

## EVERS HOUSE (1035 West Oak Street)

*Historical narrative written and researched by Morgan and Timothy Gieringer for Texas Historical Commission Recorded Texas Historic Landmark 2017, Denton County*

*Revised and Corrected 2019 by Timothy Gieringer*

### I. CONTEXT

Denton County was formed during the first legislature of the new State of Texas in 1846.<sup>1</sup> Three different county seats were named (Pinckneyville 1846, Alton 1848, and Alton 1850) before the county seat was finally located in the City of Denton in 1856.<sup>2</sup> Between 1870 and 1880 the City of Denton grew in population from 371 residents to 1,194, and the county grew from 7,251 residents to 18,143.<sup>3</sup> By the turn of the century, these population counts had roughly quadrupled, with 4,187 residents in the City of Denton and 28,318 in Denton County.<sup>4</sup>

Two major factors influenced the growth in the City of Denton. In 1881 the Texas and Pacific Railway came to Denton. The line ran from Texarkana to Paris, Sherman, Denton, Fort Worth and finally to Sierra Blanca where it connected with the Southern Pacific line, running all the way to California.<sup>5</sup> Denton is also home to two major institutions of higher education: The University of North Texas, founded in 1890, and Texas Woman's University, founded in 1901.

The Evers House was constructed at 1035 West Oak Street in 1903, and is one of many prominent homes on a stretch of several blocks known as "Silk Stocking Row."<sup>6</sup> Many of the homes located on Silk Stocking Row have already been awarded Recorded Texas Historical

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<sup>1</sup> C. A. Bridges, *History of Denton, Texas: From It's Beginning to 1960* (Waco, Texas: Texian Press, 1978), 51.

<sup>2</sup> Bridges, 51-61.

<sup>3</sup> Bridges, 168.

<sup>4</sup> Bridges, 250.

<sup>5</sup> Bridges, 170.

<sup>6</sup> Linda Lavender, "Silk Stocking Row: A Walk on Oak Street," Denton County History Page, accessed October 01, 2016, <http://www.dentonhistory.net/page69/>.

Landmark Designations in recognition of their grand architecture as well as their significant connections to the prominent early citizens of Denton County who resided there. The Evers House is possibly the most well-known house in Denton. Even among the many beautiful homes located on Oak Street, the Evers House stands out due to its grand appearance, its prominent location on a hilltop at the corner of two busy streets (Welch and Oak), and its connection to the downtown hardware business owned and operated by the prominent Evers family for over 100 years in Denton.

## II. OVERVIEW

Robert Henry Evers (1859-1936) and his wife Mary Euphemia Evers (née Taylor) (1861-1941) were married in Texarkana, Texas on October 12, 1882 and later lived in Paris, Texas where Robert was engaged in what was likely either a hardware or furniture business.<sup>7</sup> Robert was familiar with Denton, as he had visited about eight years earlier as part of a surveying group for the Texas and Pacific Railway.<sup>8</sup> The Evers moved to Denton in 1885 when Robert took over ownership of an existing hardware store on the south side of the courthouse square in Denton.<sup>9</sup> Although it seems likely that Robert came first with Mary and the children arriving later in 1886 as their second son, Robert Marion Evers, was born in Paris on January 4, 1886.<sup>10</sup> After arrival in Denton, the Evers lived in a series of homes until purchasing a home at 213 East Oak Street in

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<sup>7</sup> Bob Evers Tripp, interviewed by Dr. Floyd Jenkins, Business Oral History Collection, Evers' Hardware Series, Willis Library, University of North Texas, November 16, 1983; Lotta Evers Callahan, interviewed by Dr. Floyd Jenkins, Business Oral History Collection, Evers' Hardware Series, Willis Library, University of North Texas, October 17, 1983.

<sup>8</sup> Dorothy W. Bertine, *Design Elements Used in High Victorian Houses* (Master's Thesis, Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas, 1975) 121.

<sup>9</sup> Bertine 122.

<sup>10</sup> "Area Deaths." *Denton Record-Chronicle*, March 8, 1976.

1888, where they would stay until constructing their new home at 1035 West Oak.<sup>11</sup> The three youngest of the five children were born after arriving in Denton.

