

# City of McKinney

## Historic Building Marker Application

(Supporting Documentation)

### The R.F. Newsome House

609 Tucker Street



## A. Alterations & Construction

### Construction

The R.F. Newsome House is a two-story, wood-frame residential structure with a pier-and-beam foundation built in 1921. The roof consists of low, broad gables and deep overhangs with exposed rafters and knee-bracing. A “pop-up” second story is set back from the front of the house. A porch defined by wooden columns on brick piers wraps around the northeast corner of the house. The floor plan is asymmetrical with room connections using a minimum of hall space. Hard and soft woods are used for interior flooring. The house is fenestrated with nine-over-one sash windows that are original to the house.

The home design follows the Airplane Bungalow Style which is a variant of the standard Craftsman Style house. The Airplane Bungalow is distinguished by the layering of its sprawling roof forms and its use of exposed timbers to accentuate its horizontal lines. The timbers also add lightness to the overall mass of the structure. The style is known for its small, one or two-room “pop-up” story that usually placed toward the rear of the house. Windows are often grouped in bands of three or four to further lighten the overall effect.

In general, the Airplane Bungalow Style eschews the earlier forms of the once popular Victorian Style and instead embraces the more modern forms of the Arts & Craft Movement, which emphasized nature and “honest” construction. In 1921, when the R.F. Newsome House was built, the world had just undergone a new political and cultural realignment due to WWI. Closer to home, the grandchildren of McKinney’s founders were adopting new lifestyles and adapting to a more urban environment. “Progressive” was a word often used to laud businessmen and politicians who were fueling the economic and social growth of the city.

The R.F. Newsome House is McKinney’s finest example of the Airplane Bungalow Style and underscores the cultural and generational shift that was happening throughout America in the 1920s.

### **Alterations**

The house has experienced few changes since its construction. The original windows of the house remain intact. The footprint of the house remains as it was when it was first built with only a screened porch being added in modern times.

The alterations that have occurred are confined to the interior, the most obvious being the updating of the kitchen. Here, a wall has been removed to open it to the breakfast area. Though the counters and ranges have been altered, the original cabinetry remains. Some updating has been applied to the bathrooms but the original tubs remain.

### **Anticipated Needs**

The current owners anticipate repainting the interior portion of the windows in order to prevent wood rot. Some of the exterior siding needs to be repaired and repainted. The house needs some foundation work in the near future. The electrical system needs additional updating.

## B. Historical Figures

### **Andrew Jackson Tucker (1825-1873)**

Andrew “Jack” Tucker was a pioneer settler of McKinney who owned the hotel that artist Frank Klepper depicted in the mural he made for the McKinney Post Office in 1934.

Jack was born in Missouri to Henry H. Tucker and Rebecca Kennedy. Jack’s family immigrated to Texas between 1843 and 1850. Henry farmed around the Denton area while Jack and some of his sibling settled in Collin County. He married Nancy Ann Hart from Illinois in 1848. They had two children Jennie and Eliza.

When Jack arrived in McKinney, he purchased 145 acres of the T.T. Bradley land grant and began farming about a mile west of McKinney. He added to that tract by purchasing land in the neighboring William Davis survey. Jack joined with other farmers around McKinney to found the Agricultural Horticultural and Mechanical Society which sponsored the first “County Fair” in 1858. Jack was its first director.

In 1854, Jack purchased the “Union House” in McKinney on the northeast corner of the Square. The hotel’s name became problematic when the Civil War broke out so Jack changed the name to the Tucker Hotel. The hotel, designed by architect Frank Perkins of McKinney, had long been a center for social activity in McKinney. However, it would be an event in 1862 that would turn the hotel into a subject of myth and legend. In March of that year Confederate Capt. Alfred Johnson’s Spy Company came to McKinney to recruit volunteers for service. On the day they were to leave for war, a young girl named Ella Harrison<sup>1</sup> stood on the balcony of the Tucker Hotel and gave a stirring farewell address and presented the Company with a flag. The event was made more solemn by the arrival of the casket containing the body of Gen. Ben McCullough, a well-respected Texas general who had been recently killed at the Battle of Elkhorn Tavern, Arkansas. His remains received a military escort and were en route for burial in Austin and happened to stop in McKinney the same day the new recruits were leaving.

According to a 1922 article in the *McKinney Courier-Gazette*, Ella’s address was preserved in writing and presented to the departing Company. This address (or a copy of it) later came into the possession of Wick Graves who was only 12 years old when the event took place (see page 23 for a full text of Ella Harrison’s speech).

This event is the subject of Frank Klepper’s 1934 mural he made for the McKinney Post

Office as a part of the Public Works Art Program, a New Deal era program designed to provide financial relief for artists. Klepper grew up hearing the story of the event from his grandmother, who had witnessed it as a young girl. The painting is based her recollections and even includes her in the painting. She is placed in the bottom center of the picture, the only female on the street. The words "Tucker Livery" can be seen on the barn next to the hotel.

In 1869, Jack opened up a new livery stable on his property west of McKinney. The stable provided horses for passing stage lines. The stables also became a popular venue for horse racing, attracting racing enthusiast and professionals throughout North Texas. It is said that Tucker Street was laid on top of the old race track.

In 1873, Jack died of a gunshot wound inflicted by the husband of his eldest daughter Eliza. She married John M. Lillard sometime following the end of the Civil War. Apparently during a drunken argument, John called Jack a liar. Jack was so angry at the offense he drew his knife and tried to stab John. However, John pulled his gun and shot Jack. John tried to hide in some nearby bushes, but was eventually found, arrested, and jailed.

Jack Tucker is buried in block 21 of the Pecan Grove Cemetery along with other family members. John M. Lillard is not one of them.

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<sup>1</sup> In the March 7, 1922 issue of the *McKinney Courier-Gazette* the speech-maker is identified as "twelve-year old McKinney girl, Ella Harrison....the daughter of J.J. Harrison, a pioneer McKinney merchant." The story is based, in part, on the eye-witness account of Wick Graves, whose brother A.S. "Reely" Graves was one of the soldiers being honored that day. The two brothers witnessed the event and both were still alive when the article was published. However, later accounts of this event (including the writings of Roy F. Hall) identify the speech-maker as "eighteen-year old Laura Hocker, daughter of a school teacher."

### **Robert Fitzhugh Newsome (1895-1962)**

R.F Newsome, who went by Fitzhugh, was involved in banking and insurance and was Mayor of McKinney from 1945 to 1955, making him the only person to ever serve five consecutive terms.

Fitzhugh Newsome was among the third generation of Newsomes to live in McKinney. His grandfather, Isaac. D. Newsome, came to McKinney from Mississippi with this wife Lucy Willingham in 1852. Both of Isaac's parents died when he was an infant. The *McKinney Democrat* reports in an 1887 article that, "Mr. (Isaac) Newsome was born in the country and reared among the meager advantages of an obscure country lad. His father died before his birth and his mother, too, succumbed in death leaving the infant son to the care of its paternal grandfather. A Negro 'mammy' devotedly nursed him as her own offspring."

Isaac and Lucy married in 1851 and arrived in McKinney a year later with their newly born son William Barnes Newsome. Eventually, they would go on to have two more children Edwin (1856) and Ellen (1859). The family homestead stood on West Louisiana Street on what is now Mitchell Park.

The town of McKinney was barely three years old at the time of the couple's arrival. Isaac opened a general merchandise store in a frame building on the southwest corner of the Square on the site now occupied by Spoons Cafe. From the day Isaac started his business, the location never change nor was it ever closed except for period during the Civil War when he served in the Confederate army.

Around 1874, a two-story brick building was built to house the growing business. When Isaac's sons were old enough they joined him in what had become a thriving grocery and farm implements business. The name of the firm was changed to I.D. Newsome & Sons to reflect the new ownership arrangement. Around 1882, Isaac gave his sons complete control of the firm as he pursued other interests including business, banking and hunting. On occasions, Isaac would travel with James W. Throckmorton and Gerald A. Foote into the Indian Territory in search of game.

In 1892, Isaac Newsome built another building on the Square. This one was a three-story Victorian-Style building with a distinctive tower topped with a conical spire. The first two floors of the building included space for office and retail while the third floor was built to accommodate a large hall leased to the Knights of Pythias. Soon after the building's completion, a fire broke out in the vicinity damaging several businesses, including

the Newsome Building causing \$10,000 worth of damage (about \$260,000 in today's dollars).

Isaac and wife Lucy were active members in the First Christian Church of McKinney even before the congregation had its first permanent building. Between 1858 and 1897, the congregation had built two churches to accommodate its growing needs but it was quickly outgrowing its current building. At the time, the newly installed pastor Rev. S.K. Hallam urged the congregation to build a new building "in keeping with the wealth and influence of the congregation and the needs of the Master's work." Isaac Newsome was moved by the request and conferred with his sons William and Edwin on how to proceed. They proposed to donate \$14,000 toward a new building if enough money could be raised from other sources to pay for furniture, furnaces, and a pipe organ. The money was quickly raised and architect J.E. Flanders was selected to design it. The church was built and dedicated in a ceremony on August 5, 1897. Three years later J.E. Flanders would design the house for Stephen & Lillie Heard that is now known as the Heard-Craig House.

