City of McKinney Historic Building Marker Application (Supporting Documentation)

The Tuck Hill House 616 W. Virginia Street



A. Alterations & Construction

Construction

The Tuck Hill House, constructed in 1878, is a two-story, wood-frame residential structure built on a pier-and-beam foundation. The house has a gabled roof and centrally located portico surrounding the main entrance facing south to West Virginia Street. The 10-foot ceilings allow the house to be fenestrated with tall, vertically-oriented two-over-two sash windows. Five-inch-wide pine plank flooring is used throughout the house. The home's original floor plan included seven rooms, five on the first floor and two upstairs. The home's design follows the Folk Victorian Style utilizing the I-House form popularized in the Mid-Western United Sates during the late 19th Century.

Alterations

The original seven-room structure remained intact until 1970. Since then, several alterations have been made to the interior, including the three rooms and a screened porch added to the rear of the house. Other alterations include two new bathrooms, enlargement of an original bathroom, and a completely updated kitchen. Despite these alterations, the owners have been keen to preserve much of the original architecture. New fixtures that have been added to the house pay homage to the home's Victorian past. An antique well pump-head serves as a faucet in one bathroom while a large clawfoot tub is featured in another. The remodeled kitchen possesses many modern comforts, but its overall feel is that of an English farmhouse.

Despite these alterations, some key original features remain, including the delicate central stairway, pine flooring, window trim, and the original owner's built-in gun cabinet next to the fireplace. The exterior of the house remains essentially unchanged as seen from the street with the uniquely styled columns of the portico and balcony balustrade.

Anticipated Needs

The current owner purchased the house in 2023 and continues to restore the house. Ceiling and wall cracks need to be addressed. The pine floors need restoring. The roof needs repairing. Several windows need reglazing. It is the intent of the owner to maintain the historic integrity of the house as close to its original aesthetic as possible.

B. Historical Figures

Thomas Terry Bradley (1824-1881): Original Land Owner

In 1842 at the age of 18, Thomas Bradley came from Kentucky to Texas with his parents Ed and Nancy Bradley to partake of the land offered by the settlement company known as the Peters Colony. The Republic of Texas (and later the State of Texas) used organizations like this to attract immigrants to its territories by offering settlers lucrative land contracts. The Bradley family was among the first 200 families to settle in the Peters Colony. Despite having plenty of land to give away, the Peters Colony managers had difficulty settling as many people as required by their agreement with the Republic of Texas. Management issues within the Peters Colony organization led to great legal confusion regarding the titles held by the settlers. It was only after Texas joined the United States that these disputes were settled. In the end, Ed Bradley received a headright grant of two separate 320-acre tracts. One of those tracks became known at Tract #85 with Howell Street in McKinney marking its north line. This tract later became known as the Ed Bradley Survey. In 1855, Thomas T. Bradley was deeded a separate grant of 291 acres situated immediately north of Ed Bradley's 320-acre tract.

Thomas T. Bradley, the eldest son of Ed and Nancy Bradley, was born in Missouri in 1824. Thomas served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War and lost a leg in battle. However, his inability to walk did not stop him from farming his land. He created a special mount on his horse allowing him to ride sidesaddle.

Thomas married three times. His first marriage was to Sarah L. Snider in 1850. They had three children before she died in 1865. A year later, he married Sarah J. Lee who was 21 years his junior with whom he had an additional two children. Sarah died in 1876. Thomas married for a third time in 1877 to Susan A. Hale who was 30 years his junior. They had one child.

Thomas died in McKinney on February 18, 1881 at the age of 57 and is buried in the Bradley Cemetery established by the Bradley family at the time of Edward Bradley's death in 1855. The cemetery is located on Wilson Creek Parkway east of the Salvation Army of McKinney. The cemetery has 21 monuments, all but one dating between 1855 and 1887. Thomas Bradley's first two wives are also buried there. His third wife remarried W.F. Crooms and moved to Oklahoma where she died in 1910.

Warren Dickson Parker (1846-1910): Lot Grantor to Tuck Hill

Warren Parker was born in Humphreys County, Tennessee on Christmas Day in 1846. He, along with his brothers John and Robert, left their home state for Texas in the late 1850s. All found their way to McKinney where they each plied their trades. John was a gunsmith. Robert was a shoemaker. And, Warren was a harness maker.

Around 1874, Warren married Sarah Jane "Jennie" Bradley, the recently widowed daughter of Thomas Bradley. Another Parker brother would later have connections with the Bradley family when Warren's brother John married Sarah's cousin in 1879. Both John and Warren married women with considerable land holdings that they inherited from Thomas T. Bradley.

Warren and Sarah had four children. Their first died at a young age. The family moved to Dallas sometime after 1880 where Warren worked as a sewing machine salesman. Sarah died sometime before 1900.

Warren was active in the W.O.W. and the I.O.O.F. In 1915, he served as the Secretary for McKinney's I.O.O.F Empire Lodge No. 68. It is not known if he lived in McKinney while he held that office. Warren died in Dallas on April 24, 1928 due to pneumonia. He is buried at the Grove Hill Cemetery.

Francis Marion Hill (1842-1920): First Homeowner

Francis Marion "Tuck" Hill was a pioneer stockman and prominent McKinney resident who was second cousin to the outlaws Jesse and Frank James and founder of the long-running Ex-Confederates and Old Setllers Picnic.

Tuck Hill was born on February 13, 1843 in Lafayette County, Missouri, the son of Robert M. Hill and wife Susan Poor. In his youth, Tuck was a precocious adventurer having traveled as far away as Salt Lake City before turning seventeen years of age.

Tuck Hill enlisted into the Confederate army before the age of 20, first serving under Gen. Sterling Price, then later under the infamous William C. Quantrill who lead guerrilla raids against Union soldiers in Missouri and Kansas. Quantrill's Raiders, as the company was known, once captured a Union train, robbed it, and killed the 25 furloughed soldiers aboard the train. When 200 Union soldiers came looking for Quantrill's men, they were ambushed. As many as 150 of them were killed, many while in retreat. Another raid upon the city of Lawrence, Kansas lead to the death of 180 civilians.

The extreme tactics employed by Quantrill's men were not authorized by the Confederate government and support for the group was withdrawn. The company then split into smaller bands but whether their tactics changed is debatable. Captain Francis Marion "Tuck" Hill became the commander of one of these groups. Under his command were Frank and Jesse James, Alan Palmer, George Ford, Bill Alexander, Dick Maddox, Peyton Lang, Bill Gow, Dave Pool, Jim and Cole Younger, John Ross, Bill Hulsey, Lee McMurtry, Jim Hlnds, Bud Spence and Tuck's brothers Woot and Tom.

Tuck Hill was known as an expert horseman and an unerring marksman. His reputation in the saddle was mythic with such claims that he could ride with the reins between his teeth and a pistol in each hand and shoot a ring around a tree. There are many stories of Tuck being captured and escaping from Union forces. He is said to have been wounded a dozen times. The author of one story about Tuck describes a pistol he owned as having over 100 notches in its handle. Tuck Hill was one of the last Confederate officers to surrender, doing so at Lexington, Missouri on May 2, 1865, nearly a month after Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered at the Appomattox Courthouse.

Tuck first became familiar with McKinney, Texas when he served under W.C. Quantrill who brought his company to the area during the Civil War. After the war, Tuck returned to make it his home and engaged in farming and stock raising. In 1866, he married Mary Quintella Graves, daughter of pioneer settler Albert G. Graves. The couple had nine children. Only four of them survived to adulthood, William, Lula, Clarence, and Doc.

Doc Hill was not a physician. That is what his parent named him. Tuck had a bother named Wootson Coleman Hill who was a livestock trader who used "Doc" as a nickname. It appears that Tuck was honoring the name of his brother when in 1871 his wife Mary gave birth to Doctor Wootson Hill. Tuck's brother William owned a buggy business on the south side of the McKinney Square that became one of the first automobile dealers in Collin County and a Chevrolet dealer in 1918. William's wife started one of the City's first antique stores. Clarence was a canary breeder who shipped birds to various parts of the mid-west and southwestern United States. Lula married surgical instruments salesman George Moore.

