

## Bain-Honaker House, Farmersville

The Bain-Honaker House, located one block east of the Farmersville Square, at 108 College Street, is an important part of the town's history. Built in 1865 by Anna Melissa Bain, the house is a lovely wooden structure of Victorian design, almost in near-original condition. The Society owns and manages the Bain Honaker House.

Structurally, the two-story house, surrounded by a white picket fence, has original pine floors, two large fireplaces with ornate metal screens located in the library/music room, and in the southeast bedroom which is joined by a small bathroom. Sliding pocket doors separate the entry hall from the parlor and the two rooms on the east of the house. The entry hall extends to the back door, and opens onto a back porch. The doors were left opened during the summer to keep the house cool. The parlor opens to the spacious dining room, and extends to the kitchen. The steep stairway leads to two large bedrooms, a museum room with historic documents and artifacts, and a bathroom.

Period wallpaper and furniture are featured in many of the rooms. The furnishings consist of such items as: a player piano, French dresser with marble top, ornate iron half bed, mission oak table and buffet, a pump organ, a rope bed from the 1840's, a 1911 telephone booth complete with a 1925 Farmersville phone directory from the city, and an antique crystal chandelier. The 1865 Victorian structure was remodeled in 1902 and again in the late 1940's. The Society is restoring the house to resemble the appearance of the 1902 renovation instead of the 1865 version.

On the grounds, many plants originally planted by Anna Melissa Bain can still be seen in the yard. Cedar trees, yucca plants, antique rose bushes, crepe myrtle, crimson peonies, and many other species of plants cover the large lawn. The ornate cement bench by the large cedar tree in the front yard was originally owned by descendants of the Bain-Honaker family.

Historically, the house is significant because it was built in the second half of the 1800's, and has survived. The house was built, owned, and lived in by five generations of a family that was prominent in the economic development and cultural life of the town. The oldest social club for women in Farmersville, the Culture Club, was formed in the dining room of the house in 1912.

The house not only stands as a reflection of Farmersville history, but for the foresight and persistence of Anna Melissa Bain to fulfill a dream to provide a better life for her children. The Bain-Honaker House serves as a facility for cultural and social events, and educational programs. A collection of vintage documents, newspapers, and photographs are on display at the House; exhibits rotate periodically.

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark, 1996

## BAIN-HONAKER HOUSE

Anna Hicks Bain (1834 - 1906), widow of John Alexander Bain, purchased 6.75 acres of land east of the town square in Farmersville in 1865. She had this house built that year and reared her five daughters here. An astute businesswoman, Anna Bain divided her property into lots, built commercial buildings and sold some undeveloped land. In 1881 she sold property to the red river railroad company. Mrs. Bain supplemented her property investment income by providing room and board here.

In a 1902 remodeling of the house, three peaked gables and a narrow porch were replaced by an asymmetrical facade and new porch and the northeast bedrooms were enlarged. Later the front porch was replaced with a smaller entry.

Anna Bain's daughters Mary and Catherine (Cassia) married brothers, Henry Dickenson Honaker and Andrew Jackson Honaker. Cassia Bain Honaker lived here while her husband was in medical school. She remained here after his death and her second marriage to James Jones, until her own death in 1928.

Five generations of the bain-honaker family lived in this house. A Honaker family descendant donated the house to the Farmersville historical society in 1989.

