

Dickerson House

Jack Dickerson
400 N. Pecan Street
Arlington, Texas 76011

Contact:
Christina Rumans
817-265-0666

rejected by THC in 1984
Reapplied for consideration
3-31-98

Application sent: 4-1-98

Phone call to Jack Dickerson, 9-25-00
He said "no"



CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 12276 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711 (512) 475-3092

October 19, 1984

Duane Gage
TCJC NE Campus
828 Harwood
Hurst, Texas 76054

Dear Duane:

The State Marker Committee has completed their review of the Martin Luther Dickerson Home marker application. Because of changes to the home, the committee has determined it does not qualify for a marker. Although they are interested in marking structures of the Bungalow Style, the committee feels the Dickerson Home is not a good representation of such architecture. Their primary concern regards the loss of historic fabric, especially the brick columns which were a dominant element on the front facade.

The committee's decision, although final, should in no way detract from the owner's pride in the house. We appreciate his interest in saving the structure.

Sincerely,

Dan K. Utley, Director
Research and Markers

DKU/lm
cc: Jack Baker Dickerson



CURTIS TUNNELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. BOX 12276

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

(512) 475-3092

August 15, 1984

Duane Gage
828 Harwood
Hurst, Texas 76054

RE: MARTIN LUTHER DICKERSON HOME
16"x12" Building marker without post

Dear Mr. Gage:

This letter is to notify you that we have received the above referenced marker application.

The application first will be reviewed and evaluated by the Texas Historical Commission staff. Should additional information be needed, you will be contacted. After any deficiencies have been corrected, copies of the application will be sent to the members of the State Marker Committee, who will make the final determination of the topic's acceptability for marking.

You will be notified as soon as the committee makes its decision. If the topic is approved for marking we will request payment at the time of notification. If not approved, the application will be returned along with a letter of explanation.

Because of the variables involved in the marker process and because we must coordinate our orders with the schedule of a contracting foundry, we would ask that the dedication dates not be set until you have received notice that the marker has been shipped.

We appreciate your interest in preserving the history of Texas.

Sincerely,

Dan K. Utley, Director
Research and Markers

DKU/cy
cc: Jack Baker Dickerson

Dorrace Dickerson
400 North Pecan Street
Arlington, Texas
76011

July 6, 1984

Mr. Duane Gage
% TCJC NE Campus
828 Harwood Road
Hurst, Texas 76053

Re: Texas Historical Marker - 400 North Pecan Street, Arlington, Texas
Dickerson Home

Dear Mr. Gage:

I finally got around to completing, I hope, the papers necessary
to apply for a historical marker for our home.

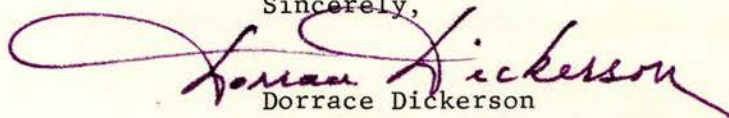
The black and white pictures have not been returned, but Kris
Rumans said it was alright to send the papers in anyway. She
said that you would check them and let me know what else you
need.

If you have any questions, you may call me at 265-4492.

I do need some more forms as I still have the house across the
street to do. I hope that I can find time to get started on it very
soon.

Thank you.

Sincerely,


Dorrace Dickerson
(Mrs.) Jack Baker Dickerson

DD/

APPLICATION FORM FOR OFFICIAL TEXAS HISTORICAL MARKER

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P.O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas 78711

A written history, signed by the author, must accompany this form before it will be accepted.

Tarrant County June 14, 1984 Date

1. Building Marker
Title of marker

2. Martin Luther Dickerson Home
Name of building, cemetery, public square, park, archeological site, etc., where marker is to be placed.

3. 400 North Pecan Street, Arlington, Texas 76011
Marker site (street address or highway number)

4. Arlington, Texas
City or nearest city. If marker is to be placed on a highway or in a small community, you must briefly explain how to get there from nearest town shown on a Texas Highway Department road map. For example, "Marker will be in Bastrop Beach, which is 6 miles southeast of Angleton on FM 523."

5. marker will be placed on front of structure
Distance (miles, yards, feet) and direction (north, south, east, west) of subject from marker site. For example, "Subject is 1/2 mile southwest of marker site."