In 1877, Tuck purchased a lot on Virginia Street about a quarter mile west of the McKinney Square and built a house on it the following year. Much has been made of Tuck's connection to his bank-robbing cousins Frank and Jesse James who visited McKinney on occasion. It is said that Frank and Jesse would hide in the attic of the house to avoid the authorities. If the house was indeed a hideout for the outlaws, it did

not serve as one very long. Jesse was shot down in 1882 in Missouri by a fellow gang member who hoped to collect a reward. That same year, Frank turned himself in but was acquitted at trial and ended up working odd jobs the rest of his life including selling shoes in Dallas for Sanger Brothers. During Frank's law-biding days, he would make visits to McKinney to see his cousin Tuck. Frank died in Missouri in 1915.

Tuck was active in civic affairs serving as an alderman from 1899 to 1901. He was the McKinney Camp Commander of the United Confederate Veterans in 1895. He also helped organize the ex-Confederates and Old Settlers Picnic Association. This organization held an annual event in McKinney that showcased agriculture, livestock and food in a carnival-like atmosphere. The Picnic concluded each year with a parade around the town Square with Tuck serving as its Grand Marshall most years. The last "Confederates" picnic was held in 1941. After that, because there were few living Confederate veterans, the event became known as the Old Settlers Picnic. Tuck was also a member of the Odd Fellow Lodge (I.O.O.F.) and served as a Deacon in the First Christian Church.

Captain Hill died at his home on Virginia Street on February 3, 1920 at the age of 77 years. His burial at the Pecan Grove Cemetery was conducted under the auspices of the Odd Fellow Lodge. The larger-than-life McKinney resident was honored in this obituary with these words:

The death of Capt. Hill is sincerely mourned throughout our city and county. His public spirit, his cordial friendly handshake and cheerful voice will be sadly missed and his optimism and heart co-operation especially in our county fairs, annual reunions, livestock sales, shows and other activities and elements of leadership will be hard to fill. All join in expressions of condolence and sincere sympathy to the loved ones in this hour of crushing bereavement.

Mary Quentilla (Graves) Hill (1843-1926): Second Homeowner

Mary Hill was the wife of Tuck Hill and daughter of pioneer settlers Albert G. Graves and wife Frances. Her father Albert served in two wars, first in the War with Mexico in 1846 as a private, then later in the Civil War as a sergeant.

Mary was born April 11, 1843 in Johnson County, Missouri. She came to Texas with her parents in 1857. She married Francis Marion "Tuck" Hill in 1866. Early in their marriage, Mary and Tuck lived on her family's farm west of McKinney along with Mary's sister Eugenia who was also married to a member of the Hill family, Tuck's brother James

"Woot" Hill. In 1877, Mary and Tuck left the Graves farm and built a home about a quarter of a mile from the McKinney Square on West Virginia Street.

Mary was the mother of nine children with only four of them living at the time of her death in 1926 when she was 83 years old. Her obituary in the McKinney Democrat-Gazette described her:

She loved her home and spent a great deal of her time caring for her flowers and doing everything that would make her home more comfortable and attractive. She was exceedingly modest and quiet. She did not care for publicity and went about in a quiet unostentatious way, doing good and bringing happiness to her family and friends.

On the morning of December 6, 1926 Mary was found unresponsive in her West Virginia Street home by her son Clarence who was living with her. A physician was summoned but she had already died, likely due to a heart attack. Funeral services were held at the family residence with interment in Pecan Grove Cemetery next to her husband Tuck.

Clarence Otto Hill (1885-1969): Third Homeowner

Clarence was the youngest child of Tuck and Mary Hill. Born in 1885, Clarence was 17 years younger than his oldest sibling William. By 1900, Clarence was the only child living with Tuck and Mary at their West Virginia Street home. He would live there until he died in 1969.

Clarence's life was a stark contrast to that of his swashbuckling father. Clarence attended school in McKinney. Then in 1903 at the age of 18, he entered the Bingham's Military School at Asheville, North Carolina along with eight other McKinney boys. He entered the school in the fall of that year, but in March of the following year he was back in McKinney suffering from bronchial pneumonia. When he recovered, he joined his father's business and was responsible for shipping cattle to market. He held that position for about a year before, at the age of 20, he accepting a job at Robert E. Bristol's City Drug Store on the south side of the McKinney Square. He did not hold this job long. Perhaps the bout of malaria he suffered in 1907 forced him to resign. At any rate, the 1910 Census suggests that Clarence was not working at all, though he did work as an election clerk occasionally. In 1912, a newspaper article refers to him as a bookkeeper but does not specify for whom.

It is easy to say that Clarence's life experiences were tame compared to his father.

However, as tame as they were, he was a leader in some unusual affairs. In the early 1920s, Clarence was an officer in the Collin County Rabbit Breeders Association and on a committee responsible for establishing a first-of-its-kind rabbit show in Collin County. An article appearing in an April 1920 edition of the McKinney Courier-Gazette reported:

It is the first show of its kind to be held in Collin County and the breeders feel that it should be encouraged by the business men. Collin County is noted for its hogs, cattle, sheep and other livestock. Why not make it noted for its rabbits, asks members of this organization. Ask any soldier who has returned from France and he will tell you that every family in the rural districts of France and thousands in the city are raising rabbits for their meat. It will soon be an industry which all people will look upon with pride.

Another unusual business that Clarence engaged in was raising canaries. As a commercial breeder, he shipped birds to various parts of Texas, Louisiana and the Mid-West. He raised an average of 100 birds a year, selling for \$5 each. He would advertised in the classified section of the McKinney newspaper, especially at Christmas time. Canaries were popular pets at the time and there were several breeders in McKinney from 1915 to 1926 when Clarence was active in the business. Clarence was likely the most successful among local breeders, partly due to the placement of his ads in the classified section of the newspaper where people who had their pet bird escape often placed notices in the "lost and found."

Little information is available about Clarence after his time as a canary breeder. It is known he never married and live alone at the home he was born in. The 1940 Census indicates that he worked as a practical nurse. However, in 1942 when Clarence was 57 years old, he registered with the selective service at the beginning of the U.S. Government's involvement in World War II. The information on his registration card includes his height of 5'-11", 163 pounds, hazel eyes, gray hair, light complexion. His card also indicates he was unemployed. Despite having no viable means of support in his senior years, Clarence was able to engage in civic undertakings like election clerking and supporting the McKinney High School football team. One of the civic duties he took on involved serving on the Pecan Grove Cemetery Association Board of Directors. He served as its Chairman in 1952.

Clarence died on October 31, 1969 and is buried in the Hill Family plot at the Pecan Grove Cemetery.

C. Property Ownership

Address: 616 W. Virginia Street, McKinney, Texas 75069

Legal Description: McKinney Outlots, Lot 577

Purchase Date	Seller	Buyer	Book/Page
7/31/1855	State of Texas	Thomas T. Bradley	1/370
4/10/1871	Thomas T. Bradley	Jane & George O'Brien	U/174
11/9/1877	Jane & W.D. Parker	F.M. & M.Q. Hill	5/36
Dec. 6, 1926 ¹	Mary Q. Hill, dec'd	Clarence Otto Hill	
Nov. 18, 1970	C. O. Hill, dec'd	Loyd & Bess Taylor	770/163
Apr. 19, 1974	Loyd & Bess Taylor	Douglas C. Nyman	910/791
Sep. 8, 1977	Douglas C. Nyman	Dale & Gayle Cole	1070/93
Aug. 8, 1977	Dale & Gayle Cole	Harry & Alicia Tibbals	1188/715
Sep. 15, 1999	Harry & Alicia Tibbals	Cheramy D. Rusbuldt	4501/1771
Feb. 30, 2017	Cheramy D. Rusbuldt	Patrick J. Hickey	
Jun, 23, 2023	Patrick J. Hickey	Rebecca Graham	

¹ Clarence, son of Mary & Tuck Hill, inherits the home.

D. Tenant History

Same as owner history.

E. Narrative History

Edward Bradley came from Kentucky to Texas with his wife Nancy and four children in 1842 to partake of the land being offering by the settlement company known as the Peter's Colony. The Republic of Texas used organizations like this to attract immigrants to the young nation by offering settlers lucrative land contracts. Ed Bradley's family was among the first 200 families to settle in the area. Despite having plenty of land to give away, the Peter's Colony managers had difficulty settling as many people as required by their agreement with the Republic of Texas. Management issues within the Peter's Colony organization led to great legal confusion regarding the titles held by the settlers. It was only after Texas joined the United States that these disputes were settled. In the end, Ed Bradley's headright grant of 640 was affirmed. In 1855, Edward Bradley's son, Thomas T. Bradley, was deeded a separate grant signed by Texas Governor Elisha M. Pease for 291 acres situated a half mile west of the McKinney town square.