Isaac and Lucy Newsome died at the close of the 18th Century. Their deaths prompted William and Edwin to make some important changes in their own lives. William sold his interest in the mercantile business to Edwin and soon became the President of Collin County National Bank, the same bank his father Isaac had been associated with as director. William's career change turned out to be a very lucrative move for him. In 1918, the *McKinney Courier-Gazette* wrote that William Newsome was "the richest man in our county, said to be her first millionaire." Among his holdings were 24,000 acres of west Texas farm land in Lamb and Bailey counties. He also owned interest in several mills along with J. Perry Burrus. Having amassed enormous wealth and influence, around 1918 William moved to Dallas and was elected the Vice Chairman of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. He eventually took the top spot following the death of Chairman W.F. Ramsey in 1922.

William and wife Rebecca frequently spent summers in cooler climates such as Colorado, California, Alaska, and even Norway. However, on one such trip to Los Angeles in 1929 William died of a heart attack. His remains were returned to McKinney and buried in the Pecan Grove Cemetery.

William's brother Edwin led a slightly more modest life by choosing to remain in the grocery business. Edwin was born in McKinney in 1856, four years after his parents arrived. When he became old enough, Edwin joined his father Isaac and older brother

William in the family business. When the partnership broke up following their father Isaac's death, Edwin partnered with W.T. Brooke. That partnership lasted only a few years. In 1904, they sold the business to a grocery competitor Joe Barnes. Edwin, with his significant personal wealth, began making private loans out of his second-story office above the grocery store. Like his brother, Edwin maintained close business connections with Collin County National Bank and J. Perry Burrus.

Edwin was married to Laura Fitzhugh, the daughter of Collin County's first sheriff Robert Fitzhugh. The couple had two children, each taking the name of a grandfather. The family lived on West Virginia for many years.

Edwin and Laura's youngest son was Robert Fitzhugh Newsome, born on April 24, 1895. Fitzhugh attended the Ivy League prep school Phillips' Academy in Andover, Massachusetts. Later, he studied law at Sewanee (aka The University of the South), a liberal arts college in Tennessee. Following his formal education, he returned to McKinney to make a name for himself in dog racing.

In 1916, the Texas Coursing Association of McKinney held its first greyhound races at the coursing park just northwest of McKinney. Fitzhugh owned an all-black, male greyhound named Mahogany. The Association held its very first race in May of 1916. The festive event was highly advertised and greatly anticipated. Enormous care had been taken to secure trained West Texas jackrabbits needed for the race. The rabbits needed to know what direction to run to avoid the dogs and how to escape them after they crossed the finish line. The Association was looking forward to a large crowd of racing enthusiasts. However, only a few days before the race some mischievous boys killed all the trained rabbits. There was not enough time to train new rabbits so the races proceeded using untrained rabbits right out of the crates they had been shipped in. For the most part, race day was a huge success and enjoyed by all, except for the rabbits who could not escape the dogs at the finish line. A race that Fitzhugh's dog competed in could not be completed because of a "misslip." After that race, the Association decided that the dogs would be muzzled for future events.

Despite the Mahogany's misslip, many considered him to be the fastest dog in McKinney. That question was settled in a follow-up race held early in the summer when the upstart racer Stella Van owned by Dr. H.F. Wolford bested Mahogany. Though Fitzhugh's dog took home a second place ribbon, there were many fans eager for a rematch.

In 1917, Fitzhugh Newsome married Ella Rhea Emerson. Ella was the great-granddaughter of Francis Emerson, McKinney's first banker and the president of the town's First National Bank. She was also the granddaughter of William A. Rhea, a successful mill owner and farmer. Early in the Civil War, William's left foot was torn off by grape shot at the Battle of Corinth, Mississippi. He returned to Texas following his mishap and was elected to the state legislature in 1863. He and his brother James owned many acres of land in and around McKinney. The marriage of Fitzhugh Newsome and Ella Emerson united two of the wealthiest and most storied families of McKinney.

The 1920 Census shows Fitzhugh and Ella Newsome living on Church Street with Ella's widowed mother Mrs. Clifton Emerson (formerly Emma Jean Rhea) as head of the family. In that census, Fitzhugh declared his occupation to be "private banker." At the time, he was working in his father's investment business. In 1921, Fitzhugh bought a lot in the Tuckers Addition and had a house built on what is now 609 Tucker Street.

Fitzhugh's father Edwin passed away in January of 1923. His passing led to Fitzhugh's older brother Isaac to resign his head teller position of the Collin County National Bank and join Fitzhugh in the firm their father left to them. This was the same firm that their grandfather began after leaving the grocery business. Fitzhugh and Isaac retained the firm name Newsome Brothers and managed the affairs of their father's estate while also selling insurance and making private loans. The brothers kept an office in the second floor of the Newsome Building on the southwest corner of the Square owned by his uncle William (the Federal Reserve Chairman). Tragically, brother Isaac was killed in a car accident only a few months after forming the partnership. Fitzhugh became the sole ownership of the firm.

Fitzhugh began running daily display ads in the *McKinney Courier-Gazette* following his brother's death advertising his insurance offerings. The firm now went by the name R.F Newsome. In 1926, Uncle William razed the building and built the two-story building that exists there today. In 1938, William's estate sold the building to Judge W.R. Abernathy whose family had a long history with the building. Judge Abernathy's father (also a judge) began leasing an office there soon after Isaac Newsome built the original building in 1874. At the time of the purchase, the Abernathy law offices had been located in the Newsome Building for over 60 years.

Fitzhugh's business and social connections would turn out more than enough to launch a successful career into politics. For most of McKinney's history, the city was run by a Mayor and two commissioners. In 1943, Fitzhugh ran for City Commissioner in a elec-



tion where candidates for each of the three City offices ran unopposed. Even though the outcome was predetermined due to the lack of opposition, 211 people turned out to vote. Two years later, Fitzhugh ran for Mayor and won. He would later go on to serve five consecutive terms. Though newspaper-owner Tom Perkins served more time as Mayor in non-consecutive terms, no one has ever served as McKinney Mayor for ten straight years. During his tenure, he was responsible for expanding the town's water and waste-water infrastructure, aiding returning WWII veterans, and rebuilding after the Tornado of 1948. He also oversaw the completion of the Merritt Homes and Owens Place low-income housing projects in 1952.

As an active member of many civic organizations, Fitzhugh was frequently acknowledged with awards and kudos. One unusual honor that Fitzhugh received as Mayor was an invitation from French officials to be a guest at a special celebration honoring the 36th Division of Texas which landed in Cannes on D-Day in 1944. They called it "Texas Week." He did not attend. He was also honored by the McKinney Independent School District for his work with youth athletics by having the high school football stadium named for him.

Fitzhugh Newsome's tenure as Mayor ended in 1955 when McKinney Laundry owner William R. West defeated him by a vote count of 1,060 to 650. Following his departure from the City Council, Fitzhugh continued in his insurance business as well as commercial cattle breeding. He remained active in community affairs serving as Director of the North Texas Municipal Water District and chairman of the City Charter Commission whose task it was to propose a new form of City government. The charter his commission proposed is the one now used today, consisting of a Mayor and six Council Members.

For years before Fitzhugh's death, he had been treated for arteriosclerosis and on New Year's day of 1962 Fitzhugh Newsome died of a heart attack. The Lions Club and the McKinney City Council published resolutions praising his civic service and offered condolences to the family. His funeral service took place at the First Christian Church with his burial in Pecan Grove Cemetery.

His pallbearers included some of the most prominent citizens in McKinney. However, in a magnanimous gesture toward the people he had worked with for so long, he assigned as honorary pallbearers all of the employees of the North Texas Municipal Water District, the Police Department, and the City of McKinney.

## C. Property Ownership

**Address:** 609 Tucker Street, McKinney, Texas 75069

**Legal Description:** Tuckers Addition, Blk 2, Lot 2

Purchase Date	Seller	Buyer
Sep. 20, 1841	Republic of Texas <sup>1</sup>	William Davis
circa 1852	William Davis	Andrew J. Tucker
Mar. 3, 1889	Nancy Tucker <sup>2</sup>	Lela (Lillard) Wallace
Oct. 12, 1889	Lela (Lillard) Wallace	J.L White
Aug. 5, 1893	J.L. White	C.P. Ware
Feb. 2, 1897	C.P. Ware	J. Perry Burrus
Aug. 26, 1915	J. Perry Burrus	Benjamin M.E. Smith
Apr. 2, 1921	Benjamin M.E. Smith	Robert F. Newsome
Nov. 4, 1965	Ella Newsome <sup>3</sup>	Monty & Bettie Nitcholas
May. 22, 1968	Monty & Bettie Nitcholas	Jimmy & Jackie Price
Mar. 8, 1977	Jimmy & Jackie Price	Jack Miller
Jul. 19, 1977	Jack Miller	Gerald F. Bowers
Oct. 1, 1985	Gerald F. Bowers	Pamela R. Parks
Aug. 14, 1986	Pamela R. Parks	Merrill-Lynch Relocation
Mar. 3, 1987	Merrill-Lynch Relocation	Mark & Sue Readinger
Oct. 25, 1989	Mark & Sue Readinger	Julia L. Vargo
Aug. 12, 1996	Julia L. Vargo	Robert & Joellyn Nelsen
Jul. 27, 2008	Robert & Joellyn Nelsen	Jerry & Cynthia Lee
Oct. 29, 2014	Jerry & Cynthia Lee <sup>4</sup>	Darren Matheny
Jul. 6, 2015	Darren Matheny	Alfred & Kate Cheng

<sup>1</sup> Reaffirmed by the State of Texas in 1850

<sup>2</sup> A.J. Tucker's estate is partitioned by his widow

<sup>3</sup> Widow of A.J. Tucker

<sup>4</sup> Jerry & Cynthia Lee changed ownership to a trust on Feb. 15, 2010

## D. Tenant History

Tenant history is same as deed history in the historic period (pre-1965).