6. Jack Baker Dickerson 400 North Pecan Street, Arlington, Tarrant County, Texas
Owner of marker site Address City

7. Jack Baker Dickerson 400 North Pecan Street, Arlington, Texas 76011
Sponsor of marker Address City

8. Duane Gage % TCJC NE Campus 828 Harwood Road, Hurst, Texas 76054
County chairman Address City
"I have reviewed the narrative for this marker and attest to its accuracy." *Duane Gage*

9. Jack Baker Dickerson 400 North Pecan Street Arlington, Texas 76011
Person to whom marker is to be shipped Street Address City
Note: If marker is to be placed on a highway right-of-way, it will automatically be shipped to your district highway engineer.

10. Wood
Surface to which marker will be attached (i.e., wood, brick, stucco over stone) if not on post.

ORDER FORM

Please consult page 7 for specifications of the markers available. Check the items desired below. Then mail this application and narrative history, together with a check made payable to the TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION, to the address above. No applications will be accepted unless payment is included. If marker application is cancelled after the inscription is written, the Texas Historical Commission will deduct the cost of writing the inscription from the refund.

HISTORICAL MARKERS

5% state sales tax must be added to the price, except if purchased by a tax exempt organization.

		With Tax
<input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" grave marker (comes with mounting bar)	\$175	\$183.75
<input type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" building marker with post	\$225	\$236.25
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16" x 12" building marker without post	\$175	\$183.75
<input type="checkbox"/> National Register plaque	\$ 35	\$ 36.75
<input type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" subject marker with post	\$575	\$603.75
<input type="checkbox"/> 27" x 42" subject marker without post	\$525	\$551.25
<input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" subject marker with post	\$325	\$341.25
<input type="checkbox"/> 18" x 28" subject marker without post	\$250	\$262.50

MARKER REPLICA PAPERWEIGHT

This item should be ordered at the same time marker is ordered. Indicate quantity desired. Allow six months for completion of marker for receipt of paperweight.

<input type="checkbox"/> 3" x 4" plastic paperweight mounted with replica of marker	\$ 75	\$ 78.75
<input type="checkbox"/> Medallion paperweight, allows four lines of engraving	\$ 25	\$ 26.25

DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

Please indicate quantity desired and location:

24" x 24" Historical Markers In City sign \$ 65 With Tax
\$ 68.25

These will be placed by the District Highway Engineer

- Black and white (for farm-to-market roads, state and U.S. highways)
 Green and white (for interstate highways)

18" x 22" Historical Marker (in black and white only) . \$ 65 With tax
\$ 68.25
For city and county roads. Applicant must supply post.

- With arrow pointing straight ahead
 With arrow pointing left
 With arrow pointing right

Tarrant County Historical Commission

P. O. Box 18331 Fort Worth, Texas 76118



TARRANT COUNTY COURT HOUSE
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

The application for an official Texas Historical Building marker for the Martin Luther Dickerson Home, 400 North Pecan Street, Arlington, Texas, is endorsed by the "Old Arlington Preservation Society," which is striving to preserve and protect a small residential area located near downtown Arlington from encroachment by commercial development and city street projects. The Dickerson Home is in the midst of the area of concern.

Deane Lige

The Dickerson Home
by
Dorrace Dickerson
400 North Pecan Street
Arlington, Texas

The Dickerson home, built in the bungalow style, is located at 400 North Pecan Street, Arlington, Texas, and is situated in Tarrant County, Texas. It is out of a tract of land containing 640 acres which was deeded by the State of Texas on November 24, 1854 to Solomon Davis. The property is known as Lots 1, 2 and 3, Block number 88 as laid down and described in plat of the town of Arlington, according to the original map of said town and shown in Book 388, page 26, plat records of Tarrant County, Texas.

An older house originally occupied this site. According to the records³ the three lots were owned by various people. But then, B. N. Harper bought Lot 1, Block 88 on 1-8-1883. He had already purchased Lot 2, Block 88 on 8-30-1881, and on 10-28-1881 he purchased Lot 3, Block 88. These three lots may have been unimproved at that time. On 2-1-1888 Jane C. Handle purchased the three lots from B. N. Harper. She owned the lots from 1888 until 1897, and probably built a house on them during this time. My husband remembers the old house.⁴ He said that it was situated more on lot 2 than on lot 1 and 3, and that it faced south toward town. It was of frame construction and very old in about the year 1913. Jane C. Handle, a widow, who later married a Mr. West, was the sister of Mrs. M. E. Ramsey.⁵ The Ramsey family was well known in Arlington and owned considerable property here. The ownership of the old house changed a number of times. According to the records, the last owner was J. W. McAlister who bought it 7-14-1914.⁶ It was torn down prior to September, 1919.