Thomas Bradley's tract was popularly known as College Hill. Though Thomas was a farmer by profession, he made a good living selling off the land he owned. Some of it he gave away, including two acres to the City of McKinney which is now the site of Caldwell Elementary. Some of the land he sold to real estate developers, but he also sold much of it to individuals. In 1871, Thomas' daughter Sarah Jane married saloon keeper George M. O'Brien. That same year, for consideration of "love and affection" Thomas deeded a two-acre parcel to the newlyweds. George was a member of the pioneer O'Brien family that settled the town of Buckner, the county's second oldest town. George and Sarah had one daughter in 1872. Tragically in 1873, an epidemic of Small Pox broke out in Collin County killing hundreds of people, George was among them. Soon afterwards, Sarah Jane married harness maker W.D. Parker. In 1877, Thomas Bradley corrected the deed that granted ownership to his daughter and now deceased first husband to emphasize that the tract was Sarah Jane's separate property. Five months later, Sarah Jane (and her new husband) sold the tract her parents had given her as a wedding present. The buyer was Francis Marion "Tuck" Hill.

Tuck Hill was a well-known former Confederate captain and successful stockman who was known to have hosted several visits of his cousins, Frank and Jesse James, on their visits to McKinney. Tuck purchased Sarah Jane's land for \$175 cash and a note for \$150. Tuck held the property for over a decade. In 1888, he sold an eastern portion of the property to local dentist Dr. Henry L. Pearson (1858-1945) for \$400 in cash and a \$500 one-year note. The higher price Dr. Pearson paid suggests that Tuck Hill may have built a home on the site prior to the sale.

Since Tuck purchased the raw property in November of 1877, it is likely that the seven-room house he had build on the property was completed in 1878. A Sanborn Insurance map of 1902 indicates that the Tuck Hill House was a two-story residence having a cross-gabled roof with covered porches in the front and back of the house that were also used as second floor balconies.

The delicate column treatment around the front porch is unique in McKinney. Most homes of this era use wood-turned columns and spindlework in their construction. However, the porch columns on the Tuck Hill House are made of paired, square lengths of lumber. Curved lengths of lumber arc between the columns to produce a delicate, sinuous structure. This type of curvilinear expression shares much with the Art Nouveau movement which began in Europe around 1890. This could indicate that the front portico was rebuilt or remodeled after its original construction. There is also some evidence for this found in the Sanborn maps.

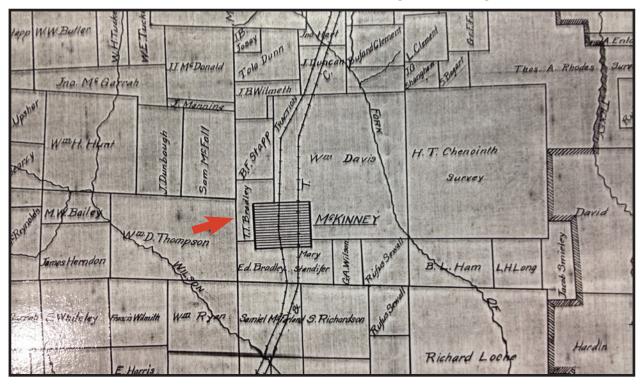
Because of the home's connection to Jesse and Frank James, some of its features have become legendary. For instance, it is said that the brothers would hide in the attic to avoid detection by officers of the law. Another story claims that Tuck Hill hid his money in a hidden closet next to the livingroom fireplace. A similar story claims Tuck hid his money behind the walls in tobacco tins hung from wires.

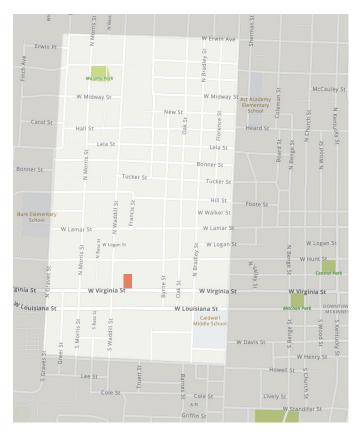
When Tuck Hill died in 1920, his widow Mary became the sole owner of the home until her death in 1926. At that time, the home ownership passed to their youngest child Clarence who was born in 1885. He occupied the house from the time of his birth until his death in 1969, meaning he lived in the house for 84 years.

The next few owners engaged in various renovation and remodeling projects that involved adding a den, bathroom, and utility room. Other alterations include adding an bathrooms upstairs and on the first floor, and updating the kitchen. Over the years, the Tuck Hill House has been featured on several Herritage Guild's Holiday Tour of Homes.

F. Drawings

The Thomas T. Bradley Survey





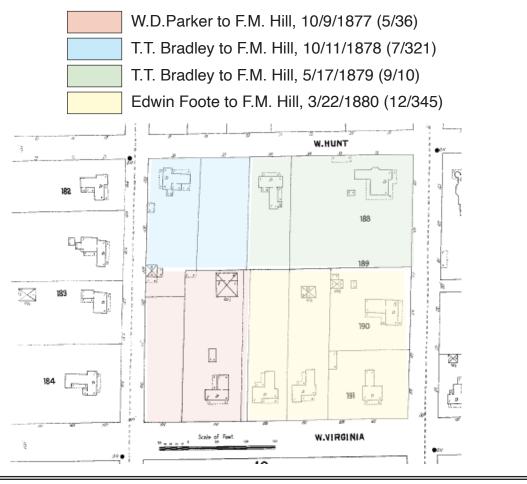
In 1855, the State of Texas granted Thomas T. Bradley 291 acres of land just west of the 3,100 acre grant of William Davis. This land was originally promised to Bradley by the managers of the Peter's Colony, but confusion due to mismanagement arose and delayed the recognition of the grant.

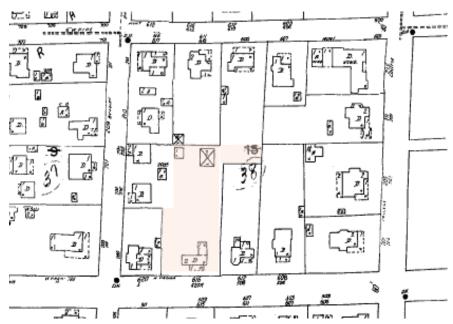
The map above shows the boundaries of grants awarded in the McKinney area. William Davis donated 120 acres in the southwest corner of his property to become the town of McKinney and the County Seat of Collin County.

The highlighted section of the map (at left) of McKinney shows the size and location of the tract awarded to Thomas T. Bradley situated between College and Graves Streets. The red rectangle is the location of the Tuck Hill property.

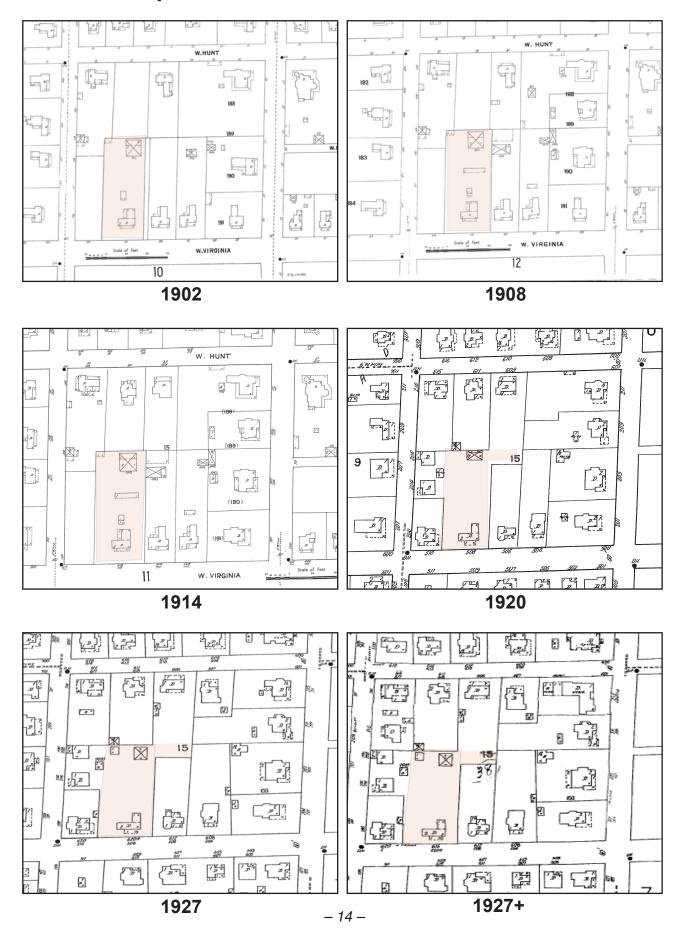
The Tuck Hill Property

The diagrams below show the purchases Tuck Hill made to acquire ownership of the entire block bounded by Virginia, College, Hunt, and Bradley Streets. The bottom diagram shows the Tuck Hill property when it was conveyed to Loyd Taylor in 1970 following the death of Clarence Hill (Tuck Hill's son).

