

**APPENDIX A**  
**DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS—INTERIOR—DOWNSTAIRS**

**Entryway**

The entry is dominated by an elaborate staircase with steam bent bead board decoration, framed alternate diagonal bead board wainscoting, bulls-eye embellished carved geometric central columns, and a massive geometric newel post. The carvings on the central columns are of an eight pointed star design. Oak flooring in the entryway appears to be more modern in origin, and is elevated compared to the floors in the parlor. Under the staircase is a storage area where the original pine flooring can be seen. Porcelain electrical insulators can be seen in the closet. This home was one of the first in Bryan to be electrified. There are also gas ports in the floor. Homes of this age would have been equipped with natural gas for both lighting and heat. As of 1992, the home still possessed gas heaters. The nozzles on the gas ports have been upgraded to modern valves. The heaters have not been preserved or stored. The front door is also more modern, and currently has a frosted glass inset with the name of the law firm. The original door has been preserved and is stored in the garage. It contains stained glass panels. The entryway is stunningly wainscoted with alternating, diagonal, framed bead board, and capped with egg and dart molding. The front and back doors are both framed with massive, round end, lintels. Picture railings in this room are green with gold embellishment, and are of a wide rococo style. A massive double pocket door leads to the dining room, and a smaller, five paneled, door leads to the restroom passageway.<sup>1</sup>

**Front Parlor**

The front parlor overlooks East 29<sup>th</sup> Street and the expansive east yard. This room possesses an ornate, trapezoidal bay window with an intricately scroll-sawn canopy with fluted columns. The bay windows are made of leaded and faceted clear glass and have a diamond motif. A shallow, coal burning, fireplace with mauve glazed ceramic tiles and a decorative cast iron cover graces the northwest corner of the room. This fireplace is surrounded by a quarter-sawn oak mantle with fluted columns and a mirrored overmantle. The fluted columns reach from the floor to the lintel of the overmantle. Salmon colored, gold

embellished rococo picture rails, painstakingly restored by Kelly Buechler during her restoration of the home, are found approximately two feet from the ceiling. Acanthus leaf decorations are applied both to the canopy face and to each of the door lintels. The windows are oriented to maximize airflow and light, and the feeling is open and spacious. A massive, single, pocket door separates the front parlor from the rear parlor.<sup>2</sup>

### **Restroom Passageway**

The restroom passageway is a square room with four doors. One door leads to the restroom, one door leads to the kitchen, one door leads to the entryway, and one door leads to the dining room. The walls are completely covered by bead board, as is the ceiling. Each of the doors is framed with a simple column and bulls-eye design, without ball and dart moldings. The floor is tiled with modern linoleum and is level with the oak flooring of the dining room and entryway.

### **Dining Room**

The dining room is wainscoted with wide, ribbed, vertical bead board with a simple ogee cap which protrudes about two inches from the wall. On the south wall there is a large, recessed, dish cabinet with two pull drawers, and lower storage area. This cabinet has horizontal bead board backing and rounded corners. There is a storage closet on the east wall with a five paneled door. This closet is backed with horizontal bead board. The northeast corner of the room, between the front window, facing East 29<sup>th</sup> Street, and the first side window, facing South Houston Street, has a beautifully crafted, stick style, bracket shelf with a two inch spindled rail. This shelf, at the top of the wainscoting, may have been used to display fine china or glassware. The craftsmanship of the shelf shows the high level of proficiency that George Washington Jenkins, Jr., or his skilled sub-contractors, possessed. The flooring is more modern, being constructed of small, oak planks and contemporaneous with the flooring in the entryway. Picture rails are mahogany colored with gold embellishments, and are subdued rococo with square pegs. Windows, doors, and the double pocket door have flat-columned sides with bulls-eye decorations, and square end, massive, lintels with two levels of egg and dart molding. The placement of the chimney abutting the

dining room indicates that there was probably a small coal fireplace in this room, but there is no indication on the wall or floor of where this fireplace may have once stood.<sup>3</sup>

### **Kitchen**

The kitchen is the most heavily modified room in the home. Cabinetry appears to be modern, although it has been designed with bead board insets to match the other elements. The bead board ceiling has been painted white, as have the flat column and bulls-eye frames that surround the entry door and the door leading to a small washroom, the windows, and the a door leading to the back porch. The 1930's stove and oven described in a 1992 article from the *Bryan-College Station Eagle* has been replaced by a modern appliance. Patches in the ceiling may indicate where ports for gas lighting formerly existed. The floor is covered with modern linoleum which runs level with the oak flooring of the dining room and entryway. A central island has been constructed in the middle of the kitchen. There is no indication as to whether this room originally served as the kitchen for the home, although its offset from the rest of the structure may indicate that it was intentionally positioned there to isolate the heat from the rest of the living space.<sup>4</sup>

### **Restroom**

Excepting the flat columned, bulls-eye adorned, frames around the window and door, the restroom is entirely modern, with an added shower. The flooring is modern linoleum. The toilet and sink are modern, although the shell-shaped pedestal sink appears to have been added as an attempt to blend in with the other thematic elements of the home.

### **Back Porch**

The back porch, which has been screened in modern times, still possesses a hand-cranked water pump that draws water from a brick-lined underground cistern that gathers rainwater from the roof. Cisterns were commonplace during this time period, even though city water may have been available in some parts of the city. The floor is made of narrow planks, and the ceiling is made of bead board.<sup>5</sup>

## Rear Parlor

The rear parlor overlooks the expansive east yard and the back porch and possesses a door with a solid polychrome, leaded, stained glass window approximately three feet by five feet in dimension. There is a rectangular bay window which is framed by both stained glass and clear leaded glass panels. The motif of these windows is made up of circles and bisected ovals. This bay window has an elaborate ball and spindle canopy with simple columns. The windows facing the back porch are also framed with leaded stained glass panels. Picture rails in this room are the most ornate in the home, baroque in type, turquoise with gold embellishments. There is a recessed cabinet, perhaps a bookcase, with glass doors and a lower storage area built into the west wall with horizontal bead board backing and ornate brass hardware. This cabinet, the doors, and the windows are framed by trim bearing embossed acanthus leaves as well as ogee and egg and dart elements. The stained glass door, adjacent to the bay window, which once opened onto the east porch but now opens into an added sunroom, is oriented in such a manner as to maximize the prevailing breeze, which comes from the southeast in this region. A five-paneled door with large, brass, faceplate and an ornate brass doorknob leads into the entryway.

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<sup>1</sup> Sulak, "Couple restore home," C5; "Historic Homes Tour honors 'Legacy of Charlie Jenkins,'" *The Press* (February 11, 1993), 5A.

<sup>2</sup> Sulak, "Couple restore home," C5.

<sup>3</sup> Bock, Gordon, *Stick Style*, Old House Journal Dot Com Web Site: [http://www.oldhousejournal.com/Stick\\_Style/magazine/1419](http://www.oldhousejournal.com/Stick_Style/magazine/1419) (retrieved November 25, 2008).

<sup>4</sup> Sulak, "Couple restore home," C5; "Historic Homes," *The Press*, 5A.

<sup>5</sup> "Historic Homes," *The Press*, 5A.