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Pictorial Update of A Heritage Trail of Early Stillwater Houses

Book Review:
Oklahoma State University
By Dr. Charles Leider



Payne County Historical Review

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A Heritage Trail of Early Stillwater Homes With 2016 Photographs by Annabelle Hollis

Introduction

In 2016, an ambitious young woman, Annabelle Hollis, went on a photographic tour to record a previous narrative of the Stillwater Arts and Humanities Council as part of a 4-H citizenship project. The prior work, Stillwater Arts and Humanities Council's *A Heritage Trail of Early Stillwater Homes*, was a tour of early homes in Stillwater as they remained in 1975.

The *Payne County Historical Review* is pleased to reprint the narrative of the earlier Heritage Trail publication describing the homes as they were in 1975 now enriched with Annabelle's current day photographs. Some houses were included in the original tour with the year the house was built although no information was provided regarding their original history.

In the forty years since the original publication, the landscape has changed considerably. Many of the original homes are gone; some have been renovated extensively. Sometimes it is difficult to determine what has happened in the intervening years. When viewing the photos (or current site), it is important to keep in mind that the description was written in 1975 based on what the structure looked like at that time, but the photos reflect the site today

Three of the structures have been added to the National Register of Historic Places: Citizens Bank (107 East Ninth), the Frick home (1016 South West), and the Berry home (501 South Duck). The Berry home was listed in Heritage Trail under the name of its original builder, Marshall Edwards.

All of the original comments from 1975 are included here even if no picture is provided because it appears the original structure was no longer existed. The original driving directions have been replaced by grouping the homes in four quadrants: Northeast, Southeast, Southeast, and Northwest of Main and Sixth Streets.

A Heritage Trail of Early Stillwater Homes

Stillwater Arts and Humanities Council Spring, 1975

Preface to A Heritage Trail of Early Stillwater Homes

In the spring of 1970, the Arts and Humanities Council distributed a pamphlet prepared by Miss Madeline Webb. In the fall of 1974, it was suggested that it would be desirable to redistribute this pamphlet. The 1970 edition, edited and corrected, is being presented in this new format. However, the basic document remains that prepared by Miss Webb.

Acknowledgment

The Arts and Humanities Council of Stillwater, Inc., wishes to express its gratitude to Miss Madeline Webb, who almost singlehandedly prepared the brochure presented in the Spring of 1970.

SPECIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT must go to the following people for their help with information for HERITAGE TRAIL, 1970; LeeVera Pepin, Cora Cheney Burdick, Harriet Oschman Ross, Ward Hays, Sam Myers, Sally Whittenberg Terbush, Marguerite Neerman Lahman, Mallee Glass Bilyeu, Vera Glass Webb, Lulu Tourtellotte McClure, The Reverend L. C. Carter, C. Ray Smith, Jim Ritchey, Violet Frick Schroeder, John F. Houck, Frank L. Jardot, Eda Donart Millard, Ruth Goodholm Donart, Martha Berry Covey, Mammie Lytton, and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Swim. A special thank you to the Housing and Interior Design Students, past and present, from the College of Home Economics, OSU.

A Heritage Trail of Early Stillwater Houses

A frontier society is too busy carving its name on a new land to have much reverence for the past. It is interested in the future, as it should be, but much valuable historical information is sacrificed along the way in the name of progress.

Three quarters of a century ago Stillwater was a part of the frontier. This sprawling town was rushing pell-mell into the twentieth century, with little thought of preserving its early heritage. Happily, we still have among us some people with long memories who are knowledgeable about Stillwater's early years, and it is to them that the Stillwater Arts and Humanities Heritage Committee has turned for information about life in Stillwater at the turn of the century.

Robert Cunningham's *Stillwater Where Oklahoma Began*, published in 1969 by the Arts and Humanities Council, provided a fine overview of early Stillwater, with a series of authentic photographs which captures the ambience of this young town. This is admittedly a work-in-progress, with much research still to be done. The Arts and Humanities Council encourages Stillwater citizens to send additions and corrections to the Arts and Humanities Council Chairman.

The Stillwater Arts and Humanities Council is happy to release the incomplete heritage information in this bulletin as a service, with the hope that extensive research into Stillwater's past will continue as one of the permanent purposes of the Council.