Martin Luther Dickerson and his wife, Blanche Katherine Baker Dickerson⁷ bought the property May 2, 1919. On September 11, 1919, they signed a contract with R. E. Smith, a building contractor, to construct the present house and garage for a price of \$3,000.00.⁸

The one story rectangular house sets on its original concrete foundation and is constructed of wood, supported on wood beams, with crawl space under the floor. The exterior siding is wood and the interior is of wood framing and wood sheathing throughout. The wood roof framing supports wood shingles on wood strips. A new roof made of asphalt shingles has been added for fire safety considerations over the original shingles.

The steepness of the roof provides a large attic space which has been converted into two rooms, a full bath and storage area. This modification was made in 1983. The original house contained eight rooms consisting of a living room, music room, dining room, kitchen, breakfast room, three bedrooms, a bath and a large wooden porch across the front of the house and a smaller screened wooden porch which is located between two rooms on the back of the house. The floors are of hardwood throughout the house. The doors are single panel with brass hinges and the door knobs are cut glass. The wooden windows are double-hung, the lower section being single pane and the upper section being triple or quadruple panes. The sashes and trim are wood and the windows operate with weights, cords and pulley's. The original beveled glass french single door on the front is intact as are the two Tiffany style chandeliers in the dining room and the music room. The house contains two original fireplaces, one in the living room and one in the master bedroom. The fireplaces are identical in interior construction. Having been built for heat, the fireboxes are only 17 X 26 inches. The exteriors are of brick facing and the hearths are also brick. They are both in perfect working condition and are used regularly each winter. Natural gas and electric lights were included in the original building. The interior walls are of beaverboard with wood strips designed to cover the seams of the boards. The upstairs rooms are beadboard on

the walls and the ceilings. The baseboards are nine inches tall with corner trim of ten inches. The top of the trim is tapered to a point. All of the ceilings are 9'5" tall.

The garage sets in the back of the house. It is one story, single car with a storage area in the rear. It is of frame construction consisting of 1 X 10 boards with wooden strips covering the cracks. The garage has a composition roof over the old wood shingle roof.

The house is similar to one built earlier in Arlington by Mrs. Dickerson's friend, a Mrs. Harrison. The Harrison house is located on North Oak Street at Sanford, which was out of town at that time. Mrs. Dickerson admired the bungalow style and wanted one too.

Very few changes have been made in the house since it was built in 1919 . In 1932 a door was added replacing a window in the small back bedroom, to gain a private entrance to the south side of the house. The back porch was screened in on one side and in the 1950's Jack Dickerson had the screen replaced and had the lower part glassed. A screen and glass door was installed at this time to keep water from running onto the porch. A sunscreen was built about this time to ward off the west sun. The original house had two brick columns, one at each front corner of the front porch, and two half brick columns at the entrance to the porch. The upper front of the house had no support in the center and was beginning to sag and the corner columns were cracked because of strain; so Mr. Dickerson had the brick columns removed and replaced by three wooden turned posts at each corner of the porch, with two matching posts at each side of the porch entrance and one matching post on each side of the porch near the house. The plain rails were reinstalled around the porch.

The interior is intact except that the pantry was closed from the kitchen side and a door was opened from the hall in order to provide a powder room.

The kitchen has been completely modernized and stairs have been installed in the large kitchen leading to the attic and storage rooms. The house and garage is being repainted and restored to its original condition. The Jack Dickersons plan to continue making their home here.

