



Historic Landmark #25

**Rylee-Aiken House
1500 Crawford Avenue**

Historic Landmark #25 Rylee-Aiken House

The Rylee-Aiken House is regarded as the oldest house standing in Granbury. The limestone structure was built on this site between 1856 and 1860 by Y.J. Rylee. The placement, preparation and construction of this home is highly significant in the broad pattern of national history in that most of the work on the property was completed with the aid of 12 African-American slaves who were owned by Rylee. Additionally, a group of traveling Norwegians who happened to be expert stonemasons assisted in the construction.

"The rock house was built on high ground overlooking Rylee's land holdings. The house was built using a plan similar to that of the log cabins in the area. There are two large rooms with an open dogtrot between. At either end of the house is a large room, which has a fireplace with a stone chimney. The roof originally was made with hand-hewed shingles from nearby cedar trees, which were cleared from the land. Cedar and oak trusses can be seen on the inside of the house. After years of neglect, the floors had to be replaced and a new metal roof added, but the rock house still stands as a tribute to this early pioneer family and those who came after."

The large trusses had to be hauled in with ox wagons from Fort Colbert, which is now known as Dallas. "The Aiken place was one of the first homes in West Texas to have running water. Many years ago it was found feasible to lift water from the springs to a tank near the house with the use of a hydraulic ram, and the water also was used for irrigation."

When it was originally constructed, the house was located on the secluded banks of the Brazos River. The house is now situated in a highly developed area and the land where the house was originally built has since been subdivided into several commercial and residential properties. The old rock house is a very familiar sight to native Granburians.

Sources cited:

- 1) *Mary Saltarelli, Granbury Magazine. "Rylee Aiken House and Rylee Ferry Masters Cabin: A Pioneer Family Settles on Brazos Banks." Granbury, TX, May/June 1984.*

**The Rylee-Aiken House was designated
a local landmark June 16, 2008.**