

Historic Landmark #9



**Lees-Bryan House
121 West Bluff**

Historic Landmark #9 Lees-Bryan House

This High Style/Queen Ann influence house was built in 1890. It now serves as a Bed and Breakfast for visitors and tourists to Granbury. As well as being a Granbury Landmark it is also in the Register of Texas Historic Landmarks. This house is two stories with an attic and sits on a pier and beam foundation.

Canadian merchant J. C. Lees built this home for his wife, Cora Allen Lees and their young daughter. Mr. Lees came to Granbury in the 1880's after meeting Cora in Arizona. Cora was from Granbury, but had gone to Arizona with her brother, Hiram. Shortly after J. C. and Cora came to Granbury, he purchased a furniture store/undertaking business from J. D. Foster. The business was on the Granbury Town Square and Mr. Lees became a prosperous Granbury merchant. They built the house and lived on the same block as Cora's sister, Loucinda Allen and her husband, W. D. Daniel. In 1895, Mr. Lees sold his business and home in Granbury, purchased another business in Cleburne and moved his family there. S. L. Bowden purchased the home for \$4,000, and moved his wife and children there. Shortly after moving into the home, S. L. Bowden's wife and one son died. S.L. Bowden lived in the house with his daughter, Maude, until his death in 1903. After his death, Maude married Hardy Bryan and bought her sister and brothers out of their share of the house.

Sadly, Maude died two short months later, three days after giving birth to a daughter who also died. Hardy Bryan lived alone in the house for five years, and in 1914 he married Fannie Gordon. Hardy Bryan lived a happy and prosperous life in the house until his death October 18, 1945, thirty-six years to the day after he and Maude purchased the house. The second Mrs. Bryan was the daughter of another merchant on the Square and her father was the employer of John Street Helen who claimed to be John Wilkes Booth. The gun he claimed to have assassinated President Lincoln with ended up in the second Mrs. Bryan's possession. Mrs. Bryan moved to Wichita Falls to live with her daughter in 1973 and sold the home. Mrs. Bryan lived in the Lees-Bryan House from 1914-1973; she was the longest resident of the home to date.

Minimal changes have been made to the Lees-Bryan House: the back side porch was glassed in to provide an eating area for the family off of the kitchen, a sun room was added off of the dining room, and two bathrooms were added, one in the 1920's and one in 1945. The Lees-Bryan House has since been restored and is a testament to its and Granbury's former glory.

The Lees-Bryan House was designated a Granbury Historical Landmark by the City of Granbury Historic Commission October 3, 2000.