Mr. M. L. Dickerson moved from McKinney, Texas to Arlington, Texas about 1901 to engage in the cotton business. Here he met Blanche Katherine Baker, daughter of Rev. T. J. Baker who (with his wife, Nancy Black Baker and their children) had come to Arlington from Cumberland, Tennessee to assume the pastorate of the Presbyterian Church. ⁹ Blanche was eleven years old at the time ^{of the move.} Miss Baker attended schools here and attended old Carlisle Academy. Mr. Dickerson and Miss Baker married in 1904 at her mothers' home which was then in Pauls Valley, Indian Territory. The wedding was a big social event. Mr. Dickerson, along with the minister of the Presbyterian Church, Rev. William Fitzhugh, and their Arlington friends boarded the T&P train to make the journey to Pauls Valley for the wedding. The bride was dressed in a long white satin wedding dress with matching shoes and carried a fresh flower bouquet that had been ordered from Oklahoma City. After the wedding, the bride and groom returned to Arlington to make ¹⁰ their home. In about 1912, they bought a home located at 308 North Pecan. By this time the Dickerson's had two sons, (Morris and Martin L. "Pete") and a few years later their youngest son, Jack Baker Dickerson, was born. The family was now complete but the house was too small. So in 1919 Mr. Dickerson bought three lots down the street now known as 400 North Pecan, Arlington, Texas and began plans for a larger and more modern house.

Mr. Dickerson was employed by Neil P. Anderson, cotton brokers in Fort Worth, Texas and for years commuted between Arlington and Fort Worth on the old interurban line. Mr. Dickerson left their employ and entered the cotton business for himself in Arlington and walked across the T&P railroad tracts to his work located about two blocks away in the center of the old Arlington business district. More

often than not, he would walk home for dinner (lunch), and while the new home was being built, he would check on the progress of the construction.¹¹ Mrs. Dickerson was very active in the social life of Arlington. She was a member of the Shakespearian Club which was organized in Arlington in December, 1908.¹² She was an accomplished pianist and a member of the Music Club which was organized December 18, 1913.¹³ She was also an active member of the First Presbyterian Church and was active in the affairs of the schools. She often entertained friends with teas and dinners and sometimes by playing the piano. Mr. Dickerson loved music and owned a number of records of the day and enjoyed playing the records on the Victrola which was in the music room.¹⁴ They also attended the social functions in Arlington and some in Fort Worth as well.¹⁵

Mrs. Dickerson's mother Mrs. Thomas Jefferson Baker (Nancy) came to live with Mr. & Mrs. Dickerson in 1922 after she had suffered a stroke of apoplexy.¹⁶ She made her home with them at 400 North Pecan until her death in 1925. Mrs. Baker is buried in the old Parkdale cemetery in Arlington. Mr. Dickerson died in 1929 and is buried in the same plot as Mrs. Baker. Mrs. Dickerson continued to live in the house until her death in 1962. She is buried alongside her mother and husband.

Jack Baker Dickerson, the youngest son of M. L. and Blanche Dickerson took over the family home after the death of his mother. He and his wife, Dorrace Dickerson now occupy the house. The title to this house has remained in the Dickerson family since it was built in 1919, and it has always been occupied by members of the Dickerson family.

Most of the furniture moved to 400 North Pecan from the old house at 308 North Pecan in 1919 and the new pieces bought for the "new" house are still intact, including tables, lamps, bric-a-brac and pictures. The music room contains the grand piano which Mr. Dickerson bought in 1912 as well as the Victrola bought in 1913. The dining room furniture is exactly as it was and

and two bedrooms are furnished with furniture which was brought from the old place. Other furniture pieces still in use belonged to Mrs. Thomas Jefferson Baker and¹⁷ were brought here from her home in Pauls Valley in 1922.

The walls have been repainted, the house carpeted and draperies hung, and some of the furniture has been refinished and reupholstered.

Jack Baker Dickerson, the present owner, was born when his parents lived at 308 North Pecan. He attended old North Side grade school in Arlington, beginning in the first grade and then Arlington High School where he graduated in 1932. Jack attended North Texas Agricultural College (now UTA) when it was a junior college and graduated in 1934. He then finished his schooling at Southern Methodist University.¹⁸ During the time he was attending college at NTAC and SMU he was employed in the Mortgage Loan Division of Kansas City Life Insurance Company. This job lasted five years and after completing his college education he went to work for M. H. Marr Company in the old Gulf States Building in Dallas, Texas, in 1938. He is still with Marr Company which is now located in the Republic National Bank Building. Jack is a life member of the First Presbyterian Church of Arlington, a member of the Dallas Petroleum Club, The Dallas Club,¹⁹ the Dallas Engineers Club and the Arlington City Club. His wife, Dorrace is active in the community affairs of Arlington, is a graduate of the University of Texas at Arlington²⁰ and is second Vice-President of the Arlington Woman's Club.²¹ They are both charter members of the Old Arlington Preservation Society. Mr. Dickerson serves as Treasurer and Mrs. Dickerson as the Vice-President. They are also members of the Fielder House Museum, where Mrs. Dickerson²² is a special docent, and they belong to the Arlington Historical Society.