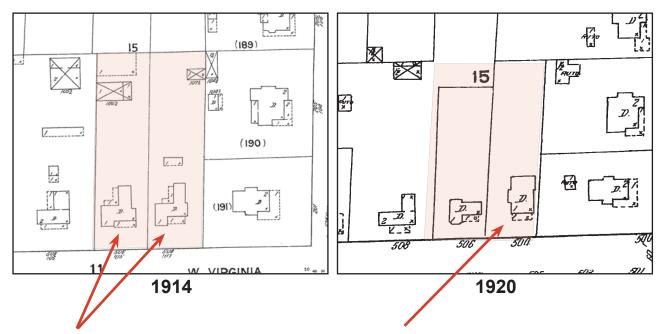




Sanborn Maps: 1902 - 1927+



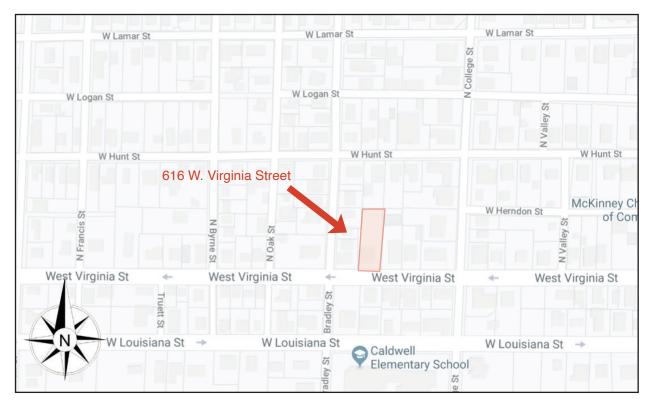
The Early Structures on West Virginia Street



These two structures first appear on the 1902 Sanborn Insurance maps, but their construction could be as early as the 1880s when Francis "Tuck" Hill owned the properties. The Sanborn map of 1920 indicates the new footprint of a Bungalow Style House that J.P. Harris had built in 1918. The house to the west of his may have undergone some changes as well.



The two structures that appear side-by-side in the 1902 and 1914 maps would have resembled the house in the picture above. This Folk Victorian Style was a practical and economic expression of the more elaborate structures built in McKinney at the end of the 19th Century.

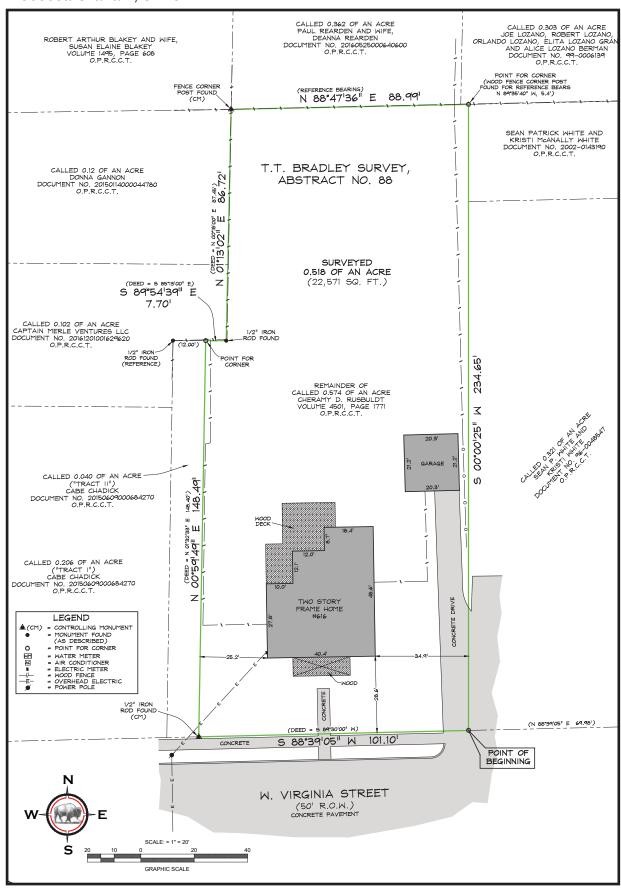


The map above shows the neighborhood around 616 West Virginia Street. The aerial photo below shows the immediate neighborhood at the intersection of North College and West Virginia Streets.



Site Plan for 616 West Virginia Street

Rebecca Graham, owner



Legal Description 616 West Virginia

All that certain 0.518 acre lot, tract, or parcel of land situated in the T.T. Bradley Survey, Abstract No. 88, Collin County, Texas. Being the remainder of a called 0.574 acre tract of land described in a deed to Cheramy D. Rusbuldt, recorded in Volume 4501, Page 1771, Official Public Records, Collin County, Texas (O.P.R.C.C.T.), and being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point for the most Southerly Southeast corner of the hereon described tract, same being the most Southerly Southeast corner of the said 0.574 acre Rusbuldt tract, being the Southwest corner of a called 0.321 acre tract of land described in a deed to Sean P. White and Kristi White, recorded in Document No. 96-0048547, O.P.R.C.C.T., and being in the North line of W. Virginia Street (50 foot Right of Way), from which a 1/2" iron rod found for reference at the Southeast corner of the said 0.321 acre White tract bears North 88° 39° 05" East, a distance of 69.98 feet;

THENCE: South 88° 39' 05" West, along the North line of said W. Virginia Street, a distance of 101.10 feet to a 1/2" iron rod found for the Southwest corner of the hereon described tract, same being the Southwest corner of the said 0.574 acre Rusbuldt tract, and being the Southeast corner of a called 0.040 acre tract of land described in a deed as "Tract II" to Cabe Chadick, recorded in Document No. 20150609000684270, 0.P.R.C.C.T.;

THENCE: North 00° 59' 49" East, along the East line of the said 0.040 acre Chadick tract, a distance of 148.49 feet to a point for the most Westerly Northwest corner of the hereon described tract, same being the most Westerly Northwest corner of the said 0.574 acre Rusbuldt tract, being the Northeast corner of the said 0.040 acre Chadick tract, and being in the most Easterly South line of a called 0.102 acre tract of land described in a deed to Captain Merle Ventures LLC, recorded in Document No. 20161201001629620, O.P.R.C.C.T., from which a 1/2" iron rod found for the Northwest corner of the said 0.040 acre Chadick tract, same being an ell corner of the said 0.102 acre Ventures tract, bears North 89° 54' 39" West, a distance of 12.00 feet;

THENCE: South 89° 54° 39° East, along the most Easterly South line of the said 0.102 acre Ventures tract, a distance of 7.70 feet to a $1/2^{\circ}$ iron rod found for an ell corner of the hereon described tract, same being an ell corner of the said 0.574 acre Rusbuldt tract, and being the most Easterly Southeast corner of the said 0.102 acre Ventures tract;

