

## **History of Brooke-Wilson House**

**608 W Hunt St**

**McKinney, Collin County, Texas**

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The Brooke-Wilson House at 608 West Hunt Street is located less than ½ mile west of the downtown McKinney Square. It was completed in 1897 by Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Brooke, who had moved to McKinney in 1882 from Fayette County, Tennessee.

### **The Brooke Family (1897 - 1908)**

William Thornton Brooke was born on July 17, 1849<sup>1</sup> to William Hill Brooke (b 1820) and Clarissa Jane Lawrence Brooke (b 1824), who lived at Brooks Bank, Essex County, Virginia on a plantation now on the National Register of Historic Places. This home had been built by the Brooke family five generations earlier in 1751.<sup>2</sup> By 1870, W. T. Brooke had moved away from eastern Virginia and was a school teacher in Tippah County, Mississippi.<sup>3</sup> He married Miss Lina Franklin Abernathy in Marshall County, Mississippi, on Nov. 23, 1875.<sup>4</sup>

Lina (nickname "Brownie") was a granddaughter of Meshack Franklin (born in 1772), who served in the US Congress from North Carolina from 1807 through 1815.<sup>5</sup> Lina was born in Early Grove, Marshall County, Mississippi in June 1856. Her parents were David Addison Abernathy (b 1811) and Frances "Frankey" Jane Franklin (b 1821).<sup>6</sup>

David Abernathy was a farmer. David and Francis moved to McKinney, Texas in 1882.<sup>7</sup> They followed their son, civil war veteran William M Abernathy, who moved to McKinney in 1877 with his wife Lucy, and two small children. He had enlisted in the Army of the South at age 17 and had been in several civil war battles and was wounded six times. Most likely the war brought him to McKinney for the first time. After establishing his law practice, W. M. Abernathy helped organize St. Peter's Episcopal Church. He was also the first chief of the McKinney volunteer fire department.<sup>8</sup> McKinney was growing fast at this point in time following the first railroad to come through the area in 1872.

Three more siblings of W. M. Abernathy also moved to McKinney within the next six years: G. E. Abernathy, a McKinney merchant; M. G. Abernathy, a five-term Collin County judge; and Lina (Brownie), wife of W. T. Brooke. Their father, David, died in McKinney, Texas in 1887. Their mother, Frances, lived with her McKinney children for the next ten years until her death in 1897. Rev. Galbreath of the Episcopal Church conducted her funeral and she and her husband are buried in Pecan Grove Cemetery.<sup>9</sup>

The Brooke family had two daughters in Mississippi, Anna and Clara, and they moved a little north to Fayette County, Tennessee, where W. T. was listed as a merchant in the 1880 U. S. census.<sup>10</sup> Their third daughter, Frances, was born in 1880. The Brooke family moved to McKinney in 1883.<sup>11</sup> In 1892, he was elected an Alderman of Ward 1 in McKinney.<sup>12</sup> Three more girls were born to the Brookes while they lived in McKinney: Baynham in 1886, Mildred in 1888, and Betsy in 1897.

On September 1, 1883, W. T. Brooke purchased the land on Hunt Street in McKinney where he would later build the home in 1896-7. The land was originally part of a grant on April 3, 1850 to T. T. Bradley of 291 acres with the intersection of Hunt and College being the SE corner. Mr. Bradley and his wife Sarah sold 2 ½ acres to John E. Howell on Feb. 23, 1880. This acreage was the block on the north side of Hunt from College to Bradley, with Logan as the north boundary. Mr. Howell passed away in July 1881 and his wife Sallie Howell began to sell off the land keeping only the southeast corner where her homestead was located. Sallie Howell sold a 100' x 200' property to J. B. Lucas on June 30, 1882. J. B. Lucas and his wife Abbie then sold this land to William Warden on May 5, 1883. Mr. Brooke bought this land from William Warden. After the home was completed, Mr. Brooke bought an additional 30'x100' tract from Sallie Howell in 1900 making a total frontage along Hunt Street of 130 feet.<sup>13</sup>

W. T. Brooke partnered with C. P. Heard in the grocery and mercantile business for a number of years. Charles Pike Heard was the brother of John S. Heard and Stephen D Heard, who are well-known in McKinney history. The C. P. Heard family lived on West Hunt (504) near the Brookes and much later in history, a son, Dudley Heard would marry Mary Hatzog, who grew up in the same house that W. T. Brooke would build. The partnership "Heard and Brooke" was dissolved at the end of 1892 when "Heard and Brooke" became "Heard and Pierce."<sup>14</sup> Brooke next worked for I. D. Newsome & Sons.<sup>11</sup> One McKinney newspaper report from 1898 states that "Mr. W. T. Brooke, of I. D. Newsome's Sons & Co., is in Dallas on business today."<sup>15</sup> Later, in 1901, an ad appeared in the newspaper announcing the formation of Newsome & Brooke,

successors to I. D. Newsome, Sons, & Co.<sup>16</sup> This ad is signed by E. A. Newsome and W. T. Brooke and states: "Having bought out the interest of W. B. Newsome in the old firm, we are now prepared to cater to the wants of the farming public, with a full line of staple groceries, grain bags, John Deere implements, Mitchell wagons, Deering binders, binding twine, and bagging and ties." In April of 1901, Brooke was elected to the Board of Directors of the McKinney Retail Grocers' Association. This group was organized to elevate the business standards of the grocery merchants. The president was Giles McKinney and the Vice President was Price Stiff.<sup>17</sup> He continued to serve on this board until 1903, when he moved from the retail business to the banking business.<sup>18</sup>

