty years until his death.

Pilot Point native James Holford Russell and his wife, Ava Lee (Mars) Russell, bought this property in 1945. J.H. Russell earned a degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1919 and for decades managed Russell's Department Store, part of a family business that debuted in Denton in 1925. He was also a civic leader and Texas Woman's University Regent. The Russells lived here until 1967.

Fort Worth architect J.B. Davies designed the house, with H.F. Davidson as carpenter and Charles N. Davis in charge of brick and concrete work. The home has an attic and basement and 14 rooms, with a sun parlor, living room, dining room, breakfast room, kitchen and reception hall on the first floor, and four bedrooms, a sleeping porch, library and two bathrooms upstairs. Prominent features of the Georgian Revival style house include its red brick veneer and white stone trim, green-tinted metal tile roof with dormers, arched windows with keystones, pedimented entryway door surround, wrought iron balconies and symmetrical massing. Since its construction, the house has been the scene of numerous social and community events. (THC RTHL marker #13907, 2007)<sup>143</sup>



On October 23, 1967, Mrs. Russell sold the home to Dr. Jerry Don (1938- ) and Dolores May Warden (1935-) Vann. Don and Dolores Vann married on June 12, 1958. He joined the English faculty of North Texas State University in 1964. Dolores Vann was president of the Ariel Club and became active in historical preservation when the house across the street was demolished and replaced with an apartment complex. Dolores was a prime mover in establishing the Oak-Hickory Street Historical District in Denton. She authored a series of newspaper articles on historic Denton homes, published in the Denton Record-Chronicle as part of the 1976 Bicentennial Celebration.

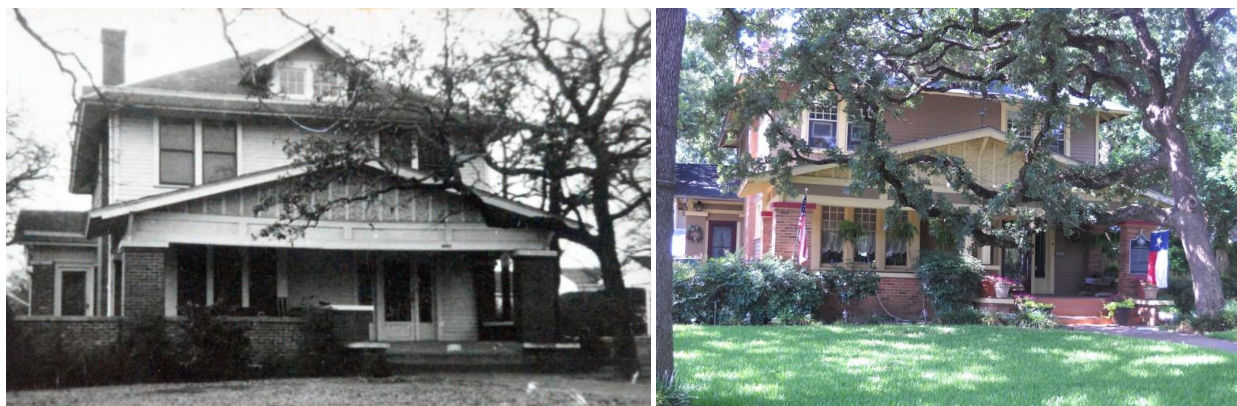
<sup>143</sup> <http://apps.dentoncounty.com/website/historicalmarkers/historical-markers.htm#Martin-Russell%20House>

The Martin-Russell House maintains a rich visual contact with the past—a period when architecture was a primary means of expressing wealth, pride, ambition, and self-satisfaction.<sup>144</sup>

### James & Eva Rayzor House – 1003 West Oak Street, built 1909

James Newton Rayzor was born December 10, 1858 in Lockport, Kentucky. He immigrated to Texas in the fall of 1866 with his family and settled in Collin County. In 1871, the family moved to Cooke County where Rayzor later taught school at Prairie Grove and at Pilot Point and Mustang Community in Denton County. He moved to Denton in 1882 and married Eva Tabor, who was born May 18, 1864, in Pilot Point. Rayzor was involved in many business ventures including the Alliance Mill (now Morrison Milling Co.), Alliance Ice Company and Rayzor Ice Company. He was active in community organizations such as the Masonic Lodge, served as President of the Denton Chamber of Commerce, was a member of the John B. Denton College Committee that founded the School in 1901 and helped establish the State Industrial School for Girls (now Texas Woman's University). Rayzor served as a deacon at the First Baptist Church for 44 years and also authored several books about religion, history and his 1923 travels to Europe and the Holy land.

James and Eva purchased the property in 1906 and completed the home in 1909 with contractor M.T. Goodwin. This Prairie style home features horizontal lines, exaggerated overhanging eaves and a hipped roof over the second-story bedrooms. Ribbons of windows line the south and southeast side of the home, and repetitive millwork and tongue-and-groove oak floors complement the interior. The screened sleeping porch contained numerous beds for company and the family during hot summers. After James and Eva passed away in 1938 and 1939, respectively, their descendants owned the home until 1978. (THC RTHL marker #17263, 2012)<sup>145</sup>



In 1965 the Rayzor family transferred ownership of their home to their corporation which rented the house. Rollin and Barbara Singer purchased the house in 1978 as their family home with Dorcye, their daughter. The Singers helped restore the house and joined 19 other families in rezoning the property from multi-family zoning to return to single-family zoning as an initial step to support the neighborhood in preservation and as a family community.

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<sup>144</sup> RTHL application created for the Texas Historic Commission by Dr. Don Vann

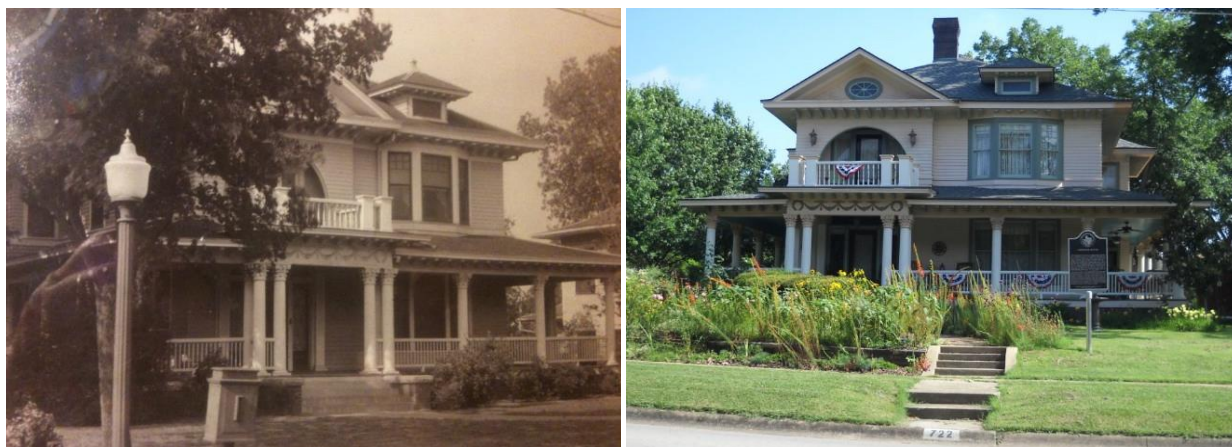
<sup>145</sup> <http://apps.dentoncounty.com/website/historicalmarkers/historical-markers.htm#Rayzor,%20James%20Newton%20and%20Eva%20Tabor%20Rayzor%20House>

JoAnn and Walter Richel purchased the home in 1995 and continued the historic renovations on the Prairie style home. Lucile Rayzor Hutchinson assisted the Richels in their efforts to secure the RTHL marker for the Rayzor family homestead in 2012.<sup>146</sup>

### Christal House – 722 West Oak Street, built 1906

Born to pioneers in 1859, James “Jim” Russell Christal was raised by his mother after age three when his father mysteriously died on a hunting trip. From age 12 to 27, Jim rose to the rank of Cowboy on his great-uncle Burk Burnett’s 6666 Ranch near Wichita Falls. Injuries forced his return to Denton, where he started the Golden Hoof Ranch, a showplace for award-winning sheep and cattle. He served as the president of the Alliance Milling Company from 1900 to 1909, vice-president of the Exchange National Bank from 1909 to 1912, and president from 1912 to 1926. He helped establish the North Texas Normal College, now known as the University of North Texas. Jim married Margaret McKenzie and had two children. A prolific reader, Jim corresponded with Henry Ford, Thomas Edison and others. He died in 1936, leaving a legacy in Denton as a charitable man.

Frank Craft, builder of other houses on West Oak Street, built this house in 1906 for the Christals. The house is high Victorian Italian Villa style, with a wide veranda on three sides supported by Corinthian columns. The Palladian entrance has leaded beveled glass side windows. The Craftsman style interior features tiger eye oak, bird’s eye maple and long leaf pine floors. The two-story house has six fireplaces. The Christals modified the original structure, adding a bay window in the front bedroom and enclosing the west rear porch. A carriage house behind the main house stored the house and buggy used to return to the Golden Hoof Ranch each weekend. (THC RTHL marker #18102, 2015)<sup>147</sup>



Bennett Woolley, the Christal’s grandson, provided details about his grandfather:

*He always walked or rode the trolley to work. On his way to work at the Exchange National Bank, he climbed the courthouse stairs to the bell tower as one of the select few responsible for winding the clock. Every morning my Grandpa walked around the Square, where he would stop and visit with Will Williams at his shoe and boot store, Bob or Dolph Evers at Evers Hardware, the barber shop and the Record and Chronicle office with the publisher about the news of the day. He would stop by the Exchange National*

<sup>146</sup> RTHL application created for the Texas Historic Commission by JoAnn Richel

<sup>147</sup> <http://apps.dentoncounty.com/website/historicalmarkers/historical-markers.htm#Christal%20House>

*Bank where he still had an office and at the Alliance Mill south of the Square where he was part owner.*<sup>148</sup>

John and Doris Favours purchased the house on March 4, 1958. Annetta Ramsay and Randy Hunt purchased the Christal House from their daughter in 2014 and secured the RTHL marker in 2015.<sup>149</sup>

### **Mounts-Wright House – 403 Mounts, built 1898**

The Mounts family first arrived in Denton County in the 1850s from Virginia. W. H. Mount (1833 – 1889) and his wife, Martha Elizabeth (Mattie) Mounts (1838 – 1914), were early residents of the new county seat of Denton, which had been moved from New Alton in 1857. Through their businesses, farming and landowning, the early family contributed significantly to the early development of Denton.

After W. H. Mounts bought 15 acres of land from his mother, Emily Mounts, on April 6, 1867, and the land became known as Mounts Farm. Cotton and fruit trees were grown behind the house. The original Mounts family home burned down in 1893, four years after the death of W. H. Mounts. In 1898, Mattie Mounts hired J. B. Wilson as the contractor for a new two-story house with eight rooms.

The house was built in the Queen Anne Style which was consistent with the popularity of Victorian-era architecture in Denton at this time. The exterior of the house features a veranda wrap-around porch, clapboard siding and fish scale shingles. The interior floors are of heart pine and the front door and stair balusters are examples of Eastlake lathe, gouge and chisel work. The diamond window at the downstairs landing is a focal point for the house's façade.

One of the Mounts' eight children, Sena Mounts, married William Wesley Wright in 1896 and the couple's five children were raised in the Mounts-Wright House. The house was officially deeded to Sena in 1914 at the time of her mother's death. Sena Wright died in 1952 and her husband lived in the house until his death in 1959. (THC RTHL marker, 2016)<sup>150</sup>



Mattie Mounts was a private teacher in Denton prior to public schools. She was a charter member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and her father was pastor. This home was built on the same floor plan as the Robert Mounts House. Sena Mounts taught in public school beginning in 1893. W. W. Wright was

<sup>148</sup> Letter from Bennett Woolley, Jr. Private Collection of Annetta Ramsay and Randy Hunt, Denton.

<sup>149</sup> RTHL application created for the Texas Historic Commission by Annetta Ramsay and Randy Hunt.

<sup>150</sup> THC RTHL marker located at 403 Mounts.

the oldest son of W. C. Wright of the Wright Opera House. He married Sena in 1896 in this home. They lived on the Wright Ranch until moving to the Mounts-Wright house when Mattie Mounts died.