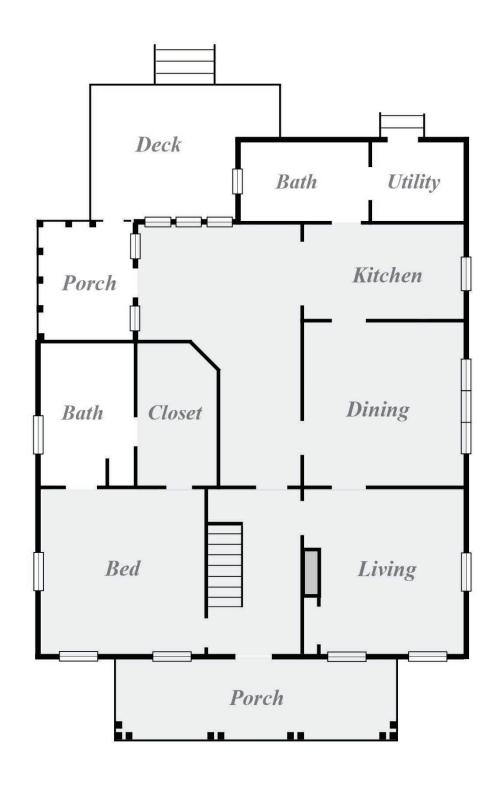
THENCE: North 01° 13' 02" East, along the East line of the said 0.102 acre Ventures tract and the East line of a called 0.12 acre tract of land described in a deed to Donna Gannon, recorded in Document No. 20150114000044780, O.P.R.C.C.T., a distance of 86.72 feet to a fence corner post found for the most Northerly Northwest corner of the hereon described tract, same being the most Northerly Northwest corner of the said 0.574 acre Rusbuldt tract, being the Northeast corner of the said 0.12 acre Gannon tract, being the Southeast corner of a tract of land described in a deed to Robert Arthur Blakey and wife, Susan Elaine Blakey, recorded in Volume 1495, Page 608, O.P.R.C.C.T., and being the Southwest corner of a called 0.362 acre tract of land described in a deed to Paul Rearden and wife, Deanna Rearden, recorded in Document No. 20160525000640600, O.P.R.C.C.T.;

THENCE: North 88° 47′ 36″ East, along the South line of the said 0.362 acre Rearden tract and the South line of a called 0.303 acre tract of land described in a deed to Joe Lozano, Robert Lozano, Orlando Lozano, Elita Lozano Granadow, and Alice Lozano Berman, recorded in Document No. 99–0006139, O.P.R.C.C.T., a distance of 88.99 feet to a point for the Northeast corner of the hereon described tract, same being in the North line of the said 0.574 acre Rusbuldt tract, being in the South line of the said 0.303 acre Lozano tract, and being the Northwest corner of a tract of land described in a deed to Sean Patrick White and Kristi McAnally White, recorded in Document No. 2002–0143190, O.P.R.C.C.T.;

THENCE: South 00° 00′ 25″ West, along the West line of the said White tract (Doc. No. 2002-0143190), passing the Southwest corner thereof, same being the Northwest corner of the said 0.321 acre White tract, and continuing along the West line of the said 0.321 acre White tract for a total distance of 234.65 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING and containing 22,571 square feet or 0.518 of an acre.

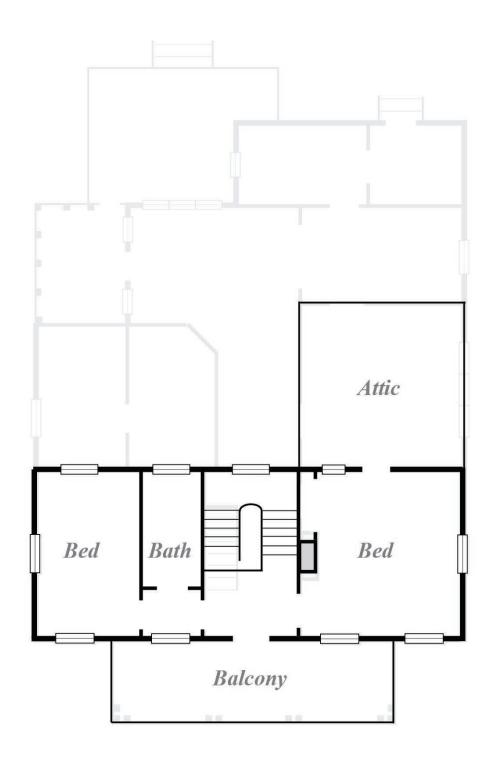
Floor Plan

This plan shows the first floor of the Tuck Hill House in its current configuration.

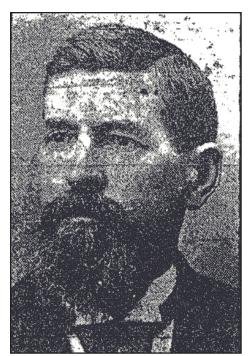


Indicates original footprint of house

This plan shows the second floor of the Tuck Hill House in its current configuration.



G. Photographs

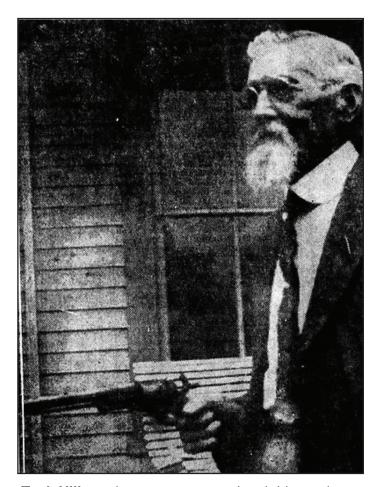


Francis Marion "Tuck" Hill (1843-1920)



William C. Quantrill was the notorious Confederate Civil War guerrilla fighter that Tuck and others served under until his tactics were deemed too extreme by the Confederate leadership.

Francis Marion "Tuck" Hill was one of McKinney's most colorful pioneer residents. Much has been made of his time with the infamous Confederate guerrilla leader William C. Quantrill during the Civil War and his familial relationship with Frank and Jesse James. No doubt he was involved in horrendous acts perpetrated upon Union soldiers and civilians. Yet, it was his association with Quantrill that brought Tuck to North Texas where he settled after the war to become a respected leader and businessman in McKinney.



Tuck Hill was known as a exceptional rider and sharpshooter. One of his six-shooters he used in the Civil War is said to have 141 notches on its handle. This picture, taken late in his life, shows him with one of his pistols as he stands in front of his house at 616 W. Virginia Street.

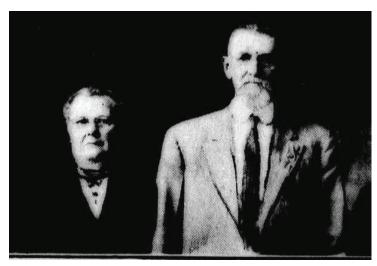


Tuck Hill's life in McKinney was a peaceful one compared to his years in the Confederacy. He became a successful stockman and farmer. He served as a city alderman and helped organize the Ex-Confederates and Old Settlers Picnic and served as it grand marshal for two decades. He was a member of Lodge No. 953 of the International Order of Oddfellows (I.O.O.F.) whose mission it was "to visit the sick, relieve the distressed, bury the dead and educate the orphan."

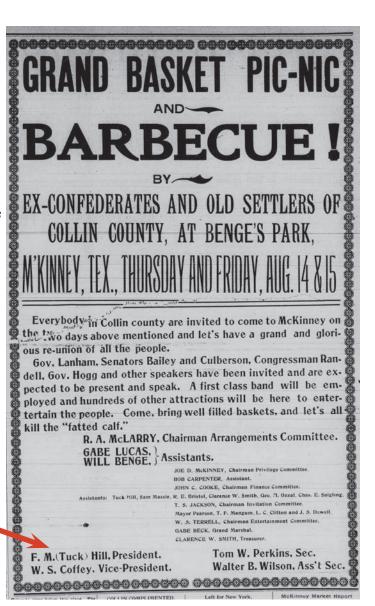
Mules for Sale.

I will sell 10 two year old mules and 2 four year olds to the highest bidder for cash May 2, 1904 at 2:30 p m at the Central wagon yard in McKinney.

d&w Tuck Hill.



In 1866, **Tuck Hill** married **Mary Q. Graves**, daughter of pioneer settler Albert Graves. The couple were married 54 years before Tuck's death in 1920.



Exploits of Tuck Hill

The following text comes from "Collin County, Texas, Families," edited by Alice Pitts and Minnie Champ. This portion includes the writings of Capt. Roy F. Hall.