HOMES SOUTHEAST OF MAIN AND SIXTH STREETS

1107 South Main THE RICKER HOUSE



The original Ricker house built in the early days remains as part of this modern home which is still occupied by the Rickers. An early-day ice house was built into the rear portion of this house.

1109 South Main O.M. EYLER HOUSE



Built by the family of Mayor Eyler in 1893, this house remains much the same as it was when originally built.

1115 South Lewis Built 1896.



1111 South Lewis Built 1896.



1109 South Lewis Built 1893.



1105 South Lewis Built 1896.





HARTENHOWER HOUSE

We call your attention to the Hartenhower home as an example of an old house having been improved upon. It appears to be a more recent structure. The "updating" has been done by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Flohr.

221 East NinthJARDOT HOUSE

On the corner of Ninth and Lewis, William Jardot, who came in '89, built this

home for his family. Bricks for early building were made in the Jardot brick plant.

Ninth and Lewis OLD FIRE STATION

On the northeast corner of Ninth and Lewis stood the Old Fire Station which stabled the horses as well as the fire engine, with upstairs quarters for the firemen, who slid down the pole which extended from the first floor at the sound of the alarm.





116 East Ninth OLD OPERA HOUSE

The Remy-Shepherd Home Furnishing business occupies the Old Opera House. The old opera stairway remains and can been seen at the east side of this building.



107 East Ninth FIRST BANK

On the south side of this street where McCullaugh's Shoe Shop is located stands the original building which housed Stillwater's first bank. The original hardware on the doors is in good condition still.

701 South Lewis NICELY HOUSE

This two-story white frame house was built by Sam Nicely, owner of one of Stillwater's first saloons in the 1890's. Sam Myers, Sr., was the second owner, and it was in this house that Sam Myers, a former City Commissioner, was born. In recent years the house has been known as Friendly House, a way-station for senior citizens. It is presently owned by the city.

624 South Lowry LYTTON HOUSE

Built in 1892, the house is still occupied by members of the original family. Originally a two-story four room house, with a porch and entrance facing Seventh Avenue. The family came from Richmond, Virginia, to Kansas, and thence to Stillwater, and pieces of furniture are in this home which were brought from the home in Richmond. The owner's wife, Mr. Almara Lytton, left a widow in need of a livelihood, began to take in boarders and roomers. By 1912, in order to accommodate her roomers, she had added on the house, and it then covered as much ground as it does today; however, it was in 1924 that the second floor front addition was built. Today the house contains twenty-one rooms, two halls, four baths, and is occupied by Mrs. Mamie Lytton and her grandson, Charles Dale, who continues to rent and look after the various rental areas within this house.

(We would like to note that the son of the first Mrs. Lytton built the building at 909 South Main Street where he was in the hardware business, and for a number of years the entire third floor was used as the residence of this family. Today this building is the home of the Nelson Furniture Company).



This block before Lincoln School was built, was Stillwater's first park. Lincoln School was the first school building to be built in Stillwater. The original old red brick building is preserved as the core of the present building and it can be identified as the tallest part of the existing structure. (A picture of the original Lincoln School before additions can be seen in Cunningham's "Stillwater: Where Oklahoma Began," page 64).

1324 South Chester MILLARD HOUSE



Built at the turn of the century by Lee Doolin, who exchanged it for a diamond ring and other properties, with a member of the Reese family. Charles Donart became the third owner. Mr. Donart's daughter, Eda, upon her marriage to Ed Millard, purchased the house. Sometime later they removed porches which extended around three sides of the house. This nine-room house, a large one for its time, continued to be the Millard home until the late thirties.

1116 South Chester SPURGIN HOUSE



This house was built and occupied by Franklin N. Bacon. At one time Chester Gould, creator of the comic strip, "Dick Tracy," lived in this house.