William (Bill) and Linda Benton purchased the Mounts-Wright House in April, 1983, from the Wright family and began restoration and renovations until her death in 2011. Bill and Rose Benton secured the RTHL marker in 2016.<sup>151</sup>

### Robert Mounts House – 305 Mounts, built 1898

Robert Nobel Mounts (1863-1922) and Nannie Lee (Christal) Mounts (1870-1942) built this home in 1898. The Mounts family came to Denton County in the 1850s from Virginia. In 1857, Robert Mounts' father, W. H. Mounts, relocated his mercantile business from nearby Alton to the west side of the town square with the move of the Denton County seat. Robert Mounts' mother, Mattie Mounts, established the first Sunday school in Denton in 1868, and in 1892, opened the first kindergarten in Denton. This house sits on land once part of the Mounts Farm where they produced cotton, fruit and livestock.

Robert Mounts was important in furthering the ranching industry in Texas. As a young man, he worked at the 15,000+ acre Gregg Ranch northwest of Denton. After the death of Gregg Ranch owner, William Gregg in 1889, Mounts managed the ranch for many years. In 1899, Robert and Nannie Mounts moved to Hereford, Texas, where he owned a vast ranch consisting of 84,000+ acres, and was a county commissioner, city councilman, bank director and charter school board trustee. He was one of the foremost stockmen in the Panhandle and helped open Texas cattle markets to the north.

This Queen Anne Victorian house features clapboard siding, scrolled ornamentation, and typical Eastlake lathe, gouge, and chisel work. The signature diamond window is a visual focal point. The interior features heart-pine floors, and wooden ornamentation. The north wing was an early addition to the house, added to accommodate the office space needed when it was used by the Central Presbyterian Church as minister's manse from 1919-1943. (THC RTHL marker, 2016)<sup>152</sup>



Robert Mounts' home was built on the same floor plan as his mother's, the Mounts-Wright House, at 402 Mounts Street. Robert worked at the Gregg Ranch. Gregg Street is named for William Gregg. Haynes Street is named for Mattie Mounts' father, the Rev. John Haynes. Alice Street is named for Alice Mounts, and Sena Street and Aileen Street are named for Sena and Aileen Mounts, Robert's sisters.

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<sup>151</sup> RTHL application created for the Texas Historic Commission by Bill and Rose Benton.

<sup>152</sup> THC RTHL marker located at 305 Mounts.

The Central Presbyterian Church which developed from the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, purchased the house as a manse in 1919, and it was the parsonage for its ministers until 1943. The house hosted numerous weddings that took place in the front parlor, with each bride descending the staircase.

In 1988, Vicki and Brian Morrison purchased the Robert Mounts House and restored the home. They were involved in the creation of historic preservation in Denton and secured the RTHL marker in 2016.<sup>153</sup>

### **Simmons-Maxwell House – 607 Pearl, built 1915**

This Mission Revival style home was built in 1915 by prominent civic leader, James W. Simmons, and his wife, Susan S. Gregg, granddaughter of Darius Gregg, Denton county pioneer and founder of the Gregg Ranch. Reminiscent of the Gregg's heritage, the house is designed with an open floor plan, stucco walls, sunroom, pocket doors, a Mission Revival-style parapet, hemlock front door and leaded glass windows.

Col. F. W. and Alice "Louise" Maxwell purchased the home in 1948. Col. Maxwell, wounded in the Battle of the Bulge, was a decorated veteran of WWI and WWII. Louise received the top service award from the American Red Cross for volunteer work from 1918 – 1958. (THC RTHL marker, 2016)<sup>154</sup>



James Wiley Simmons and Susan Speed Gregg Simmons purchased Lot 7 and part of Lot 8 in 1914 and included Lots 4, 5, and 6 in 1915. Susan is the daughter of William Bowen Gregg, who married Emma Bell Mounts. The Simmons selected the Arts and Crafts style interior based on aesthetics, beautifully handcrafted household objects, useful and uncluttered home decor, homes and landscapes built with local materials, and home environments blended with nature. The Simmons sold their home in 1937 to Mrs. Eva Greer, who sold it in 1944 to C.E. Wallis in 1944.

In 1948, Colonel Frederick W. Maxwell and his wife, Alice "Louise" Maxwell, purchased the home. A veteran of two wars, he served in the 99th Division during WWII's historic Battle of the Bulge and was awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. Following WWII, the Army assigned him to assist in post-war Germany and Japan as a procurement officer.

Mrs. Louise Maxwell and her daughters accompanied Colonel Maxwell on his deployments and were avid collectors of high-quality, decorative arts and souvenirs from all over the world. Their daughter Sally was an accomplished vocal musician, opera singer and graduate of NTSC who died tragically in July, 1960. In 1960, The Sally Maxwell Sharples Memorial Scholarship was established in memory of Sally and is still being awarded by the UNT College of Music. Daughter Elizabeth Maxwell is a graduate of TWU

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<sup>153</sup> RTHL application created for the Texas Historic Commission by Vick and Brian Morrison.

<sup>154</sup> THC RTHL marker located at 607 Pearl

and received her Doctorate of Education in 1974. She was the supervisor of Oklahoma State University's English Education until 1990.

In 1980, Kathy Barnett purchased the home from the estate of Mrs. Louise Maxwell. The home was awarded a City of Denton Historic Landmark in 1981 and became part of the original Oak-Hickory Historic District in 1986. Kathy and Bill Barnett secured the RTHL marker in 2016.<sup>155</sup>

## Grassroots Historic Preservation

New home construction in the area was generally complete by 1950 with few open residential lots remaining vacant. As demand for student housing continued, residential homes were purchased by Denton families for income production and converted to rental properties. The sudden growth of student housing between the downtown square and the college stressed neighborhood streets with additional traffic.

In the early 1970s, the college extended its boundary east, and blocks of residential homes were demolished. The residents of West Oak Street were invited to a neighborhood meeting where city employees presented their plan for the street. The city's vision was for West Oak Street to become a continuous strip shopping mall from the courthouse square to Avenue C, and for Bernard Street to be extended to Oak Street. The Blewett house at 903 West Oak Street would be demolished to accommodate the Bernard Street extension to support the college's eastern boundary. Dolores Vann, a new resident of West Oak Street, had observed the destruction of many elegant old homes along Welch Street (namesake of Col. Otis G. Welch<sup>156</sup>) in the blocks south of West Hickory Street. Vann organized a delegation of homeowners who called on the college president, and the city's plans were discontinued.

Vann's important realization was that the people of the city needed to understand the significance of the historic homes. She set out to educate city leaders by providing presentations to civic and church groups with slides of stately homes and summaries of their histories. Vann tirelessly attended breakfast and lunch meetings, such as the Kiwanis and Lions Clubs, to gain support for preservation. She was aided in this effort by a brochure entitled "Denton's Silk Stocking Row," prepared by Linda Lavender, who was director of the College Historical Museum and resided on West Oak Street.

In the mid-1970s, city staff "mistakenly" rezoned the entire residential area to become multi-family plats, and many family homes were demolished for the construction of apartment buildings and more student housing. Property values fell as the residential area was threatened with mass conversion to student housing. Since the City Council had quietly re-zoned the area, the "mistake" could not be undone. Properties could only be rezoned back to single-family designation by application from each owner. Vann led residents in grassroots efforts for historic preservation and started a campaign for each home owner to rezone their lots from multi-family back to single-family housing, unsupported by the city and local developers.

Vann, with other residents like Elizabeth Lomax, presented the need for historic preservation to community groups, churches, and banks. Vann began writing the histories of homes located on West Oak Street, while her friend Dorothy Bertine created watercolors of these homes. The Denton Record Chronicle published these historical accounts as part of the 1976 Bicentennial newspaper's celebrations

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<sup>155</sup> RTHL application created for the Texas Historic Commission by Kathy Barnett.

<sup>156</sup> Bates, Page 64.

The neighborhood experienced a blow with a devastating fire that almost destroyed the Evers house at 1035 West Oak Street. It lay in apparent ruins for a long period until the owner, Dolph Evers, decided on restoration of the family home, but was going to remove the second story in the manner that buildings on the square were restored after fire. Yvonne Jenkins, Elizabeth Lomax, and Dolores Vann called on Mr. Evers and convinced him to restore the entire house. The lumber from the Schmidt House being demolished for the expansion of Carroll Boulevard, was donated, and community volunteers descended on the Evers house every weekend for months, clearing out the burned debris. Local architect, Isabel Miller, directed the restoration work.

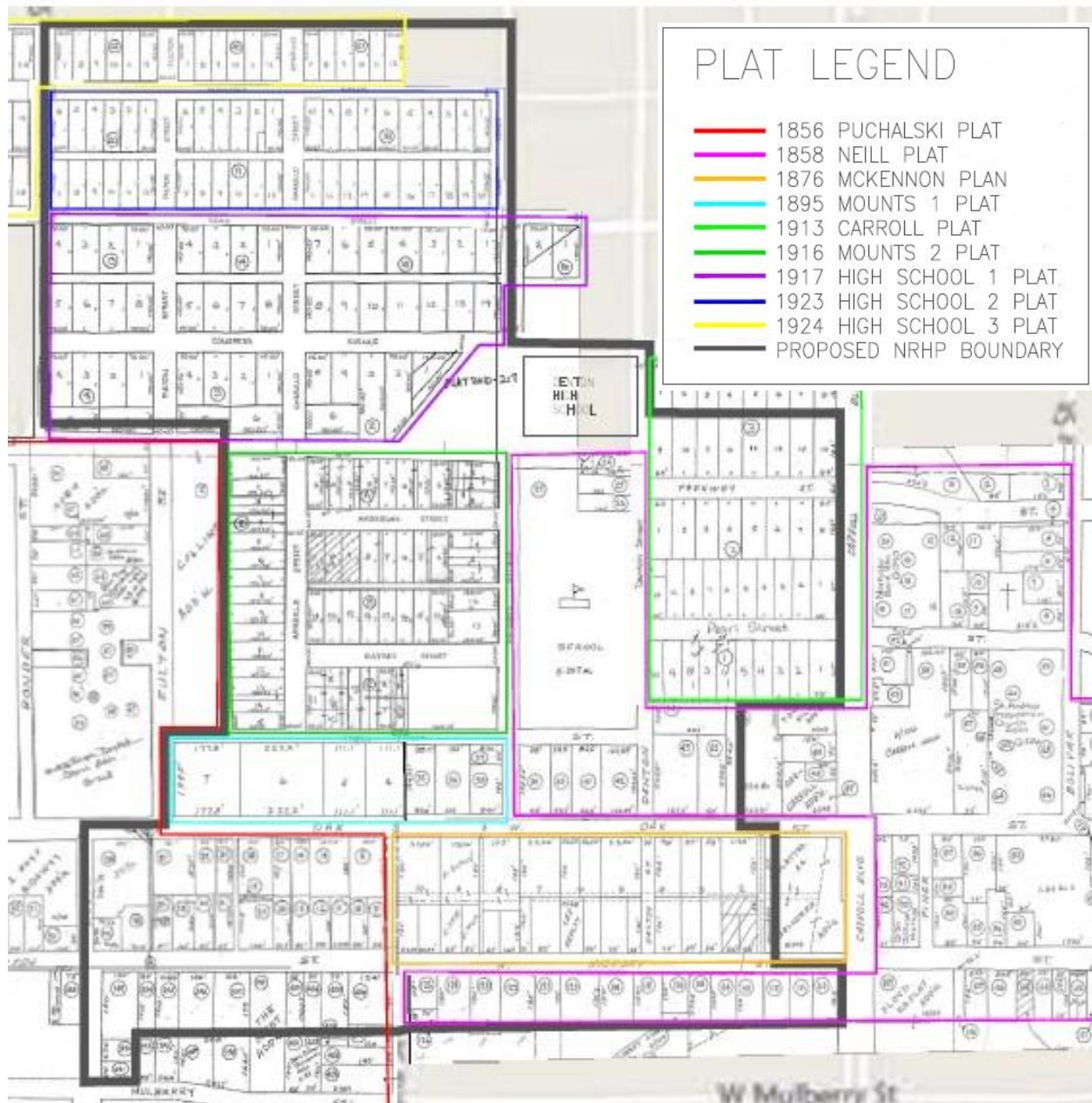
Bullitt Lowry worked with Vann and other residents to establish historic preservation efforts. This led to the 1980 city ordinance to preserve historic resources with the creation of the Oak-Hickory Historic



