



**JORDAN – BOWLES HOME**  
**GRAND PRAIRIE SIGNIFICANT LANDMARK**  
**Site Medallion No. 1**  
**700 Block NE 28<sup>th</sup> and Bowles Streets**

In 1845 Dave Jordan built the Kentucky House as it now stands on the Jordan-Bowles Ranch. Jordan with his several sons came from Tennessee several years before the Civil War. He settled northeast of Grand Prairie near the site where the house now stands. An AIA feasibility study by Eugene George's map shows the original cabin before its move to be located at approximately Meyers Road, NE 31<sup>st</sup> and Bowles Streets. Robert L. Hight, relative to Mr. Jordan is quoted, "I have checked the deed records of Dallas County and I find that the land along the West Fork of the Trinity River on which the house was built was deeded to my great-grandfather, Dave Jordan, December 29, 1859."

Several inquiry sources for the purpose of establishing a reasonable construction period for the present Jordan-Bowles House is as follows:

1. David A. Jordan came from Tennessee.
2. He had a daughter, Martha Ann, an only child by his first wife, who died shortly after the daughter was born.
3. He brought slaves from Tennessee to Texas.
4. He came to Texas prior to the Civil War.

There is confusion (per Eugene George) in that: David Jordan (father of David A. Jordan) could have brought sons Robert and Alexander J. to Texas during the 1840's and their brother, David A. Jordan, could have followed later. If David built the house, it could have been built before 1850. If David A., the son, built the house it would probably have been constructed after 1859.

Regardless of the exact circa, prototypes identical to the structure existed during either decade (per Eugene George). A complex structure, the Jordan-Bowles house is a typical "double house" of the middle 1850's, having two main rooms separated by an open "hall", a "room-on-the-porch" at the south and "side rooms" in pairs on the north. It had wooden foundations (posts or blocks), double hung windows, cypress weatherboarding, a wood shingled roof, probably four-paneled doors. There would have been an exterior separate kitchen, log or frame, with quarters for slaves attached to the kitchen or nearby. A fenced kitchen garden, orchard, wood yard, smokehouse, a dairy, and a well house or spring house would not be far from the kitchen. There would probably be a storm cellar near the kitchen. The houses also served as a stage coach stop and store. The stage stand would have probably be on the south side near the porch. M.M. Miller's store would have been adjacent to the stage stand. Pens for animals,

sheds, storage buildings, a corn crib, and grain bin would be part of the scene with necessities (privies) nearby.

David A. Jordan was survived by his second wife, Elizabeth Hight Jordan, and they had three or four children: Mary Josephine (married M.M. Miller), Emma (1<sup>st</sup> marriage to Dr. Russey, 2<sup>nd</sup> marriage to Squire Campbell), one or two sons who died early. The property and/or the house passed to Emma Jordan Campbell by inheritance.

Victor Bowles bought the ranch, house and cemetery from the Campbells. (Examination indicates the house extensively remodeled after purchase; it could have been moved from the original site at this time.)

The house was built of bois d-arc, oak, local cedar, cypress - some from local sources, some from area sources, and others probably from Jefferson, i.e. floor and ceiling joists. Cypress shingles secured with 4D square nails formed the roof, the floor and ceiling were pine, tongue and groove matched by hand. The window frames were of cypress (some probably from Mansfield).

Condensed by: Ruthe Jackson

References: Available.