



KEITH – BAKER HOME
GRAND PRAIRIE SIGNIFICANT LANDMARK
Site Medallion No. 21
213 NE Second Street

Historical Date: 1907

Description: Lot/Block/Survey: Lot 6, Block F, Thomas 1st Addition. 1 ½ story asymmetrical plan frame house with L-shaped porch over entry on the southeast corner and rear shed addition; gables and gable dormers extend from main hip roof and have skirt roofs and imbrication on the gable ends; windows are 1/1 wood sash; slender dorie columns support porch. Building material: wood frame. Roof: wood frame/composition. Alterations: concrete porch added, rear additions. Significance: House plan drawn by Matilda Faucher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. N.T. Keith; Keiths remained in home until both were gone (1943), then to Keith's granddaughter, Louise Stubbs Irvin and then sold to Claude Burkett and then to Gary D. Baker of Grand Prairie. A 1907 copy of a photo of the home is attached to the application for Grand Prairie Significant Landmark.

Louise Grimm, born February 2, 1856, and Antoine Faucher married and settled a farm in 1876 in the area now known as Central Village in Grand Prairie. Their main crops were corn and cotton. The city at that time was known as the town of Dechman. Their property lines as known in 1984 were: The west property line of the farm was NW 7th-Egyptian; south property line was Tarrant Road; east property line was the fence on the west boundary line of the First Christian Church property; north property line was the Trinity River. Louise G. Faucher (widow) married N. Tom Keith.

In 1907 Louise and Tom Keith decided to move to town from the farm. They purchased an acre of land in the Thomas First Addition on the corner of East Church and NE 2nd Street, where they built their home. The house plan was drawn by their daughter, Matilda Faucher.

The frame house with wood siding was on Bois d' Arc blocks. A story and a half with ten foot ceilings, it also had three bedrooms, living room, dining room and a kitchen downstairs. There were two large rooms upstairs and a screen porch across the back downstairs with an L-shaped porch on the front. There was no electricity until about 1913 and no plumbing until 1920.

At the time the house was built, this was open range. In order to keep cattle out of the yard, a barbed wire fence was put up until a decorative fence could replace it. The decorative fence was made of one inch, white, square pickets.

After the deaths of Tom and Louise Keith, the property went to their daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. George (Matilda) Stubbs. They in turn sold the property on the corner lot to Dr. Sidney Gaines for his office and clinic, and the house was removed and relocated to the present site at 213 NE 2nd Street, which was the north lot of the one acre original property.

In 1985 the house was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Gary Baker. They continued the restoration in an orderly and authentic manner. The house is a delightful yellow color and a very exciting view as you approach the southeast corner of NE 2nd and Church Streets.