1101 South Chester Street GILDER HOUSE



Built by Abe Johnson, an early lumberman, for the Gilders who owned a printing business which was run on the second floor of this house. Mrs. Gilder was Mae Murphy, daughter of one of Stillwater's early physicians. When C. Ray Smith purchased the house, it was still painted the shade of green so popular at the turn of the century. (This must have been a very enduring paint in both color and quality, as we have noted on or two other houses which still have their original "green paint" coating). Mr. Smith repainted the house white, renovating it into the Lincoln Apartments. He removed Gilder's old desk which appeared to have "a thousand pigeonholes."

1301 South Perkins Road DONART HOUSE

Here one can view the original one-story part of the house built hurriedly by Charles and Sarah Ann Donart to house their family upon their arrival in Stillwater in 1889. The original cottonwood beams, placed perpendicular, can still be viewed from the interior of this part of the house. Not too long after moving into the original house, the Donarts added the second story and the porch. (It is interesting to note how often the surviving members of the first Stillwater families refer to their porches, recalling happy memories of entertaining large groups of friends there throughout the outdoor summer season.)

HOMES SOUTHWEST OF MAIN AND SIXTH STREETS

1304 South Main POTTER HOUSE



This house is in its original condition.

1323 South Husband Place

WITTICK HOUSE



Built for the Wittick family before 1900 by builder Fred Oschman, father of Harriet Oschman Ross. Still in original state.

1112 South Husband FIRST BURDICK HOUSE



Built in 1898 by Mrs. Coral Burdick's husband and mother-in-law. It is the same structure as when built.

1102 South Husband BASEL HOUSE



Built in 1900 by Probate Judge Robert J. Basel. Mrs. Burdick recalled going as a child with her family to have Thanksgiving dinner in the Basels' brand-new house in 1900. Has original cistern and well.

620 South Duncan BERNHARDT HOUSE



This house was built in 1894 and has had the beautiful front and many other modern conveniences installed by the Bernhardts, who are the present owners.

715 South Duck MURPHY HOUSE

A physician, Dr. J. B. Murphy, built this house upon bringing his family to Stillwater. This is now the home of the Gladys Kinyon Beauty Shop.

617 South Duck SWOPE HOUSE

This house was built in 1900 by Mayor Harry Swope. Scott Chandler bought it, and the Chandler family moved in on March 7, 1903. Until she died recently, Miss Emma Chandler resided in the home purchase by her father seventy-two years ago.

Duck and Eighth, Southwest Corner

BERRY HOUSE

Will Berry, father of the late Tom and Jim Berry and founder of the Stillwater National Bank, built and occupied this home in the 1890's. The house remains in the Berry family.

620 South West

BUDMONTH HOUSE

Built by Arabell Budmonth in 1895.

701 South West

DONART HOUSE

Built in 1893 by James H. and Hattie Alice Donart. This house was owned and occupied by the Albert Webb family from the middle of the twenties until 1968, at which time the property was sold to G.W. Redington.

523 West Ninth

Built in 1893.



415 South West Built 1896.

423 West Ninth BABCOCK HOME

Built by Pete Babcock in 1900. Some years later bought by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Donart who resided here for a number of years. In 1924 a Westbrook family bought the house from the Donart estate and lived there 35 years. The Chester Charles family purchased the house in 1967.



323 West Ninth Built 1896.

305 West Ninth

Built 1893.



1001 South West LOVELL HOUSE

Built in 1898. The original home of the Lovell family.

1002 South West Street

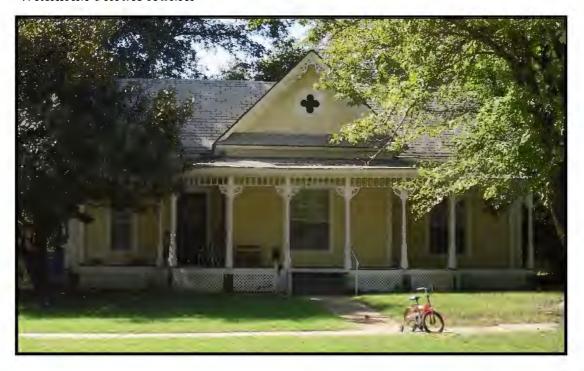


This house is the same as when built, except for a room added at the back by the Pullman family, who bought the home in the late twenties and occupied it until the 70's. It is presently owned by Opal Kautz.

