



**PRESTON – MISENER HOME**  
**Site Medallion No. 26**  
**433 E. Dallas St. (at SE 5<sup>th</sup> St.)**

Historical Date: 1908-1911

Lot/Block/Survey: Lot #2, Tract 2, Miller, McKinney  
& Williams Survey 1003

This is a wooden structure with drop roll siding; inside, the original wall paper had been replaced with sheet rock. Two receipts for payment (on file at G.P. Library) indicate the date of construction between 1908 and 1911.

The tax evaluation rose from \$150 to \$1,000 between 1907 and 1910 (this certificate on file at G.P. Library).

T.W. Preston and wife, Cornelia, lived in the “mistake house” (deed on file at G.P. Library shows on page #1 and continuing on page two, quote “The houses belonging with this property were by mistake built on the acre South of the one above described, but are included with the above described land.”) until the first four rooms were built.

In 1917, two rooms, hall and bath were added, and in 1983, the house was reduced to five rooms by enlarging the living room, installing a second bath and a large closet. The grounds are still the original acre, purchased in 1901.

With our increasingly mobile population, houses are rare that have sheltered four consecutive generations of the same family. Mrs. Elizabeth Preston Misener, the great granddaughter of T.W. and Cornelia Preston continues to make her home in the once “shotgun style” early 1900 home. She is a descendent of William Gilwater Preston who fought in the Texas Revolution, and for whom Preston Bend and Preston Road were named. Generations are as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – T.W. Preston, son of Wm.G.Preston
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Roy F. Preston, grandson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Elizabeth Preston (Crabtree) Misener,  
Great, granddaughter
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Wm.Preston Crabtree, Great, great grandson

The most unusual thing about the house is the wiring. When the very first decorative Christmas lighting began, it fascinated Roy Preston. He was so “taken” with it that he had the electrician Charles Wheeler install regulation wiring under the eaves and gables around the entire house. Colored globes were made by dipping the white bulbs in buckets of paints. This was more than fifty years ago at this 1984 documentation according to Mr. Wheeler. The forty-seven trips up and down the latter to install and later unscrew the bulbs...plus the fact that the # four new fangled “strings of lights” became available in a few years, ended this exciting experiment. The original wiring installed 50 years ago is still in place, intact, and it cannot be removed without damaging the eaves. To our knowledge, this was the first house in Grand Prairie to have complete, outside Christmas lighting.

A copy of the 1909 assessment on the property is on file at the Grand Prairie Library, ..Value \$500.00, and Tax \$5.21 + \$1.75 Poll Tax = \$6.96 Total Tax!!!!

Further description of this one story, frame clapboard farmhouse includes: one-over-one windows, with the hipped roof graced by a front gable. The columned porch with post baluster originally formed an ell across the front of the house.