



PAYNE – UNDERWOOD HOME
GRAND PRAIRIE SIGNIFICANT LANDMARK
Site Medallion No. 19
117 Motley Street

The charming yellow farmhouse at 117 Motley Street has seen five generations since Mr. R.P. Motley built it in 1900. When the Motley farm stretched south beyond McFalls Park, the house stood on the hill where the Jewel-T Grocery on Clarice Street is now located. Mr. Motley, a Grand Prairie settler, built the house for his daughter, Lillie, and her husband, A.H. Payne.

Lillie and A.H. Payne raised three children there, one of whom was the late Mrs. Edmond Keith, the grandmother of Kent Underwood, who along with his wife Cathy, undertook the restoration of this quaint home.

In 1946 the house was moved to Motley Street, around the corner and down the street from the stately Motley homestead located on the corner of SW 3rd and Motley. Mrs. Payne resided there as a widow until 1950. The house was used as rental property for the next several years, and was vacant for approximately twelve years.

The restoration of the house was accomplished by Kent and Cathy Underwood and their families.

Kent and Cathy began their married life in the home in 1980, just eighty years after his great-grandparents had done the same.

Many hours of work were spent in the restoration and re-design of the interior, including the enclosing of a southeast back porch and design to become a glassed-in dining area. The unique bath fixtures and other appointments were secured from an area storage company that demolishes old structures in the Metroplex.

The Underwoods sold this house to Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Holmes. Mrs. Holmes (Patricia) reports that they have enjoyed the two bedrooms, one large dining room, kitchen and the special breakfast room area on the south east side of the residence.