## E. Narrative History

In 1841, the Republic of Texas granted William Davis 3,129 acres of land in return for his participation in the new nation's battle for independence. This two square-mile tract of land was situated on East Fork of the Trinity river in what was then Fannin County. After the Republic of Texas became the 28th state to enter the United States of America in 1845, it subdivided several counties into smaller units. Collin County was such a county, carved out of Fannin County.

A small town called Buckner was the seat of the new county until the 1848 State Legislature required that the County Seat be within three miles of the geographical center of the county. As it turned out, William Davis' tract sat within this radius and was chosen by an open election (where only 11 people voted) to be the location of the new seat of Collin County.

In 1849, William Davis, along with his wife Margaret, "donated" 120 acres of the southwest corner of his original tract to the county commissioners. This donation became the new town of McKinney. At the time, William Davis considered this acreage to be some of his least valuable land because of the heavy brush that covered it. Still, as consideration for giving up his land, he was deeded three lots within the new town site which he sold as fast as he could. This 120 acres became known as the McKinney Original Donation and was divided into 87 blocks which were to be sold to finance the City of McKinney. As a side note, shortly after donating the land to be a new city, William abandoned his wife and child in McKinney and headed to California to search for gold.

Andrew Jackson Tucker arrived in McKinney within a few years of McKinney becoming a town. Jack, as he was called, purchases several tracts from intermediaries representing William Davis while he was out in California panning for gold. Jack also purchased land in the neighboring survey belonging to T.T. Bradley. From these purchases of land Jack and his wife Nancy made their homestead about a mile northwest of the town Square. However, by the 1870s the homestead was more than a mere farm. Jack built one of the finest stables in Collin County providing horses for commercial stage lines criss-crossing North Texas. Not only was Jack's stable a great place to rent horses, it was also a good place to race them too. The area that is now Tucker Street is said to be the site of some of the County's best horse racing.

In 1873, Jack Tucker was shot to death by his son-in-law John Lillard during a drunken

argument. Jack's widow Nancy inherited the estate and lived another 15 years. At her death, the Tucker estate was split between their daughter Jennie and their two grandchildren Lela and Lula, the children of the man who fatally shot Jack. Around 1889, the heirs partitioned some of the homestead and created a subdivision known as Tucker's Addition. Lela Lillard (who married George R. Wallace) received the lot located on what is now 609 Tucker Street.

In 1890, the population of McKinney was just under 2,500. Over the next three decades the population would increase 250% to about 6,700. During this time it was common for property to change ownership several times. Property was a safe and tangible store of wealth and for many a preferred way to save. The property at 609 Tucker Street changed hands four times during this period. Owners included J.L. White, C.P. Ware, J.P. Burrus, and B.M.E Smith.

In 1921, drug store owner B.M.E. Smith sold Lot 2 in Block 2 of the Tucker's Addition to Robert Fitzhugh Newsome for \$2,000 in cash and a \$2,000 two-year note. Soon after that Mr. Newman hired a contractor to build him and his wife Ella the finest example of an Airplane Style bungalow ever to appear in McKinney. The design of the home demonstrates their enthusiastic embrace of the new and the bold. Many would consider the style to be too modern or even too foreign. Even so, the Newsomes made it their home for over 40 years.

No significant changes appear to have been made to the home while the Newsomes owned it. The couple had only one child so the original configuration proved perfectly accommodating to their needs.

Three years following Fitzhugh's death in 1962, his widow Ella sold the house to Collin County auditor Monty Nitcholas and his wife Bettie. The house has had 10 owners between 1968 and 2017. During that time, a screened in back porch was added to the south side of the house and some updating has been made to the kitchen. One of the owners during this modern period was writer and historic preservation advocate Julia Vargo. She was one of the co-founders of the McKinney Historic Neighborhood Association and the author of *McKinney, Texas: The First 150 Years*, which she wrote while living in the house between 1989 to 1996.

The current owners are Alfred and Kate Cheng, purchasing the property in 2015.

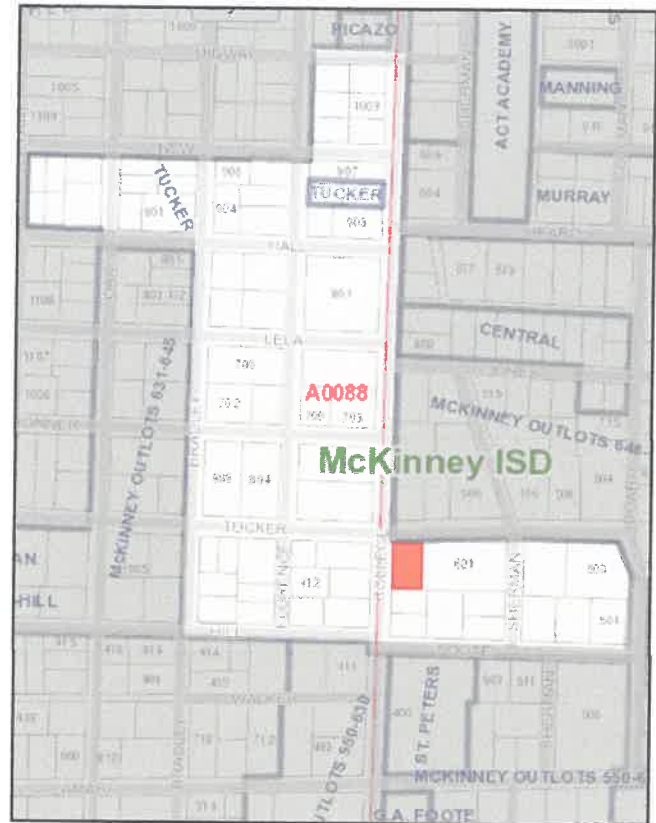
## F. Drawings

### Tucker's Addition

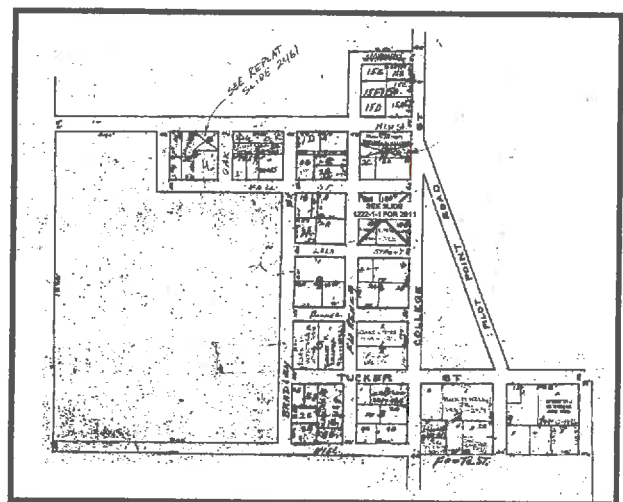
Around the 1850s, the State of Texas reaffirmed "land patents" to William Davis and T.T. Bradley granted by the Republic of Texas. The boundary line between these two patents lay about a mile west of the McKinney Square on what is now College Street.

Andrew J. Tucker, an early settler to McKinney, bought property from both Bradley and Davis during his lifetime. At Tucker's death in 1873, his heirs owned an undivided interest in much of the property they inherited. Around 1885, the family subdivided about 18 acres of land into 15 blocks. This subdivision of land is known as Tucker's Addition and is applied to every parcel's legal name.

The property at 609 Tucker Street (highlighted in red in the map at right) is Lot 2 in Block 2 of Tucker's Addition.



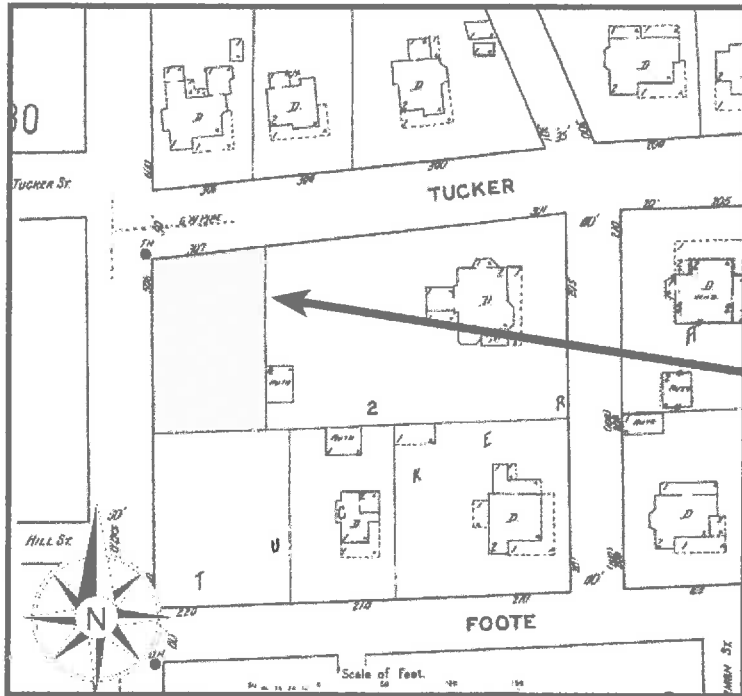
This map shows the Davis and Bradley land patents abutting each other. The property at 609 Tucker Street was originally part of the Davis land grant.



This diagram shows the original 15 blocks divided into separate lots.

