



THOMAS-WRIGHT STRUCTURE
GRAND PRAIRIE SIGNIFICANT LANDMARK
Site Medallion No. 17
402 South Center

One of the first settlers to this area was William H. and Elizabeth Brannon who acquired their land from the State of Texas as a land grant. In the early 1890's, the Brannons gave a piece of this land to their only daughter and her husband, David M. Thomas. The Thomas' then built a five room, two story home facing east. In the early 1900's, the central hall and four rooms were added to the east side of the home at the request of their daughter, Cora. She was concerned that when boys came to call she had no proper place to entertain them. Shortly after the addition was made, Cora was married. The new addition, though, caused problems to the city's further development of Center Street. Rather than pursue a court battle, Center Street was rerouted around the home.

Mr. Thomas was one of the prominent and more successful of the town's merchants. Although his main business was Thomas Grocery Store, he also owned a livery stable, a mercantile, a hardware store, and a construction business. He owned several buildings downtown and the land inherited from his wife's family.

After the death of Mr. Thomas in 1942, the home was used primarily as rent property and then sat vacant for a number of years. In 1977, Tommy Wright purchased the home and in January 1980, he and his wife Judy began extensive restoration. With the help of family members and generous subcontractors, the home once again became habitable and the Wrights moved in December 1980.

The home features twelve rooms including a kitchen with breakfast area, a dining room, living room, den, study, three bedrooms, a sewing room, two baths, and an observatory. Three fireplaces were added to the home, replacing the original fireplace and a stove pipe flue. Alterations have added to the home, but the floor plan is basically the same. In keeping with the style of the house, the Wright's have furnished their home with an assortment of antiques.

It is a delightful surprise as you go south on Center Street and come face-to-house as it stands as a memento to the past, but a wonderful treasure for today.