- William Taylor Evers (1884-1968)
- Robert Marion Evers (1886-1976)
- Lula Catherine Evers (1891-1976)
- Adolph “Dolph” Frederick Jr. Evers (1895-1983)
- Ollie Mae Evers (1898-1917)

Robert Evers originally co-owned Evers Hardware Store in Denton with his brother Adolph Frederick Evers (1861-1939). Based on a suggestion from a travelling salesman named William Enders, later an inventor of a popular safety razor, the brothers purchased the existing Fritzlen Hardware owned by E.K. Fritzlen.<sup>12</sup> Together they put down \$2,000 cash and gave a mortgage on land in Harrison County to cover the value of the store’s inventory in 1885. Evers Hardware was originally housed in a wood-frame building until it was replaced with a two-story brick building in 1913. Evers Hardware is located on the south side of the Denton square, and is recognized by the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing building in the Denton County Courthouse Square Historic District.<sup>13</sup> Evers Hardware is “one of the most recognizable structures on the square”<sup>14</sup> and part of a block which includes many popular shops and restaurants. The hardware store sold many things which were essential to the growth and development of Denton, including the first tractors in Denton, threshing machines, buggies, coal

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<sup>11</sup> Tripp Interview.

<sup>12</sup> Tripp Interview.

<sup>13</sup> Denton County Courthouse Square Historic District (added 2000 - - #00001582)  
Area bounded by Pecan, Austin, Walnut, and Cedar Sts., Denton.

<http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/tx/denton/state.html>

<sup>14</sup> Kim Cupit and Georgia Caraway, *Denton: Then and Now* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2012), 24-25.

stoves, and barbed wire.<sup>15</sup> After a few years in Denton, Adolph would leave the hardware business, leaving Robert to run the store. Eventually, Robert Evers son, Adolph “Dolph” Evers took over ownership and management of the store and by 1968 Evers Hardware was considered the oldest operating store in Denton. Evers Hardware operated in Denton until it closed in 1998, although descendants would continue to operate a non-hardware business in the same location until 2001.<sup>16</sup>

The Evers’ made significant contributions to the civic life of Denton. Robert and Adolph Frederick Evers formed the city’s first power and water company in 1892 through the purchase of Denton’s first electric plant soon after it was constructed. They provided services to the area surrounding the courthouse square.<sup>17</sup> For years citizens went to Evers Hardware store to pay their utility bills.<sup>18</sup> Robert Evers was a member of the volunteer fire department, and provided advice on “all matters of early government and civic affairs.”<sup>19</sup> Under a new city charter which changed the organization of the municipal government, Robert Evers was elected as one of five city commissioners responsible for selecting and appointing the city Mayor in 1914. Perhaps most notably, Robert Evers was responsible for maintaining the courthouse clock, and would frequently take his children with him on his regular trips downtown for clock maintenance.

The Evers House was built in 1903, although no mechanic’s lien appears to exist, perhaps because it was payed for in cash. The land was originally owned by Adolph Frederick Evers,

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<sup>15</sup> Shelton, Keith, “You Can Buy Anything in Denton’s Oldest Store, *Denton Record-Chronicle*, February 25, 1968.

<sup>16</sup> Pope, Celia. "Evers Closes Its Door," *Denton Record-Chronicle*, June 27, 1998; Cobb, Dawn. "The End Of The Line," *Denton Record-Chronicle*, June 2, 2001.

<sup>17</sup> "History," Denton Municipal Electric, accessed August 1, 2016, <http://www.cityofdenton.com/departments-services/departments-a-f/denton-municipal-electric/company-overview/history>.

<sup>18</sup> Shelton.

<sup>19</sup> Bertine, 123.

who acquired the land in 1895 from George B. Wilson, Kate B. Wilson and R.J. Wilson.<sup>20</sup> The original lot extended from Oak on the north to Hickory on the south, and from Welch on the west, to a point further east than the current property line. Subsequent land sales have reduced the size of the lot on the southern and eastern sides. A 1907 deed<sup>21</sup> shows transfer of the property from Adolph Frederick to Robert Henry Evers, although there is no evidence to show that the home was not solely in the possession of Robert Henry from the time the home was built until 1907. According to the transcript of an audio recording of Mary Evers, construction “started in July, 1903, and finished in December, 1903.”<sup>22</sup> Newspaper accounts verify this timeframe with the first mention of the home being from August 27, 1903 and simply stating, “R. H. Evers is erecting a \$10,000 residence at Denton.”<sup>23</sup> The next newspaper account published on October 22, 1903 said of the house currently under construction, “The elegant residence being constructed for Mr. Evers on West Oak Street will be when finished one of the handsomest in the city.”<sup>24</sup> By Christmas of 1903 the home was completed and was host to a holiday party on December 27, 1903 according to a newspaper account which read, “William T. Evers (teenage son of Robert Evers) gave a dance Monday night to a number of his friends at the elegant new Evers home on West Oak Street. There were a number of young people present who enjoyed themselves well.”<sup>25</sup>

Oral histories have identified the builder of the Evers House as Frank Craft, a local builder who constructed many significant homes in Denton such as the Christal House on Oak

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<sup>20</sup> Denton County Deed Record 1895-77000400, April 11, 1895.