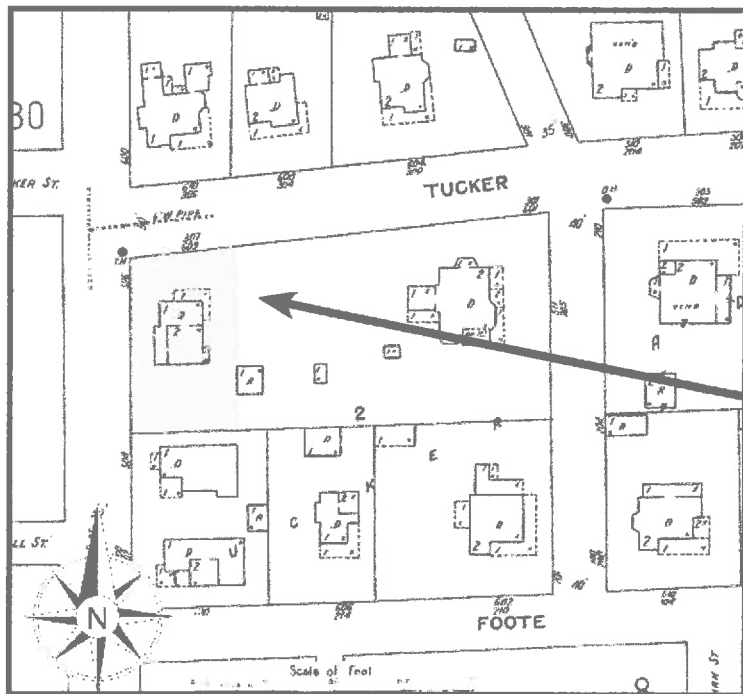
# Sanborn Maps: 1920 & 1927

1920



*This site plan published in 1920 by the Sanborn Insurance Company shows no structure on the lot that would later be known as 609 Tucker Street.*

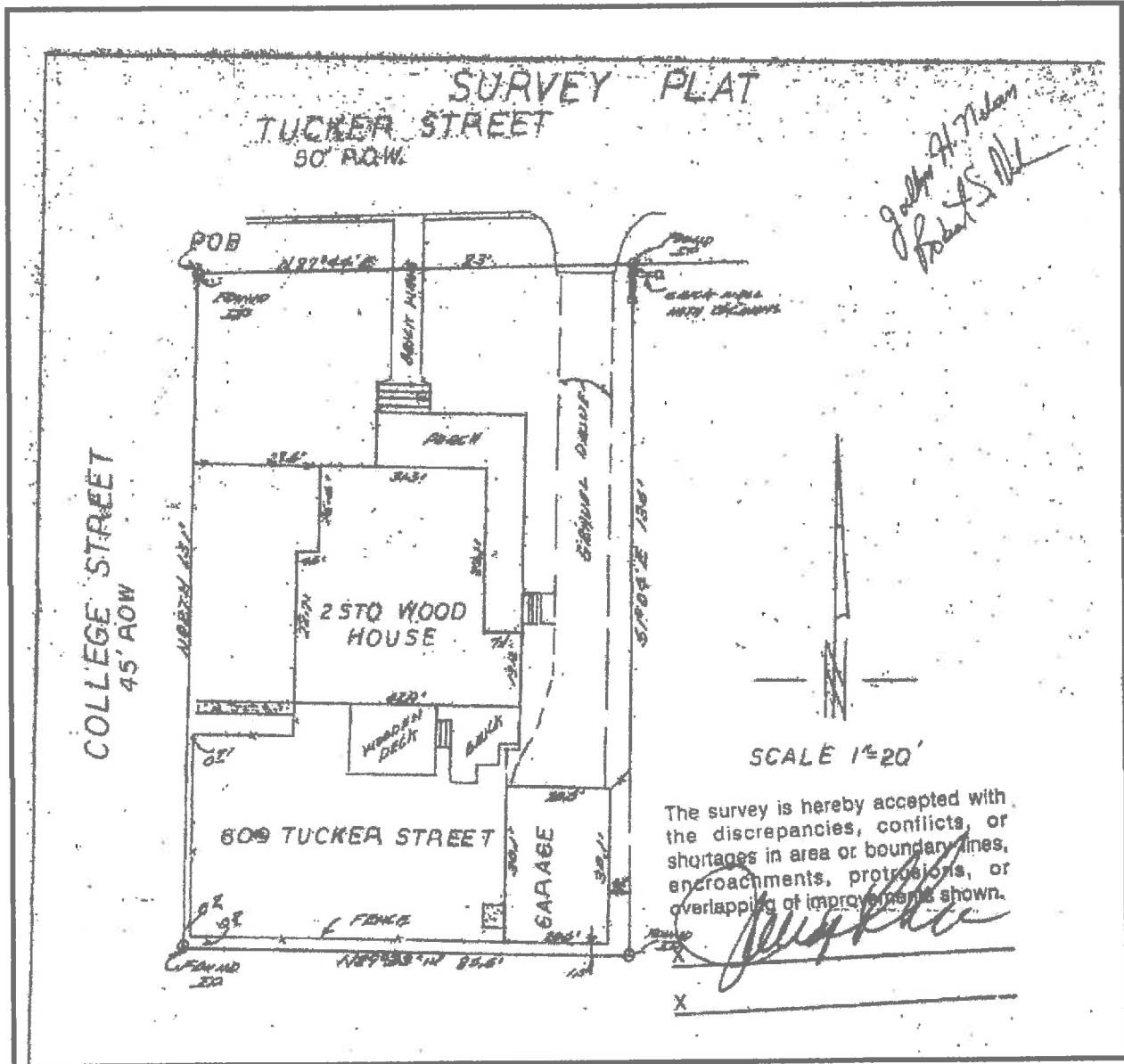
1927



*This 1927 site plan from the Sanborn Insurance Company shows the footprint of the R.F. Newsome House built in 1921.*



# Site Plan for 609 Tucker Street (2015)

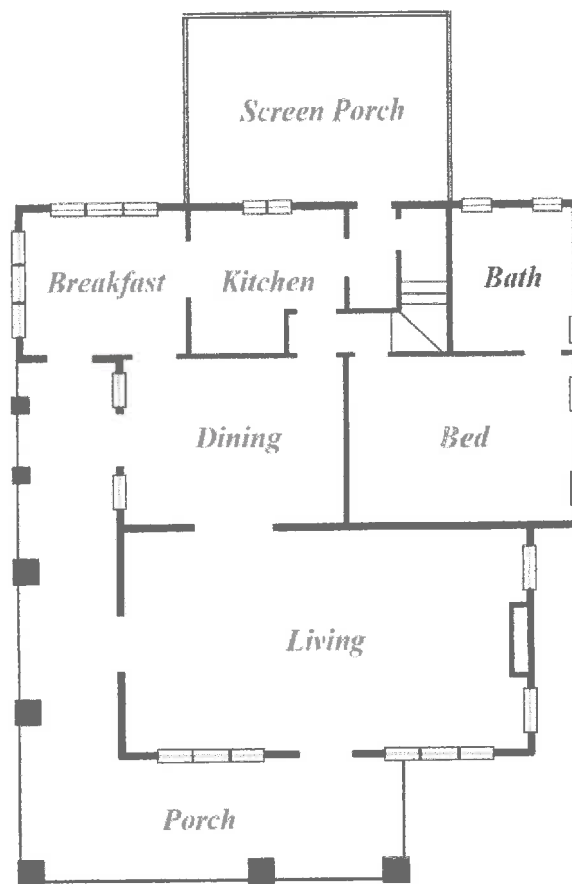


2015 site plan for 609 Tucker Street



# Floor Plan

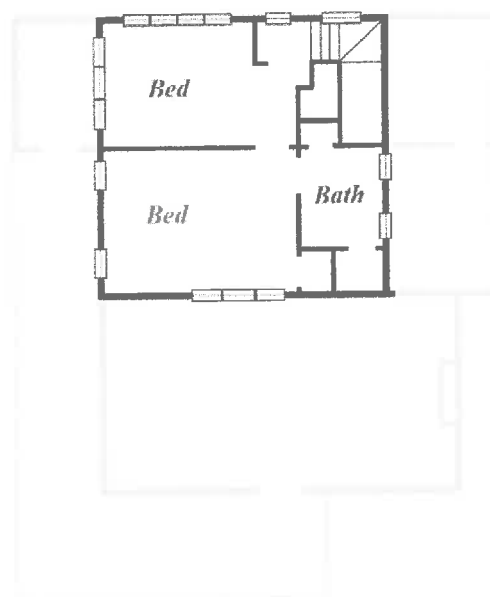
This plan shows the R.F. Newsome House as it currently exists.



**First Floor**



**Roof Plan**



**Second Floor**

## G. Photographs

Isaac D. Newsome (grandfather of R.F. Newsome) is responsible for erecting two buildings on the McKinney Square. The first was a two-story building (building #1) built around 1874 on the site of Newsome's grocery stand on **southwest corner** of the Square. This building was razed and rebuilt by Isaac Newsome's son William in 1926. In 1938, following William's death, his estate sold the building to one of its long-time tenants, W.R. Abernathy. After the purchase, people referred to this building as the Abernathy Building. The building is now the site of Spoons. Within the last decade the stone bearing the name "Abernathy" on the face of the building has been removed to reveal the name "Newsome."