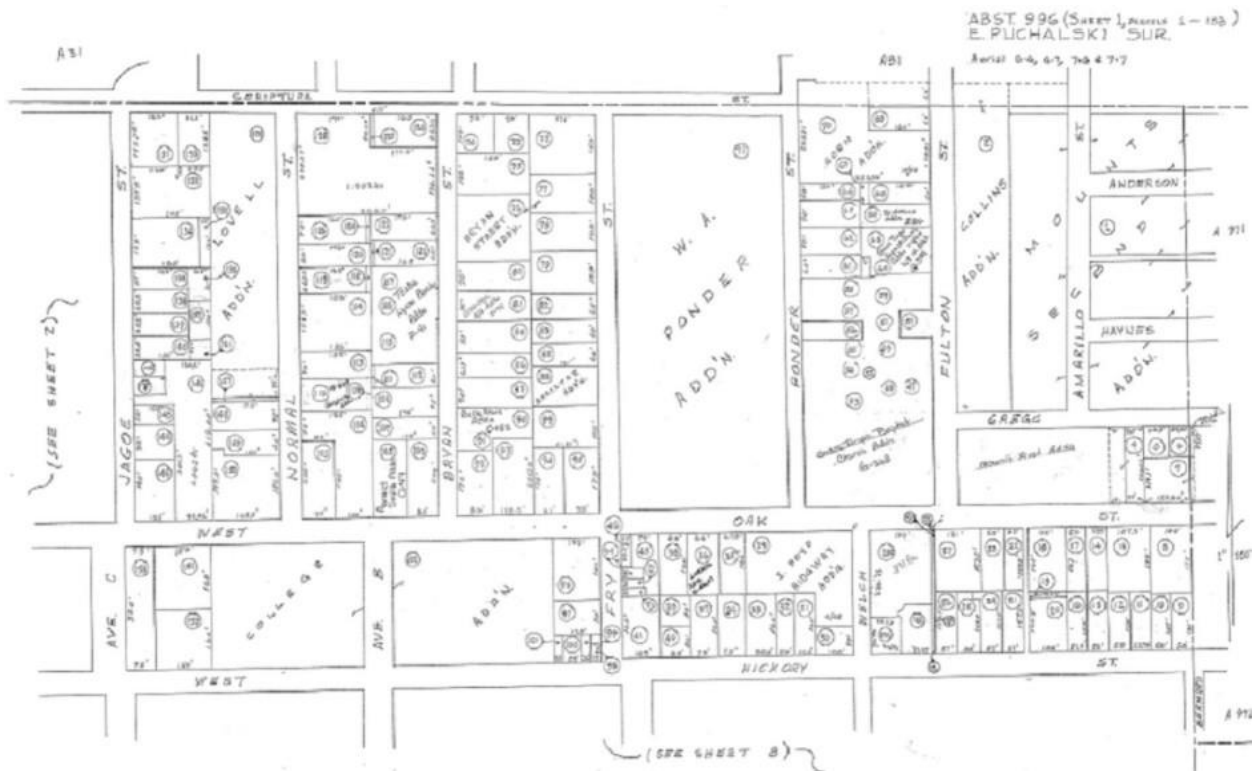
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District and the Main Street program. The county led preservation efforts with the restoration of the Denton County Courthouse in 1986, which resulted in the revitalization of the downtown courthouse square around the seat of county government. Denton now proudly advertises its historical buildings. Many beautiful homes have been lovingly restored. Much of what we cherish about this residential area, we owe to the work of Dolores Vann. Historic preservation continues to be powered by grassroots efforts from residents of historic homes in Denton.

## Plat Development History



## 1856 Puchalski Plat:



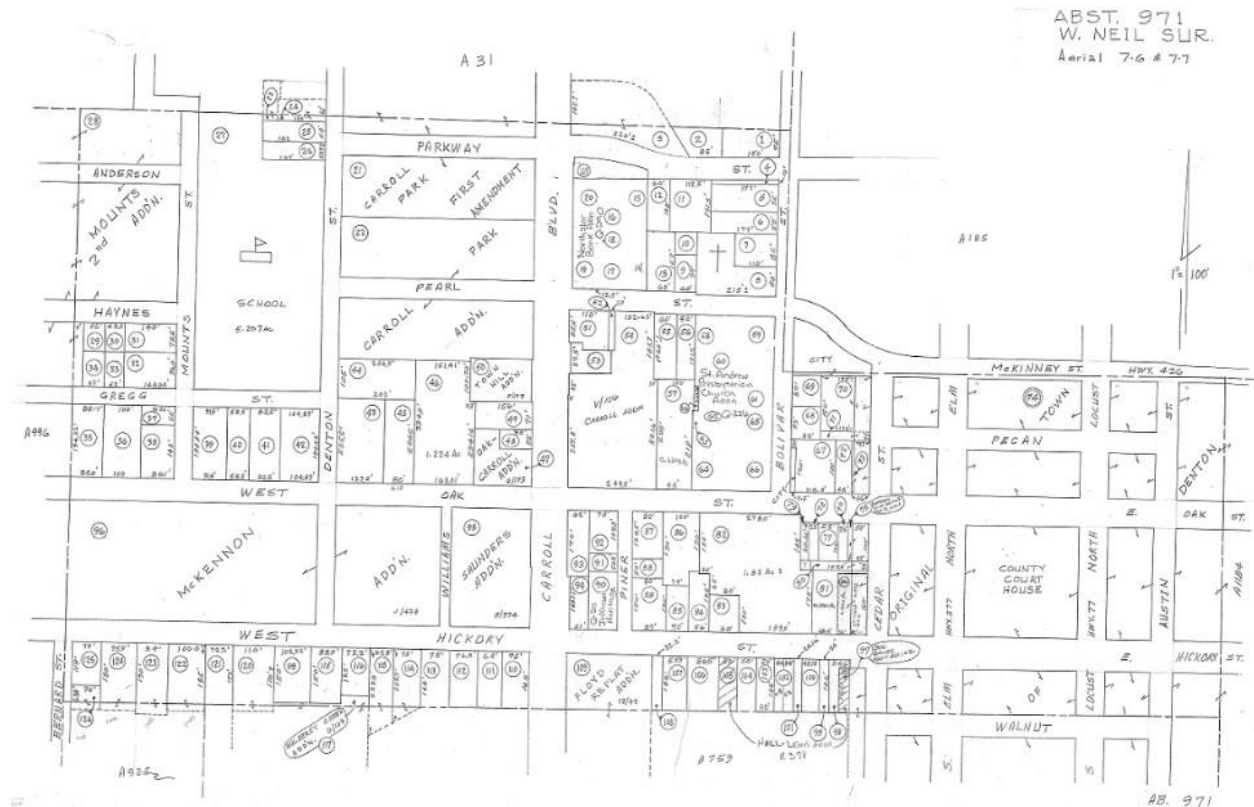
Eugene Puchalsky, the namesake of the Puchalski Plat, volunteered in the Texas army about a month after the Battle of San Jacinto. The new government for the Republic of Texas was uncertain if the Mexican Army would again attack. In this new and fluid period for the Republic, calls were made for volunteers, especially from New Orleans, to ready an army.

Private Puchalsky served in the Price's Company of the Texas Mounted Volunteers in 1836. "Pucholasky, E." (Eugene Puchalsky) is listed as an immigrant to Texas from Germany in 1836 and as a "German in the Texas War for Independence" in the Harrisburg (present-day Harris) County as he was issued 1/3 of league of land (1,475 acres) for his service as "soldier" for the Republic. As an individual, he is not mentioned in early Denton histories, but his service to the Republic gained this land grant to Private Puchalski, a new German immigrant.<sup>158</sup>

From this plat, other subdivision plats were created with the later purchase of land by individuals. Note on the right side, reference to the Mounts 1 and Mounts 2 Plats.

<sup>158</sup> <https://dentonlibrary.wordpress.com/2015/02/07/in-the-weeds-2415-who-was-eugene-puchalski/>

## 1858 Neill Plat:



Recorded history of the Neill Plat originates with the first instrument of conveyance in 1839, from the Republic of Texas to William Neill for receipt of 640 acres of land as payment for services in the Texas-Mexican War of 1836. The Republic of Texas' Secretary of War, A. Sidney Johnston, issued certificate #9324 on November 13, 1839 as a land grant to Neil, in the future region of Denton, Texas. R. W. Woodruff acquired 100.5 acres in 1855 from the original 640-acre Neill track. The City of Denton was named the County Seat in 1857, and the first city lots were auctioned.

In 1858, Woodruff's widow, Louisa E. Woodruff, subdivided the acreage into 14 lots and one extra lot of more than 20 acres which she donated for the formation of the City of Denton. Her gift coincided with contributions by William Loving (40 acres) and Hiram Sisco (40 acres) creating the new City and County seat. Lot 13 was purchased by Judge Carroll, which became Carroll Estates and the Carroll Plat, and Lot 14 of 18.9 acres was purchased on January 28, 1859 which was later subdivided for the A. E. Graham House and two other houses with the land north of Gregg Street set aside of schools, the future location of the John B. Denton College.<sup>159</sup>

From this plat, other subdivision plat were created with the later purchase of land by individuals. Note on the left side, reference to the Mounts 2, Carroll, and McKennon Plats.

<sup>159</sup> Christal House RTHL application to the Texas Historic Commission, provide by Annetta Ramsay and Randy Hunt.

