

City of McKinney
Historic Building Marker Application
(Supporting Documentation)

The Eugene Crouch House
201 North Waddill Street



A. Alterations & Construction

Construction

The Eugene Crouch House is a one-story, wood-frame residential structure built on a pier-and-beam foundation in 1910. The east facing house has a generous porch which wraps its southeast corner. The structure has a hip roof. Bay windows are placed on opposite sides of the house. The floor plan is a modified symmetrical layout with the interior flooring consisting of pine throughout the house which is fenestrated with large one-over-one sash windows. The house design follows the American Four-Square Style.

Alterations

The house, originally built in 1910, underwent alteration in the mid 1950s. The the later owner attempted to “update” the house according to the norms of the day by adding a stucco sheathing that imitates brick and replacing the original wood porch columns with wrought iron. At the time of these alterations, the home’s footprint was extended in the rear to accommodate a new bath and laundry room. In more recent times, an owner replaced the wrought iron columns with Tuscan-style columns to restore the house to its original character. Despite mid-century changes, the house retains many original elements including one-over-one sash windows, front door with glass side-lights, dormer with wood vents, and brick fireplace and chimney.

The interior has undergone substantial updating. The original hallway that was the axis of the symmetrical floor plan has been opened up and the interior ceiling has been raised, all of which creates a more spacious plan. The baths and kitchen are modern. Much of the molding in the house remains original. An original set of French doors has been repurposed for use in another room. The floor consist of the original pine.

The architectural significance of this house comes from its unconventional approach to the Four-Square Style and the people who have owned it. The most Four-Square homes favor symmetry around a centrally place dormer. However, the Eugene Crouch house disturbs this symmetry by choosing to place the front door in the middle of the porch rather than on axis with the dormer. And certainly, the importance of the Crouch family to the development of early McKinney cannot be ignored. The house is, in fact, among the first homes built in the Waddill Addition.

Anticipated Needs

The current owners anticipate considerable expenses associated with a shifting foundation including a leaning chimney and loose flooring. Also, the concrete walkway leading to the house has separated from the steps and needs to be leveled.