W. T. Brooke's new home on West Hunt Street was completed in 1897. A newspaper article states: "Contractors Padgitt and Higgins think they will have W. T. Brooke's new \$2000 residence completed by the middle of next month."<sup>19</sup> Higgins & Padgitt, contractors (W. J. Higgins and J. R. Padgitt), built numerous homes and business structures in the McKinney area. For example, one newspaper note from the time states: "Higgins & Padgitt, contractors are building one of the handsomest six roomed cottages in town for W. J. S. Russell on east Anthony street. It will be neatly finished inside and out and entirely surrounded by a veranda. These same contractors have begun the erection of another pretty cottage in the same portion of town for Will Gray."<sup>20</sup>

The new home on West Hunt was occupied by W. T. Brooke, his wife Lina (Brownie), and their six daughters, ranging in age from newborn to 20.

On Oct. 3, 1899, Annie Brooke, the eldest daughter married Robert Hill Steger at the Episcopal church, Rector J. O. Miller officiated. <sup>21</sup>The Stegers moved to Dallas and had three children.

Their third oldest daughter, Francis Franklin Brooke, married John Bailey Hill at the Episcopal church on December 18, 1901. The newspaper article announcing the upcoming wedding stated: "These are among the most prominent and popular members of our city's social circles."<sup>22</sup> John Hill was born in McKinney in 1877. John's father, James Wootson (Woot) Hill, was the brother of Tuck Hill and his cousins included Frank and Jesse James. They all came to McKinney with William Clark Quantrill during the Civil War 1863. Quantrill led an independent group of guerrilla partisans with an irregular connection with the Confederate Army. They were involved in the only Civil War "battle" to take place in McKinney, when they decided the sheriff of Collin County, James L. Reed, was a Union sympathizer. The two groups had a shootout near the present-day museums at Chestnut Square.<sup>23</sup> Here is the actual connection between Woot and Tuck Hill and Frank and Jesse James: Susan Ellen Poor was the mother of the Hill brothers. Her father was Drury Woodson Poor whose sister Mary Poor was the mother of Robert Sallee James, the father of Frank and Jesse. Robert Sallee James and Susan Ellen Poor were cousins, and that would make the Hills Brothers and the James brothers 2nd cousins.

The second daughter, Clara Mercer Brooke, was married to Robert Peyton Warwick on Wednesday at the bride's home on September 17, 1902. This was the first of at least three home weddings to be held at this home. The newspaper article called it "one of

the prettiest home weddings seen in McKinney in a long time...Just after the carriages conveying the wedding party to the [train] station had left the home of W. T. Brooke Wednesday, a telegram was handed Mr. and Mrs. Brooke announcing the birth of a little daughter at 4:30 o'clock to Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Steger in Dallas. This is Mr. and Mrs. Brooke's second grand child."<sup>24</sup> Robert Warwick was a local buyer for the cotton house of the Thompson-Henson Co., Liverpool, with headquarters at Paris, Texas. He was a nephew of Walter B. Harrison of McKinney. Not only was Clara Brooke married that day, but also the new granddaughter was named Clara.

In August 1902, W. T. Brooke received a letter from his business partner, E. A. Newsome, written from Salt Lake City in which he told him of a railroad wreck he and his family were in at Elko, Nevada. Their train was standing in the yard and the passengers having breakfast when a second train crashed into their train. Mr. Newsome was thrown out of a window onto the ground. Although he was bruised, it was a narrow escape from serious injury.<sup>25</sup> By the fall of 1903, Newsome and Brooke had decided to close out their business on the square in McKinney. Their "Going Out of Business" ad in the newspaper listed a stock of John Deere plows, cultivators, stalk cutters, corn and cotton planters, combined disc harrows and drills, and broad tire Mitchell wagons.<sup>26</sup> On Christmas Day 2003, the Daily Gazette announced that Joe W. Barnes was moving his stock to larger quarters, "the Newsome & Brooke brick building on the southwest corner of the square." This building, located at 100 E. Louisiana, was rebuilt in 1926 as the Newsome-Abernathy Building<sup>27</sup>, and is currently the home of Spoons Cafe.

