



SWADLEY – THATE HOME
GRAND PRAIRIE SIGNIFICANT LANDMARK
Site Medallion No. 23
216 North Street

When the original house burned in August of 1909, John Floyd Swadley began rebuilding the six bedroom home for his family of eleven. His son John was 3 at the time of the fire, according to John's wife, Mrs. Lola Swadley. Floyd was a well digger and a woodworker, and housed his tools and workshop in the long building at the back. It was painted red with white trim and resembled a carriage house.

Two bedrooms upstairs on the east were later joined, as were the two bedrooms downstairs. Large porches graced the front and back of the house. Bathrooms came later still. Floyd crafted the home's gingerbread and much of the home itself.

Floyd's garden lay west of the house between his and Dr. Payne's home on the corner. He owned land to the east "halfway to Fourth Street". Mrs. Swadley planted periwinkles, which she called "Pretty-by-nights", in the circle in front of the porch. She was also fond of Japonica and four-o'clocks.

Floyd's brother, Jake Swadley, was the first fire chief and kept the fire engine in the garage of his home on the SW corner of College and Second Streets.

Richard and Clara Thate are the third owners of the home. Wanting to live close to town, and liking the house, but wanting something modern and comfortable for their three girls, the Thates moved out in 1983 while the house underwent a total renovation. It now boasts spacious rooms and a host of large windows, a kitchen designed with convenience in mind, and a master bath uncommon to most vintage homes.

This remarkable historical building has witnessed a changing world in her 74 years, and has kept up her best appearances while remaining very young at heart.