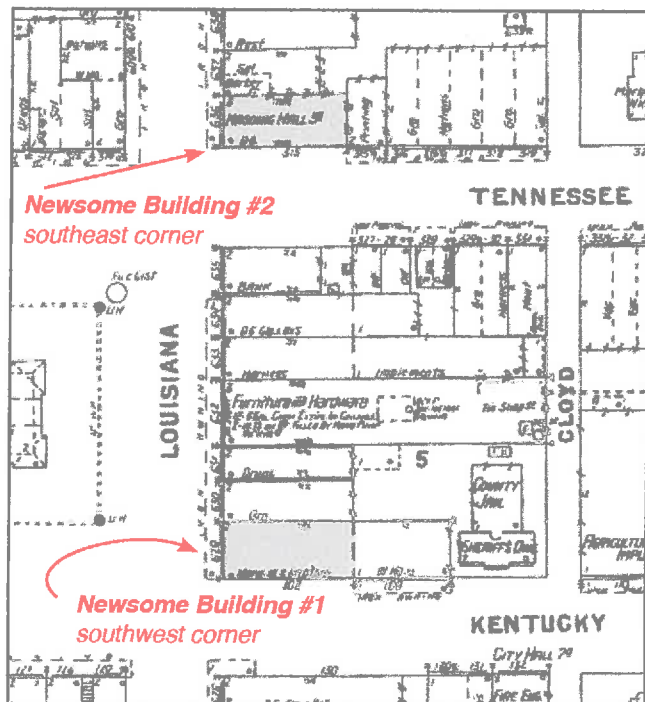
The other building (building #2) that Isaac Newsome built in 1892 was located on the **southeast corner** of the Square. It was a three-story structure and had a round tower capped with cone-shaped roof at its entry. The first floor was for retail, the second floor accommodated offices and the third floor was a meeting hall occupied by the Knights of Pythias. William Newsome sold this building to Fred Emerson and Joe Largent for \$31,000 in 1920. The building was remodeled in the 1930s in the Art Deco style. More recently the building has been refaced with faux brick.



The top photo looks south at the intersection of Tennessee and Louisiana Streets. The photo below it shows the "Newsome" name affixed to the front of the building (#2).



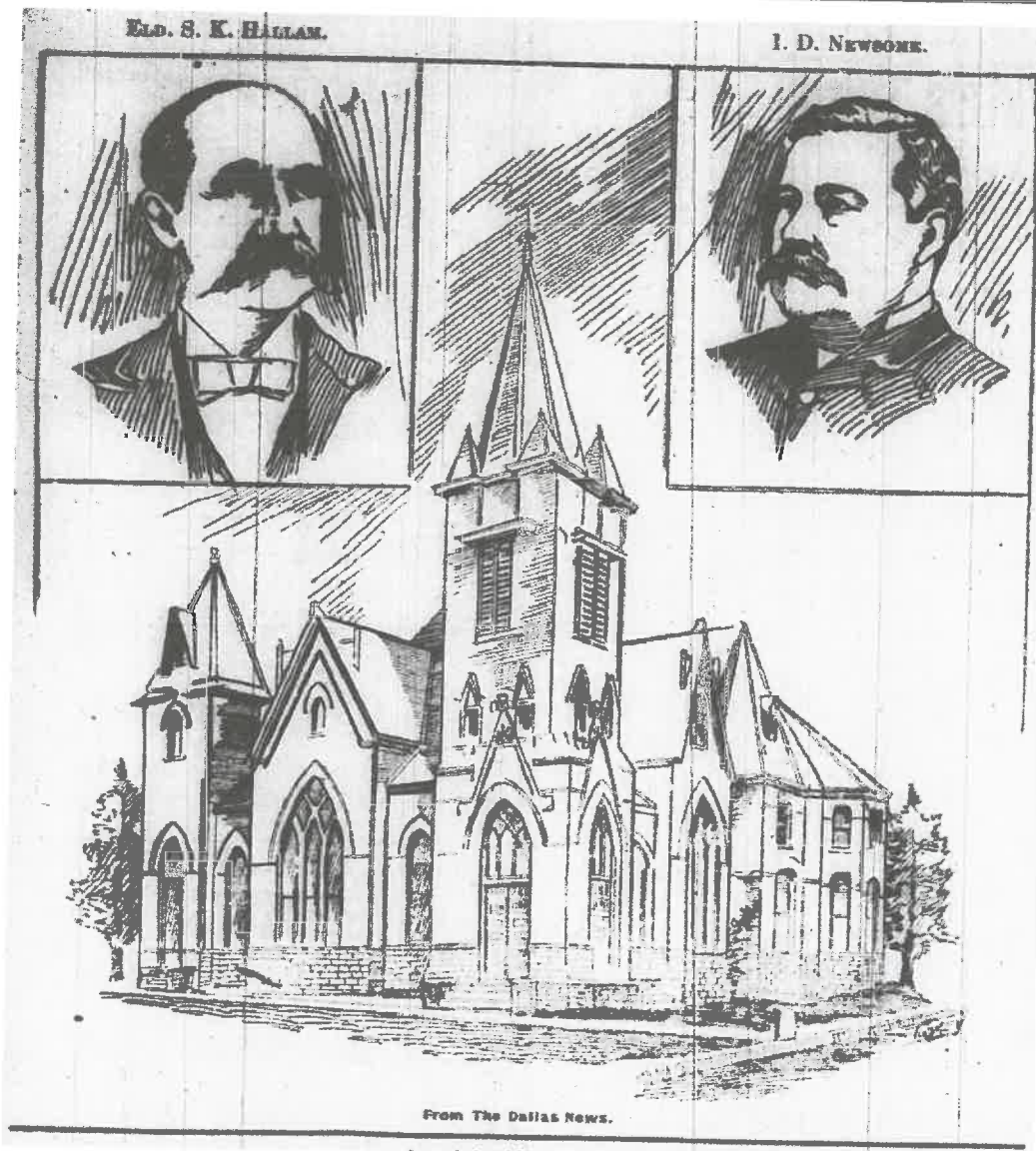
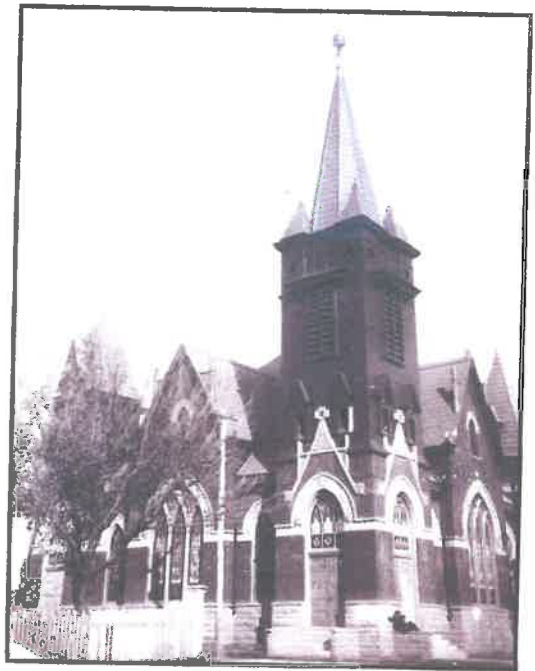
The building where Spoons is now located was built by W.B. Newsome in 1926. It is the site of Isaac Newsome's grocery he started after arriving in McKinney in 1852.



### First Christian Church Donation

In 1897, Isaac Newsome and his two sons contributed \$14,000 for the construction of the First Christian Church located at the corner of Benge and Hunt Streets. Dallas architect J.E. Flanders designed the Gothic Revival Style structure. Later, he would go on to design the Heard-Craig House (1900) and the Brown House (1905) at 509 N. Church.

In a special ceremony, Isaac Newsome spread the mortar for the laying of the cornerstone. The church was later remodeled in the 1920s. Then, in 1970, the congregation moved to its present facilities at 1800 West Hunt Street. The First Methodist Church, which shared the same block, purchased the property and razed the building to accommodate its own expansion.





**Robert Fitzhugh Newsome (1895-1962)**

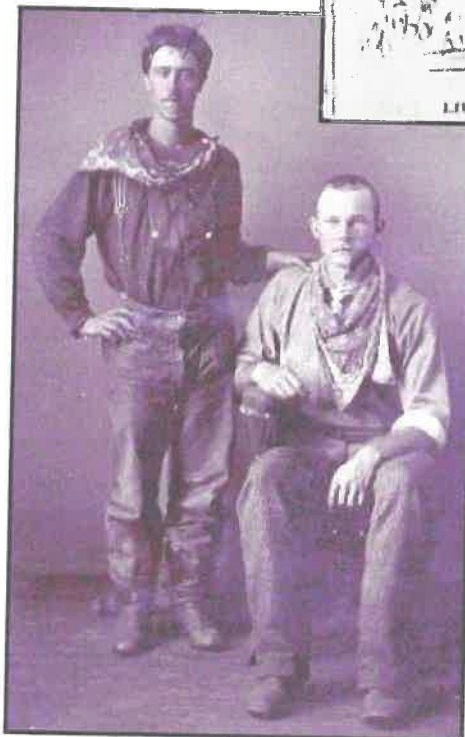
*R.F. Newsome was mayor of McKinney from 1945 to 1955. However, he began his early career in private banking following the lead set by his father Edwin. Fitzhugh, as he was called, and his wife Ella lived with her mother on Church Street until he had his own house built at 609 Tucker Street in 1921. Fitzhugh lived in the house until his death in 1962. His widow Ella sold the house in 1965 and moved to Fort Worth.*

**Races Take Place Saturday, May 13**




LIVE DRAWING OF "FLYING COLORS" AND "MAHOGANEY" AS SEEN IN ACTION.