<sup>21</sup> Denton County Deed Record 1907-77001134, April 2, 1907.

<sup>22</sup> Jessie Evers King, interviewed by Dr. Floyd Jenkins, Business Oral History Collection, Evers’ Hardware Series, Willis Library, University of North Texas, October 26, 1983.

<sup>23</sup> Denton County News, August 27, 1903, accessed August 8, 2016, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph501651/>.

<sup>24</sup> *Denton County News*, October 22, 1903, accessed August 8, 2016, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph503700/>.

<sup>25</sup> *Denton County News*, December 31, 190, accessed August 8, 2016, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph501651/>.

Street. It had also been said that the house was designed by an architect, said to be known only as a Mr. Page from Austin.<sup>26</sup> Documents now confirm that the house was designed by the Austin architectural firm of C.H. Page, Jr. & Bro. (also known as Page Brothers).<sup>27</sup> Thus, the man previously known as simply “Mr. Page” was probably Charles Henry Page himself (also known as C.H. Page, Jr.), a prominent Texas architect who was selected to build the Texas exhibition at the 1904 St. Louis World’s Fair and also designed the Travis County Courthouse. Charles Henry Page is confirmed to have visited Denton several times in 1903. An article from the July 23, 1903 Denton County News states that, “Charles Page Jr. of Austin has been appointed supervising architect of the new building which is to be erected at North Texas Normal in Denton.”<sup>28</sup> While working just a couple blocks away from the Evers House at what is now the University of North Texas, it is possible that Charles Henry Page was visiting the Evers House project as well, as some newspaper accounts are vague in what business he was engaging in while in Denton. A September 3, 1903 article simply notes that “C.H. Page, Jr., of Austin is in the city on business.”<sup>29</sup>

When it was built the Evers House contained 12 large ceiling rooms spanning over three floors and approximately 4,387 square feet of space. Lumber for the house cost \$800. The exterior was constructed of Cyprus lumber. Guests arriving to the house by street car entered the house from Oak Street, while guests arriving by car or buggy drove through the peach orchard and berry patch to the south entrance.<sup>30</sup> The first two floors of the home contained bedrooms,

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<sup>26</sup> Bertine, 120.

<sup>27</sup> C.H. Page, Jr. & Bro. letterhead, dated March 26, 1909, Author’s Private Collection.

<sup>28</sup> *Denton County News*, July 23, 1903, accessed August 8, 2016, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph504268/>.

<sup>29</sup> *Denton County News*, September 3, 1903, accessed August 8, 2016, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph502538/>.

<sup>30</sup> Bertine, 120.

livings areas and kitchen, while the third floor was used as a smoker (no smoking was allowed in the family areas) and a gymnasium for the children complete with a skating rink, basketball and gymnastic equipment.<sup>31</sup>

The house is built in the Neoclassical style, which gained popularity after the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Local architect Isabel Mount Miller described it in this manner, noting that it is “classic in the location of the rooms and its spaciousness” and “generally simple, orderly and spacious.”<sup>32</sup> Common Neoclassical features of the home include the use of Corinthian columns, balustrades on the porches, bay windows, and boxed cornices. The home features three massive Corinthian columns at the front entrance supporting a full-height porch. A lower porch supported by Corinthian columns starts above the front door and moves along the front of the home until it wraps around to the east side of the house. It then continues along the east side of the home, briefly interrupted by bay windows, and on to the southeast portion of the rear of the home. On the west side of the front entrance are bay windows with decorative woodwork between the first and second floors. Balustrades run along the first floor porch, the lower porch, the flat roof of the full-height porch, and around the widow’s walk at the peak of the house. More bay windows can be found on the east side of the home. Boxed cornices wrap around the entire home and also under the lower porch above the front entrance, and under the pediment.<sup>33</sup>

The most descriptive details on the original design and architecture of the Evers House available to us today are from Dorothy Bertine, whose thesis *Design Elements Used in High*

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<sup>31</sup> Bertine, 121.