The Brooke home was a site of hospitality. In 1904, W. T. Brooke, foreman, entertained the members of the grand jury. The newspaper stated: "The repast was elegant in every sense of the word, and gracefully served by Mrs. Brooke and her daughters, and the hospitality for which this family is noted was lavishly bestowed on the gentlemen present."<sup>28</sup>

A change in the career of W. T. Brooke happened in June 1904, when the stock of the First National Bank of Frisco was sold to the Collin County National Bank of McKinney. The new board of directors were: J. L. White, W. B. Newsome, Jesse Shain, J. R. Gough, T. C. Goodner, T. B. Wilson and J. S. Heard. The new officers of the Frisco bank were J. L. White, president, and W. T. Brooke, cashier.<sup>29</sup>

Mr. Brooke moved to Frisco to direct the daily activities of the bank. An article that appeared in the Frisco Journal (and quoted in the McKinney Democrat) 2 ½ years later stated: "Mr. Brooke went to Dallas Saturday to attend the funeral services of a little grandchild. This is the first time since he has been cashier of our bank, and that has been 30 months, that he has been absent from the bank during business hours. That's an extra fine record for attentiveness."<sup>30</sup> Clearly Mr. Brooke was a dedicated leader of the bank. He also served on the railroad right-of-way committee for the Texas, New Mexico and Pacific railway.<sup>31</sup>

Mrs. Brooke and her daughters must have had a hard time living away from their home in McKinney. On May 17, 1906, the Frisco Journal reported: "Mrs. W. T. Brooke and children have moved back to McKinney, but Mr. Brooke will remain with us and

be a 'widower.' While we are sorry to lose Mrs. Brooke, we can't blame her, for they have a nice home in McKinney and had lived there so long no other place seems like home."<sup>32</sup> On most weekends, Mr. Brooke would ride his horse back into McKinney to be with his family.

On June 28, 1906, the McKinney paper reported that "The Family of C. A. Sanford, cashier of the Continental Bank and Trust company, has moved here from Fort Worth and taken rooms at the residence of W. T. Brooke on College Hill."<sup>33</sup> The residence had five bedrooms on the second floor. Most likely, this was a short term stay.

When Mildred Brooke (the fifth daughter) was a senior in McKinney Central High School, Brownie Brooke chaperoned the '07 graduating class to a celebration hosted by Mr. and Mrs. John Montgomery west of town. There was a dinner and rabbit hunt at this beautiful country home followed by the drama "Alabama" in Frisco.<sup>34</sup>

Finally the Brookes gave up their fine McKinney home and Mrs. Brooke and the girls moved to Frisco to join Mr. Brooke in January 1908.<sup>35</sup>

Brownie Brooke died unexpectedly of a heart attack in July 1912.<sup>36</sup> Mr. Brooke resigned his position at the First National Bank of Frisco at the end of 1912 and moved to Dallas to live with his daughter Clara, who was now married to Mr. Edmund Steger, the brother of Annie's husband, Robert Steger.<sup>37</sup> Five of his six daughters lived in Oak Cliff at the time. Mrs. John Hill (Francis) lived in McKinney. W. T. Brooke died in



December 1916 at the age of 67. A special interurban car brought his body back to McKinney, where he was buried in Pecan Grove Cemetery with his wife, Brownie.<sup>38</sup>

### **Burr Martin and The Interurban (1908 - 1912)**

A new mode of transportation came to McKinney in 1908 when the Texas Traction Company completed the 65 mile line from Dallas to Sherman. J. F. Strickland of Dallas and John S. Heard of McKinney had been instrumental in establishing this company. Burr Martin had been the purchasing agent for the interurban and as the line moved to operation, he became the claim agent for the interurban and he moved his residence north to McKinney. The real estate agency of Moore & Hight helped him locate a residence on College Hill, the home of the Brooke family on Hunt Street.<sup>39</sup> The Warranty Deed for the sale is dated June 3, 1908. The price paid was \$3250.

The 1910 U. S. Census shows Burr Martin (age 44) living at 35 West Hunt Street (the address at that time) with his wife Helen(39), and children Vera(16), Alma(14), Samuel(11), and Ruth(6).<sup>40</sup> However the 1909-10 McKinney City Directory lists the address as 606 Hunt Street.

Once again the house was blessed with many daughters (plus one son). Burr Martin was born in Kentucky, but the 1880 U. S. Census shows Burr (14) living in Grayson County, Texas, with his grandfather Hugh Kirkpatrick, a farmer, and his mother, Sallie Martin, and two sisters.<sup>41</sup> He was a neighbor of Helen Hendricks (9), whom he would later marry. The Dennison newspaper from April 1892 states that: "Burr Martin, of

Sherman, spent Friday in Denison. Mr. Martin was connected with the Missouri, Kansas & Texas surveying department during 1890-91, and was, at that time, a citizen of this city.<sup>42</sup>

Burr married Helen DeBerry Hendricks at her parents home, five miles south of Dennison, November 1, 1892.<sup>43</sup> They moved to his home in Midlothian, where he was a furniture dealer.<sup>44</sup> The 1880 U. S. Census indicates that Helen (9) was a resident of Grayson County, Texas, with her parents, Jessie Elvis Hendricks (43) and Susan (35) and two sisters and a brother.<sup>45</sup> J. E. Hendricks (known as "El") came to Grayson County from Missouri in 1844. His father, John Hendrix, helped lay out the city of Sherman, and was one of the first city councilmen after incorporation. It is said that El Hendricks was the first settler in North Texas to build a prairie home. The others located in the timbered areas on account of the Indians.<sup>46</sup>