*In 1916, greyhound races were being held in McKinney. Fitzhugh Newsome's Mahogany was the dog to beat. Many consider the dog to be the fastest in Collin County. This drawing from 1916 depicts Mahogany with his rival Flying Colors owned by Dr. F.H. Wolford in an anticipated match-up between the two dogs.*




*At the age of 22, Fitzhugh Newsome married Ella Rhea Emerson in 1917. She was the granddaughter of two prominent pioneer settlers of McKinney. Her maternal grandfather was mill owner William Rhea. Her paternal grandfather was banker Turner T. Emerson. The picture at left (circa 1860) shows William Rhea standing next to his bother James.*


TEAM WORK IS ESSENTIAL IN ANY PUBLIC ENDEAVOR  
**- LET'S BE SURE -**  
 Who Do We Want For Mayor? Commissioners?  
**ELECT A STRONG TEAM**  
 WITH A PROGRAM OF PROGRESS  
 The Following Three Men Are Seeking Election As A Team—



**R. F. NEWSOME**  
Candidate For Mayor



**GEO. W. JAMES**  
Candidate For Commissioner

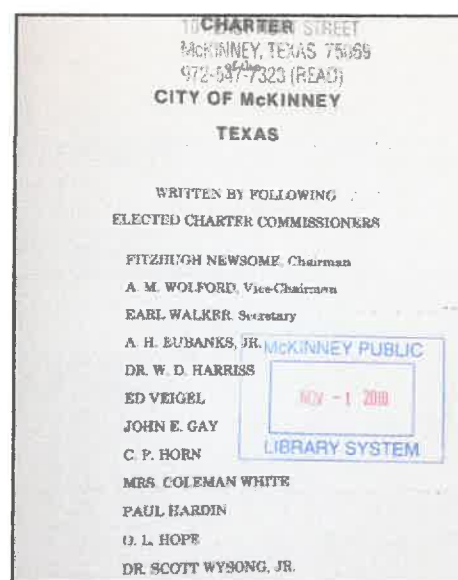
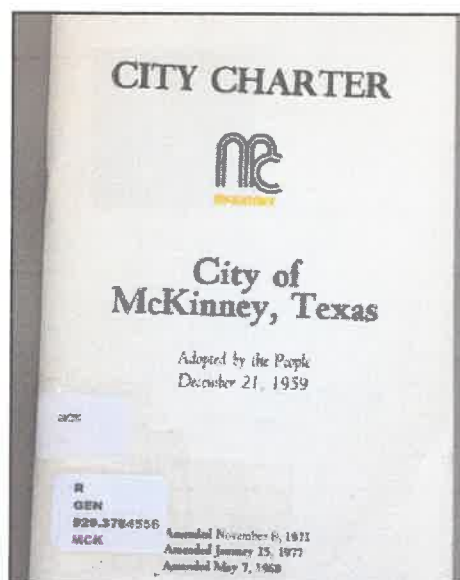


**GELDON ROBERTS**  
Candidate For Commissioner

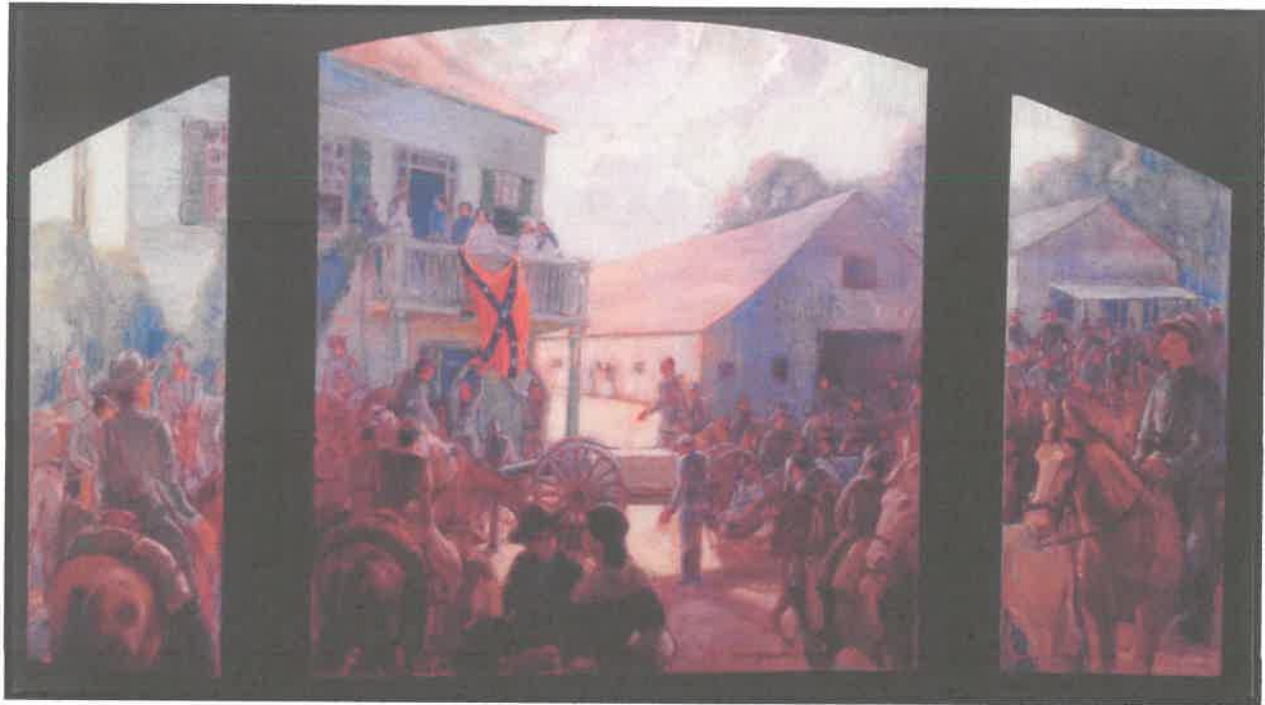
**Vote For This Ticket**  
 And Have A Team Of Harmony That Is Capable Of Handling City Problems  
**WORKING FOR A PROGRESSIVE MCKINNEY**  
**ELECTION DAY TUESDAY, APRIL 5**

(This Is A Paid Political Advertisement. Sponsored By Public Minded Citizens Interested In Good Government)

*Fitzhugh Newsome was first "elected" to city office as a Commissioner in 1943 in a race that had no opposition. At that time, the City government was made up of a Mayor and two Commissioners. In 1945, he ran for Mayor and one. He went on to serve five consecutive terms. He was defeated in 1955 in his sixth campaign for Mayor.*

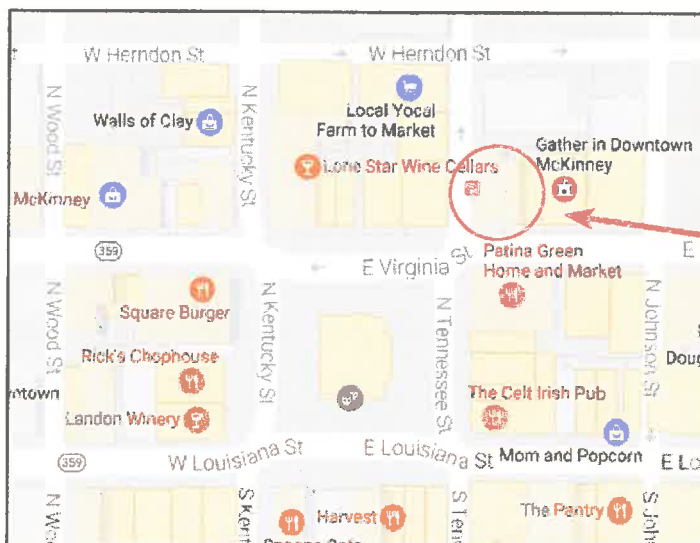


*A few years after Fitzhugh Newsome departure from City politics he was appointed to chair a committee whose mission it was to develop a new form of city government. The new Charter was ratified in 1959 and created the form of government that is currently in use consisting of a Mayor and six Council Members.*



*Frank Klepper painted this scene from 1862 as remembered by his grandmother. Twelve-year old Ella Harrison speaks eloquently from the Tucker Hotel balcony to newly recruited McKinney soldiers as they depart to serve the Confederacy. That same day a caisson rolled into McKinney carrying a coffin holding the remains of Gen. Ben McCullough who was killed during a Civil War battle. Klepper included his mother in the painting. She is the figure in the bottom center of the painting looking back at the Tucker Hotel.*

*The Tucker Hotel was an integral backdrop to the social life of the young town of McKinney and as such became the subject of both history and myth. It was the site of the only Civil War battle fought in McKinney when a gun battle broke out because it was believed that a Union sympathizer was staying at the hotel. There are also reports that Jesse James had been seen there. In 1875, the hotel was destroyed in a large fire.*



**Site of the Tucker Hotel  
(1854-1875)**

**Ella Harrison's speech  
from the Balcony of the Tucker Hotel in 1862**

Captain Johnson and brave associates. I have wrought with my hands a little flag that I have desired to present to you, to become your Company emblem.

It is the emblem of our Country's glory, around it cluster all the fond hopes of a people, now struggling to be free. It is young, it is true, scarce one year old, but it is like a Blazing Star seen for the first time in the deep blue vault of Heaven. It is grasped by dauntless sinews and floats over as brave men as the oldest and proudest flag on earth. No fitter hands than yours could bear aloft the proud emblem of our nation. It could play in the breeze over no worthier land.

When our bleeding Country called upon her gallant sons to rally to her rescue, you heard the call and sprang with alacrity into the tented fields. Your heroic deeds and dauntless courage have woven for you a chaplet more honorable, more enviable than the golden crown worn by the kings of the earth. Your bearing so lofty, so fearless and proud, has won for you the gratitude of our government, the esteem of our gallant men, and the affection of its fair women.