<sup>32</sup> King, Kit. "Seeing Evers House as It Might Be." *Denton Record-Chronicle*, June 1, 1986.

<sup>33</sup> McAlester, Virginia Savage. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Knopf, 2014. 434-446. Print.

*Victorian Houses* (Texas Woman's University, 1975) includes a significant section on the Evers House written before the home suffered damage in a fire and renovations took place. Bertine today is well known as a watercolor artist whose work prominently features historic homes.<sup>34</sup>

Instead of Neoclassical, Bertine describes the home as a large eclectic Victorian of dominantly Italian Villa style which features horizontal layering, balustrading around the edge of each large balcony, decorative brackets and leaded glass bay windows. The home is symmetrical on the interior, but appears asymmetrical on the outside due to the presence of three large Corinthian columns, bay window projections and roof line balustrades weighted to the right, and counterbalanced by large loggia and balustrades on the left. Perhaps the most distinguishing feature of the home is the Palladian entrance featuring a set of three horizontal lights flanked by two grand Corinthian columns.<sup>35</sup>

Other notable elements of the home include Roman oval arch windows on the east and west gables with simple oval enframements for single windows or scalloped enframements surrounding sets of windows, and smooth wrought iron circular basement ventilators in a double-circle and star pattern which is reminiscent of the Lone Star of Texas.<sup>36</sup> Brackets supporting the upper-balcony of the North entrance to the home repeat the circular pattern by incorporating a scroll pattern with the addition of a foliated vine extending towards the edge of the bracket.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> "Watercolors by Dorothy Bertine," an exhibit at the Denton County Courthouse-on-the-Square, 2015. (Website <http://www.discoverdenton.com/event/watercolors-dorothy-bertine/>)

<sup>35</sup> Bertine, 128.

<sup>36</sup> Bertine, 130.

<sup>37</sup> Bertine, 132.



In addition to the main home, the original carriage house still exists near the south side entrance of the home along Welch Street. This structure appears on the 1907 Sanborn Map of the area.<sup>38</sup>

Also of note to the property is a small frame home located at 1022 W Hickory. Situated on what would have been near the Southeast corner of the original lot, this bungalow from approximately the late 1910s was owned by Robert and Mary and later occupied and owned by various family members throughout the years, including Lula and Dolph Evers. Next to it, at the corner of Welch and Hickory, a large tennis court surrounded by high wire fences once stood. Dolph, according to family lore, was quite an exceptional tennis player.<sup>39</sup>

During their lifetime Robert Henry Evers and Mary Euphemia Evers regularly received guests in their house, especially family who would travel from Marshall, Texas and stay for extended periods of time. In fact, according to the oral history of Jesse Evers King, granddaughter of Robert and Mary and daughter of William Evers, Mary's parents came to live with them and stayed until their deaths.<sup>40</sup> Mary's father, O.P. Taylor, built the storm cellar in the southwest corner of the home in 1909 and tended garden on the large lot.<sup>41</sup> Robert and Mary themselves both lived in the Evers House until their death. King notes that the funerals of both Robert Henry and Mary were held in the Evers House.<sup>42</sup>

Deed records for the Evers House are incomplete, and it is not known when the home was deeded to Robert and Mary's children, however, a deed issued in 1960 provides evidence of

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<sup>38</sup> "Denton 1907 Sheet 9," map (New York, NY: Sanborn Map Company, 1907), accessed October 1, 2016, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph546031/>.

<sup>39</sup> Jesse Evers King Interview.

<sup>40</sup> Jesse Evers King Interview.

<sup>41</sup> Flyer from the Denton County Historical Museum at The Evers House, circa 1986.

