

City of McKinney

Historic Building Marker Application

(Supporting Documentation)

The Fred J. Emerson House

506 West Hunt Street



A. Alterations & Construction

Construction

The Fred J. Emerson House, constructed in 1909, is a two-story, wood-frame residential structure built on a pier-and-beam foundation. An ample porch supported by Tuscan-style columns wraps around the southeast corner of the house. The asymmetrical floor plan has a central chimney servicing three different fireplaces on the first floor. The interior consists of hardwood flooring with extensive stained wood molding framing doors and windows. Extra-wide pocket doors separate several rooms. The house is fenestrated with large one-over-one sash windows.

The home design follows a combination of late Queen Anne and early Prairie Style forms. The towers and gabled roofs of the Queen Anne Style have been replaced with a sleeping porch, a hip roof and wider eaves. The proportions of the home as it faces Hunt Street has a verticality typical of the Queen Anne Style. However, the spacing of the columns on the porch suggest a more sprawling and horizontal proportion, common to the Prairie Style. The house design makes tentative steps toward the more “modern” Prairie Style yet the proportioned portico and columns of the entry allude to an earlier classical style.

Alterations

The house was originally built in 1909 with virtually no alterations made to the exterior. The interior with its extensive wood detailing, pocket doors and stained glass remains largely intact. Though the kitchen and baths have been modernized, most of the original structure and detailing remains. The owners anticipate adding a sunroom to the rear of the house. The location of the door and window accessing the upstairs porch have been switched to accommodate changes to the interior plan.

Anticipated Needs

The current owners have undertaken extensive renovation of the home with the intention of preserving and restoring the quality woodworking within the home. The rotted wooden steps of the entry have been replaced with brick while the remaining porch planks and timbers have been replaced. The original columns have been restored and reset into their original locations. Under the house, the original wood piers have been supplemented with concrete ones.