



GOODWIN CABIN
GRAND PRAIRIE SIGNIFICANT LANDMARK
Site Medallion No. 2
McFalls Park – South Carrier Parkway

Built in the Watson Community of Northwest Grand Prairie in 1845, this cabin was originally the home of Micajah Goodwin and his family who came to the area from Randolph County, Alabama, formerly from the state of Georgia, settling there February 8, 1846. He received a Republic of Texas Land Grant in Peters Colony for the 640 acres he received, the cabin was located in Abstract No. 584. The cabin remained on this site until August 1975 when the owner, Mayor C.P. Waggoner, gave the cabin to the City of Grand Prairie and the restoration was done by the Grand Prairie Board of Realtors and Historical FRIENDS. Although the home of Mr. Goodwin was located in Tarrant County, he was very active in developing the government of Dallas County. Mrs. Goodwin died on the property and is reputed to be the first white woman buried west of the Trinity River. Her grave is in the Watson Cemetery on Hwy 360 and Ave H.

The cabin was built of Tennessee notch construction-everything-lays-in-place. It is self-sustaining with no pins, bolts or other fasteners and most parts of the cabin have survived the 150-plus years of Texas weather.

The current site of the cabin in McFalls Park is on what is believed to be the land that belonged to early settler Thomas J. Vernoy.

During the late 1970's renovation, bricks were donated for the reconstruction of the chimney and fireplace. Special wooden shingles and the re-chinking between the logs was completed by the Realtors and volunteers of Scouts, Bi-Centennial Commission members, senior citizens and anyone who could mix mud, straw and water!

The cabin received G.P.S.L. Site Medallion #2 on March 20, 1980 on the 71st anniversary of the founding of the Corporate City of Grand Prairie (March 20, 1909).

There are many undocumented stories about this cabin, including the fact that it became a hideout for Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker during their escapades in our area.

This 12'x16' log cabin faces west on a much traveled four lane parkway as a beautiful reminder of a historic beginning in our history. The cabin grounds are maintained by the Grand Prairie Parks Department and through their expertise, hollyhocks, daisies and other flowers of early history periods have been planted to add to the appearance of this lovely cabin.

A skeleton fence was a gift from Vernon and Ruthe Jackson honoring the charter members of the Grand Prairie Historical Organization in 1980. Finally, under the sponsorship of the Grand Prairie Garden Club, many additional contributions were made both in memory of and in honor of a host of recipients. A listing of the donors and honorees is listed on a beautiful wooden scroll that has the names inscribed with the wood burning talents of artist Joe Macrander.

A specially designed hand-cut, hand crafted, hand sealed wooden flagpole was made and drilled for installation by Grand Prairie Cub Scout Pack #812 of Eisenhower Elementary School, Pack Leader Pattie Sowell Olsen, members Jason Hampton, Spencer Clemson, Jeffrey Chapman, Christopher Berry, and Christopher Snow. This flag pole is a tribute to A.W. Sowell, Grand Prairie philanthropist and great friend of children and youth, having served the Grand Prairie Independent School District as a member of the Board of Trustees.

A State Historical Marker Site . . . this is worth visiting! (dedicated March 20, 1981)

Marker research by: Ruthe Jackson