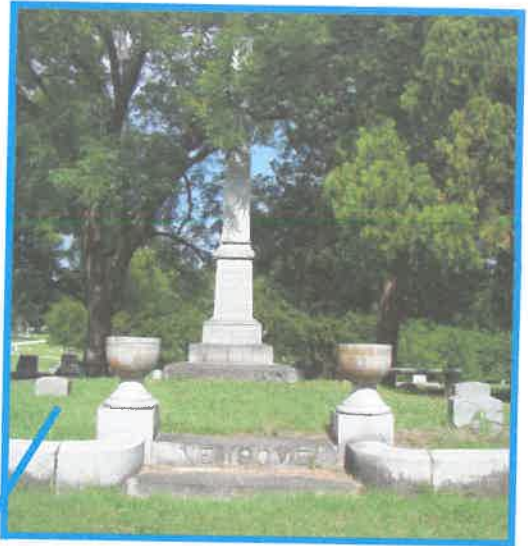
But the county still bleeds at every pore and still calls upon her devoted sons to do battle in her holy cause, and to aid in vindicating the rights of men. Although her brow is already encircled with a wreath of glory, and your names embalmed in the hearts of the people of Missouri, Arkansas and Texas still we behold you here today clad in complete armor for the fray, and eager to add yet another deed to the long catalog already performed.

As a Spy Company you will hold a part of honor in our gallant Army. Much will be expected at your hands, but you are competent to the task. Nobody fears the results. In you we all have unbounded confidence. We feel that future historians will write your deeds in colors of living light and future generations will rise up to do honor to your memories....And now as you go forth with stout hearts and strong arms, to drive back the invaders that wantonly seek to destroy our alters, steel our property, and subjugate and murder our own people....

Let me present this little flag, hoping that you will love it for the giver's sake and that it may remind you of the loved ones who will pray for you while you are gone. Into your hands I confidently place it, knowing that you will protect and preserve it and that you will do honor to the proud State you represent, and that you will assist much in relieving the distress of our grossly insulted country....

You behold before you the remains of our lamented friend and soldier, General Ben McCulloch, who sacrificed his life in defense of his Country. This loss will be deeply felt throughout the length and breath of our Confederacy, and every eye will be moistened by a tear....Shall Southern Men stand and see their heroic leader taken from their midst and not revenge their loss?....NO, Never, Never, Then Go!...  
Your cause is just, and with God and Our Rights as our motto you will march straight on to Victory and Glory.

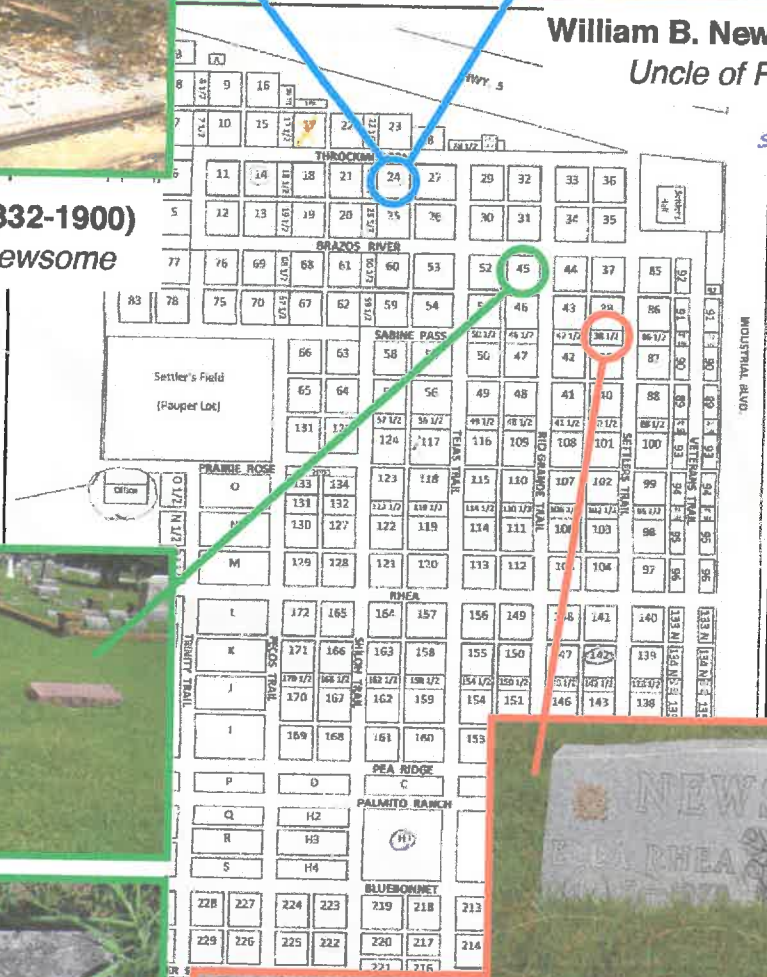
# Pecan Grove Cemetery



**William B. Newsome (1852-1929)**  
*Uncle of R.F. Newsome*



**Isaac D. Newsome (1832-1900)**  
*Grandfather of R.F. Newsome*



**Edwin A. Newsome (1856-1923)**  
*Father of R.F. Newsome*



**Robert Fitzhugh Newsome (1895-1962)**

*Fitzhugh's wife Ella Rhea Emerson was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Her great-great grandfather Joseph Rhea served in the Cherokee Expedition as a staff officer.*



## Airplane Bungalow

The elements that characterize the Airplane Bungalow are:

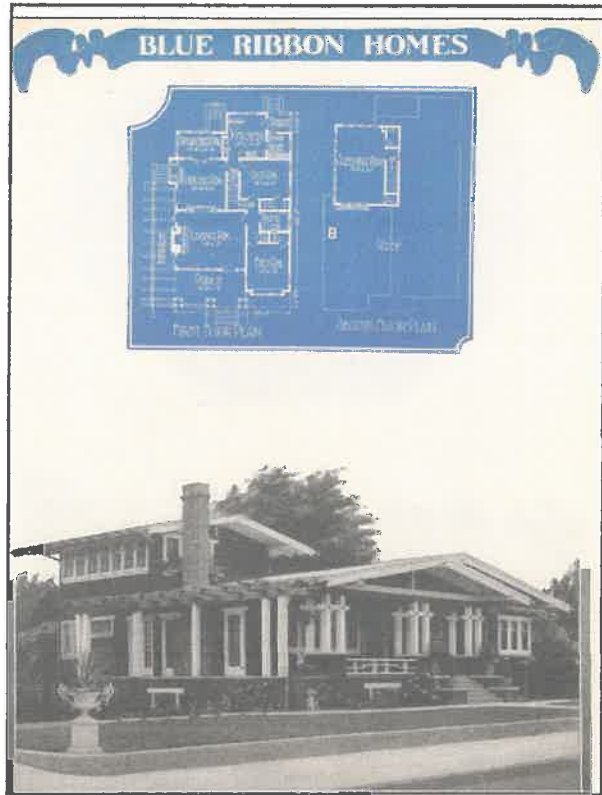
- low-pitched, gabled or shed roof
- broad eaves
- knee bracing and exposed rafters
- rock or brick fireplace
- deep porch
- square wooden columns
- window ribbons
- rock column base
- horizontal massing
- sash windows
- “pop-up” second-story room

The Airplane Bungalow is a variant of the Craftsman Style which originated as a part of the Arts and Crafts Movement. The Movement began in Britain and flourished in America around the beginning of the 20th Century. The Arts and Crafts Movement celebrated nature, art, and hand-craftsmanship. One of the goals of the Movement was to elevate the “decorative arts” to the status that the “fine arts” enjoyed.

The popular 19th Century English social critic John Ruskin was a prominent proponent of the Movement and its ideals. English designer William Morris was one of the first artists to adopt those ideals and express them in tapestry, stain-glass, and textile design.

In 1908 two brothers, Charles and Henry Greene, of the architectural firm Greene & Greene designed and built a house in Pasadena, California for David Gamble of the Proctor and Gamble Company. This exquisitely hand-crafted structure that mixes American and Japanese aesthetics is considered by many to be the finest example of the Craftsman Style ever built.

The Craftsman style became very popular partly because of the good press it received and because its construction was within the capabilities of most carpenters. It was also less expensive than more ornate styles. Ironically, the “Craftsman” home which was initially a reaction against the mass production of the



*The above illustration is from a 1924 pattern book showing an Airplane Style home. Originally, the style drew its inspiration from traditional Japanese architecture rather than aircraft of the day.*



*The Gamble House, built in 1908 by Greene & Greene, is considered to be a masterpiece of Arts & Crafts architecture. The Arts & Craft Movement was as much of a labor movement as it was an art movement. It sought better working conditions for laborers. It also sought to recognize the contribution that skilled craftsmen make to creating a more beautiful living environment.*

industrial revolution became a style popularly mass produced and widely available in kits.

Another irony is that the Airplane Style does not get its inspiration from airplanes, at least not the ones between 1910 and 1920. The style was greatly influenced by traditional Japanese architecture which shared a similar appreciation for nature. Earlier American versions of the Craftsman Style often have curved-tip roofs imitating those found in Japan. The “pop-up” second story is also a common element in Japanese architecture.

This Asian influenced version of the Craftsman Style came to be called “Airplane Style” around 1918 likely because the broad roof supported by wooden columns resembled the wings and struts of WWI aircraft.



