



## **BARBARA'S CAKE AND COOKIE BOUTIQUE GRAND PRAIRIE SIGNIFICANT LANDMARK**

**Site Medallion No. 47  
421 W. Main St.**

In 1933, the property at 421 W. Main St. in Grand Prairie was deeded to Edna Rowe. Between then and the mid 1940's, the history of the property is unclear.

Around 1946, a new restaurant chain, Weber's Root Beer, built its distinctive facility on the property on Main Street in Grand Prairie. The one-story, 900-square-foot, brick and stone building is best known for its cylindrical shape and round, wooden turret, built to resemble a root beer mug. Weber's was a famous national chain that originated in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Oscar Weber Bilby, a farmer who lived west of Tulsa, developed his special brew back in the 1800's. Even though many of his neighbors also made their own root beer, people would come from miles around to get a jar of "Web's" brew. Even Frank and Jessie James stopped in. The root beer was made from 14 natural roots, bark and juices. The recipe remains a closely guarded family secret and, to this day, only four family members know it. A small amount of the root beer is saved to "seed" the next batch. The "batch-seed" process has kept the taste the same since the 1800's. Web Bilby is also credited (in Oklahoma, at least) with inventing the hamburger. On July 4, 1891, he served ground beef on his wife's homemade buns at a Fourth of July party on his farm. Until then, ground beef had been served in Athens, Texas, between sliced bread, now known as a patty melt.

In Grand Prairie, the Weber's Root Beer stand was owned by Jerry D. Koustoumbardis from 1949-1977. David Lacy operated the Weber's stand after he returned from World War II. Locals fondly remember the 10 cent frosty jugs of root beer (and free baby root beer mugs). Carhops served cars parked under the large surrounding awning. Teenagers hung out there.

Koustoumbardis owned the restaurant until at least 1977. Around 1980, the site became La Familia Café. This Mexican-style restaurant moved to 2330 W. Main St., by 1982. From 1983-1987, Newton's Egg Farm sold fresh eggs at the site. From 1988 to the early 1990's, Frank Williams operated Yogurt World, then a Spanish bakery from the building.

In 1995, Barbara Owen opened Barbara's Cake and Cookie Boutique in the store where she bakes and sells a variety of pastries. Barbara and her husband, Karl, bought the property from Frank and Tipaporn Williams in 2002.

The general appearance of the building has remained the same throughout the years, despite the different uses of the building. The distinctive structure continues to dispense good food and fond memories.

Current owners, Barbara and Karl Owen, operate the popular Barbara's Cake and Cookie Boutique from the building. The Owen's may be the only people in Grand Prairie to live in a Significant Marker home and own a Significant Marker business.