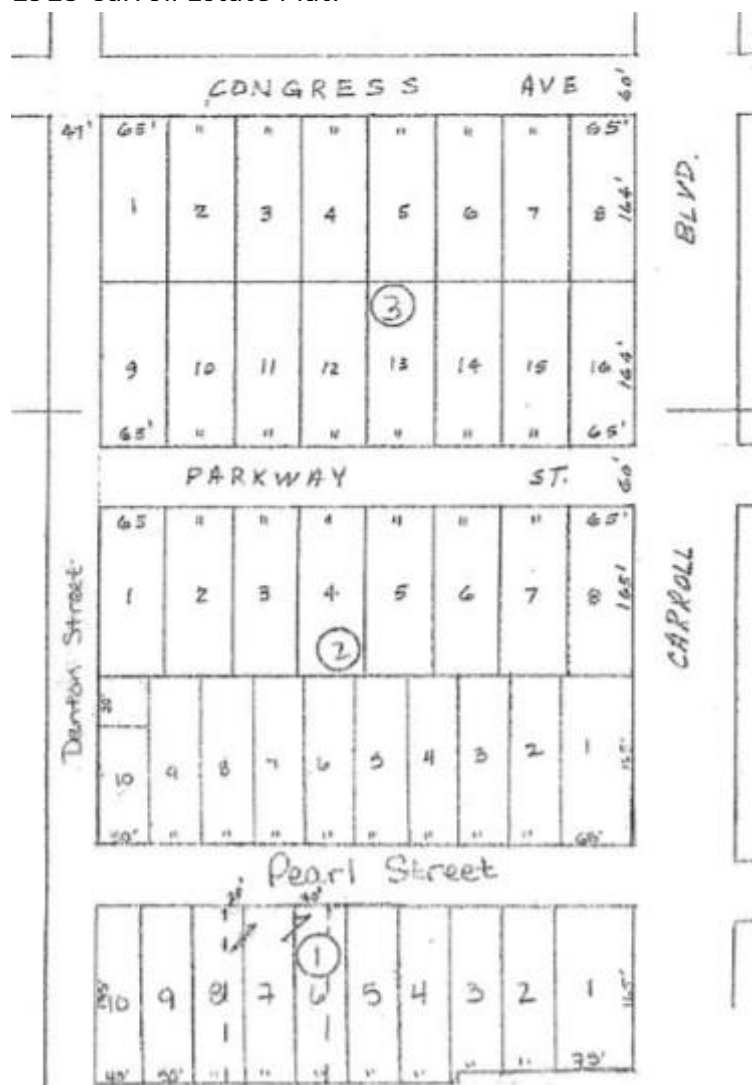
100' 180' 140' 120' 100' 80' 60' 40' 20' 10' 5' 2' 1' 1/2' 1/4' 1/8' 1/16' 1/32' 1/64' 1/128' 1/256' 1/512' 1/1024' 1/2048' 1/4096' 1/8192' 1/16384' 1/32768' 1/65536' 1/131072' 1/262144' 1/524288' 1/1048576' 1/2097152' 1/4194304' 1/8388608' 1/16777216' 1/33554432' 1/67108864' 1/134217728' 1/268435456' 1/536870912' 1/1073741824' 1/2147483648' 1/4294967296' 1/8589934592' 1/17179869184' 1/34359738368' 1/68719476736' 1/137438953472' 1/274877907344' 1/549755814688' 1/1099511629376' 1/2199023258752' 1/4398046517504' 1/8796093035008' 1/17592186070016' 1/35184372140032' 1/70368744280064' 1/140737488560128' 1/281474977120256' 1/562949954240512' 1/1125899908481024' 1/2251799816962048' 1/4503599633924096' 1/9007199267848192' 1/18014398535696384' 1/36028797071392768' 1/72057594142785536' 1/144115188285571072' 1/288230376571142144' 1/576460753142284288' 1/1152921506284568576' 1/2305843012569137152' 1/4611686025138274304' 1/9223372050276548608' 1/18446744100553097216' 1/36893488201106194432' 1/73786976402212388864' 1/14757395280442477728' 1/29514790560884955456' 1/59029581121769910912' 1/118059162243539821824' 1/236118324487079643648' 1/472236648974159287296' 1/944473297948318574592' 1/1888946595896637149184' 1/3777893191793274298368' 1/7555786383586548596736' 1/15111572767173097193472' 1/30223145534346194386944' 1/60446291068692388773888' 1/120892582137384777547776' 1/241785164274769555095552' 1/483570328549539110191104' 1/967140657099078220382208' 1/1934281314198156440764416' 1/3868562628396312881528832' 1/7737125256792625763057664' 1/15474250513585251526115328' 1/30948501027170503052230656' 1/61897002054341006104461312' 1/123794004108682012208922624' 1/247588008217364024417845248' 1/495176016434728048835690496' 1/990352032869456097671380992' 1/1980704065738912195342761984' 1/3961408131477824390685523968' 1/7922816262955648781371047936' 1/15845632525911297562742095872' 1/31691265051822595125484191744' 1/63382530103645190250968383488' 1/126765060207290380501936766976' 1/253530120414580761003873533952' 1/507060240829161522007747067904' 1/1014120481658323044015494135808' 1/2028240963316646088030988271616' 1/4056481926633292176061976543232' 1/8112963853266584352123953086464' 1/16225927706533168704247906172928' 1/32451855413066337408495812345856' 1/64903710826132674816991624691712' 1/129807421652265349633983249383424' 1/259614843304530699267966498766848' 1/519229686609061398535932997533696' 1/1038459373218122797071865995067392' 1/2076918746436245594143731990134784' 1/4153837492872491188287463980269568' 1/8307674985744982376574927960539136' 1/16615349971489964753149855121078272' 1/33230699942979929506299710242156544' 1/66461399885959859012599420484313088' 1/132922799771919718025198840968626176' 1/265845599543839436050397681937252352' 1/531691199087678872100795363874504704' 1/1063382398175357744201590727749009408' 1/2126764796350715488403181455498018816' 1/4253529592701430976806362910996037632' 1/8507059185402861953612725821992075264' 1/17014118370805723907225451643984150528' 1/34028236741611447814450903287968301056' 1/68056473483222895628901806575936602112' 1/136112946966445791257803613151873204224' 1/272225893932891582515607226303746408448' 1/544451787865783165031214452607492816896' 1/1088903575731566330062428905214985633792' 1/2177807151463132660124857810429971267584' 1/4355614302926265320249715620859942535168' 1/8711228605852530640499431241719885070336' 1/17422457211705061280998862483439770140672' 1/34844914423410122561997724966879540281344' 1/69689828846820245123995449933759080562688' 1/139379657693640490247990899867518161125376' 1/278759315387280980495981799735036322250752' 1/557518630774561960991963599470072644501504' 1/1115037261549123921983927198940145289003008' 1/2230074523098247843967854397880290578006016' 1/44601490461964956879

On February 2, 1872, Carter deeded 10 acres of this farmland to his youngest daughter, Sarah, and her husband, R. A. McKennon, an optometrist. Sarah McKennon, a widow in 1876, divided the land into lots as an addition to the town of Denton. The McKennon Plat is between West Oak and West Hickory Street, just west of present-day Carroll Blvd., west to Bernard Street. The Scriptures built their home at 819 West Oak, on the west end of the ten plotted lots.<sup>160</sup>

MOUNTS AVE.							40'
177.8'	222.2'	111.1'	111.1'	111.1'	111.1'	166.7'	
194.5'							194.5'
7	6	5	4	3	2	1	PUCHALSKI
177.8'	222.2'	111.1'	111.1'	111.1'	111.1'	166.7'	
OAK ST.							60'

<sup>160</sup> Scripture House RTHL application to the Texas Historic Commission, provide by Carroll Rich.

## 1913 Carroll Estate Plat:



The original John B. Denton College building, acquired by the Denton City Schools, became the first city high school in the fall of 1912. This area east of the high school between John B. Denton Street and Carroll Street was platted as Carroll Estates in 1913, to recognize the former estate of Judge Carroll. Pearl Street received its name because it was the most desirable street in the Carroll Estates.

In May 1913, the Denton Record-Chronicle reported, "At the request of J.R. Christal, J.C. Coit and other interested Denton citizens, (A.A.) Greene Jr. of Dallas has agreed to set a price for the sale of the old homestead of the late Judge Carroll, which he owns" to become a city park.<sup>161</sup> Instead, A. A. Green and Arthur Emery decided to develop the land and subdivided the property into lots. On July 24, 1913, they recorded a map and plat of the Carroll Park Addition.<sup>162</sup>

<sup>161</sup> Taylor, D.J. "Yesteryear 100 Years Ago," Denton Record Chronicle 19 May 2013.

<sup>162</sup> Denton County Real Property Records, Volume 75, Page 171

# 1916 Mounts 2 Plat:



Denton City Schools built a new Denton High School building, and by 1915, the former John B. Denton College building was fully incorporated as part of the city's high school. This triggered the creation of a new residential area, replacing the original Mounts family farm. This image of the Mount 2 Plat includes the renaming of Mounts Avenue as Gregg Street. The large block in the lower right was once part of the Robert Mounts House.

### 1917 High School 1 Plat:



The former John B. Denton College building, now the Denton High School, continued to serve in the role of education. Soon after 1912, the building experienced overcrowding, and in February 1916 ground breaking began for a new building north of the old college, at the corner of Denton and Gregg streets.

### 1923 High School 2 Plat:



In 1922, announcement was made for construction for a new senior high school building on the north end of the campus of the Denton High School and former John B. Denton College. The previous Denton High School building became the Denton Junior High School as the Senior High School opened in 1924.

### 1924 High School 3 Plat:



## Dates of Construction – Year Built; Address; Original Owner:

### 1882 – 1900 (14 structures)

- 1878
  - 609 W. Oak – O.K. Harry House, sold in 1885 to May Family and retained until 1979
- 1883
  - 700 W. Oak – Jessie and Addison (A.E.) Graham House (demolished)
- 1885
  - 802 W. Oak – Dr. Lipscomb House – purchased in 1874 from the Mounts (demolished)
- 1886
  - 819 W. Oak – Scripture House (RTHL) – Scripture Building (1882) on the Square
- 1890
  - 613 W. Hickory (demolished)
  - 620 W. Hickory (demolished)
- 1893
  - 904 W. Oak – J.C. Coit House (destroyed by fire in 1944)
- 1895
  - 707 W. Hickory
  - 801 W. Oak – Raley House – Raley Building (1885) on the Square
  - 918 W. Oak – Priestly Lipscomb House
- 1897
  - 1004 W. Oak - Woodward House
- 1898
  - 723 W. Oak – Otis Graham (Lomax) House
  - 305 Mounts – Robert Mounts (RTHL)
  - 403 Mounts – Mattie Mounts (RTHL)

### 1900 – 1922 (89 structures)

- 1900
  - 903 W. Oak – G. H. Blewett – Founder of Denton Milling Company and a bank executive
- 1903
  - 1035 W. Oak – Mary and Robert Evers – Evers Hardware store, south side of the Square
  - 920 W. Hickory
- 1904
  - 705 W. Oak – Millican House – By A.E. Graham as a wedding present for their daughter
- 1905
  - 716 W. Oak – Colonel T. W. Abney
  - 717 W. Oak – Professor J. A. Saunders, one of the first Presidents of the Normal College
- 1906
  - 722 W. Oak – Margaret & J.R. Christal (RTHL) – Golden Hoof; Exchange National Bank
- 1907
  - 807 W Hickory
- 1908
  - 801 W Hickory

- 1909
  - 1003 W. Oak – Eva & J. Newton Rayzor (RTHL) – Rayzor Ice Company, Alliance Milling
- 1910
  - 615 W. Oak – W. F. Hamilton
  - 515 W. Hickory
  - 710 W. Hickory
  - 804 W. Hickory – Mrs. Ora A. Harshaw
- 1911
  - 715 W. Hickory – C.C. Yancey
- 1912
  - 928 W. Hickory – J. Fred & Lucile Rayzor (RTHL)
- 1913
  - 610 W. Oak – J. B. Farris – lumber merchant
  - 722 W. Hickory
- 1914
  - 924 W. Oak – Paul & Margery Bird – Real estate abstractor and in real estate banking
  - 1018 W. Oak – Eva & J. A. Long
  - 907 W. Hickory
- 1915
  - 607 Pearl – James Wiley Simmons & Susan Speed Gregg Simmons House (RTHL)
- 1916
  - 616 W. Oak – A.F. & Annie Clare Schweer – President of First National Bank
  - 311 Mounts – Alvin & Louise Hill – President of Denton Trust Company at Square
  - 121 Welch
  - 117 Welch
  - 510 Pearl – Owen William Smith
  - 518 Pearl – Milton D. Penry
  - 606 Pearl – Maude E. Roop
- 1917
  - 607 W. Hickory
  - 612 Pearl – Felix B. & Rena G. Ross – Felix B. Ross was a Professor at C.I.A (TWU)
  - 619 Pearl – Raymond T. & Iris B. May
  - 906 Congress – W.W. & Ruth Alcorn
  - 1019 Congress – W.R. Piper
  - 915 Egan – J.R. & Ida Black
- 1918
  - 511 Pearl – Julian & Idella Scruggs – Owner of clothing shop on east side of the Square
  - 810 Congress – Mattie Morrison
  - 816 Congress – A.G. Davis
  - 907 Congress – Joe H. & Fannie B. Blanks
- 1919
  - 614 W. Hickory
  - 904 W. Hickory – E.K. Blewett
  - 906 W. Hickory – S.M. Richardson

- 213 Mounts – Sam P. Allison
- 411 Mounts – Charles C. Littleton (destroyed by fire in 1970)
- 423 Mounts – Junia E. & Ethel L. Hudspeth
- 309 Amarillo – John T. and Loula M. Baird
- 409 Amarillo – Ernest R. and Annis McClendon
- 802 Amarillo – G.W. Gilley
- 919 Congress – Cuvier Jr. & Birdie Lipscomb
- 1114 Congress - Cuvier Jr. & Birdie Lipscomb
- 1920
  - 1023 W. Oak – Judge J. W. Sullivan
  - 601 W. Hickory
  - 912 W. Hickory – A.B. Ivey
  - 1019 W. Hickory – R.A. Norman
  - 1022 W. Hickory – A.F. Evers, Jr.
  - 502 Pearl – WM Covey
  - 503 Pearl – J.A. Martin
  - 405 Amarillo – Ernest R. and Martha A. McClendon
  - 407 Amarillo – DeWitt T. and Modena McClendon (demolished 2015)
  - 913 Congress – Charles E. & Thula M. Caruth
  - 920 Congress – O.B. & Mary A. Horton
- 1921
  - 619 W. Hickory – Mrs. Frances Kelly
  - 823 W. Hickory – W.C. Collier
  - 1023 W. Hickory – Dr. W.N. Rowell
  - 512 W. Hickory – Carroll Yancey Garrison
  - 906 Haynes – E.R. & Annie McClendon
  - 910 Haynes – James H. Hollingshead
  - 820 Anderson – G.W. and Eudora Martin
  - 913 Anderson – D.F. & May Goode
  - 413 Amarillo – M.F. Wills
  - 901 Congress – Nick G. Zafonotis (destroyed by fire 1994)
  - 1101 Congress – Arlene Swofford
  - 803 Egan – Robert H. & Bertha Caldwell
  - 809 Egan – R.W. Bass
- 1922
  - 625 W. Hickory – J.W. Taylor
  - 814 W. Hickory – Methodist Church
  - 822 W. Hickory – Berry and Mary Deavenport
  - 911 W. Hickory – Mrs. Nannie Raney
  - 1000 W. Hickory – W.T. Bolton
  - 1004 W. Hickory – Mrs. J.C. Weaver
  - 1006 W. Hickory
  - 613 Pearl – M.S. & Mintie A. Acuff – Owner of Acuff & Co. clothing store on the Square
  - 620 Pearl – Sam P. & Mosceoline Allison – Allison's Pharmacy (destroyed by fire 1980)