Pistol notches

Francis Marion Hill came to McKinney with other troops in 1863. While his company went on to Waco to be organized into an independent command, Tuck Hill was so impressed with the fine country around McKinney that he made up his mind to settle here after the war. After wintering at Waco, his command marched north and was stationed near Jefferson, Missouri. That year Charles Quantrill organized his independent command of partisans and Tuck joined in. He served under Quantrill as a captain until the end of the Civil War, afterward coming to McKinney to make his home.

This writer heard Captain Tuck tell many tales of the Civil War. He once showed several of us boys a cap-and-ball pistol, caliber 44, that had a handle full of notches. We asked how many notches there were and he said, "Too many boys, too many." We hever did learn just how many there were, but it looked like over a hundred

A Romantic escape

One of Captain Tuck's favorite stories concerned his being surrounded by Federal troops one night while calling on a young lady, Miss Annie Brown, in Lafayette County, Missouri in 1864. He escaped, and this was only one of the tight spots the captain found himself in during the war. Quantrill's Rangers had a price on their heads, placed there by the Federal Government after they made a successful

raid on the Federal stronghold at Lawrence, Kansas. By order of the Department of Commander in Missouri, any of Quantrill's men caught were to be hanged on the spot without trial. Now, to Tuck's favorite story.

He slipped off from his command one night in the spring of 1864 to call on Miss Brown, whom he had met a few days previously when he went to the Brown home seeking to purchase a hog for his company, Miss Brown did not wish him to call, saying that Yankees were in the vicinity and had been to her house several times in the past, asking if there were any Quantrill men in the county. The Brown's were sympathetic to the South, but tried to keep their feeling hidden from the Federals.



It was after dark, but Tuck left his horse under trees about fifty yards from the yard fence. He slipped in the east gate, leaving it open behind him. After ascertaining that no Northern soldiers had been seen in the vicinity for two or three days, he went in the back door. The house was a rather large one, but the room in which the young lady received Captain Hill was on the east side, with a door in the north lean-to through which Tuck was admitted, and the main front door on the south. In the east wall, just south of the fireplace, was a window.

As soon as greetings were over, Tuck went to the window and opened it wide. He asked the young lady for a quilt or something, and when she gave him a counterpane he hung this to cover the window. The front and back doors were closed and barred. Hill kept his pistols on when they settled down to talk near the fireplace. He was doubly armed. In front he wore two pistols attached to his belt, and behind he had two more also on the belt.

The kerosene lamp on a small table was turned low so as not to disclose that anyone was in the room, and Hill and the girl were talking when a noise was heard outside. Being trained by experience as to what every sound meant in the night, Tuck acted. He sprang to the window and whistled sharply into the dark. A second later, the front door burst in under the combined blows of half dozen muskets, and a Yankee officer stepped in the room with four or five children

"You are surrounded, Hill," he said, "Try to run if you care. We would like that, as we have troops stationed everywhere to cut you down. We are going to kill you. We are going to kill you, cut your heart out and hang it on the fence like a snake." He stepped forward and took Hill's pistols.

Tuck Hill had face death before and had learned to think fast and act instantly. He

said, "Gentlemen, I know you are going to kill me. but I wish you would grant one request of mine."

The Union captain asked what it might be and Tuck said, "Please don't kill me here in the presence of this young lady."

The Union officer said he would grant the request, and ordered his men to step forward and take Tuck out in the yard. As the men crowded through the doorway, Tuck drew the two pistols from his belt behind, which they had overlooked, and opened fire. The two leading soldiers went down, so did two or three more a second later, and Tuck was free for the moment, as the other soldiers dashed out the doorway.

Hill sprang to the window and saw, as he more than expected, that his horse was nervously pawing the ground a few feet away. This horse, Tuck later said, was the smartest animal he ever owned. He had been trained to come at the master's whistle, and stand until Tuck mounted him. This horse was killed later in battle. In all, Captain Hill had seven horses shot from under him during the war. He, himself, was wounded twelve times.

Captain Hill escaped; though one bullet hit his saddle horn, he was not touched. He never called on the young lady again, as he was never sure just how the Federals came to know that he would be there that particular Sunday night. As Tuck went through the window, the counterpane caught on one of this spurs and frightened his horse so that he had some trouble catching the animal. The Yankees, though, never knew about the window and were congregating front and back, pouring musket balls into the room. Tuck finally caught his horse's bridle and rode away, drawing only two or three shots, one of which clipped his saddle as noted. He never knew if the young lady was hurt in the fusillade or not.

Quantrill in McKinney

Frank James and Cole Younger were frequent visitors at the Hill home. During the Civil War, 1861-1865, the James Boys were also in McKinney many times with Quantrill and his command.

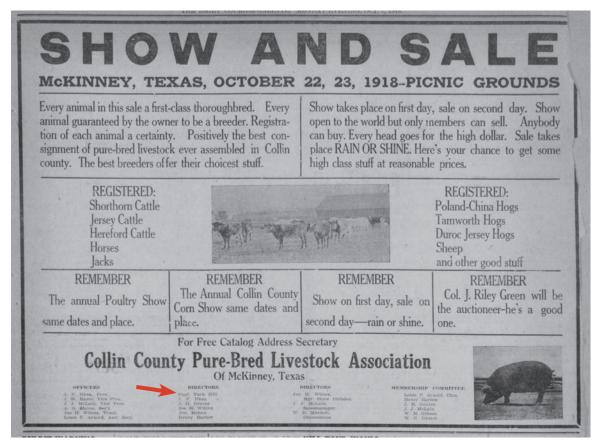
During that war, there were many people here who did not wish to get in the conflict, some of them were Union sympathizers an others just plain "bushwhackers," and hid out to avoid conscription. The present Finch Park area was then a great swamp, reaching to Wilson Creek, and was the favorite place to hide for the bushwhackers who lived in McKinney.

When things got too rough, especially during the winter months, Quantrill brought his command south and camped on Mineral Bayou, northwest of Sherman. Captain Hill rode down from Quantrill's camp to visit his friends, the Isaac Graves family northwest of town, and was informed of the bushwhackers situation here. This was in the fall of 1863, and Hill carried a request from the people of McKinney for Quantrill to come down and subdue the bushwhackers, as he had, in many cases, taken to armed robbery of the people. Quantrill rode down with about 200 men, surrounded the swamp, captured 42 bushwhackers and hanged them all on a cottonwood tree growing on the south east corner of the square.

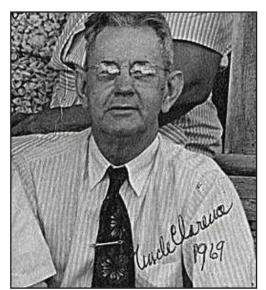
Not all the operations of Quantrill's command was for the best around McKinney. Once the marched to Rhea's Mill where a wedding supper was in progress, made all the guests stand back from the long table and swept all the food into sacks and rode away. Tuck Hill was not in this raid, nor was he with Quantrill when the guerrilla chieftain drove the sheriff of Coullin County out of town and hanged him and another man in the middle of the road. I have heard Captain Tuck say that he did not approve of all that Quantill did, but he said, "Charlie listened to nobody."

Sharp-Shooter Hill

This writer saw Tuck Hill perform with pistols one time. Dad, Uncle Tom and I were near Princeton looking for bois d'arc posts to haul when Captain Tuck rode up. He had two pistols looped to his saddle horn, and when Uncle Tom looked at them and said nobody could hit anything without sights on his six shooter, Tuck said that he would show Uncle Tom something. Taking the bridle reins in his teeth, Tuck circled a six-inch bois d'arc tree at a gallop and fifty feet out, firing both six shooters so fast the the reports could not be counted. Every shot hit the small sapling, and cut a ring around it five feet from the ground.

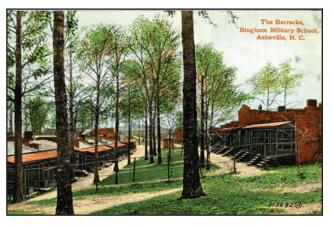


Tuck Hill was an active livestock breeder and trader. He served as a Director to the Collin County Pure-Bred Livestock Association and won many awards for his entries into the annual Fort Worth Livestock Show.



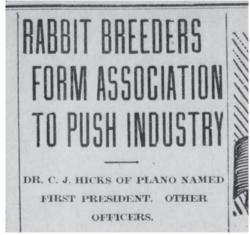
Clarence Otto Hill (1885-1969)

Clarence Hill was the youngest child of Tuck and Mary Hill and lived in the Tuck Hill House for 84 years. He was well-known for breeding rabbits and canaries and served as a director on the Pecan Grove Cemetery Association for many years.



