

The DuRay House: A Piece of Parker's Past

By: The Town of Parker Historic Preservation Commission

Tucked back off Mainstreet on East Pilgrim Place in Old Town Parker sits the William DuRay house. Built by William DuRay and his wife Elizabeth in 1911, the house is a simple two story structure. The modest home is a small wood gabled roof residential structure with a slightly irregular rectangular floor plan created by a larger one story addition added to the back of the house. The house is typical to the turn-of-the-century residential structures in Parker.

Although this building makes no strong architectural statement, it speaks a rich narrative for Parker itself. The DuRay's were prominent business and civic contributors to Parkers' early development who owned the Parker Creamery. The DuRay's sold the home prior to 1922 to the Bertram family who operated a mercantile in Parker. Sometime between 1923 and 1924, the home and the mercantile were sold to Bert Hall. Bert and his wife worked and lived for many years in Parker. In addition to the store, he started a truck line in 1927, hauling milk, livestock hay and general commodities. Mrs. Hall died in 1958 and it is believed the home was sold in 1960. The house was again sold in 1963 to Jerry and Mary Lance. Interestingly, Mary Lance (now a youthful 73) recalls the DuRay sisters stopping by in 1965 asking for a tour of their childhood home. They recalled with fondness many childhood activities like roller skating on the second floor.

In 1973, the Lance's sold the home to Ed Pino for use as a technical school. During that time, the school succeeded in having the road adjacent to the property leading out to Pikes Peak Drive renamed to University Place. The road was later renamed Pilgrim Place and then East Pilgrim Place.

In 1982, the school sold the home to the Episcopal Diocese. The building is now used as St. Matthew's vestry office sitting immediately adjacent to the church building.

Some of the additions or alterations of the building include a dining room addition done in 1913 by the DuRay's. The Lance family added a kitchen to the east side, a small porch on the back and a bathroom. Because of its historic significance to the Town of Parker, the house was designed a Parker Landmark by the Parker Town Council on Aug. 20, 2007.