- 811 Haynes – Will C. & Louie Sullivan
- 900 Haynes – Charles E. & Carrie Mae Crain
- 918 Haynes – Charles C. & Maggie Yancey
- 415 Amarillo – Albert J. and Frances Dodson
- 1005 Congress – A.K. Gillis
- 1108 Congress – Harry W. Smith

## 1923 – 1929 (110 structures)

- 1923
  - 1015 W. Oak – Daisy Cunningham
  - 902 W. Hickory
  - 1010 W. Hickory
  - 515 Pearl – A.C. & Willie P. Rayzor
  - 604 Pearl – Elizabeth DeLamatter
  - 806 Anderson – Wright W. & Bertha Stevens
  - 301 Amarillo – Charles A. and Mildred Montgomery
  - 403 Amarillo – Rufus W. and Louise McClendon
  - 417 Amarillo – Stephen H. and Zula Fay Wisdom
  - 1103 Congress – George W. & Elaine Morrel
  - 1113 Congress – Otis L. & Ruby (Emily) A. Fowler – namesake of the Emily Fowler Library
  - 806 Egan – J.T. & Flora D. Hughes
  - 812 Egan – Ernest W. Brock
  - 914 Egan – Carl C. Broyles
  - 918 Egan – Eric D. Porter
  - 1009 Egan – Robert C. & Verlie B. Barnett
  - 1015 Egan – Robert C. Storrie
  - 1016 Egan – Tom W. & Maude Johnson
  - 1019 Egan – J. Homer & Werdna Kerley
  - 1022 Egan – Claude O. & Lillian I. Russey
  - 1109 Egan – Charles E. & Thula Carruth
  - 1110 Egan – J.S. & Lavina Fowler
  - 1122 Egan – Claude O. & Lillian I. Russey
- 1924
  - 818 W. Oak – J. B. Farris
  - 800 W. Hickory
  - 501 Parkway – Sarah Gibbs
  - 511 Parkway – E.B. & Inez H. Tobin
  - 614 Parkway – J.W. & Clellie Tackitt
  - 815 Haynes – O.C. Knight
  - 914 Haynes – H. & Maggie Hamilton
  - 817 Anderson – T.D. Wynn
  - 906 Anderson – C.A. & Mildred Montgomery
  - 918 Anderson – R.A. McClendon
  - 519 Amarillo – A.K. Gillis

- 524 Amarillo – demolished in 2000
- 615 Amarillo
- 1109 Congress – George W. & Elaine Morrell
- 1117 Congress – Everett H. Farrington
- 802 Egan – Homer & Zella Trimble
- 810 Egan – John M. & Ada Kinard
- 900 Egan – C.O. & Sidney Hussey
- 917 Egan – J.W. & Byrdie Rochelle
- 1003 Egan – B.P. & Eunice T. Wynn
- 1012 Egan – Carl H. & Hazle Young
- 1100 Egan – L.E. & Helen Akers
- 1106 Egan – J.S. & Lavina Fowler
- 1114 Egan – Charles W. Davis
- 1118 Egan – P.G.W. Davis
- 805 Panhandle – J.T. McCrary
- 913 Panhandle – Cora E. and A.S. Keith
- 916 Panhandle – William C. and Mary Selman
- 918 Panhandle – Louie E. Johnson
- 920 Panhandle – J.H. and Christine Wright
- 1000 Panhandle – Mrs. R.W. Rushing
- 1002 Panhandle – R.G. and Louise Irvine
- 1006 Panhandle – Robert R. and Helen Goode
- 1010 Panhandle – L.H. and Alyne Ligon
- 1011 Panhandle – R.L. and Carrie E. McGalliard
- 1100 Panhandle – A.L. and Aileen Graham
- 1101 Panhandle – H. Ward and Mabel C. Lusk
- 1108 Panhandle
- 1114 Panhandle – A. and Edith Murray
- 1118 Panhandle – E.B. and Velma Wynn
- 615 Alice – Homer & Zella Trimble
- 723 Alice – N.V. and Opal Thurmond
- 1925
  - 916 W. Hickory – Jack Gray
  - 508 Pearl – Mattie E. Farris
  - 505 Parkway – William T. & Mable Rice
  - 517 Parkway – M.D. & Ruth Penry
  - 602 Parkway – H.P. & Amy Dell White
  - 607 Parkway – T.B. Reeves
  - 620 Parkway – Raymond & Clara Mae Allred
  - 916 Anderson – C.A. & Mildred Montgomery
  - 917 Anderson – D.N. & Alta Mae Womack
  - 411 Amarillo – W.R. and Prince Ella McClendon
  - 501 Amarillo – Lou S. and Roachell J. Massey
  - 900 Congress – A.A. McNitzkey

- 813 Egan
- 912 Egan – V.L. & Winnie Ree Brownlow (Destroyed by explosion in 2015)
- 1018 Egan – C.P. & Hazel Hendley
- 1121 Egan – Cuvier Jr. & Birdie Lipscomb
- 900 Panhandle
- 901 Panhandle – A.D. Huffines
- 904 Panhandle – D. L. and Maurine Myers
- 1012 Panhandle – J.W. and Alice Beaty
- 1103 Panhandle – John W. and Esther Ratliff
- 1104 Panhandle – F. B. and Eunice Ruddell
- 1122 Panhandle – George W. Arthur
- 1926
  - 811 W. Oak – Alisey & Dr. Milton L. Martin (RTHL)
  - 915 W. Oak – Etta & Dr. Thomas Dobbins
  - 500 Parkway – J.L. & Nora A. Ratliff
  - 502 Parkway – Mrs. T.B. Merrett
  - 603 Parkway – Maud Melton
  - 811 Anderson – T.D. & M.A. Wynn
  - 414 Amarillo – David N. and Alta Mae Womack
  - 1120 Congress – Foy E. Jr. & Virgie E. Wallace
  - 919 Panhandle
  - 1107 Panhandle – J.W. and Odessey Wallace
  - 717 Fulton – L.E. & Helen Akers
- 1927
  - 711 W. Oak
  - 921 W. Oak – P. E. McDonald – Dean at Normal School from 1917
  - 704 W. Hickory
  - 1014 Panhandle
- 1928
  - 619 W. Oak
  - 113 Welch
  - 606 Parkway – J.A. Cook
  - 1002 Egan – A.S. & Lavinia Crout
- 1929
  - 1009 W. Oak – Elizabeth & James Anderson
  - 700 W. Hickory – F.M. Vance
  - 915 Panhandle

### 1930 – 1950 (76 structures)

- 1930
  - 501 Mounts – Cora Solomon – Former Crains Grocery & Market store
- 1931
  - 818 W. Hickory – W.E. Williams – Owner of Williams Shoe Store on the square
  - 1006 Gregg

- 1022 Congress – F.H. & Sallie E. Vestal (not the original house)
- 1933
  - 615 Parkway – Arthur Anderson
- 1935
  - 300 Amarillo – J.B. and Sallie G. Farris
- 1936
  - 812 W. Oak – Barbara & Walter McClurkan – Owners of McClurkan’s Department Store
  - 519 Pearl – Lula Nelson
  - 1014 Congress – Frank B. & Evelyn W. Smith
  - 910 Egan – Charles Orlen Gray
  - 1008 Egan – Herbert Decker
- 1937
  - 923 W. Oak
  - 921 W. Hickory – W.T. Bailey
  - 919 W. Hickory – Frank and Helen Helse
- 1938
  - 109 Williams
  - 506 Parkway – Roy & Hazel Smith
  - 717 Amarillo – C.E. and Berneice Jones
  - 909 Egan – Noble O. & Elizabeth Collins
  - 1115 Egan – Gerald E. & Eloise Stockard
  - 1001 Panhandle – C.E. and Berniece Jones
- 1939
  - 608 W. Hickory – W.F. Hamilton
  - 1019 W. Hickory – Homer Curtis
  - 903 Haynes – Evelyn Patterson
  - 909 Haynes – James Herschel Parsons
  - 900 Anderson – W.D. and Mattie Street
  - 914 Anderson – John F. & Anna Vardy
  - 912 Gregg
  - 310 Amarillo – Frances and EM Richter
  - 1103 Egan – H.D. & Stella Roberts (not original house, built in 1923)
  - 1005 Panhandle
- 1940
  - 912 W. Oak – Tom and Philo Sample – ‘T.C. Samples Groceries’ at 41 West Hickory
  - 602 W. Hickory – L.W. Carter
  - 604 W. Hickory – L.W. Carter
  - 815 W. Hickory – Mrs. Mabel Ray
  - 905 Haynes – C.M. & Florence Simmons
  - 419 Mounts – Clarence & Marjorie Phillips
  - 908 Gregg – James and Mary Parsons
  - 905 Egan – S.L. & Ruby Lockhart
  - 906 Egan – John W. & Lola Reeves
  - 809 Panhandle – J.B. & Anna Rose Burrow

- 909 Panhandle – Ray Powell
  - 1009 Panhandle – (replaced a home built in 1924)
  - 1013 Panhandle – Marshall and Eloise Mordecai
  - 720 Fulton – Marshall and Eloise Mordecai
- 1941
  - 816 Haynes – G. Marlin & Ethel A. Smith
  - 904 Haynes – G.C. Norris
  - 1018 Congress – Fred Harper
  - 815 Panhandle – Fred W. and Aletha Clark
- 1945
  - 904 W. Oak – Mable Ray – (replaced 1893 Coit House destroyed by fire in 1944)
- 1946
  - 302 Denton – Lola Rogers – Cecil Jamison's sister from 616 W. Oak
  - 522 Denton
  - 526 Denton
  - 507 Amarillo – Earl L. and Eleanor M. Coleman/W.E. and Dora C. Vaughan
  - 511 Amarillo – V.A. and Lucille Grimes
  - 523 Amarillo – J.F. and Lois P. Edwards
  - 916 Congress – T. J. Roady
  - 910 Panhandle – Raymond D. & Lorene Spalding
  - 917 Panhandle – (replaced original house from 1928)
  - 1105 Panhandle
  - 720 Ponder
- 1947
  - 812 Haynes – Charlie M. & Anna Whitlock
  - 907 Anderson – J.E. & Helen A. Jones
  - 511 Mounts – V.A. & Lucille Grimes
  - 611 Amarillo
  - 1004 Congress – T.J. Roady
- 1948
  - 700 W. Oak – First Baptist Church (replaced 1883 Graham House, Church at 400 W. Oak)
  - 516 Parkway – R.B. Dicus
  - 818 Gregg – J.B. and Arleen Morrison (replaced a house built in 1927)
  - 901 Gregg – (built from remains of the Coit House at 904 W. Oak)
  - 904 Gregg
  - 907 Gregg – (built from remains of the Coit House at 904 W. Oak)
- 1949
  - 716 Ponder – Earl L. and Winnette Coleman
- 1950
  - 516 Denton
  - 820 Gregg – Ola Mae Leath (Akers)
  - 306 Amarillo
  - 722 Fulton

# City and County Proclamations

## Dolores Vann Day – City of Denton

### Proclamation

by the

Mayor of the City of Denton, Texas

To all to whom these presents shall come,

#### Greetings:

**WHEREAS,** Dolores Vann was a leading pioneer in historic preservation and inspired the citizens of Denton, Texas to preserve their history, and has received numerous awards from the Texas Historical Commission for her efforts; and

**WHEREAS,** she worked tirelessly educating the public about the value of historic preservation through numerous publications and public lectures which trained new leaders; and

**WHEREAS,** she stimulated and supported the creation of the City of Denton Historic Landmark Markers; and

**WHEREAS,** she led the effort to secure a Denton historic zoning ordinance, leading to the establishment of the Oak-Hickory Historic District, inspiring other such Districts; and

**WHEREAS,** she has been influential in encouraging the restoration of historical properties on Oak Street, especially in convincing Mr. Dolph Evers to restore the Evers house; and

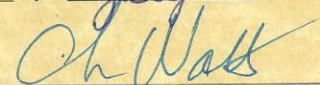
**WHEREAS,** she has been instrumental in improving the quality of life in Denton, Texas and the region surrounding, has procured a Texas State Historic Designation for her own home, the Martin-Russell house, and assisting others in applying for historic markers;

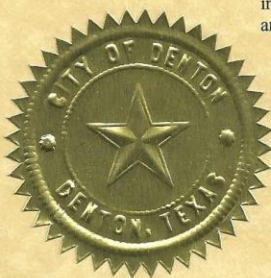
**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Chris Watts, Mayor of the City of Denton, Texas, do hereby declare and proclaim July 27, 2014 as

#### “DOLORES VANN DAY”

in the City of Denton and encourage all citizens to recognize her many achievements and to congratulate her on this special day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Denton, Texas to be affixed this the 15<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2014.