423 West Eleventh GILBREATH HOUSE

The green house. Gilbreath, a builder, constructed this house in 1896 and lived there for many years. He was followed by the Tolleson family. For the last ten years Vincent Wiley has owned and occupied this old residence.

1016 South West Street WILLIAM FRICK HOME



Built in 1903. Mrs. Frick, now deceased, continued to live here until she sold the property about twenty years ago. Mr. Frick was in the feed store business, having his first store on East Ninth and later at 1005 South Main Street where the Lee Paint Company is today.

HOMES NORTHWEST OF MAIN AND SIXTH STREETS

409 South Knoblock LITTLE HOME



The first house south of Talbot corner. Mary Talbot married a Professor Little. This house was built and occupied by the Littles around the turn of the century.

404 South Knoblock



HUNT HOUSE

Built before 1910 by W.H. Hunt and occupied by the Hunt family until 1919, when it was purchased by the J.D. Nelson Family. The Phillips family, moved in on October 23, 1943. Mrs. Phillips put her talented and creative hand to accomplishing a exquisite restoration of the interior. It is presently owned by the Robert Arnolds.

403 South Knoblock TALBOT HOUSE



The first Talbot family home built around 1891 was a two-story white from house with large porches on three sides. The present brick structure was the home of the late Nora Talbot, who was for many years Dean of the OAMC Department of Home Economics. It is presently owned by the Harvey Collinses.

324 South Knoblock





Built by Mr. Smith's family in 1900, this house has been occupied only by the Smith family.

HOME OF DR. A.C. SCOTT

President of the college at the turn of the century, stood on the corner of Knoblock and Third where College Grocery is now located.

Southeast corner, Knoblock and University PECK'S LUNCH SHOP



Before 1908 O.T. Peck established an eating place for college students on the corner of Maple and Knoblock. The enterprising O.T. was a graduate of OAMC in 1908 and had during his college years a stationery shop in the basement of Old Williams Hall. In the early years Peck developed

the business corner at Knoblock and University, always improving and keeping the building up-to-date. You may note the name of this area, "Peck's Lodge," cut into the cement on the University Avenue side of the building.

518 West Washington The OSCHMAN HOUSE.

(The next house on the tour is difficult to detect. It sits back from the street just north of Martha's Sewing Shop.)

In 1890 when builder Fred Oschman, chose this corner for his home there were no crowded businesses in this block. The structure of the house is unchanged, but the



516 West Elm SWIM HOME



The building of this home was begun in the fall of 1908 by President Connell of the College and finished in the Spring of 1909. President Connell left Stillwater in 1915, but his sons, Bill and Jim, who continued in college here, created the Smoker's Club, later called the Oklahoma Club, and the members made this home their residence Later these

members became the Beta Theta Pi fraternity. Elmer Swim purchased the house from the Connells in 1917 and lived here until 1922. The Pi Beta Phi and Chi Omega sororities and the Acacia fraternity occupied this house at various periods over the next ten years. Since then Leslie Swim and family have lived there, and their eldest daughter was born here. Leslie Swim recalled working for the Connell family when he attended college. His work was in the yard, during that early time he had never been inside the house. The Swims now use the original Connell carriage house as a garage.

202 South West TOURTELLOTTE HOUSE

Built before 1900. Mrs. Mary Anne Tourtellotte purchased this home from the Clarks in 1908. Mrs. Lula McClure, the Tourtellotte daughter, has made this her home since 1945. Old brick sidewalks still in front of the house. Brick paved carriage drive remains and is said to be the only one left in Stillwater. It is interesting to note the unusual pattern used in the brick laying of the payment.

215 South West MELTON HOUSE



C.A. "Charlie" Melton home. Built before 1905.

223 South West



EASTON HOUSE

Built in 1898, this house is just the same as when built. Mr. Easton owned a brick yard.

227 South West BOWER HOUSE

Built before 1900 by Dr. John Bower, head of OAMC's Education Department in this era.

Corner of Third and West SEVEN GABLES

Built by Atherton, a professor of architecture at OAMC, as a duplex.

516 South Duck

M.J. OTEY HOUSE

Originally built by Dr. McGinnis, a physician. The Oteys bought the house in 1913 from R.E. Chamlet. Since 1938 Mrs. Edda Conners has owned and lived in the house. The McGinnis part of the house was built at the turn of the century. Later additions were made to the south, with a porch and a second floor.