*This 1918 Sopwith Camel is an example of the kind of airplanes that existed when the Craftsman Style was popular.*



*This home in San Diego, California shows the Asian influence on an early Craftsman Style bungalow.*



*The Phoenix Hall in Kyoto, Japan shows the traditional Japanese forms that were incorporated into the Craftsman Style that came to be known as the Airplane Bungalow. The result is a structure with low, broad roof lines, exposed rafters and bracing, and small “pop-up” stories.*

## Airplane Style in McKinney

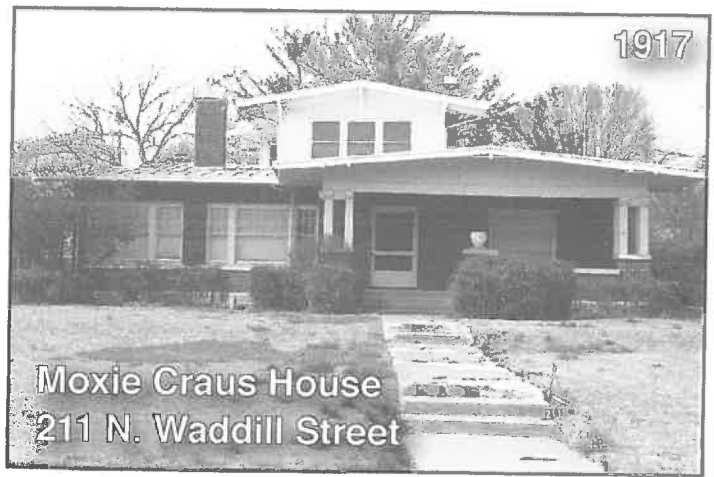
Around the second decade of the 20th Century the Craftsman Bungalow emerged as one of the most popular styles of home in McKinney. The style derives from the Arts & Crafts Movement which emphasizes natural materials and hand-craftsmanship. The style's deep eaves and wrap-around porches are well-suited for the Texas climate. The house at 608 W. Virginia Street built in 1920 is a typical example of the Craftsman Bungalow (see bottom of page). Its broad roof and deep porch are typical elements expressed by the style.

The Craftsman Bungalow Style is frequently combined with other styles including Tudor and Prairie. However, one of the more exotic styles to influence the Craftsman Bungalow came from Japan. These structures with their flattened, broad roofs and elaborate rafters and bracing became known as the Airplane Style.

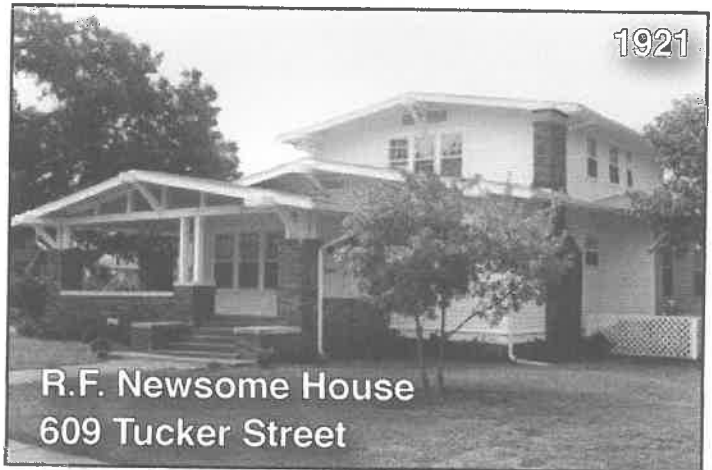
In McKinney, the Airplane Style is represented by only a few homes. The style's dramatic flair was not for everyone. However, the examples that exist are striking in their quality and originality. The photos at right show the most impressive versions.

The first such house to appear in McKinney was built for oil man Moxie Craus in 1917. However, the home that best exemplifies the style's Asian influences is the R.F. Newsome House. This house was built four years after the Craus House and, based on the quality and design of the two homes, may share the same builder.

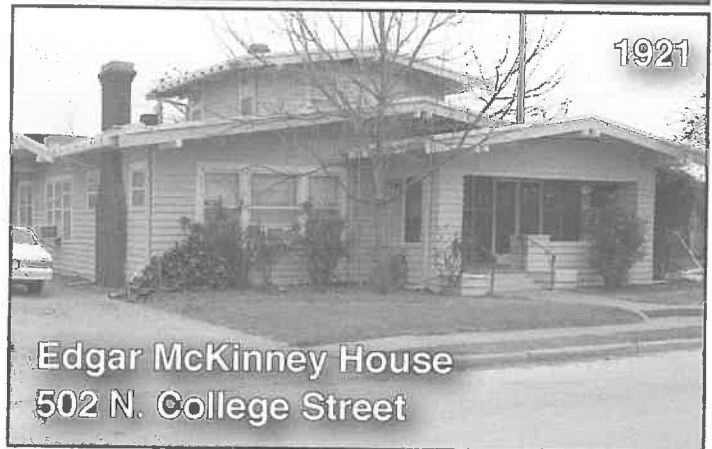
It is known that J.E. Cooper built the home at 311 N. Waddill for Silas E. Walker in 1923. He may have also build the home for Edgar McKinney on College Street.



Moxie Craus House  
211 N. Waddill Street



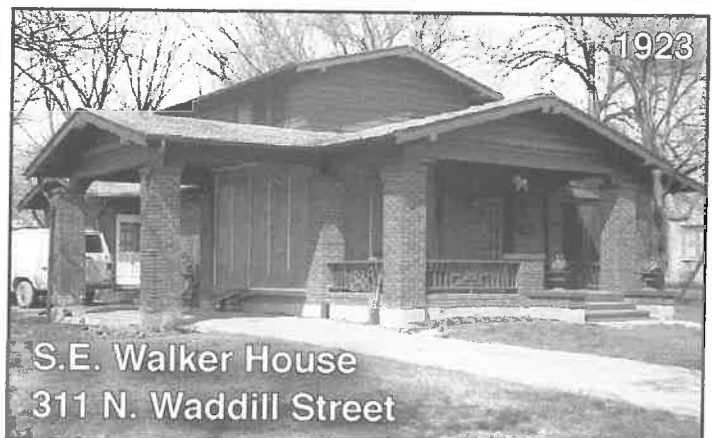
R.F. Newsome House  
609 Tucker Street



Edgar McKinney House  
502 N. College Street

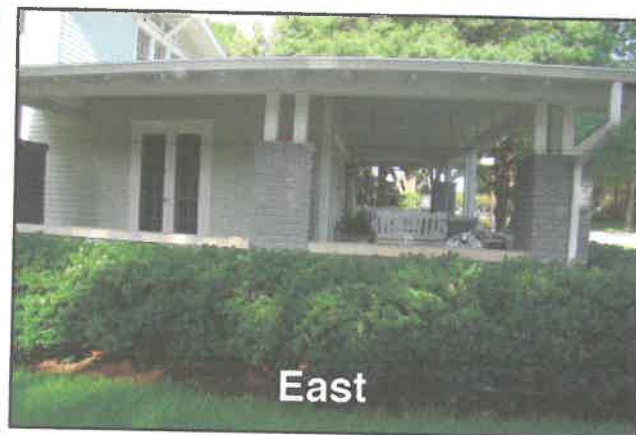
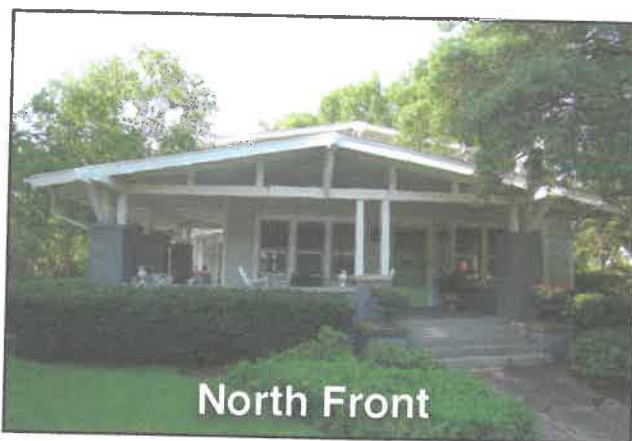


Craftsman Bungalow  
608 W. Virginia Street



S.E. Walker House  
311 N. Waddill Street

# Current Photos (2017)





East



East



Southeast



Northwest



Southwest



Northeast



North



Porch

# Neighborhood Context (2017)

## 609 Tucker Street neighborhood context



*View looking North on College Street*



*View looking South on College Street*



*View looking West on Tucker Street*

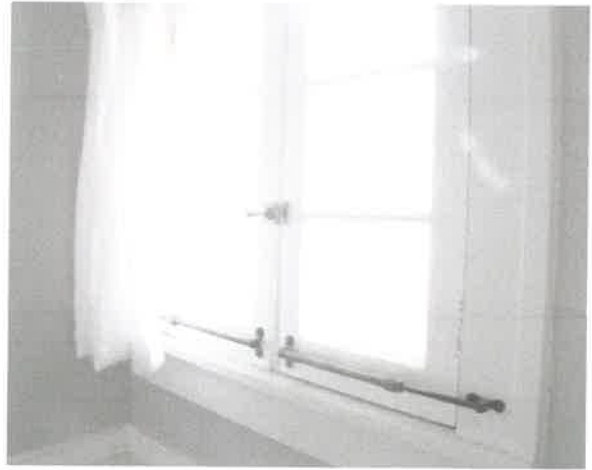


*View looking East on Tucker Street*

## Architectural Accents



*Scalloped carpentry trim in the kitchen*



*Casement windows in the downstairs bath*



*Curved limestone cap on brick*



*Columns, rafters, and bracing exposed*



*Square, wooden columns on a brick pier*



*Ribbon of windows*







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McKinney Public Library

*Research assistance provided by Tom Michero*

\* \* \*