  
CHRIS WATTS, MAYOR



ATTEST:  
JENNIFER WALTERS, CITY SECRETARY

BY: 

## Dolores Vann – Honored by Denton County Commissioners Court

### PROCLAMATION Honoring Dolores Vann

**WHEREAS**, Dolores Vann has been an active member, associate member, and committee chair for the Denton County Historical Commission since the 1970s; and

**WHEREAS**, Dolores Vann has been a leader in historic preservation within the City of Denton and throughout Denton County, inspiring citizens across the county to preserve their history and tell their stories for the enjoyment of future generations; and


**WHEREAS**, Dolores Vann has donated her time, talent, and treasure to save and restore the Evers House, Bayless-Selby House, Quakertown House, and numerous other historic buildings; secure a historic zoning ordinance and create the Oak-Hickory Historic District within the City of Denton; and make donations to the All War Memorial on the Courthouse-on-the-Square Lawn, to the City of Denton for memorial bricks for the Historic Square street improvement project, and to local cultural organizations including the Campus Theatre/Denton Community Theatre, the Dickens Fellowship, and the Denton Historical Foundation, Inc.; and

**WHEREAS**, Dolores Vann shared her interest in historic preservation by offering programs on the historic houses on Silk Stocking Row to elementary school children in the 1970s, working with the Denton County Historical Commission's Marker Committee in the 1980s, encouraging local organizations' use of the restored Evers House in the 1980s and the Historical Park of Denton County in the 2000s, and procuring a Texas State Historic Designation for her historic home on Oak Street in 2007.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Denton County Commissioners Court does honor Dolores Vann for a life-time of service to historical preservation and thanks Dolores for her efforts to preserve city and county history.

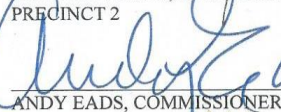
**DONE IN OPEN COURT**, this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, upon motion made by Judge Horn and seconded by Comm. Zacks, and 5 members of the court being present and voting.

  
MARY HORN, COUNTY JUDGE

  
HUGH COLEMAN, COMMISSIONER  
PRECINCT 1

  
BOBBIE J. MITCHELL, COMMISSIONER  
PRECINCT 3

  
RON MARCHANT, COMMISSIONER  
PRECINCT 2

  
ANDY EADS, COMMISSIONER  
PRECINCT 4

ATTEST:

CYNTHIA MITCHELL, County Clerk and Ex-Officio  
Clerk of the Commissioners Court of Denton County

BY: 



## Dorothy Bertine Day – City of Denton

# Proclamation

by the

Mayor of the City of Denton, Texas

To all to whom these presents shall come,

### Greetings:

**WHEREAS,** Dorothy Bertine was a leading pioneer in Denton historic preservation, illustrating over 30 historic home in Denton in watercolor paintings while assisting the team that crafted the Denton Historical Zoning ordinance; and

**WHEREAS,** she worked tirelessly educating the public about the value of historic preservation with a rare glimpse into the historical design of architecture, aiding in numerous publications and public lectures which trained new leaders; and

**WHEREAS,** she created the City of Denton Bicentennial 1776-1976 map of "Significant Historical Architecture, 1880 – 1930, Still remaining in the city" which stimulated and supported the creation of the City of Denton Historic Landmark Markers; and

**WHEREAS,** she wrote a Texas Woman's University master's thesis entitled "Design Elements Used in High Victorian Houses," documenting the design and history of six of Denton's most prominent historical homes accompanied with watercolor illustration of each, leading to the establishment of the Oak-Hickory Historic District; and

**WHEREAS,** she brought national and international attention to Denton through her paintings now hanging in museums across the country and reproduced in publications; and

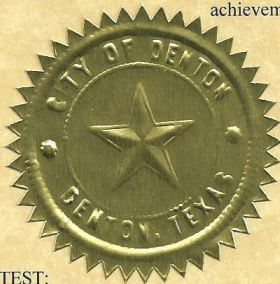
**WHEREAS,** she has been instrumental in improving the quality of life in Denton, Texas with her efforts to record the beauty of Denton, capturing images magnificently on paper;

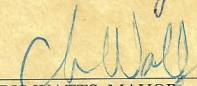
**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Chris Watts, Mayor of the City of Denton, Texas, do hereby declare and proclaim February 15, 2015 as

### "DOROTHY BERTINE DAY"

in the City of Denton, Texas, and encourage all citizens to recognize her many achievements and to congratulate her on this special day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Denton, Texas to be affixed this the 15th day of February, 2015.



  
CHRIS WATTS, MAYOR

ATTEST:  
JENNIFER WALTERS, CITY SECRETARY

BY: 

Dorothy Bertine – Honored by Denton County Commissioners Court

**PROCLAMATION**  
**Honoring Dorothy Bertine**

**WHEREAS**, Dorothy Bertine was a leading pioneer in Denton historic preservation, illustrating over 30 historic homes in the City of Denton in watercolor paintings while assisting the team that crafted the Denton Historical Zoning ordinance; and

**WHEREAS**, Dorothy worked tirelessly educating the public about the value of historic preservation with a rare glimpse into the historical design of architecture, aiding numerous publications and public lectures which trained new leaders; and

**WHEREAS**, she created the City of Denton Bicentennial 1776-1976 map of “Significant Historical Architecture, 1880 – 1930, Still remaining in the city” which stimulated and supported the creation of the City of Denton Historic Landmark Markers; and

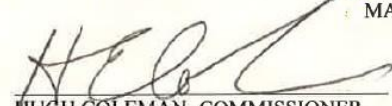
**WHEREAS**, Dorothy’s Texas Woman’s University master’s thesis entitled “Design Elements Used in High Victorian Houses” documented the design and history of six of Denton’s most prominent historical homes accompanied with watercolor illustration of each, leading to the establishment of the Oak-Hickory Historic District; and

**WHEREAS**, she brought national and international attention to Denton through her paintings of the historic homes as well as numerous other subjects, many of which are now hanging in museums across the country, held in provide collections, and reproduced in various publications.


**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Denton County Commissioners Court does honor Dorothy Bertine for a life-time of service in historical preservation and thanks her for her efforts to preserve city and county history through recording the beauty of Denton.

DONE IN OPEN COURT, this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of FEB, upon motion made by Comm. Eads and seconded by Comm. Mitchell and \_\_\_\_\_ members of the court being present and voting.

  
MARY HORN, COUNTY JUDGE

  
HUGH COLEMAN, COMMISSIONER  
PRECINCT 1

  
BOBBIE J. MITCHELL, COMMISSIONER  
PRECINCT 3

  
RON MARCHANT, COMMISSIONER  
PRECINCT 2

  
ANDY EADS, COMMISSIONER  
PRECINCT 4

**ATTEST:**  
JULI LUKE, County Clerk and Ex-Officio  
Clerk of the Commissioners Court of Denton County

BY: 



## Bullitt Lowry Day – City of Denton

# Proclamation

by the

Mayor of the City of Denton, Texas

To all to whom these presents shall come,

Greetings:

WHEREAS, (Francis) Bullitt Lowry, (1936-2002), was dedicated to the historic preservation of Denton, and helped create the first Historical Preservation Ordinance in 1980; and

WHEREAS, he guided the City of Denton to create the Historic Landmark Commission serving as its first chair in 1980, leading the City to create the Oak/Hickory Historic District; and

WHEREAS, he created the City of Denton Preservation Plan for the Historic Landmark Commission in 1986, still the reference source of the City of Denton; and

WHEREAS, he wrote several works on the history of the city, including the 1975 book published with Dale Odom, A Brief History of Denton County; and

WHEREAS, he stated "that nothing could be done in historic preservation unless the great majority of the citizens support it" and his vision holds affirmation that a majority of citizens support historic preservation due to his revelation and leadership; and

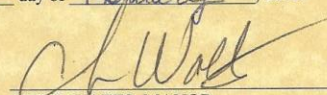
WHEREAS, his mentoring of the Oak/Hickory Historic District has now invigorated its residents to continue his efforts to move forward with including others within the residential areas he identified as worthy of preservation.,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Chris Watts, Mayor of the City of Denton, Texas, do hereby declare and proclaim February 14, 2015 as

### "BULLITT LOWRY DAY"

in the City of Denton and encourage all citizens to recognize his many achievements and to celebrate with Sharon Lowry on this special day.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Denton, Texas to be affixed this the 14th day of February, 2015.

  
CHRIS WATTS, MAYOR



ATTEST:  
JENNIFER WALTERS, CITY SECRETARY

BY: 

## Bullitt Lowry – Honored by Denton County Commissioners Court

### PROCLAMATION Honoring Bullitt Lowry, PhD

**WHEREAS**, (Francis) Bullitt Lowry (1936-2002) was a University of North Texas Professor of History for 37 years, who prized his relationships with his students, serving as a mentor, professor, and friend who will always be remembered for his dry wit and warm smile, the twinkle in his eye, and as a man with a great sense of humor; and

**WHEREAS**, Bullitt Lowry was dedicated to the historic preservation of Denton County, helped create the first Historical Preservation Ordinance in 1980 for the City of Denton, and championed the development of the Denton County Courthouse-on-the-Square Museum and the restoration of the Courthouse-on-the-Square; and,

**WHEREAS**, Bullitt Lowry was an active member of the Denton County Historical Commission from 1970 to 1989, serving as vice-chairman from 1976 to 1985 and chairman from 1985 to 1989, receiving numerous awards from the Texas Historical Commission, including the 1987 John Ben Shepperd Award for the best chair of a Texas county historical commission; and,

**WHEREAS**, Bullitt Lowry wrote and edited several works on the history of Denton County, including *A Brief History of Denton County* in 1975 with Dale Odom, *Building the Denton County Courthouse 1895-1897* in 1987, which was the first book published by the Denton County Historical Commission, and numerous other historical works; and,

**WHEREAS**, Bullitt Lowry guided the City of Denton to create the Historic Landmark Commission, serving as its first chair in 1980, led the City to create the Oak/Hickory Historic District, and created the City of Denton Preservation Plan for the Historic Landmark Commission in 1986, still the reference source of the City of Denton; and,

**WHEREAS**, Bullitt Lowry stated, "nothing could be done in historic preservation unless the great majority of the citizens support it," and his vision affirms that a majority of citizens in Denton County support historic preservation owing to his vision and leadership; and,

**WHEREAS**, Bullitt Lowry's mentoring of the Oak/Hickory Historic District has now invigorated its residents to continue his efforts to move forward, including others within the residential areas he identified as worthy of preservation.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Denton County Commissioners Court honors Bullitt Lowry for a life-time of service in historical preservation, recognizing his efforts to preserve city and county history for generations to come.

DONE IN OPEN COURT, this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of FEB, upon motion made by Comm. Eads and seconded by Comm. Mitchell and \_\_\_\_\_ members of the court being present and voting.