302 South West KIZER HOUSE

Built by early banker, Kizer, before the turn of the century.

324 South West SUMAN HOUSE

Built by attorney, Charles Suman, in the early part of the century.



424 South West

LEWIS HOUSE

Built by Dean Lewis of OAMC, for whom Lewis Stadium was named.

Southeast corner of Fifth and Duck



MARSHALL ED-WARDS HOUSE

This beautiful home was built by Marshall Edwards, a banker. In the early and middle twenties the house was the home of Dr. W.D. Whittenberg and family. It was thereafter for many years the home of the late Lieutenant Governor James E. Berry and family. This property still belongs to the Berry estate. Presently occupied by Gilliam Interiors.

312 South Duck

McGEORGE HOUSE

Built in 1900 by William R. McGeorge, druggist, who sold the house to a banker, Swinford. In 1919 it was purchased by the Goodholm family who owned the flour mill. (Mrs. E.E. Donart was a Goodholm.) It was later sold to a real-tor Bob Randolph, who converted it into a fraternity house.

30

301 South Duck JOHNSON HOUSE

Built before the turn of the century by lumberman Abe Johnson. The house is the same as when built.

Northeast corner of Fifth and Duncan STRODE HOUSE

Built around 1900. This house was for many years the residence of Mrs. Ruth M. Strode.

424 South Duncan

MILLER HOUSE



On the northwest corner we see an old red brick house. Built in 1890 by Peter Miller, the son-in-law of Mr. Abercrombie, and early merchant. In 1912 Dr. Paul Friedemann purchased this residence, and the Friedemann family lived

238 South Duncan ROBISON HOUSE



Built in the early part of the century by one of Stillwater's early mayors. Today the house is owned and occupied by the C.I. "Red" Brooks, who are doing a magnificent job in restoring and preserving this charming old home.

216 South Duncan LAHMAN HOUSE



Built by Ross Lahman in 1907. Originally had 140 foot front. The Lahmans came to Oklahoma at the time of the Cherokee Run. The house was subsequently owned by Dr. Winter and then by Dr. Carl Blackwell, both OAMC professors. Some twenty years ago, Lila McElwain bought this house.

120 South Husband McDONALD HOUSE

When the college was first opened this place was established as a rooming and boarding house for college students.

121 South Husband BERRY HOUSE

This house was occupied in 1915 by the Tom Berry Family.

202 SouthHusband ALCOTT HOUSE



This is an early-day home built in an interesting architectural style. Bill Cooper is the present owner.



Built in 1895. This was the home of Judge Wilcox from 1918 to 1926. Although today it is a rent house, it is still owned by the Wilcox family.

406 South Husband

HOPKINS HOUSE

Built by Ed Hopkins in 1900. This home was purchased by the Young family, where Raymond A. Young, founder of the TG&Y Stores, lived while attending OAMC. The Oakes family then bought the house, and Mrs. Mary J. Oakes still maintains a home there. It has an interesting cater-cornered fireplace and some filigree woodwork.

HOMES NORTHEAST OF MAIN AND SIXTH STREETS

202 East Maple DRAKE HOUSE



Drake, a banker, built this home in the early 1900's. It has been owned and occupied by the Grayson family since 1915. Frances Grayson, a daughter, resides there, giving special attention to keeping the house in its original state. The interior features beautiful filigree woodwork archways. A fireplace of tile with intricate carved woodwork on the mantel and on the framing of the mirror above the fireplace.

401 South Lewis

Built before the turn of the century, and today owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Dock Bilyeu. This house is the same as when built.

314 South Lowry ROLSTON HOUSE

Built in 1891 by Mrs. Rolston, a widow, who, with her son, Collin, and two black boys brought up in the Rolston home, came to Stillwater from Wichita, Kansas. (We learned that the mother of these two boys was killed en route to Stillwater by a runaway team of horses and wagon, which knocked her down and ran over her. We speak of this tragedy in order to remind our readers of the many struggles and hardships suffered by those who traveled over no more than rail-like roads into this frontier country at the turn of the century). All the materials that went into building this house were brought by wagon from Wichita. Mr. C. Ray Smith said that years ago when he was working on this house, the walnut lap-siding which he was removing was so hard that it would resound, ringing just as clearly as a bell.