Footnotes

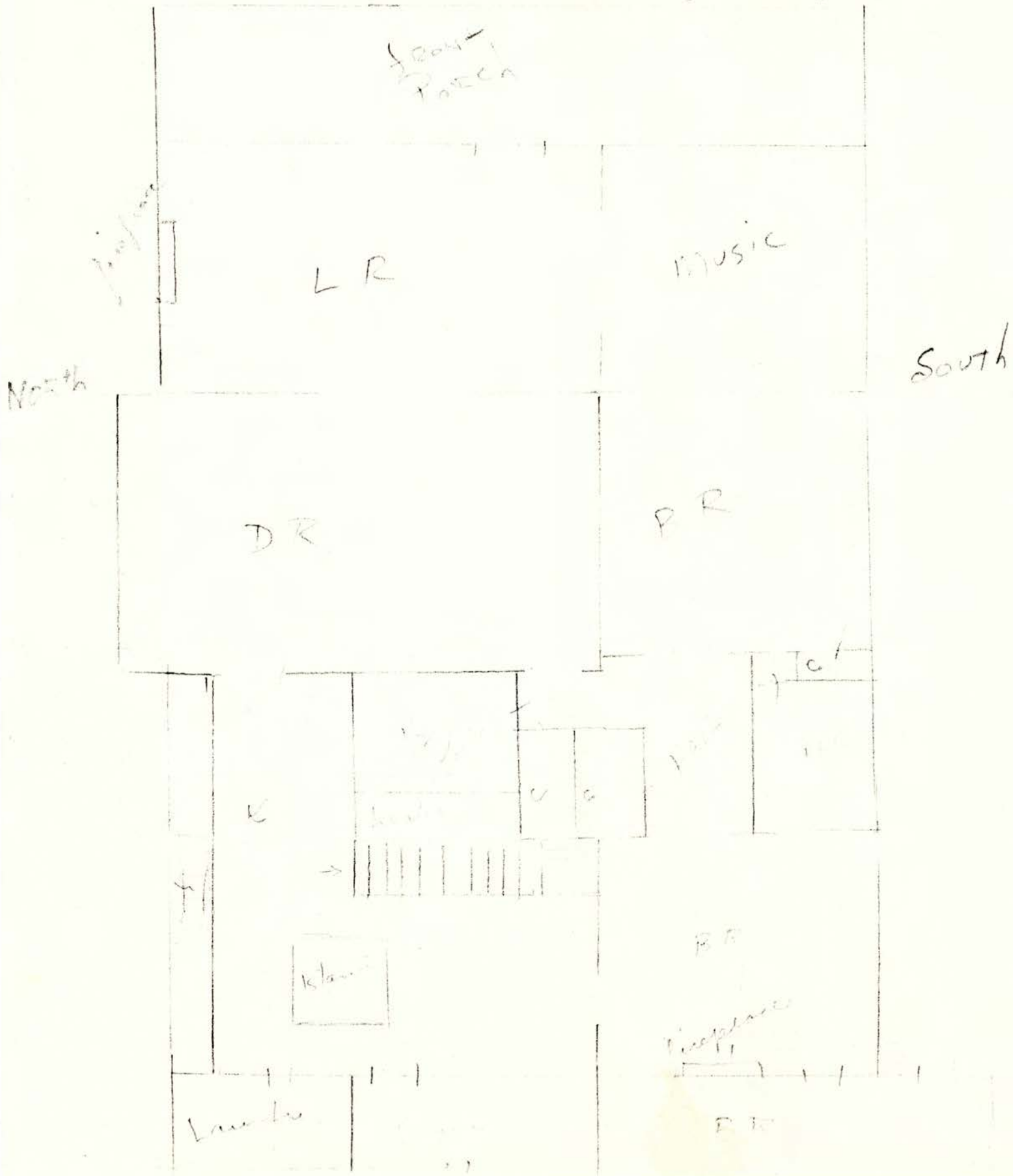
- ¹ North 60' of these lots were sold on 12-29-1945.
- ² The above plat of Block 83, Arlington Texas was originally recorded in Vol. H, page 584, Deed Records, Tarrant County, Texas transcribed 3-12-1913 by A. J. Beavers, County Clerk.
- ³ Abstract # 41360 Home Abstract Company, Fort Worth, Texas
- ⁴ Interview with Jack B. Dickerson on 5-10-1984. Mr. Dickerson stated that he could remember the old house prior to 1919 and that a friend of his mothers' lived there. He remembers his mother taking him there to visit.
- ⁵ Abstract, p. 110
- ⁶ Abstract, p. 87
- ⁷ Abstract, p. 102
- ⁸ Abstract, p. 104
- ⁹ Arlington Treasured Recipes, p. 486
- ¹⁰ Newspaper account of wedding 1904. Name of paper unknown.
- ¹¹ Interview with Jack B. Dickerson 6-2-1984. He stated that when the house was being built, his father would take him by the hand and together they would go check the progress of the house under construction. Jack remembers walking between the studs of the unfinished house. He also remembers the day they moved into the house.
- ¹² Roster of the Shakespearean Club 1913-1914 , 1914-1915, 1915-1916 in scrapbook
- ¹³ Roster of the Music Club 1920-1921 in scrapbook
- ¹⁴ RCA Victrola still in music room with the original records that were purchased in 1913 and for many years later.
- ¹⁵ Collection of invitations in scrapbook
- ¹⁶ Mr. Jack B. Dickerson said in an interview on 5-1-1984 that his grandmother, Mrs. Thomas Jefferson Baker, died in the middle bedroom on a Sunday afternoon, after eating a rather large chicken dinner. Her body was brought back to the house where it was placed in the front of the fireplace in the living room until time of the funeral at the First Presbyterian Church.
- ¹⁷ The Arlington Woman, p. 32-33.
- ¹⁸ School diplomas - School records
- ¹⁹ Rosters and membership rolls at the various clubs
- ²⁰ Diploma - School record
- ²¹ Roster - Arlington Woman's Club 1984-1985 - Also membership records
- ²² Membership Rolls

