

## Historic Landmark #30



**Doyle-Archer House  
321 W. Doyle Street**

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The Doyle-Archer House was built in 1911. It is an Arts and Crafts Style or Craftsman Style cottage. The Craftsman style was very popular in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century and this is a unique example because of the lower roof line and bay windows. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

The stone columns were added to the front porch in about the year 2000; the two story addition off of S. Thrash Street was added in September 2002. Another addition was added to the east side of the house before the stone columns were added. As stated in the 2001 Survey for Granbury none of these changes that took place before 2001-2002 have taken away from the high priority status as an important historic property.

The floor plans were first published in 1909 in the *Ladies Home Journal* and were touted as the “Home Plans of the Future”. The cost to build this house was estimated to be \$2300.

Some of the distinguishable features include; the bay window on the west side, the north elevation porch with hipped roof, the exposed rafter roof ends, and an exterior chimney.

The land was first acquired and taxes paid in 1904 by M. S. Millican. Sometime in 1911 or 1912 a significant increase in taxes from \$100 to \$700 clearly indicated that the house was built. In 1912 William Earle (known as Earle) Doyle and/or his wife Nell paid taxes until 1917. William Earle was the son of James Hogan Doyle who was one of the early prominent figures in Granbury and was one of the founders of the First National Bank.

In 1918, the house was purchased by J. (Joel) Archer, another prominent figure in early Granbury. The Archer family was involved in education and business. Some members of the Archer Family were merchants on the square. They occupied the home until 1972.

The home is now known as the Granbury Gardens B&B. Granbury Gardens Bed& Breakfast first opened on July 4, 2006. The current owners purchased the property on June 9, 2009 and it is still Granbury Gardens Bed and Breakfast.

The residence possesses significance in history, architecture, archeology, and culture. William Earle Doyle was in business early in Granbury’s history, built a home and invested in Granbury financially, socially and esthetically by building this home. In the *(1978 Hood County History)* the Doyle and Archer families are listed as builders of Granbury and were associated with the lives of persons who significantly added to Granbury’s history.

It is interesting to note that Doyle Street may or may not have been named after William Doyle because he had two brothers J.H. Doyle and a Dr. J.N. Doyle. The street was probably named after the whole Doyle family because they are the only Doyle’s mentioned in the *(1978 Hood County History)*.

This residence and the Doyle & Archer families are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local, regional, state or national history. Granbury has always been known for its business and commerce in Hood County and beyond. These families contributed to commerce and the home represents an established and familiar visual feature of the city.

**The Granbury City Council approved the Landmark Designation on  
April 2, 2013.**