In 1905, the Burr Martin Furniture Store in Midlothian was sold to Mr. Thomas H. Newton.<sup>47</sup> In February 1908, The McKinney paper reported that Burr Martin, purchasing agent for the Dallas-Sherman interurban, and D. H. Murphy, construction supervisor, were in the city. The track-laying gang was making good progress. They had reached Anna and the next day were proceeding north to Van Alstyne.<sup>48</sup> Texas Traction Company had the following officers: President, J. F. Strickland of Dallas; and vice presidents, W. R. Brents of Sherman and John S. Heard of KcKinney.<sup>49</sup> A big workforce was in McKinney in August 1908 when the track across the square was paved and the Largent building was remodeled to be a ticket office. Those inspecting the work included J. S. Heard and Burr Martin.<sup>50</sup>

Burr Martin was listed as a member of the McKinney Commercial Club in November 1908.<sup>51</sup> Things went so well with the interurban, that J. F. Strickland had no difficulty selling \$5.5 million in bonds in March 1912 to form the Southern Traction Company to build the interurban south from Dallas to Waco with another branch to Corsicana. Among the McKinney shareholders in the new company were John S. Heard, W. B. Newsome, R. L. Waddill, T. B. Wilson, J. L. Lovejoy, and Burr Martin.<sup>52</sup>

Shortly thereafter, Burr Martin moved back to Dallas in order to take a bigger role in the construction and operation of the new rail operation. In October, the newspaper reported that “Burr Martin, claim agent of the Interurban, has sold his fine home on College[sic] street to Henry Hartzog. Mr. Martin will soon move to Dallas with his family. We regret to see them leave McKinney. Mr. Hartzog will occupy the place just purchased as a home, after it has been thoroughly overhauled.”<sup>53</sup>

In 1917, The Mexia Weekly Herald proclaimed: “The longest interurban line in the world became another Dallas achievement when the Texas Traction Company and the Southern Traction Company consolidated the two lines under the name of the Texas Electric Company.” The line extended from Dennison on the north to Waco and Corsicana on the south. Burr Martin was appointed Vice President and General Manager of the Texas Electric Company!<sup>54</sup> Burr Martin continued to visit McKinney as representative of his company. In 1920, he formally requested the City of McKinney for permission to raise its street car fare in McKinney from 5 cents to 6 cents.<sup>55</sup> In 1922, 200 railway employees attended a business meeting and banquet where “Burr

Martin of Dallas, general manager of the Texas Electric Company was a distinguished visitor and made an address.”<sup>56</sup>

By 1927, Burr Martin had moved to Beverly Hills, California, although he was still serving as a Vice President of the Texas Electric Company.<sup>57</sup> He and his wife Helen enjoyed California for many more years and are both buried in Glendale, California.

### **Hartzog, Mercantile Man (1912 - 1915)**

Burr and Helen Martin sold this home to F. H. Hartzog on October 24, 1912 for \$4450. Francis Henry Hartzog was born in 1860 near Paris, Texas. His father, George Hartzog, died when he was 2 years old. His mother, Catherine Elizabeth Spears, remarried when he was 7. Henry married Mary Frances “Fannie” Davies in Paris, Texas in 1887. They were living in Wolfe City, Texas by 1891 where he owned a hardware store, Hartzog & Chase<sup>58</sup>. In 1905, he is listed in the Fort Worth City Directory as Vice President of Medlin Milling Company, which operated the Medlin Mills in Fort Worth and the White Wolf Mills in Wolfe City. Their products were flour, meal, and wheat. In 1910, F. H. Hartzog of Whitewright, Texas was prospecting in the vicinity of Deming, New Mexico along with J. Y. Robertson and C. F. Freeman of Dallas.<sup>59</sup>

In 1912 Henry Hartzog moved his family to McKinney and he became a partner and manager of the Crouch-Hartzog Company on the south side of the square. This well-known McKinney company was a furniture and hardware store founded by Isaac

Crouch, who began by hand-making furniture and coffins. The store continued as a funeral home as well. A newspaper ad in 1914 headlined "To the woman seeking furniture, this store is the ideal place." The bottom of the ad read: "Crouch-Hartzog Company, Funeral Directors and Embalmers."

After the tragic building collapse on the McKinney square in January 1913, the bodies were brought to the Crouch-Hartzog Company.<sup>60</sup>

In July 1912, according to the McKinney newspaper, F. H. Hartzog purchased the beautiful home of Postmaster S. H. Cole on Waddill Street.<sup>61</sup> But in October 1912 he purchased this home on West Hunt Street. The new residents on West Hunt were Henry Hartzog, his wife Fannie, and one daughter, Mary Francis Hartzog (age 22).