Bibliography

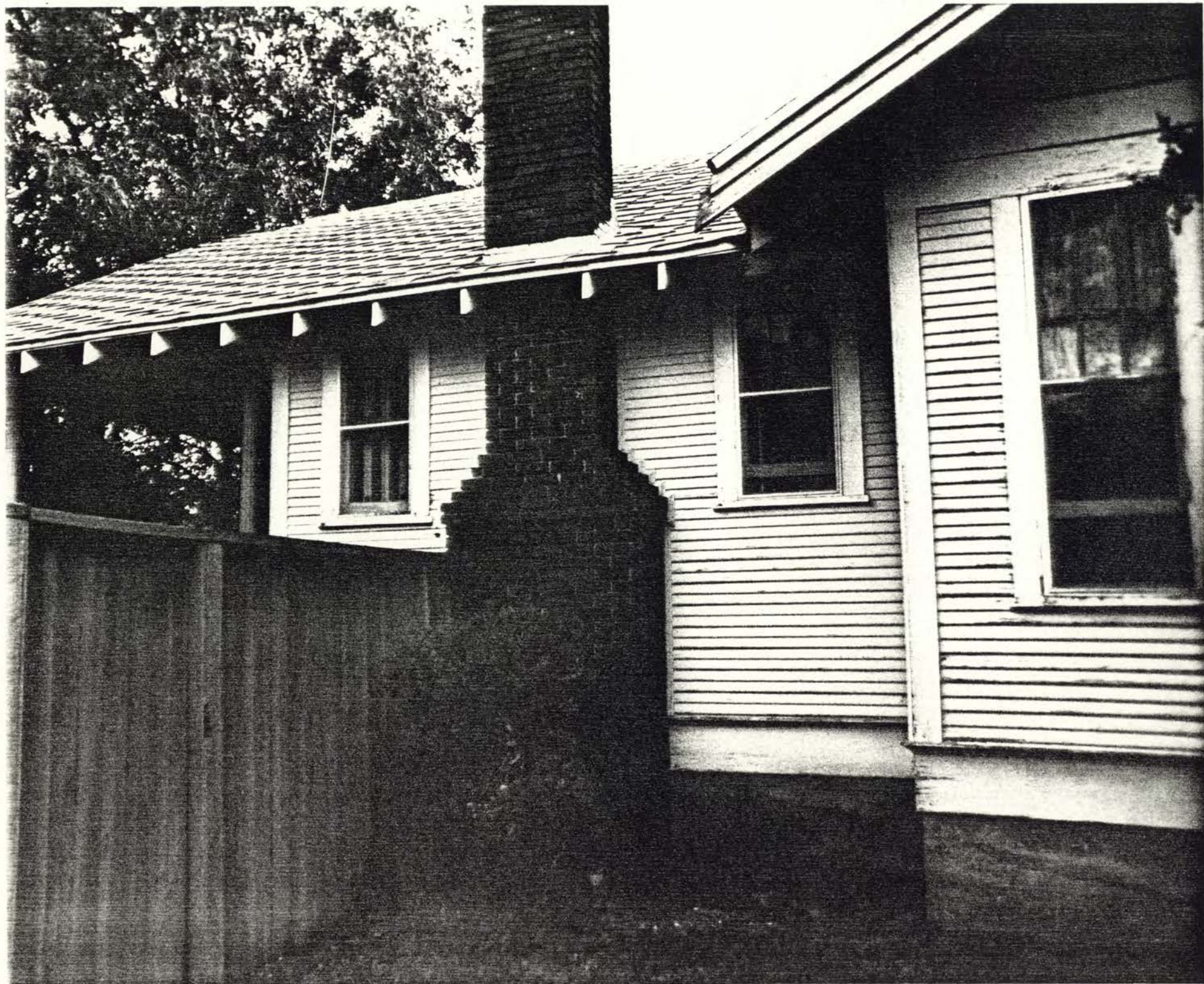
Galloway, Margaret "At Home With" The Arlington Woman, January, 1981, pp 32-33.