In 1903 at the age of 18, **Clarence Hill** attended the Bingham Military School in Asheville, North Carolina along with other boys from McKinney including, Joe Largent, Jim Dowell, I.D. Newsome, Everett Wade, and Gabe Fitzhugh. Clarence did not finish his first year there. In March of 1904, he developed pneumonia and returned to McKinney.



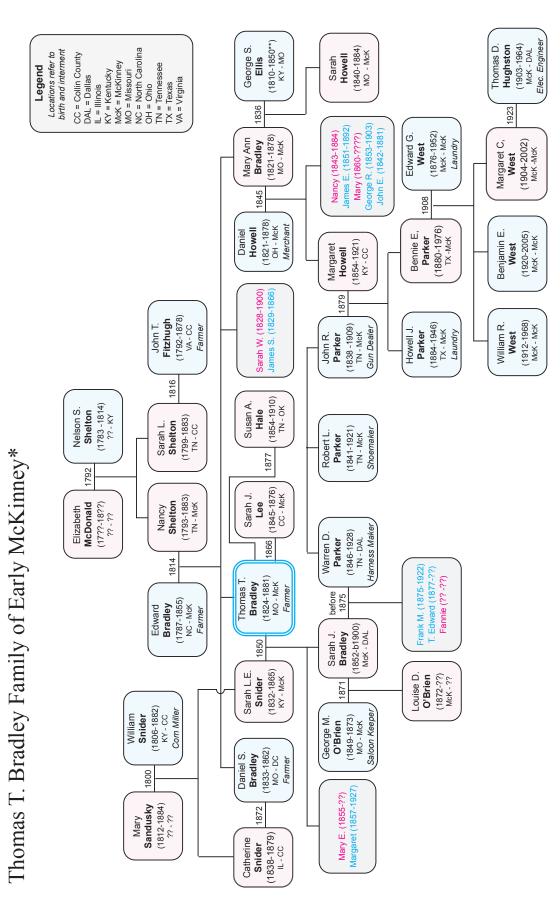


Like father like son. Clarance Hill was involved in the livestock trade like his father, though on a much smaller scale. Clarence was part of a group who sought to make rabbits part of the American food supply as they were in Europe in 1920.



The family portrait above shows *Clarence Hill* (front row, right) with his brother Doc and members of Doc's family on the their porch at 710 Barnes Street. Parentheses indicate the member's relationship to Doc unless noted. Front Row (I-r): Ralph (son), Ralph, Jr. (grandson), Doc Hill, Clarence (brother). Back Row (I-r): Mary Lou (Ralph's wife), Mary Ida (granddaughter), Maybelle (daughter), Ida May (Doc's wife), Claude (Marian's husband), Marian (daughter), Mary Bell Hartman (Mary Lou's mother).

H. Additional Information



* Not all family members are included.

* * Unverified

Elizabeth C. (1801-1900) Claiborne G. (1809-1889) Virginia W. (1806-1841) Frances A. (1804-1890) George W. (1802-1803) ucretious H, (1840-1901 Charles T. (1799-1878 Isaac F. (1815-1886) Aurelius S. (1841-1932) Francis C. (1846-18??) Wickliffe (1848-1940) Maggie (1860-1930) Ida May Ottenhouse (1878-1949) McK - McK (1776-1839) VA - VA Claiborne Graves Farmer (1910-1998) McK - McK Ralph H. Surveyor 1898 Ξ (1843-1926) MO - McK 1789 Albert G. **Graves**(1813-1891)
VA - McK
Farmer Graves Mary Q. Doctor Wootson (1871-1956) McK - McK (1774-1857) VA - VA 1938 Postman Sarah **Tandy** 1866 1839 (1913-2010) McK - McK Mary Lou Hartman Francis Marion (1843-1920) KY - McK (1818-1894)Stockman "Tuck" Harrison VA - McK Ξ (1885 -1969) McK - McK Canary Breeder Clarence O. (1902-2001) McK - McK Maybelle (1844-1900) MO - McK Eugenia E. Graves MO = Missouri OK = Oklahoma PA = Pennsylvania SC = South Carolina TX = Texas Locations refer to CC = Collin County GER = Germany McK = McKinney Legend AR = Arkansas CA = California 1941 KY = Kentucky _A = Louisana DAL = Dallas VA = Virginia 1867 (1870 -1959) CC - DAL Lula Frances (1904-1990) LA-SC Ξ Jesse E. Hilliard (1839-1900)James W. "Woot" Farmer KY - CC ፰ 1891 Robert Marshall F.M. "Tuck" Hill Family of Early McKinney* Hill (1815-1995) KY - McK (1856-1938) MO - McK Farmer (1868 -1945) McK - DAL Surgical Inst. (1899-1991) McK - TX Nola J. **Field** George L. Moore Marian A Elizabeth Ellen (1788 -1866) VA - KY Britt 1873 1835 1926 (1850-1934) MO - McK (1818 -1896) KY - McK Wootson Susan Ellen Stockman "Doc" (1868 -1933) McK - DAL Poor William R. Hill Mule Dealer 1808 (1900-1956)Claude A. **Truitt** TX - TX Farmer Robert Cornet (1763-18015) VA - VA Drury Woodson (1787-1854) VA - KY Farmer Mary Ann. (1836-1908) Thomas J. (1846-1928) John W. (1838-1865) Robert E. (1841-1925) Susan M. (1853-1935) Armstead (1859-1830) Poor Pricy H (1863-1944) 1891 (1871-1960) CC - McK 1787 Lillian Бŏ Robert Sallee (1818-1850) KY - CA * Not all family members are included. (1787-1872) VA - KY Preacher James Mary Polly Elizabeth Woodson Poor (1769 -1823) VA - VA **James** (1843-1915) MO - MO A. Franklin Outlaw 1807 1841 Annie J. (1872-1875) Marion L (1880-1896) Effie (1878-1878) Ollie (1877-18xx) (1775-1827) VA - KY Farmer Zerelda Elizabeth John Martin (1825-1911) KY - MO James James (1847-1882) MO - MO Outlaw Jesse W. 29

Pecan Grove Cemetery

This map of Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney shows the final resting places of the Hill family members associated with 616 W. Virginia Street.



Francis Marion "Tuck" Hill 1843 - 1920



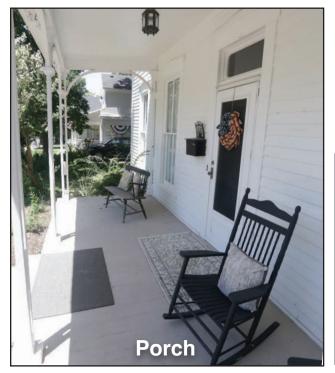
Mary Quintillia (Graves) Hill 1843 - 1926



Clarence Otto Hill 1885 - 1969



Current Photos (2023)















Neighborhood Context (2023)

616 West Virginia Street neighborhood context



View looking West on W. Virginia Street



View looking East on W. Virginia Street

Houses near 616 W. Virginia Street



608 W. Virginia Street



612 W. Virginia Street



615 W. Virginia



611 W. Virginia Street

Architectural Accents



Centrally located stairway





Transom between entry hall and bedroom



Floor heating vent



5-inch plank pine flooring



Well pump head used as a bath faucet



Antique styling applied to new bathroom



Cabinet where Tuck Hill kept his guns and supposedly hid his money



English farmhouse inspired kitchen update



Wallboard planks of original bathroom converted to a closet



Entryway



Front door knob (exterior)



Brick flue from first-floor fireplace



Segmented gable pediment above window



Front door



Four foot diameter oak tree shading house







Atypical column treatment

Evolution of Architectural Style

The first decade of the 20th Century witnessed a huge shift in architectural styles. This shift paralleled the cultural shift that saw improving labor conditions and a growing middle class that had enough money to spend on property and homes, modest though they may be. This new culture had little affinity, for the older aesthetic which valued ornamentation and grandiosity. This change is clearly apparent in the architecture of McKinney.

Queen Anne Style

Before 1900, the preferred style was what we now call the Queen Anne Style. This style is characterized by complex gabled roofs, asymmetry, turrets, and an abundance of elaborate ornamentation. Locally, the Aron House at 523 W. Hunt Street exhibits this architectural vocabulary.

