

Wipprecht House

500 East 29th Street – Bryan, Texas

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark



Texas Historical Marker Unveiling and Dedication

Sunday, May 6, 2012 – 2:00 p.m.

A Brief History of the Wipprecht Family and their House

By Philip C. Banks – 2012

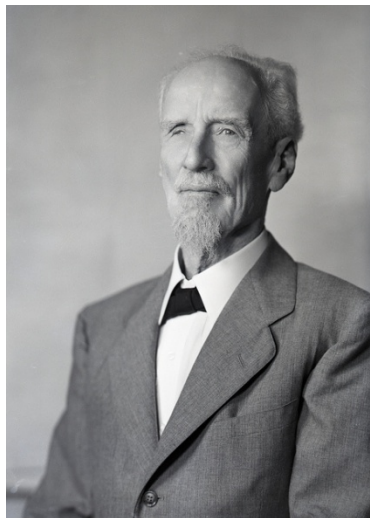
The person responsible for the construction of the house at 500 East 29th Street, Bryan, Texas was Walter Wipprecht. Walter was born at Sisterdale, Texas to a German immigrant family. Walter graduated from Texas A&M in 1884 and became the first graduate student in the school's history in 1885.

Walter grew up to be a successful businessman who gave back years of service to his community and years of devotion to his family. Walter Wipprecht had the house at 500 East 29th constructed for his Mother and Sister on their return to Texas from Germany.

Walter hired the great builder Charlie Jenkins and his draftsman brother George to construct this house. The care and attention to detail, the precision and workmanship of the construction are readily apparent 114 years later.

When the home was inspected in 2001; the inspector said it was in better condition than the majority of new construction homes be examined. The combination of the Jenkins brothers building a house for Walter Wipprecht resulted in a significant building that has stood the test of time. Walter was a trained scientist and scholar who was also the President of the Bryan Telephone Company and the Bryan Press Company. He was elected to serve five times as the Brazos County Tax Assessor and was President of the Aggie Alumni Organization.

Walter served as an instructor in Chemistry and Physics at Texas A&M as well as the first chemist for the Texas Experiment Station. He served as Comptroller of Texas A&M for many years. Walter took over the house from his Mother and Sister and later left it to his daughter Mrs. Ida Kernodle. Her estate conveyed the property to Dr. and Mrs. Buechler who sold it to the present owners Philip and Martha Banks. Thus only three families have owned it over 114 years.





WIPPRECHT HOUSE

DESIGNED IN 1898 BY BRYAN ARCHITECT GEORGE WASHINGTON JENKINS, THIS HOME WAS CONSTRUCTED FOR JULIA KAPP WIPPRECHT, WHO WAS A WELL-KNOWN LOCAL PHILANTHROPIST. MRS. WIPPRECHT LIVED IN THE HOME UNTIL HER 1919 DEATH, AFTER WHICH HER SON, BUSINESSMAN WALTER WIPPRECHT, MOVED WITH HIS FAMILY INTO THE HOME. THE HOUSE REMAINED IN THE WIPPRECHT FAMILY UNTIL 1990, WHEN IT WAS SOLD BY WALTER'S GRANDDAUGHTER. THE TWO-STORY QUEEN ANNE-STYLE HOUSE FEATURES A CROSS-GABLED PLAN, PARTIAL-WIDTH FRONT PORCH, TEXTURED SHINGLES, AND DECORATIVE GABLE AND EAVE DETAILING.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK - 2010
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PROGRAM

Welcome

Henry P Mayo

Chair - Brazos County Historical Commission

History of the Wipprecht family and home

Dr. J. Russell Bradley, Jr., DDS

Dr. R. Bruce Buechler, MD

Philip C. Banks, P.C.

Unveiling of Texas Historical Marker

Closing Comments