In 1913 F. H. Hartzog was elected the founding President of the Retail Merchants' Association of McKinney.<sup>62</sup> A newspaper ad in 1913 for Crouch-Hartzog Company claimed this was the "largest store in Collin County."<sup>63</sup> A newspaper article in 1914 stated, "These papers venture the assertion there is not another house in its line in any Texas city no larger than McKinney of quite so much pretense as that of the Crouch-Hartzog Company."<sup>64</sup>

In May 1915 Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Parker, funeral directors and embalmers, bought out the interest of Henry Hartzog in Crouch-Hartzog and the store was renamed J. P. Crouch & Co.<sup>65</sup> By November of 1915, the Crouch family had purchased the majority interest in

the company and made a major reorganization, which no longer included the Parkers.<sup>66</sup>

The Hartzogs sold their home on July 15, 1915 to J. J. "Book" Wilson for \$5000. Henry Hartzog died in El Paso in 1920 at the age of 59. It is interesting that the 1930 U. S. Census shows Fannie Hartzog (age 64) living in San Antonio with her daughter Mary, who is now married to John Dudley Heard, the son of C. P. Heard, a partner of W. T. Brooke. C. P. lived at 504 West Hunt Street, just a block away from the Brooke-Wilson home.

### **The Wilson Family (1915-1978)**

John Jonathon Wilson was known as J. J. "Book" Wilson. His father George A. Wilson came to Collin County from Tennessee in 1842. After serving in the Mexican War he returned to Tennessee and accompanied his father, Addison Wilson and family to Collin County in 1849 in a caravan of 15 wagons. George married Harriett Kincaid in 1867. Harriett was the daughter of John M. Kincaid. He and Gov. J. W. Throckmorton were brothers-in-law – both having married Rattans. General J. J. Reynolds appointed George Wilson sheriff of Collin County. At the time of his death in 1895, George Wilson was the largest landholder in Collin County.<sup>67</sup>

Book Wilson was the second of 13 children born to George and Harriett Wilson, born in 1857. He married Emily "Emma" Hatler of Collin County in 1883. She was the daughter of Calvin and Fannie Morgan Hatler. Her parents left Kentucky in 1869,

moving to Texas and settling on a farm four miles east of present day Melissa in the Stiff Chapel community. Book and Emma Wilson lived in the Rock Rest school community about five miles northeast of McKinney at the old farm homestead of his father, George A. Wilson. They later moved to the farm at Stiff Chapel. Book was a very successful farmer and gradually acquired more and more property. He was a frequent visitor to McKinney with many relatives in the area. His uncle Thomas Benton Wilson was deputy sheriff, Collin County surveyor, and one of the organizers of what would become Collin County National Bank. His uncle Augustus (Gus) Wilson, a simple, modest pioneer, became an amazing philanthropist, giving away money, automobiles, and even big farms. Book and his family moved to Princeton in 1912. In 1915 Book Wilson moved into the Brooke-Wilson home in McKinney. The newspaper article stated:

J. J. (Book) Wilson, a prominent citizen, land owner and wealthy, has moved with his family to McKinney, now occupying the home, formerly owned by Burl (sic) Martin, and recently purchased by Mr. Wilson. We welcome this good family to our progressive city. Mr. Wilson moves to take advantage of our fine schools.<sup>68</sup>

The new residents on West Hunt Street were J. J. Book Wilson (age 47), Emma (51), and children Annie (17), Lucile (11), and Ora “Bopeep” (7). Their son Roscoe had married Lulu Elizabeth Johnson and two other children had died tragically earlier (George died at the age of 2 and Calvin died at the age of 17 of typhoid fever). Once again, the house was graced with daughters.

In October 1920, Annie was married to Everett Slaughter of Anna in a home wedding at the Brooke-Wilson home. The home was decorated in ferns and Russell roses arranged in nooks and crannies. The vows were said in the double parlors, with a reception in the dining room. Everett was a scientific farmer.<sup>69</sup>

Lucille married James D. Griffin. James' father, James Preston Griffin, and his two brothers opened the Griffin Brothers Cotton Gin in McKinney in 1889. It was located on College and Howell Streets. James D. Griffin was an automobile salesman.

Bopeep Griffin never married and lived in the home until she sold it in 1978. She was a resident of this home for 65 years. Bopeep was the organist for the Trinity United Presbyterian Church and she was the x-ray technician at the Wysong Medical Clinic run by Dr. W. S. Wysong and his sons. She gave organ and piano lessons at her home in the front parlor.

Emma Wilson died in 1929 at the age of 67. Roscoe and Lula Wilson moved into the home along with their two sons, Russell and George. Roscoe was a lumberyard manager. Also in the home were Book Wilson and Bopeep. Book Wilson died in 1933 at the age of 76. J. J. Book Wilson and Emma were buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in McKinney.