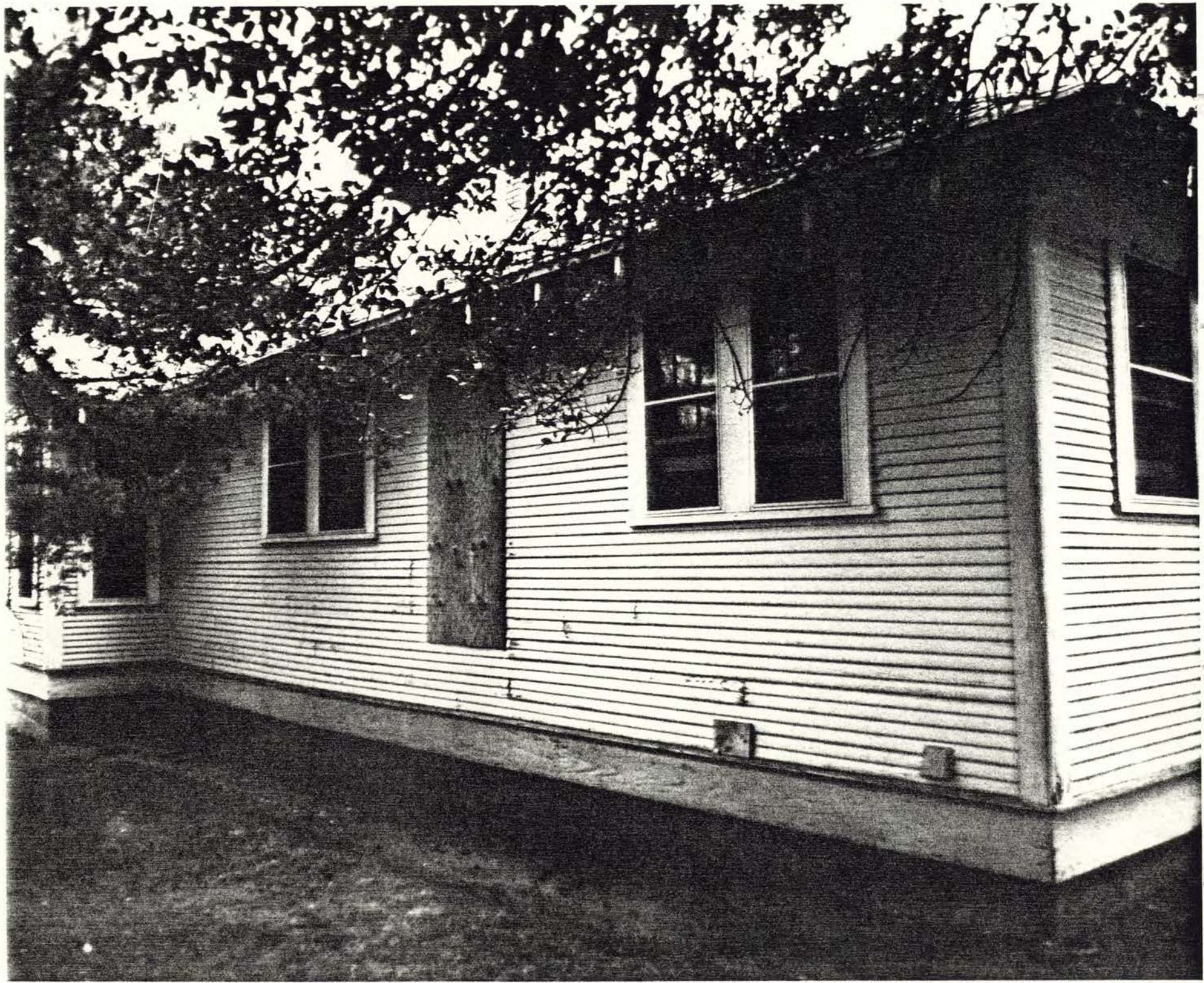
National Society Daughters of American Revolution, Lucretia Council Cochran Chapter,
Arlington Treasured Recipes Fort Worth, Texas : Moody Printing Co; 1975