<sup>42</sup> Jesse Evers King Interview.

the sale of the home by Robert Henry's two eldest children, R.M. Evers and W.T. Evers, to another one of his sons, Adolph "Dolph" Frederick Jr. Evers, who had lived in the home for most of his life.<sup>43</sup>

By the 1970's Denton residents were accustomed to seeing the Evers House as a local landmark, but perhaps didn't know how important the Evers house was to the community until it was almost lost. Tragedy struck the Evers House on December 2, 1977 as a fire destroyed most of the roof and third floor, and inflicted heavy damage to the second floor of the home. The possible loss of the home was a huge blow to the local community. One neighbor was reported as saying, "It just hurts me inside to see it burn. There are a lot of old houses, but none like that one." Another neighbor on Oak Street was quoted as saying, "I've never seen so many people trying to hold back tears. It's tragic. It's so sad, I can't believe it."<sup>44</sup> At the time of the fire Dolph Evers was 82 years old and had no insurance on the house. It was later determined by police that the fire was started in the home by two teenage boys who entered the home out of curiosity, using paper torches to light their way through the cellar, first floor and upper floor bedrooms. A piece of burning paper in a second floor bedroom caused a fire which spread through the second floor, third floor and roof of the home. The first floor interior was also heavily damaged by smoke and water.<sup>45</sup>

Although Dolph Evers originally planned to not repair the home, he was eventually persuaded to allow restorations of the exterior, and was assisted by community members in the efforts. Recognizing the historical value of the home, The Denton County Historical Commission

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<sup>43</sup> Denton County Deed Records, 1960-7650. November 16, 1960.

<sup>44</sup> "Flames claim a bit of history," *Denton Record-Chronicle*, Sunday, December 4, 1977.

<sup>45</sup> "Fire: Evers Blaze an Accident Says Hagemann," *Denton Record-Chronicle*, December 15, 1977.

commissioned local architect Isabell Mount Miller to oversee repairs to the home.<sup>46</sup> (Isabell Mount Miller, with her husband Tom Polk Miller, made up the Mount-Miller Architectural firm in Denton, who were responsible for construction of many notable local mid-century homes and businesses.)<sup>47</sup> Under Mount Miller's supervision, the exterior was restored to its original appearance as much as possible, with one change to eliminate the decorative fretwork inside the gable above the front porch. This fretwork was unfortunately stolen from the yard after the fire. Otherwise, efforts were made to stay true to the original architecture, no matter if they were using new or salvaged materials.<sup>48</sup> The two junior high students responsible for starting the fire volunteered their time on weekends to assist in the repairs. Other students, participating in the Congress Junior High Junior Historians Club, worked to help rebuild the home in the year following the fire.<sup>49</sup> Through these community efforts the home's exterior was finally repaired, however, Dolph Evers died shortly thereafter, leaving no will in place and the home's future in jeopardy once again.<sup>50</sup>

After a couple of years Dolph Evers's nephew, Bob Tripp, was able to take ownership of the home and a deed dated September 3, 1985 provides evidence of this transaction.<sup>51</sup> Working with Bullitt Lowry, chairman of the Denton Historical Society, Tripp initiated plans with the county to temporarily house the Denton County Historical Museum in the Evers House while the Courthouse was undergoing extensive renovations. A second reconstruction and restoration process was begun in 1986 to prepare the home to house the museum archives, exhibits and

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<sup>46</sup> Jacqueline McGee, "Evers House to Become Museum," *The North Texas Daily* (Denton), April 23, 1986, accessed August 8, 2016, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth332769/>.

<sup>47</sup> Kim Cupit and Georgia Caraway. *Images of America: Denton* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2009), 107.

<sup>48</sup> Miller, Rita. "Restoration near Finish on Evers Home." *Denton Record-Chronicle*, July 4, 1979.

<sup>49</sup> DeBoe, David C. "Chapter Showcase." *The Texas Historian* 39, no. 3 (January 1979): 27. Accessed August 8, 2016. <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth391483/>.

<sup>50</sup> McGee.

<sup>51</sup> Denton County Deed Record 1985-47334, September 3, 1985.

meeting room spaces.<sup>52</sup> Once again, restoration work was put under the supervision of noted architect Isabel Mount Miller.<sup>53</sup> Some of the restoration work done during this phase included replacing aluminum windows with wood frame windows, removal of an elevator which had been installed in the house, and recreation of the woodwork in the staircase, which was rebuilt from remnants of the original burned staircase. Community volunteers cleared debris from the gardens and landscaping.<sup>54</sup> Locals also assisted in searching for and securing period appropriate materials to replace damaged parts. Hardware and wood was sourced from various locations, such as a demolished house on Carroll Boulevard and an old cotton gin in Greenville.<sup>55</sup> The museum move began in April 1986; however, the museum in the Evers's House did not have its official opening until February 14, 1987.<sup>56</sup> The museum continued to operate from the Evers House until December 1987.