By 1935, Lucille and her husband, James D. Griffin, and their son James Wilson Griffin (age 2) were living in the home with Bopeep. Bopeep Wilson and the Griffin family remained in the house until the death of Lucille in October 1978. Bopeep (Ora Gilbert



Wilson) sold the home on Dec. 19, 1978 to Melvin and Dari Fain. Bopeep died in April 1979 and was buried in Pecan Grove Cemetery. James D. Griffin died in 1983. James and Lucille were buried in Pecan Grove Cemetery.

### **The Fain Family (1978 – 2010)**

Melvin R. Fain was VP-Architecture at T.G.I. Friday's, Inc. when he and Dari purchased the home in 1978. Later in 1980 he became the Principal for Melvin R Fain Architects, specializing in architecture and interior design for restaurant and entertainment clients throughout the U.S. Not only did Melvin have the original concept for the design of 50 T.G.I. Friday's stores nationally and 50 original Dave & Buster's Centers internationally, but his projects included Spoon's Café in McKinney.

Melvin and Dari Fain and their son, Christopher, moved into the home, where they were to live for the next 30 years. Mr. Fain used his architectural skills to renovate parts of the home, including new porch flooring of Brazilian Rosewood (Palope), replacement of plumbing and wiring, new tin and wood ceilings in the interior, modifications to the second floor rooms, and finishing the third floor attic to create a new room. He also added a large garage and a studio or guesthouse in the back yard. However, he took great care to retain the original external appearance and footprint of the house and to match the new buildings to the style of the home. He won a Historical Preservation Award from the City of McKinney in 1997 for his work on the house.

Eventually the Fains built a new home in Granbury, Texas and moved there in 2009. The home was sold to the Mitchells in 2010.

### **The Mitchell Family (2010 - )**

Owen Robert and Gloria Jane Mitchell arrived on the scene in McKinney in the fall of 2010. Robert had been an engineering professor before retiring and told Jane she could pick any spot in the country for retirement. She picked McKinney. They purchased the home from the Fains in November 2010. The Mitchell family had, in one way, come full circle, in that Robert's great-great-grandfather was J. B. Wilmeth, a pioneer settler of McKinney. J. B. and his wife Nancy had come to Texas late in 1845 and moved to McKinney in 1846. He helped pick the spot for the courthouse square, was the county judge, established the first school in McKinney, and established the first church in McKinney, which became the First Christian Church<sup>70</sup>. Robert's great grandfather was James R. Wilmeth, who was a civil war veteran from McKinney and who eventually moved out west, south of Brownwood, because he was a circuit riding preacher who thought that McKinney was too settled. Robert's grandmother, Clementine Wilmeth Briley was born in McKinney before the move to west Texas.

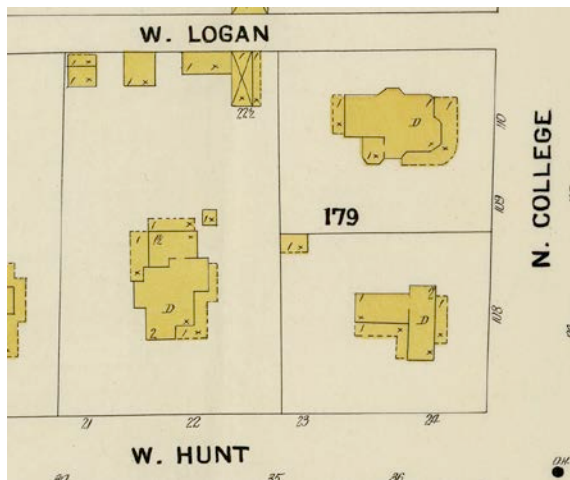
### **House Architecture**

The house is classified as a Victorian, Queen Anne, Free Classic, Hipped Roof with Lower Cross Gables.<sup>71</sup> The Queen Anne style was common during the period 1880-1910. Characteristics of the Queen Anne style are a steeply pitched roof of irregular

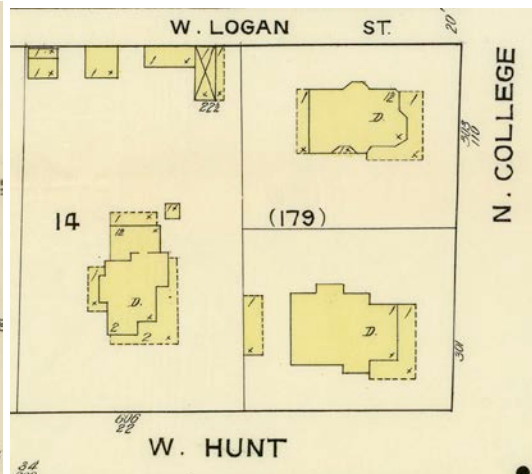
shape, usually with a front facing gable; asymmetrical façade with a porch which is usually one story high and extended along one or both side walls. The decorative subtype of Free Classic has porch supports that are classical columns sometimes on a pedestal to the level of the porch railing, rather than the delicate turned posts with spindlework detailing. This subtype became common after 1890. The structural subtype is a hipped roof with lower cross gables. Over half of all Queen Anne homes fall into this category. Unlike most hipped roofs, Queen Anne hipped ridges sometimes run front-to-back, parallel to the side of the house, as the one does in this house.

