

Historic Landmark #32



Walthall-Carswell House 305 N. Baker Street

Built in 1940 and 1941 by Dr. Walthall, a local dentist, and his wife, the unique rock house located on Baker Street was based on a plan found in a Holland magazine. The original lot was seven acres. The property extended north to the railroad tracks and included Granbury's old cottonseed oil mill.

Construction of this house began in 1940 and its history tells the tale of World War II in Granbury, where building materials were scarce and workers were not readily available. Since rebar was unavailable, the foundation walls were reinforced with old car parts, buggy parts, and other old metal farming implements gathered from around the County. The metal door was nailed in until Mrs. Walthall was able to procure metal hinges from Montgomery Ward in Fort Worth.

The gables on either end of the house reflect the influence of two-door revival styles, which were popular in the United States from the turn of the century through 1940. A rock mason from Tolar, Mr. Cockran, laid the rock on the exterior of the house using a 'peanut brittle' or random pattern, and he used large pieces of limestone for the window lintels, arches, and sills.

A huge redwood tree from California was used for the door and for trim. Dr. Walthall designed and built the mantle, and a carpenter from Glen Rose built the arched opening between the living and dining rooms. The redwood was also used in fashioning the hardwood floors, which are 2" wide and 4" thick and were laid without the use of any nails.

**The Granbury City Council approved the Landmark Designation on
January 2, 2018.**