In 1992 the Evers House was sold by Bob Tripp to his daughter Celia Tripp Reid, great-granddaughter of Robert Henry and Mary Evers, and her husband Michael L. Reid.<sup>57</sup> In 2001, the Reids sold the property to Christopher Moran, marking the first time in the house's 98-year history in which it was not owned by a member of the family.<sup>58</sup> Following this sale the house changed hands three times, and in 2010 underwent another major renovation. The 2010 restoration to the home focused on maintaining the historical nature of the structure, while

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<sup>52</sup> McGee.

<sup>53</sup> Denton County Historical Museum flyer.

<sup>54</sup> Brigida Bello, "Denton Museum Reopens Saturday in Restored House on Oak Street," *The North Texas Daily* (Denton), February 12, 1987, accessed August 8, 2016, <https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph561750/>.

<sup>55</sup> King.

<sup>56</sup> Bello.

<sup>57</sup> Denton County Deed Record 1992-37478, July 2, 1992.

<sup>58</sup> Denton County Deed Record 2001-133032, December 5, 2001.

providing modern updates, such as additional bathrooms and the addition of a wine cellar.<sup>59</sup> The Evers House was then purchased by Charles and Renee Slaton in 2014, and the Slatons continue to occupy the home today.<sup>60</sup> In 2015, the Slaton family began the process of updating a sleeping porch and master bathroom on the rear of the home with the assistance of Tulsa preservation architect Alan Madewell. The project involved enclosing a small sleeping porch in order to add square footage for a master bathroom to accommodate handicap accessible features. The exterior walls of the enclosed porch were constructed with glass windows that replicated period storm windows. This project was approved by the City of Denton Historic Landmark Commission since the home lies within the Oak-Hickory Historic District and is also a designated City of Denton Historic Landmark.<sup>61</sup>

### **III. SIGNIFICANCE**

The Evers House is an architecturally significant community landmark, with a rich history directly tied to the growth and development of the city of Denton. Built in the Neoclassical style, the Evers House exhibits all the hallmarks of this unique architectural style. The home, which now has over 6,000 square feet of living space, occupies a place of prominence along an avenue lined with the homes of prospering merchants and other prominent residents of early Denton, many of which are already designated as Recorded Texas Historical Landmarks. This section of Oak Street, known as “Silk Stocking Row,” runs west from the downtown

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<sup>59</sup> Hunt, Dianna. "Glimpse of History." *Denton Record-Chronicle*, April 27, 2014. Accessed October 1, 2016. <http://www.dentonrc.com/local-news/local-news-headlines/20140427-glimpse-of-history.ece><http://www.dentonrc.com/local-news/local-news-headlines/20140427-glimpse-of-history.ece>.

<sup>60</sup> Denton County Deed Record 2014-124435, December 5, 2014.

<sup>61</sup> Slaton, Charles. E-mail message to author. October 18, 2016.

Denton square, up a gently sloping hill, and terminates with the grand Evers House, gleaming in all-white, sitting proudly at the top of the hill.

Robert Henry Evers came to Denton in 1885 to take over operation of a hardware store. The store known as Evers Hardware, was in continuous operation from 1885-1998, and during that time played a significant role in the development of Denton from a primarily agriculture-based community to the modern, suburban community here today. Over the years this shift is reflected in the inventory of Evers Hardware, from primarily farm implements such as barbed wire and tractors, to modern conveniences, such as washing machines and televisions. Evers Hardware is the most significant structure on the south side of the Denton Square and is located within the Denton County Courthouse Square National Register District. The Evers family legacy also continues on with the Denton city park officially known as "Evers Park." This park on the north side of town was created on land sold by the family to the city in 1965.<sup>62</sup>

The impressive condition of the Evers House in the 21<sup>st</sup> century is a testament to the importance of the home in the local community. When the home was badly damaged by a fire in 1977 the community mourned the potential loss, and rallied to save the home. Local school children even contributed their own time assisting with repairs to the exterior of the home. The exterior restoration restored the appearance of the home and no significant changes were made. In 1986 the Denton County Historical Commission was successful in finding funding to complete an interior renovation of the home. Both of these restorations were led by notable local architect Isabel Mount Miller. Finally, a third major restoration was undertaken in 2010.

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<sup>62</sup> "Board Recommends Prices For Big New Denton Pool," *Denton Record-Chronicle*, February 5, 1965, accessed October 1, 2016, [www.http://newspaperarchive.com/](http://newspaperarchive.com/).

Today the Evers House is 113 years old and still maintains its status as an important community landmark.