The footprint of the home has remained unchanged since its construction in 1897. The only external modifications have been to the porches. The front porch was widened both east and west slightly sometime between 1908 and 1914 and the east porch was shifted south in the same time period. The back porch was enclosed in the house.

These changes can be seen in the Sanford Fire Insurance maps for this time period.



Sanborn Map 1908



Sanborn Map 1914

The home remains on the original Bois d'Arc piers. The wood frame siding is cypress. Original wide plank pine floors are present over much of the first floor and parts of the second floor. The original woodwork throughout the home has never been painted. The original men's parlor and women's parlor and entranceway and fireplaces remain. A wall has been removed between the kitchen and dining room, but the original fireplace and Mrs. Brooke's prized built in china cabinet remains. Originally, there were five bedrooms on the second floor. Two of the bedrooms have now become bathrooms. A bedroom on the third floor has been added.

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<sup>1</sup> The Brooke family genealogy has been traced using the ancestry.com website. This has also been done for the Martin, Hartzog, and Wilson families who lived in the home.

<sup>2</sup> The original application for Brooke's Bank National Historic Site and a picture of the home can be found at this web site: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brooke%27s\\_Bank](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brooke%27s_Bank)

<sup>3</sup> *1870 United States Federal Census: Township 3 Range 1, Tippah, Mississippi, Ancestry.com.*

<sup>4</sup> *Hunting For Bears, Mississippi Marriages, 1776-1935, Ancestry.com, 2004.*

<sup>5</sup> United States Congress. *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, 1774-2005.* Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 2005.

<sup>6</sup> *1860 United States Federal Census, Township 1 Ranges 1 and 2 West, Marshall, Mississippi*

<sup>7</sup> Capt. Roy F. Hall and Helen Gibbard Hall, *Collin County: Pioneering in North Texas*, Heritage Books, Inc., 1994, p. 86.

<sup>8</sup> Julia L. Vargo, *McKinney, Texas: The First 150 Years*, The Donning Company, 1997, pp. 32, 43.

<sup>9</sup> *The Democrat, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 14, No. 17, Ed. 1, May 27, 1897, p 2.*

<sup>10</sup> *1880 United States Federal Census: District 12, Fayette, Tennessee; Enumeration District: 028.*

<sup>11</sup> *The Weekly Democrat Gazette, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 33, December 21, 1916, p. 9.* (This is the obituary of W. T. Brooke.)

<sup>12</sup> *The Democrat, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 9, No. 1, April 14, 1892, p 3.*

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- <sup>13</sup> Abstract of Title, Collin County Abstract Co., No. 2081 dated May 30, 1908. Supplemental abstract continuing this record dated Oct. 24, 1912 by J. R. Gough. Supplemental abstract continuing this record dated June 22, 1915 by Collin County Abstract Company. Originals kept with this home.
- <sup>14</sup> The Democrat, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 9, No. 35, December 29, 1892, p 3.
- <sup>15</sup> The Democrat, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 15, No. 30, August 25, 1898, p 3.
- <sup>16</sup> The Democrat, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 17, No. 49, January 3, 1901.
- <sup>17</sup> The Democrat, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 18, No. 11, April 18, 1901, p. 6.
- <sup>18</sup> The Democrat, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 19, No. 51, January 29, 1903, p. 1.
- <sup>19</sup> The Democrat, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 14, No. 24, July 15, 1897.
- <sup>20</sup> The Democrat, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 16, No. 32, September 7, 1899.
- <sup>21</sup> The Democrat, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 16, No. 36, October 5, 1899.
- <sup>22</sup> The Democrat, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 18, No. 45, December 12, 1901.
- <sup>23</sup> Julia L. Vargo, *McKinney, Texas: The First 150 Years*, The Donning Company, 1997, pp. 43-44.
- <sup>24</sup> The Democrat, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 19, No. 33, September 25, 1902, p. 5.
- <sup>25</sup> The Democrat, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 19, No. 29, August 28, 1902, p. 6.
- <sup>26</sup> The Democrat, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 20, No. 31, September 3, 1903, p. 7.
- <sup>27</sup> David Moore, *Historic Resources of the Central Business District of McKinney, Texas*, prepared for the Main Street Program for Texas, Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas, 1982. Available in the McKinney Library.
- <sup>28</sup> The Democrat, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 20, No. 52, January 28, 1904, p. 5.
- <sup>29</sup> The Democrat, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 21, No. 19, June 9, 1904, p. 2.
- <sup>30</sup> The Democrat, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 23, No. 45, December 13, 1906, p. 16.
- <sup>31</sup> The Democrat, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 22, No. 37, October 12, 1905, p. 2.
- <sup>32</sup> The Democrat, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 23, No. 17, May 24, 1906, p. 12 (paper is quoting the Frisco Journal of May 17, 1906).
- <sup>33</sup> The Democrat, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 23, No. 22, June 28, 1906, p. 6.
- <sup>34</sup> The Democrat, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 24, No. 10, April 11, 1907, p. 8.
- <sup>35</sup> The Weekly Democrat-Gazette, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 24, No. 50, January 23, 1908, p. 5.
- <sup>36</sup> The Weekly Democrat-Gazette, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 30, No. 24, July 18, 1912, p. 5.
- <sup>37</sup> The Weekly Democrat-Gazette, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 30, No. 50, January 16, 1913, p. 2.
- <sup>38</sup> The Weekly Democrat-Gazette, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 33, December 21, 1916, p. 9.
- <sup>39</sup> The Weekly Democrat-Gazette, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 25, No. 21, June 25, 1908, p. 13.
- <sup>40</sup> 1910 United States Federal Census: *McKinney Ward 1, Collin, Texas*; Roll: *T624\_1539*; Page: *10B*; Enumeration District: *0006*; Family History Microfilm: *1375552*.
- <sup>41</sup> 1880 United States Federal Census: *Precinct 1, Grayson, Texas*; Roll: *1306*; Page: *36C*; Enumeration District: *002*. Family History Microfilm: *1255306*
- <sup>42</sup> The Sunday Gazeteer (Denison, Texas), Vol 10, No. 52, April 24, 1882, p. 4.
- <sup>43</sup> The Sunday Gazeteer (Denison, Texas), Vol 11, No. 28, November 6, 1882, p. 4.

