



Historic Landmark #22

**Wright-Henderson-Duncan House
703 Spring Street**

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The house was built by Hood County Sheriff A. J. Wright, and in later years was a home for two other Hood County Sheriffs, J. F. Henderson and C. M. Duncan. The original structure, a mid 19th century stone house with a dog-trot plan was a frontier homestead for Wright. Settlers largely from Missouri squatted on the land that would later become Granbury and eventually purchased their homestead properties from Milam County. Wright (1819-1889) was among those settlers from Missouri. Wright was engaged at various times in cotton farming, stock raising, cattle drives and the mercantile business. At the outbreak of the Civil War Wright returned to Missouri and served as a captain in the Confederate Army. Wright survived the war and returned to this area of Texas. When Hood County was organized in 1866, Wright was elected sheriff. However, state authorities under the Military Government of Reconstruction would not permit Wright, a former Confederate officer, to serve in the office. In 1867, Wright's first wife Elizabeth Nutt Wright died. He married again in 1871 to Miss Margaret Bond and move to Granbury where he was engaged in the mercantile business. It was at this time that Wright hired local builder William Trawick to construct a stone house on the outskirts of town. From 1873 to 1876 Wright served as Hood County Sheriff. He retired and moved to Coleman County sometime before his death in 1889. However in October of 1881 he sold his improvements and interests in the Milam County property that he had homesteaded, to J. F. Henderson. Henderson purchased the deed to the property from Milam County in November of 1881. He and his wife, Mary, and five children resided in the house until 1910. Henderson (approx. 1846-1933), also a native of Missouri, moved here in the spring of 1872. Henderson served as Hood County deputy-sheriff and jailor before becoming sheriff from 1898-1900.

In 1891, the Henderson family added a second story in the same hand-hewn limestone, distinguishable from the earlier construction by lighter colored mortar. The chimneys were extended to serve the upper floor and the open North and South ends of the dogtrot were enclosed with limestone. An entrance door was placed in the new North wall with transom and side lights. A double gallery of wood decorated with jigsawed brackets, balustrade and Victorian trim was constructed across the central three bays for the front north facade. The rear of the house on the south facade received two rooms forming an "ell" to the main house on the west street. A long open porch provided access to these rooms which served as the kitchen and dining rooms and was entered from the south end of the enclosed dog-trot. All of the windows (except those on the new addition begun in 1969) date from the 1891 remodeling and have the tall narrow proportions of the late 19th century with low arched headings, double hung sash and 2/2 lights. The house was covered with a picturesque jerkinhead gable roof on which the end gables are clipped. A front façade walldormer over the central bay also has a clipped gable. In 1910, Henderson lost his property and legal judgments and began a long line of short-term ownerships.

The longest term owners to date have been Charles M. and Emma Duncan. Duncan (1879-1957) was a cattleman and rancher who served as sheriff of Hood County from 1936-1940. Late in 1928 Duncan purchased the Wright-Henderson property and some 50 acres. Alterations and additions were made to the house again after 1928 when C. M. Duncan installed electricity and plumbing and topped the house with standing seam metal roofing. The wooden Victorian double gallery which was in a deteriorated state of repair was removed and a random limestone entrance porch consisting of three arches was constructed. Above the porch the area was enclosed to accommodate bathrooms. The rear "ell" of the house Duncan removed and constructed a new lean-to addition faced with random limestone across the rear facade. It housed the kitchen and dining area. The Duncans held the property three years, sold it in 1931, and repurchased the property in 1940. When Mrs. Duncan died in 1969 the house was inherited by their daughter, Mrs. Martha Anna Duncan Ingerson. In 1969 when Dr. and Mrs. F. E. Ingerson inherited the property, work was begun to restore the house to its 1891 appearance. They removed the stone front entrance porch which Duncan installed and constructed a double veranda similar to the 1891 veranda. The rear lean-to addition was removed and a completely new constructed faced with hand-hewn limestone salvaged from a demolished late 19th century mill structure located nearby. This addition is compatible with the main house in material and design. The standing seam metal roof was replaced with wood shingles. The Ingerson family still owns the house and it is used as a residence.

The location of this house is also integral to its significance. The house is now situated at the intersection of Highways 377 and 144. When it was originally built, it was situated on a lone prairie, susceptible to Indian raids. Additionally, it has been noted that David Nutt, father of Abe and D.L. Nutt, originally settled on this land before moving to where the Hood County Courthouse now stands.

**The Wright-Henderson-Duncan House was
designated a local landmark February 18, 2008.**