Modern Emerging Alternatives

Just before the 20th Century began, however, new architectural forms offered by the Prairie and Foursquare Styles began appearing in home construction. The Bristol House at 508 Tucker Street was one of the first homes in McKinney to incorporate the deep eaves, hip roofs, and the sprawling geometry these new styles offered.

The Heard-Craig House at 205 W. Hunt Street designed by Dallas architect J.E. Flanders incorporates many of these new forms into a home that is still essentially Queen Anne but mimics the symmetry of the American Foursquare Style (see 801 N. Church St.). Five years later, Flanders moved closer to creating a pure Prairie Style home when he designed the Brown House at 509 N. Church Street.











By the early 1900s, not all builders and clients were ready to abandon the old familiar style and the prestige it conveyed. This resulted in many homes becoming an eclectic mixture of new and old styles.

McKinney builder W.J. Higgins built the Brooke House at 608 W. Hunt Street in 1910. It appears that neither the builder nor the client was ready to embrace the "moderness" of Flander's designed. Instead, the Brooke house preserves the gabled pavilions and proportions of the Queen Anne Style while adding sprawling porches on the first and second floors. The result is a marriage of two styles with a practical solution to ventilation.

The Davenport House which sits across the street at 613 W. Hunt Street was probably built by Higgins in the same year as the Brooke House. Higgins was an accomplished builder of American Foursquare homes and incorporated its boxy, pyramidal forms into many of the homes he built. The pavilion which had a gabled roof in the Brooke House now has a hip roof. Though Davenport house moves further away from the Queen Anne Style, the builder put an ornamental finial at the apex of the roof to remind us of the home's (and the client's) appreciation of tradition.

Elsewhere in McKinney, builders and clients were warming up to the new style. The home at 510 Foote Street built for F.E. Wilcox in 1910 is decidedly in the Prairie Style with its wide eaves, square columns, and hip roof. Still, the window treatment lacks a complete expression of the style.

Finally, in 1911 J.P. Burrus spent \$30,000 dollars on a house at 405 N. Waddill that was unabashedly in the Prairie Style. The Queen Anne vocabulary is completely gone. Thus, a new design paradigm became the mode of the day in McKinney.











Arts & Craft Movement

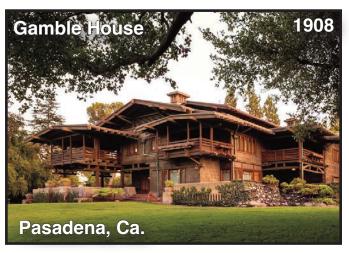
The Arts & Craft Style was another popular alternative to the Queen Anne Style. This style originated in England in the late 1880s and was espoused by social commentator John Ruskin and textile designer William Morris. The Arts & Craft movement emphasized natural, handmade elements. It was as much a style innovation as it was a social movement that regarded the craftsman as artist.

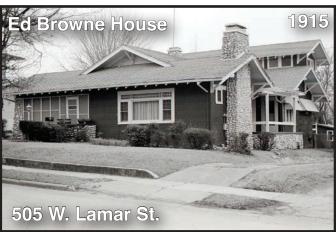
In America, the architectural firm of Greene and Greene was influential in this area, creating what is often called an American architectural masterpiece in the Gamble House in Pasadena, California in 1908. This style is characterized by broad, low-pitched roofs with extended eaves supported by exposed rafters. Stone, brick and wood were used to a natural effect.

In McKinney, the Arts & Craft aesthetic is clearly evident in another house built by L. Caruthers in 1915 for a grain merchant at 505 W. Lamar Street. This house utilizes the same architectural vocabulary expressed in its Californian predecessor.

Other Styles

To a lessor degree, there are other early 20th Century architectural styles represented in McKinney's historic neighborhood. These styles include Classical Revival, Colonial Revival and English Cottage (see examples below). Though these homes are impressive, they did not enjoy the same popularity as the more "modern" looking Prairie and Art & Craft Styles.











The I-House Style

The I-House is a term coined by American historian Fred Kniffen to describe some of the residential structures that were popular in Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa in the 19th Century. However, the I-House architectural form was also popular in states that did not begin with the letter "I."

The style is essentially a simplified version of the American Colonial era architecture that was influenced by the more formal Georgian Style of the 18th Century. The style is sometimes called the "Georgian I-House Style."

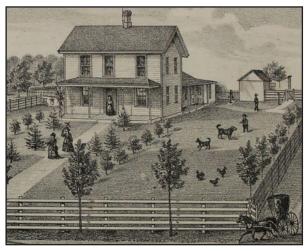
The elements that characterize the I-House Style are:

- · Side-gabled roofs
- Two-stories
- Multiple chimneys
- · Rectangular footprint
- Symmetrical facade and floor plan
- Two equally-sized rooms on each floor
- · A central passage hall
- · A rear wing for a kitchen
- Decoration reserved for porch and entry

The I-House Style was popular in rural America between 1820 and 1890. Before railroads could reach remote farm regions, there was little concern for stylistic expression. Neither the materials, the money, nor the manpower existed for creating anything other than a practical dwelling. Still, even with limited resources, rural homeowners desired to emulate the Georgian-like style and the respectability and wealth it suggested.

As advances in distribution and mechanization improved, builders in rural areas had more access to affordable, wood-carved detailing. These manufactured elements could be applied easily to the I-House porch to add a bit of Victorian "sophistication."

Interest in the style waned at the end of the 19th Century as the nation's taste shifted to homes with asymmetric facades and elaborate decoration. In rural America, this would lead to the creation of the Folk Victorian and Queen Anne Styles.



The above illustration shows a standard I-House as depicted in the 1874 Atlas of McLean County, Illinois.



Early pioneer settler to Collin County Joseph B. Wilmeth built this I-House around 1848 on his 320-acre farm north of McKinney.



One of the oldest homes in McKinney is the Howell-Parker House built around 1861. It was later remodeled in the 1920s but the home's original I-House form can still be seen.

The I-House Style in McKinney

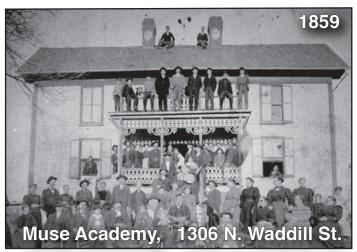
Before Victorian architecture arrived in McKinney, the simple I-House was the popular style. The first rail line into McKinney was the Houston & Texas Central Railroad which arrived in 1872. Prior to that, domestic structures were barely anything more than wooden sheds.

An I-House is a dwelling whose floor plan is a simple elongated rectangle. Supposedly, the name I-House comes not from the shape of the house but from the fact that these houses were popular in Indiana, lowa, and Illinois in the late 1800s.

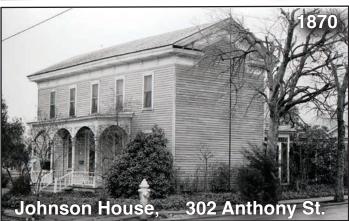
Though the house is best known as the home of Jesse James' cousin, the house owned by wealthy stockman Tuck Hill is a good example of a typical I-House Style with its end-gable roof and symmetrical front facade. The structure has no ornamentation except for the elements applied to the porch.

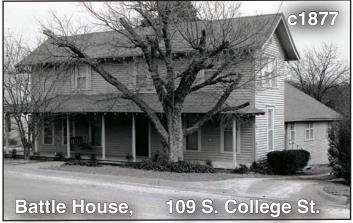
Another example of an I-House in McKinney is the Johnson House at Chestnut Square that has a decorative Victorian flourish added to its porch. Some other houses that make the Hill and Johnson houses look flamboyant are the Battle and Orenduff houses. These houses askew any ornamentation on the house and the porch.

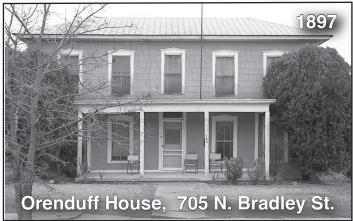
Because of their age and the fact that these homes were built before the era of indoor plumbing and electricity, most of these homes in McKinney have been razed or remodeled. The house at 1306 N. Waddill St. was originally an I-House built in 1859 for James S. Muse but has since been significantly altered.











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Research assistance provided by Tom Michero

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