THIS COMPLETES THE HERITAGE TRAIL

We hope you have enjoyed this drive along Stillwater's Heritage Trail. If you are interest in still exploring, perhaps not today, but on some sunny Sunday afternoon, we are adding a few other points of historical interest.

OTHER POINTS OF HISTORICAL INTEREST

JARDOT BRICK YARD.

The Jardot bricks were made from a sandy clay found on the claim staked by Mr. Jardot in 1889. This claim extended approximately from the north corner on West Street and Twelfth and Western. Being a stone mason he took particular note of various types of soil. He discovered a very good quality of sandy clay—just right for brick-making on his claim. He built a brick factory in this area, giving Stillwater its first bricks. The mounds from which the clay was taken can still been seen. Another brick factory was created in Cactus Canyon in what is today the Donaldson and Manning Addition. The pits from which the clay was taken are still there.

STILLWATER'S FIRST HOSPITAL

Dr. W.C. Whittenberg, Stillwater's first surgeon, established his first hospital in his fourteen-room home at 404 Duck Street. A few years later he converted

the Rex Hotel (formerly Linden Hotel) which was catercornered across from the Fire Station at Ninth and Lewis into a hospital. After World War I Stillwaterites took great pride in Dr. Whittenberg's new hospital with each room having its own bath. It was built of brick and stucco, trimmed in white with a somewhat Tudor architectural appearance, and shaded by lovely elm trees. This third hospital stood on the corner where the Municipal Building now stands at Eighth and Lewis. (A picture of this third Whittenberg hospital can be seen in Cunninghams *Stillwater: Where Oklahoma Began*, page 223.)

AND Finally, because we must stop somewhere, one may view the Houck home, 810 West Connell, which was built in the 1890's on the (then) Houck farm. This home is now owned by Mrs. Ray Hull, who has kept the house in its original state with the charm of that early era expressed in both interior restoration and furnishings.

Special thanks to the Stillwater Arts and Humanities Council for permission to reprint the original text of the pamphlet, A Heritage Trail of Early Stillwater Houses.

Oklahoma State University By Dr. Charles L.W. Leider

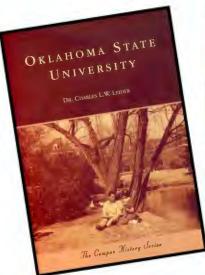
Published by Arcadia Publishing as part of The Campus History Series

Oklahoma State University has one of the most beautiful and well-designed campuses anywhere. With an occasional exception, the consistency in its land-scape is friendly and welcoming. With an abundance of photographs and drawings, Dr. Charles Leider leads the reader through seven periods of architectural landscaping from OSU's first building in 1893 until today.

The project started to celebrate OSU's Centennial with a special topics class, Case Studies in Historic Landscape Preservation. Dr. Leider's students decided to recreate the lost 1930 master plan. That plan, under the presidency of Henry Bennett, still influences the look of the campus today.

The book is filled with interesting stories about the people, the plans, and the

outcomes of landscape architecture on the Oklahoma State University campus. The book is available at the OSU Student Union and through Amazon.





News and Notes

Coming Event: The Study of Civil War Quilts

From November 1 through February 11, 2018, the Stillwater History Museum at the Sheerar will feature a traveling quilt show featuring The Study of Civil War Quilts: 1850-1865. Sponsored by the American Quilt Study Group, the traveling exhibit has some amazing works of art inspired by a historic quilt.

Two other exhibits are currently at the Museum: "Inside the Fallout Shelter: Civil Defense in Stillwater" and "How Dry Was It? Prohibition in Stillwater".

The Museum is open from 11:00a until 5:00p, Tuesday through Friday, and 1:00p to 4:00p on Saturday and Sunday.

PCHS is on Facebook

Not sure about details of any upcoming PCHS event or other historical happenings in Payne County? Visit the Payne County Historical Society Facebook page. Stay tuned for upcoming news about the PCHS website.



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