EAST
400 NORTH PECAN, ARLINGTON













August 6, 1984

Dear Duane,

Here are the pictures for
400 North Pecan that you
have been waiting for.

Call me if you need
anything else.

265-4492

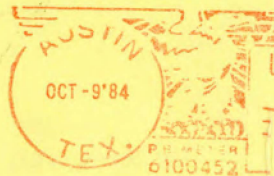
Sincerely,
Torra Dickerson

Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

150 Years of Independence
1836-1986



Official State of Texas Mail
Penalty for Private Use

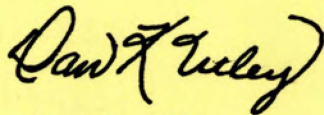


Duane Gage
TCJC NE Campus
828 Harwood
Hurst, Tx. 76054

Dickerson Home

The Research Department staff has completed their review of the above marker application and forwarded their findings on to the State Marker Committee. You will be notified of the Committee's decision within the next few weeks. After that, the application will be placed with others waiting to be written.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan K. Utley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D".

Dan K. Utley
Director of Research

April 1, 1998

Mrs. Jack Baker Dickerson
400 North Pecan Street
Arlington, Texas 76011

Dear Mrs. Dickerson:

We are pleased to know of your desire for reconsideration in the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark designation for your residence.

Enclosed are the 1998 guidelines and application form (please note pages 7 - 8 especially). Your official nomination will need to include a historic photograph from 50 years ago, current black and white photographs of all four sides of the structure, complete floor plans (may be drawn by hand), an architectural description and a documented (footnotes and bibliography) narrative history describing the property's history and historical/architectural significance.

I have provided a copy of the application material previously submitted. In resubmitting your application, please refer to the letter dated October 19, 1984, which is enclosed. The Commission's primary concern, at that time, was in regards to the "loss of historic fabric, especially the brick columns which were a dominant element on the front facade." It is possible to submit photographs for a preliminary review, which I would be happy to help you complete.

Call me if you have questions about the enclosed material. When your nomination is complete, it should be submitted to me for review and critique by the Marker Committee.

Once the Tarrant County Historical Commission approves your nomination, we will forward it to the Texas Historical Commission in Austin for their review. Upon their approval, they will request payment of the marker fee and your approval of the proposed marker inscription prior to the casting of the marker. The completed marker will be shipped to the sponsor. A dedication usually follows, with participation by the marker sponsor, any local historical organization involved with the project, and the Tarrant County Historical Commission.

Please keep in touch as you conduct your research and write your nomination. We'll be glad to help direct your efforts. Good luck !

Sincerely,

David J. Jusiewicz, Marker Chairman
Tarrant County Historical Commission
712 East Dallas Street, Mansfield, Texas 76063
Telephone: 817-477-3218

