

H-19

ELLINGTON'S ON THE SQUARE
119 W. Hickory Street
Denton, Texas

The Ellington's on the Square project began in October of 1980 as an experiment in renovation and restoration of the building at 119 W. Hickory for commercial purposes. Initially, it was hoped that original photographic evidence would serve as a model for exterior renovation, but such evidence was unavailable. We then chose a style that would be harmonious with the period we were trying to reconstruct as well as with the overall atmosphere of the Square itself. The turn-of-the-century New Orleans Mercantile style that was chosen maximizes the use of interior brickwork and wooden wainscoting to create an atmosphere of charm and elegance that was indicative of the period. It was hoped that our efforts would not only stimulate new traffic on the Square, but that it also would serve as a catalyst to other merchants to consider methods that could be employed to create a new commercialism on the Square.

Historically, the building is interesting and diverse, and it has played a significant role in the development of Denton County. The earliest records available date original construction as being prior to 1860, making the building one of the oldest on the Square. The building in its original form is referred to as the "old stone house" belonging to T.W. Daugherty and Sons, and evidence of this stone framework was found during renovation. Source material indicates that Daugherty was engaged in banking and lending in Denton, and the statement is made that T.W. Daugherty and Sons was probably the first bank in Denton County.

Daugherty himself had come to the county in 1851, and, like so many other early settlers, he had chosen Old Alton as his home. The Daugherty family made significant contributions to the early county around the time of the Civil War. Daugherty himself led Company A of the 29th Texas Cavalry in 1862, C.C. Daugherty served as Sheriff, and Matt Daugherty was performing as a County Judge in 1869. The fire on the south side of the Square in 1860 partially destroyed the building, but there are no records that indicate the extent of the damage.

On January 15, 1877, a great fire swept through the South side of the Square again, and this fire caused severe destruction to virtually every business. T.W. Daugherty and Sons suffered a loss of records and physical damages amounting to \$600.00. These losses led to the demise of the Daugherty bank, and, in 1879, the company went bankrupt. Following the bankruptcy, the property was conveyed to Dr. J.M. Inge either at auction or via direct purchase from T.W. Daugherty and B.F. Paschall, who had also purchased the Courthouse lot at an auction in 1876.

In 1886, Inge constructed a two story brick building fifty nine feet deep, and the entrance that enjoined the Inge building with the building that is now Duke and Ayers was walled off by deed in that same year. Inge practiced medicine upstairs, and Dr. Baldwin's Drug Store occupied the first floor. The walled off entrance was uncovered and remains intact in the present structure, and bottles of hair balsam were found beneath the subfloor that probably had been merchandised in Dr. Baldwin's Drug Store.

In 1894, a new tenant occupied the second floor along with Dr. Inge. Mr. J.T. Jones, a General Photographer, and Mr. P.P. Parks, a viewing artist, officed in the Inge Building, and they appear to be the first photographers in the County. Around this period, the downstairs portion of the building was occupied by the Bandy and Robinson Livery, Feed, and Stable business.

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Ellington's on the Square is a 25' x 123' one story brick commercial northern facade faces the Courthouse Square bounded on both sides by similar commercial buildings. Building foundations are brick and stone, and the original floor joists have been resupported where necessary. Concrete flooring has been poured to support a bar and cooking line, and additional concrete was poured to form an even surface in the entry way.

The front facade which measures 25' x 23'9" has been reconstructed using a stucco base with Carr siding and fixed awning to create a turn-of-the-century New Orleans Mercantile store front. This style was chosen both for its attractiveness and constructability, and provides excellent relief to the art deco front that preceded it. A Forest Green base with Tile Red trim against a tan stucco background was chosen since these earth tones blend well with both the environment and the other buildings on the South side of the Square. The fixed awning is tan trimmed in green and projects a 12" valance. Cape Cod windows border both doors, and an airlock constructed of Carr siding and wood framing was constructed to enhance the energy efficiency of the building.

Three skylightshave been constructed, and these are supported by 2" pipe founded in 4' concrete piers. Iron crosspieces were constructed to support ceiling fans that force air downward and upward from each skylight, again aimed at energy efficiency. Carr siding was furred down from each skylight and was finished in an antique wood and polyurethane stain.

Layers of sheetrock and plaster were removed from the walls, and the original brickwork in the building was preserved and sealed with a polyurethane and waterseal mixture. Particular attention was paid to preserving the original lines of addition in the building, and seven different types of brick are exposed. The original hardwood floors were sanded, finished, and sealed in polyurethane, with the exception of the entryway and a riser area which have been carpeted. A pitched staircase was constructed to allow access to an elevated area in back which provides additional seating as well as rest room facilities.

The downstairs area has been restructed to accommodate a kitchen preparation and storage area, and new concrete flooring has been poured in this area to allow necessary plumbing.

Original interior materials were used wherever possible, and the elevated area in back features pressed tin ceilings, hardwood floors, and brick walls that lend an air of authenticity to the area.

In 1895, Dr. Inge sold the building to A.F. Evers, a well known Denton resident who pioneered much of the commerce on the Square. Mr. Evers, who had several other interests on the Square at the time, leased the building to J.S. Stone and Company, who conducted a dry goods and clothing business on the ground floor.. The photography studio continued on the second floor as did Dr. Inges practice.

In 1904, Evers sold the building to D.L. Long and W.B. McClurkan who were to conduct a dry goods and clothing business in the building, and Long and McClurkan later became well respected founders of commerce in Denton. Long and McClurkan moved their business and sold the building to J.D. Bates, who practised law along with A.Logan upstairs. Bates leased the groundfloor to T.C. Dossey and J.D. Holloway who operated Denton's only shoe store from that location.

Various tenants occupied the building through 1926 when the second floor was again ravaged by fire. Reconstruction and repair amounting to \$5,500 was completed between 1926 and 1929, and the burned joists in the building shell indicate that at this moment in its history, the building became a one story structure. In 1940, LaMode Dress Shop occupied the building and an art deco store front was constructed. La Mode was followed by The Collegiate Shop and then by Bomars, from whom the present owners purchased the building in 1980.

The Inge building has much historical significance in that it housed the first bank in the county as well as the first photography studio, and the various businesses that have occupied the space have contributed significantly to the growth of commerce in the city of Denton. The present owners have tried to preserve history where possible and to recreate history by choosing a style that is indicative of the period. The atmosphere that has been created has been greeted favorably by its patronage, and we hope that Ellington's on the Square will convince the citizens of Denton that the Courthouse Square can once again prosper and flourish.