Mary Horn  
MARY HORN, COUNTY JUDGE

Hugh Coleman  
HUGH COLEMAN, COMMISSIONER  
PRECINCT 1

Bobbie J. Mitchell  
BOBBIE J. MITCHELL, COMMISSIONER  
PRECINCT 3

Ben Marchant  
BEN MARCHANT, COMMISSIONER  
PRECINCT 2

Andy Eads  
ANDY EADS, COMMISSIONER  
PRECINCT 4

**ATTEST:**  
JULI LUKE, County Clerk and Ex-Officio  
Clerk of the Commissioners Court of Denton County

BY: Juli Luke



## *Proclamation*

*by the*

*Mayor of the City of Denton, Texas*

*To all to whom these presents shall come,*

*Greetings:*

- WHEREAS,** Bullitt Lowry created the City of Denton Historic Landmark program in 1981; and
- WHEREAS,** Randy Boyd secured the Scripture Building, at 123 N. Elm on the County Square, as the first structure to receive a Historic Landmark in the City of Denton, served as the HLC Chair following Bullitt Lowry and served as a City Council member; and
- WHEREAS,** The next nine Historic Landmarks were secured in 1981 for homes on West Oak at:  
609 West Oak by Linda Lavender & Mike Cochran  
722 West Oak by Charlotte Favors  
705 West Oak by Linda Stuckenbruck & Mark Smith  
811 West Oak by Dolores & Don Vann  
723 West Oak by Elizabeth Lomax with Paula & Paul Carpenter  
812 West Oak by Emma & W.A. Barker  
1003 West Oak by Barbara & Rollin Singer  
1023 West Oak by Nettie Jo Cummings  
1015 West Oak by Mary & Richard Sale; and
- WHEREAS,** Kathy Barnett also secured her home at 607 Pearl with a Historic Landmark in 1981, and became the determining home owner needed to completed the required 10 homes which established the founding of the first City of Denton Historic District; and
- WHEREAS,** Four additional Historic Landmarks were secured in this Historic District at:  
610 West Oak by Jacqueline Swanson  
818 West Oak by Mrs. Amos Barksdale  
819 West Oak by Betty & Carroll Rich, gaining a State RTHL marker in 1980; and  
928 W. Hickory by John Kimmey, with the second State RTHL marker in Denton;
- NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Chris Watts, Mayor of the City of Denton, Texas, do hereby declare and proclaim July 12, 2015 as

### **“HISTORIC PRESERVATION PIONEERS DAY”**

in the City of Denton and encourage all citizens to recognize his many achievements and to celebrate with the Oak-Hickory Historic District on this special day.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Denton, Texas to be affixed this the 12 day of January, 2015.

## Carroll Rich – Honored by Denton County Commissioners Court

### **PROCLAMATION** **Honoring Carroll Rich**

**WHEREAS**, Betty and Carroll Rich lived in the Scripture House at 819 West Oak during the 1970s-1980s and gained the first Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) marker for their home in the City of Denton in 1980 from the Texas Historical Commission (THC), which was the second RTHL marker from the THC for a home in Denton County; and,

**WHEREAS**, Carroll Rich secured a Historic Landmark for the Scripture House in 1981 from the City of Denton, just as Randall Boyd secured the first Historic Landmark in the City of Denton for the Scripture Building at the North West corner of the Denton County Square; and,

**WHEREAS**, Carroll Rich served on the Denton County Historical Commission during the 1970s and 1980s and provided the research for the Jagoe Building at the South East corner of the Denton County Square; and,

**WHEREAS**, he secured a Historic Landmark for the Oakwood Cemetery in 1982 from the Texas Historical Commission and City of Denton during his service on the Denton County Historical Commission; and,

**WHEREAS**, he encouraged other residents on West Oak Street to do the research on their homes to gain Historic Landmark markers, which assisted Dr. Bullitt Lowry to begin historic preservation of buildings in Denton; and,

**WHEREAS**, he joined members of the Denton County Historical Commission and residents of West Oak Street when the Evers House burned in the late 1970s to salvage many of the old timbers, fireplaces, and artifacts from the house, which later were used in its restoration; and,

**WHEREAS**, he appeared before the Denton City Council in the 1980s with other members of the Denton County Historical Commission in an effort to save “old buildings,” marking the beginning of historic preservation of homes and buildings in Denton County from those who wanted to destroy them in order to make room for office buildings or apartments; and,

**WHEREAS**, he assisted Bullitt Lowry’s mentoring of the Oak-Hickory Historic District, which has now invigorated its residents to continue their efforts to move forward, including others within the residential areas they identified historical buildings as worthy of preservation.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Denton County Commissioners Court honors Carroll Rich for a life-time of service in historical preservation, recognizing his efforts to preserve city and county history for generations to come.

**DONE IN OPEN COURT**, this the 14 day of July, 2015, upon motion made by Judge Mary Horn and seconded by Commissioner Andy Edds, and five members of the court being present and voting.

## John Kimmey – Honored by Denton County Commissioners Court

**PROCLAMATION**  
**Honoring John Kimmey**

**WHEREAS**, John Kimmey, Ph.D. (1941-1993) taught in the Department of Philosophy and Religion Studies at the University of North Texas from September 1, 1984 until his death on March 14, 1993, valued his relationships on campus and in the community, served as a teaching mentor, and is remembered as a conversationalist who inspired colleagues and one that changed the lives of students; and,

**WHEREAS**, John Kimmey lived in the Graham-Rayzor House at 928 West Hickory during the 1980s-1990s and gained the second Recorded Texas Historic Landmark (RTHL) marker in the City of Denton in 1989 from the Texas Historical Commission (THC), which was the third RTHL marker from the THC for a home in Denton County; and,

**WHEREAS**, he was dedicated to the historic preservation of Denton County, actively serving as a member of the Denton County Historical Commission during the 1980s, supporting the efforts of Dr. Bullitt Lowry to champion the development of historic preservation in Denton County and the City of Denton; and,

**WHEREAS**, he secured a Historic Landmark marker for his home in 1987 from the City of Denton which introduced and included West Hickory Street as part of the Oak-Hickory Historic District; and,

**WHEREAS**, he helped to guide the City of Denton in historic preservation, serving as the Historic Landmark Commission vice chair in the late 1980s during the development of the City of Denton Preservation Plan, which is still *the* reference source of the City of Denton; and,

**WHEREAS**, he encouraged other residents to do the research on their homes to gain Historic Landmark markers, which assisted Dr. Lowry to begin historic preservation of buildings in Denton; and,

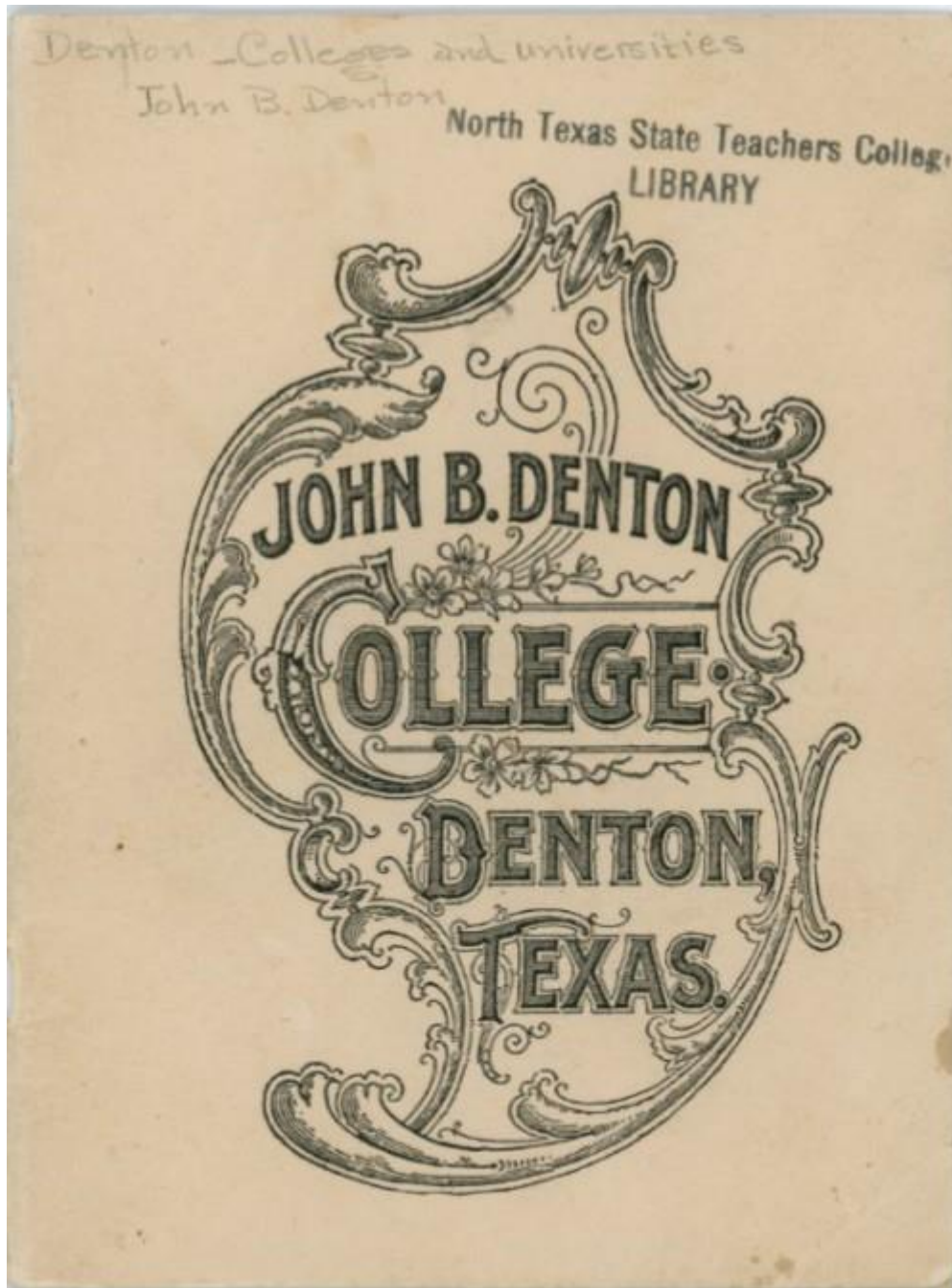
**WHEREAS**, he assisted Dr. Lowry's mentoring of the Oak-Hickory Historic District, which has now invigorated its residents to continue their efforts to move forward, including other buildings within the residential areas which are identified as worthy of preservation.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Denton County Commissioners Court honors John Kimmey for a life-time of service in historical preservation, recognizing his efforts to preserve city and county history for generations to come. These honors are gratefully received on his behalf by his sister, The Rev. Canon Jimmye Kimmey.

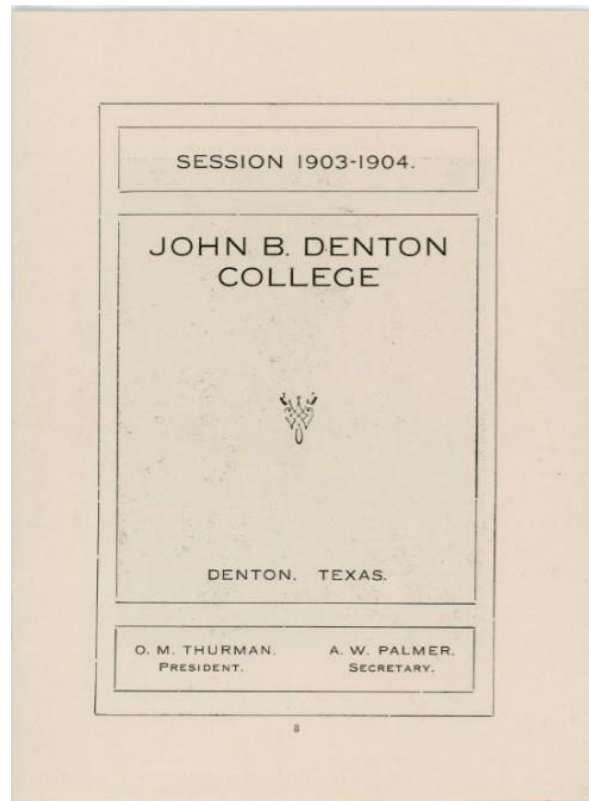
**DONE IN OPEN COURT**, this the 14 day of July, 2015, upon motion made by Judge Mary Horn and seconded by Commissioner Andy Edds, and five members of the court being present and voting.

## Photographs of John B. Denton College (1901 – 1904)

Course catalog booklet for the Class of 1903-1904



<sup>163</sup> UNT Library, Provided by Morgan Gieringer, Head of Special Collections & University Archivist. 1903.



## John B. Denton College.



HE John B. Denton College was built in 1901 by a stock company composed of practically all the business men of Denton. The building is a new, modern, brick structure, centrally located on a beautiful campus. The site is such that, though in the very center of population it is entirely separated from the business portion of the city.

### **The Stockholders**

subscribed, not with a view to realize dividends, but for the sole purpose of creating an institution for the maintenance of high grade academic and collegiate courses. Being thus a creature of the town the College occupies a warm place in the hearts of the people and is closely allied to every commercial interest.

### **The Board of Regents**

is composed of thirteen citizens selected by the stockholders on account of their well established business ability, and these men, having the school's interest at heart, are doing excellent work in it's support.

### **Their Policy**

was to engage a thorough-going school man as president, and through him bring about the most perfect organization possible. The thorough courses of study offered are arranged to carry out in detail the best plans of our most progressive institutions.

### **The Results**

from the very beginning have been highly satisfactory and the marvelous progress for the past two years has shown beyond question that the College is organized upon a permanent basis.