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- <sup>44</sup> 1900 United States Federal Census: *Midlothian, Ellis, Texas*; Roll: 1630; Page: 4A; Enumeration District: 0030; Family History Microfilm: 1241630.
- <sup>45</sup> 1880 United States Federal Census: *Precinct 1, Grayson, Texas*; Roll: 1306; Page: 30D; Enumeration District: 002; Family History Film: 1255306.
- <sup>46</sup> Sherman Daily Democrat, Sherman, Texas, Vol 40, No. 162, December 31, 1920, p. 8.
- <sup>47</sup> Arthur Ellis Davis and Edwin H. Grobe, editors, *The Encyclopedia of Texas, 1921-1922*.
- <sup>48</sup> The Weekly Democrat-Gazette, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 25, February 6, 1908, p. 16.
- <sup>49</sup> The Weekly Democrat-Gazette, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 25, No. 5, March 5, 1908, p. 1.
- <sup>50</sup> The Weekly Examiner, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 21, No. 39, August 27, 1908, p. 3.
- <sup>51</sup> The Weekly Democrat-Gazette, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 25, No. 42, November 19, 1908, p. 16.
- <sup>52</sup> The Weekly Democrat-Gazette, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 30, No. 9, March 28, 1912, p. 19.
- <sup>53</sup> The Weekly Democrat-Gazette, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 30, No. 38, October 24, 1912, p. 9.
- <sup>54</sup> The Mexia Weekly Herald, Mexia, Texas, Vol 18, February 8, 1917, p. 7.
- <sup>55</sup> The Weekly Democrat-Gazette, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 37, December 16, 1920, p. 6.
- <sup>56</sup> The Weekly Democrat-Gazette, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 38, December 8, 1921, p. 6.
- <sup>57</sup> Corsican Democrat and Truth, Corsicana, Texas, Vol. 40, No. 52, January 27, 1927, p. 1
- <sup>58</sup> The Sunday Gazeteer, Denison, Texas, Vol 10, No. 3, May 17, 1891, p. 2.
- <sup>59</sup> El Paso Herald, El Paso, Texas, July 28, 1910, p 3.
- <sup>60</sup> The Weekly Democrat-Gazette, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 30, No. 52, January 30, 1913, p. 1.
- <sup>61</sup> The Weekly Democrat-Gazette, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 30, No. 24, July 18, 1912, p. 5.
- <sup>62</sup> The McKinney Examiner, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 27, No. 42, September 11, 1913, p. 11.
- <sup>63</sup> The Weekly Democrat-Gazette, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 31, No. 3, February 19, 1914, p. 9
- <sup>64</sup> The Weekly Democrat-Gazette, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 31, No. 10, April 9, 1914, p. 6.
- <sup>65</sup> The Weekly Democrat-gazette, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 32, May 6, 1915, p. 5.
- <sup>66</sup> The Weekly Democrat-Gazette, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 32, November 11, 1915, p. 3.
- <sup>67</sup> The Weekly Democrat-Gazatte, McKinney, Texas, Vol. 33, July 20, 1916, p. 12. This article about a Wilson family reunion, describes details about the late George A. Wilson.
- <sup>68</sup> The Weekly Democrat-Gazette, McKinney, Texas, Vol 32, August 12, 1915, p. 9.
- <sup>69</sup> The Weekly Democrat-Gazette, McKinney, Texas, Vol 37, October 14, 1920, p. 7.
- <sup>70</sup> Julia L. Vargo, *McKinney, Texas: The First 150 Years*, The Donning Company, 1997, pp. 15-21.
- <sup>71</sup> Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, Alfred A. Knopf, New York 1994.