



**SPIKES BROTHERS –
UNITED BROOM MANUFACTURING COMPANY
GRAND PRAIRIE SIGNIFICANT LANDMARK
Site Medallion No. 25
1204 West Main Street (Highway 180)
(no longer standing)**

Historical Date: 1911

Lot/Block/Survey: Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9, Block No. 66 of the McKinney-Williams Survey, Abstract #1045

Building data prior to razing:

Razing: Began March 10, 1983

The Broom Factory was a one and two story brick building with several masses joined to form a sprawling, asymmetrical plan. The western-most wing was a two story flat roofed block with irregularly spaced 6/6 wood sash windows and doors. The east section was a smaller block with fewer openings. The central connecting portion had a two-story gable roofed structure with one story shed roofed attachments on the south and north with closely spaced windows in the brick first story and continuously joined windows on second level as clerestory.

The factory was opened in 1912 by the Spikes Brothers who also owned another broom factory in Dallas. The factory was a major employer in the city of Dalworth Park and surrounding area (including Grand Prairie). The factory was bought by United Broom Factory in 1942.

Survey Consultant Daniel Hardy told the Dallas Times Herald, on September 6, 1982, “The broom factory is unique. It is the only industrial building of its type that I can recall that is still intact outside the city of Dallas. It’s funny, but no one thinks of industrial buildings as worth being saved. I would hate to see it razed.” In his survey, Mr. Hardy assigned the factory a “two star” status to assess the structure’s historical significance, while not architecturally important, it

contributed in some major way to the county's cultural and social history. The fact that it was in disrepair also was a consideration.

Under the ownership of George W. Works II and his Board, the building was razed on March 10, 1983. As of February 1985, to our knowledge the land is still the property of the heirs of Mr. Works and the current Board.

Research: Documents on file at the Grand Prairie Memorial Library: 1. Application for State Marker for building prior to demolition (did not receive Grand Prairie City Council approval due to legal situation) 2. Application for National register designation (also not approved for same reason). Markers Researcher: Ruthe Jackson

Some Footnotes from State Marker Application
(Compiled by Ruthe Jackson)

8. Copy of recorded deeds of the five pieces of real estate to the Spikes brothers: George, Luther, James, John and Paul. Madge Ballard Spikes (widow of George) speaks of the three homes given to three of the brothers and that George W. and Luther moved to Dalworth, but did not name the third brother. She did note that Paul and Jack (nickname for James?) remained in the Dallas Plant.
11. Mrs. Madge Ballard Spikes, widow of George W., one of the founders, was a former employee of the Spikes Brothers Company. Her full letter is part of the history portion of application, page #3.
12. Former employee, R.A. "Razz" Eason's brief summary of the history and legend of the broom-feather duster factory.
13. Maurine Plemons Garlack's summary and history of her experiences as an employee.
14. Edna Hodges Grubbs statement about the United Broom Factory.
15. Mary Rust Williamson tells of her experiences at the Spikes Bros. Broom Company.
16. D.J. Combs and his employment from the spring of 1917 and subsequent years.
17. Judith Elizabeth Huffstetter Wheeler Preston tells of working in the Dallas plant for the Spikes Brothers and then gives information about the Dalworth Park plant.
19. Full statement of Madge Ballard Spikes, who was 88 years old in 1982 and at that time still resided in Grand Prairie.
- 19B. Warrant copy of complaint A 04277 against the United Broom Factory building owner.
- 19C. Mayor Anne Gresham and friends researching map of Hwy. #161 and discussing possibility of "saving" this historic structure.
20. Other information and copies of articles in our files regarding the Broom Factory, Grand Prairie Daily News articles September 11, 1969 and January 7, 1982, and the Dallas Times Herald September 6, 1982.