### **The Patrons**

speak of the work in the strongest terms of praise and give to the management their unreserved co-operation. You are respectfully requested to give the contents of this catalogue your careful consideration.



OLIVER M. THURMAN.

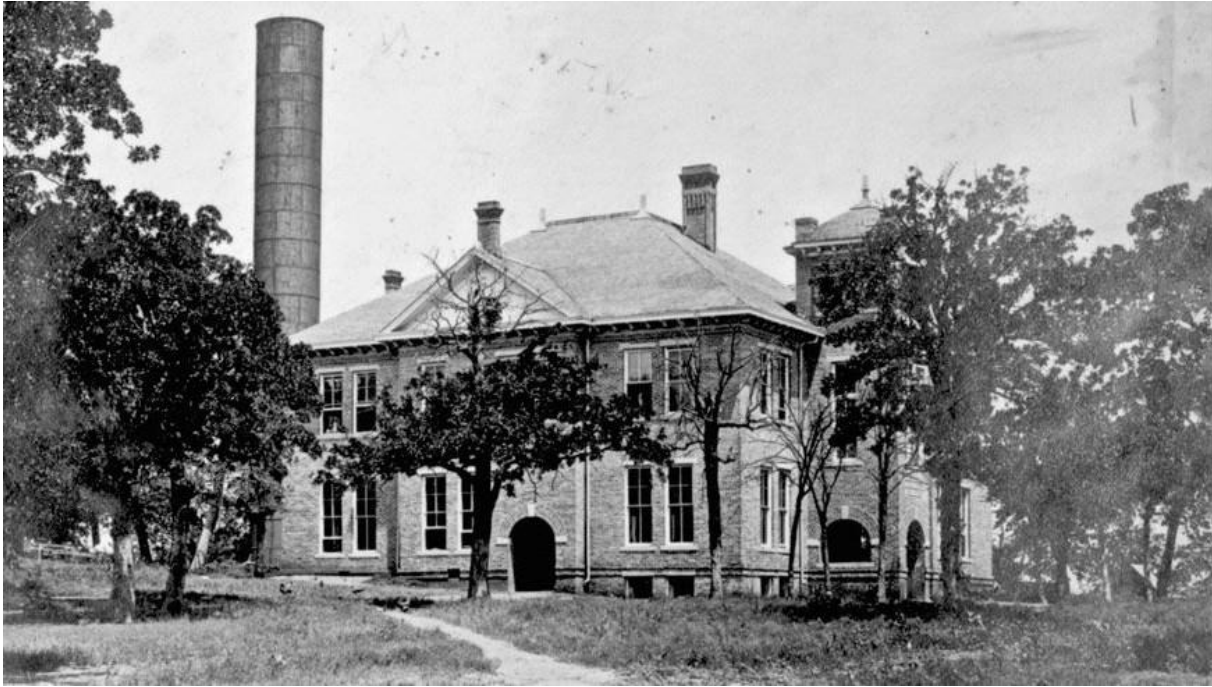
Mr. Thurman is recognized as a thorough and conscientious teacher and under his management this school has been built up to its present high standard of efficiency. His success as a teacher and as president of this institution is not alone due to his superior qualifications as such, but is in a marked degree due to his uprightness of character and strong personality. Mr. Thurman has been identified with the school interests of Denton for a number of years, and is thoroughly conversant with the needs of the students of this section, in whose interest he is laboring diligently. Owing to his wide experience, broad training, and sympathetic nature, he is peculiarly fitted for the responsible position he occupies, and his standing as a school man, and ability as the promoter of this enterprise is unquestioned.



COLLEGE ORCHESTRA.



From John B. Denton College to South Western Christian College (1904 – 1908)



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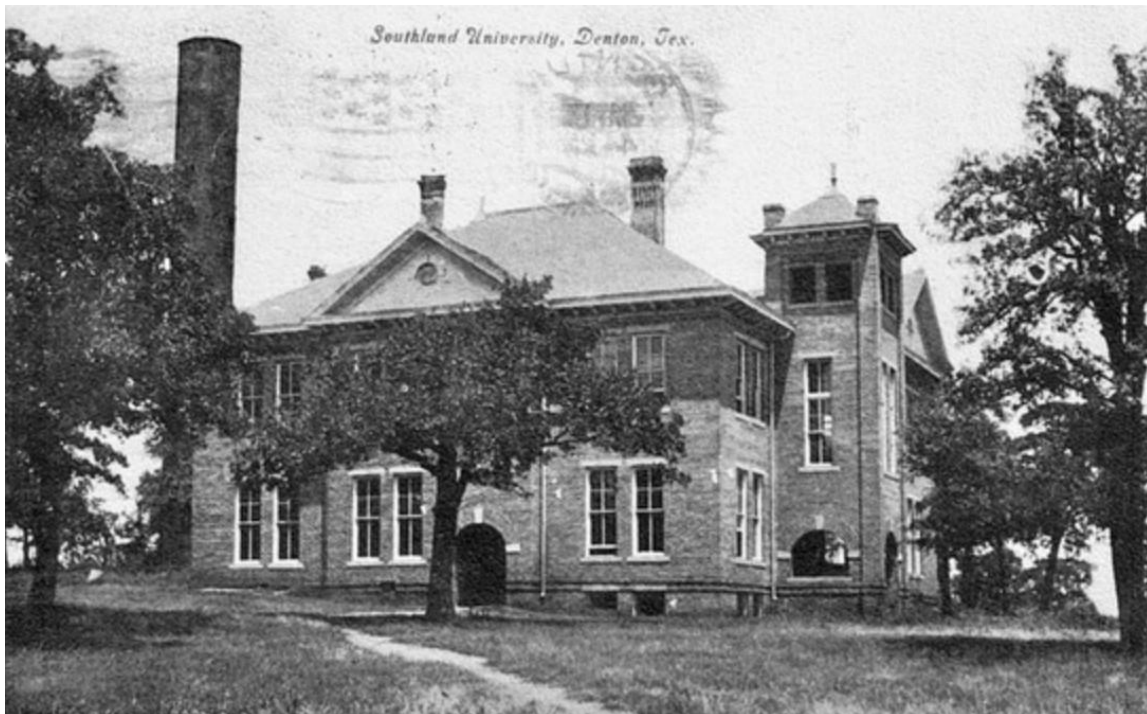


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<sup>164</sup> Denton County Office of History and Culture, Photo c. 1904, John B. Denton College.

<sup>165</sup> UNT Library Special Collections, Postcard c. 1905, South Western Christian College.

From South Western Christian College to Southland University (1908 – 1909)



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South Western Christian College, School of Oratory (1909 – 1912)



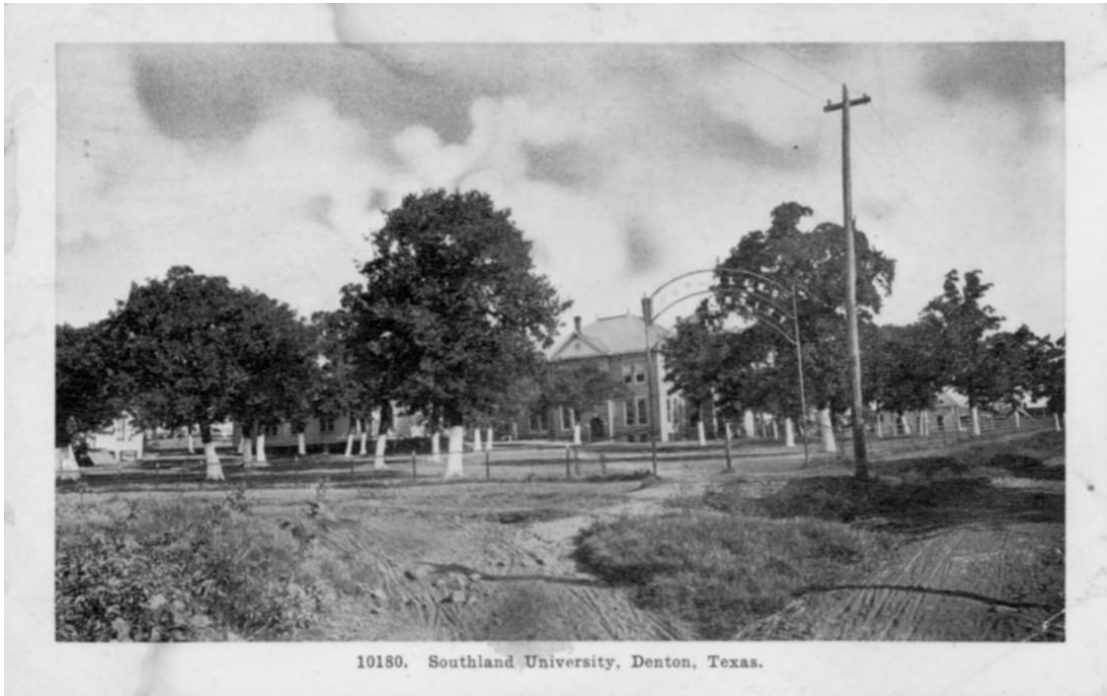
5126 Southwestern Christian College, Denton, Tex. *School of Oratory-*

167

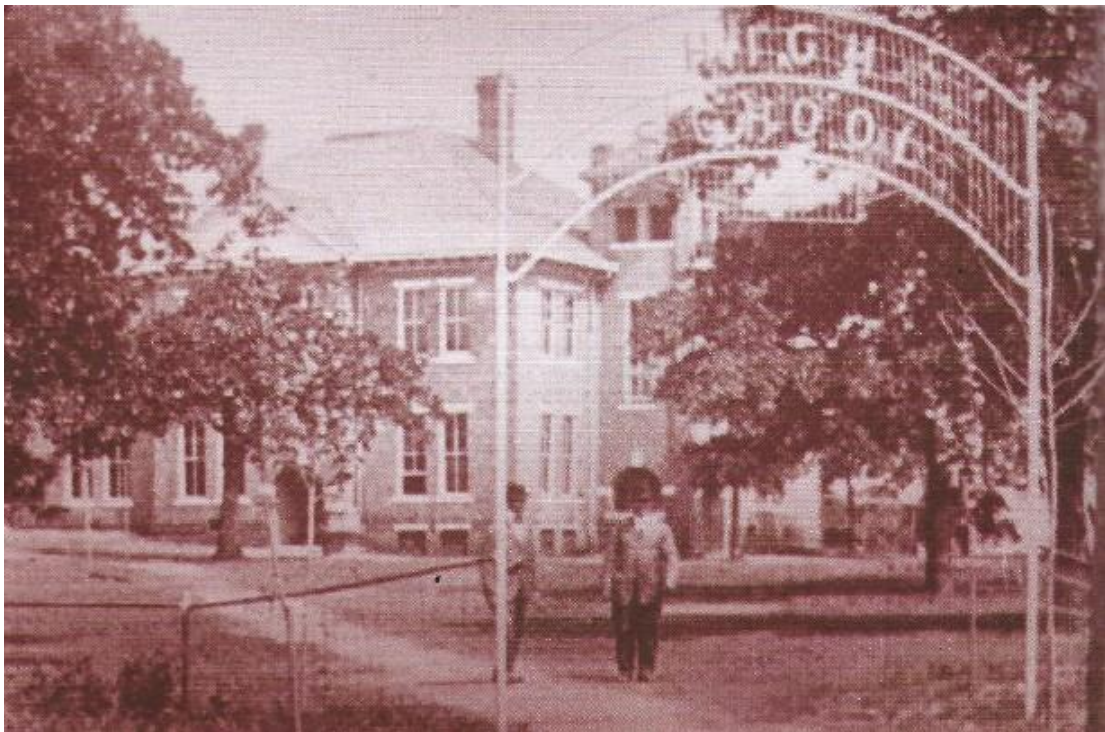
<sup>166</sup> Denton County Office of History and Culture, Postcard c. 1909, Southland University

<sup>167</sup> UNT Library Special Collections, Postcard c. 1910, School of Oratory.

Exchange from the Church of Christ ownership to Denton City High School - 1912



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<sup>168</sup> Jim Bolz, Tricia Bolz. Denton County: Postcards. Page 60.

<sup>169</sup> Denton County Museums, "High School" on former College sign, c1912.

From “New Denton High School” (1912) to support for the High School (1916)



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<sup>170</sup> Jim Bolz, Tricia Bolz. Denton County: Postcards. New Denton High School. Page 61.

<sup>171</sup> Jim Bolz, Tricia Bolz. Denton County: Postcards. High School – Corner of Denton and Gregg Streets. Page 62.

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