

# **“Journey Down Jefferson Street” Walking Tour**

**with pictures, commentary  
& removable map**

**Provided by the  
Plainview Area History Center**



*Siing Sullivan*

# **Journey Down Jefferson Street Walking Tour**

For over 100 years, today's Fourth Street S.W. was known as Jefferson Street. It wasn't until door to door mail delivery was introduced to the city in 1961, addresses were simplified 2 years earlier for easier distribution and the name was eliminated. But everything else remained!

Jefferson Street has an interesting story to tell. One time nicknamed "Missionary Ridge", it seems that besides being dotted with several church parsonages, many of its families were ardent church attenders. Another nickname, "Silk Stocking Street" referenced the wealth in the neighborhood. Whatever it was called, Jefferson Street is loaded with large old beautiful homes.

So tighten your laces, wiggle your toes and get walking on your "Journey Down Jefferson Street"!

## **1. Plainview Area History Center - 40 4th St.**

The first stop on our journey is the Plainview Area History Center, home to a building with lots of "firsts". It was the first church built in Plainview in 1866 at a cost of \$4,000. In 1894, the church was improved with a two story front addition providing a kitchen and fellowship hall on

the second floor. The stain glass windows were added at that time.

In 1902, it became the first church in town to have electric lights! After the school was destroyed by fire in 1924, third grade class was held in the front downstairs room (now the entry). Too bad it wasn't first graders! We'd be on a roll!

In 1948 the entire church building was moved back from the street to its present location with a full basement added. The center door replaced the original two side doors at that time.

In 1999 the building became the first History Center in Plainview! Now that's a lot of "firsts"!

The church was originally bracketed under the eaves with a single central bell tower. The addition was designed in the stick style Queen Anne with open bell tower and fish scale shingles on portions of the upper front and side.



## 2. Dr. French House/ Office- 335 1st Ave.



It is uncertain who originally built this home, but in 1920, Dr. French extensively remodeled and updated this house, adding a wing for his medical practice. Imagine all the germs that made their way to this address over the years!

In 1936, Dr. Mahle moved his practice here. The house was again remodeled with stone facing, stucco, and fireplace. Mahle served the area until 1964. It is now a private residence. A beauty parlor occupies the office space.

## 3. Dr. Whitcomb Veterinary Hospital / House - 135 4th St.

Built in 1911, Dr. Whitcomb's barn served as his veterinary hospital for his animal practice. Built in the common board and batten style, it has a center hay door that allowed for hay to be stored on the upper story. His

adjoining office provided him with up to date convenience for his animal practice.

In 1913 he built his home. When under construction, the basement foundation was entirely above ground with fill hauled in to bring the lawn up to street level. The porch is not original and an addition was added to the rear portion of the home in 1955.



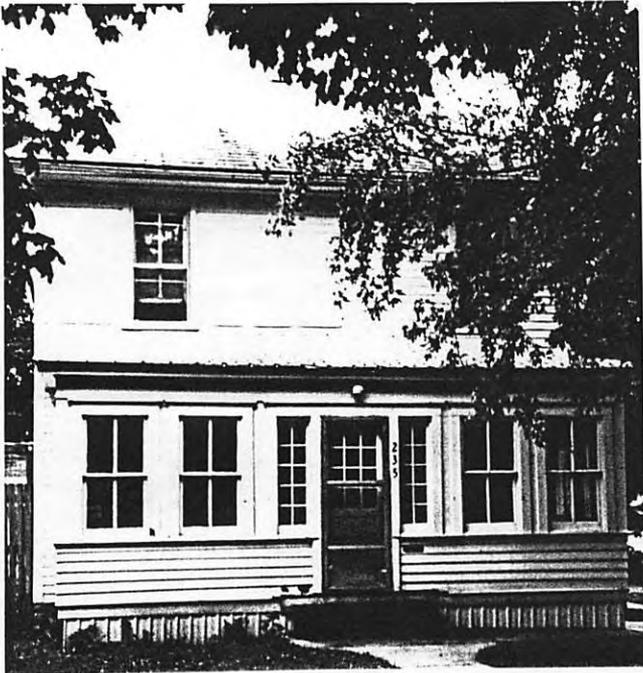
As we reach the middle of the next block, we will be leaving the original town and entering "Foster's Addition". As the community grew, it was necessary for the town to expand. A. P. Foster was an earlier settler and platted this addition sometime in the 1860's. It is interesting to note that he also platted a Foster's Addition to the town of Winona, where he lived a brief time.

This also begins the the tale known as the "Wedge Story". It seems that several brothers and sisters of the Wedge family built homes along Jefferson Street. So many, in fact, that the neighbors claimed to be "wedged in" by the family! You be the judge. By the end of this walking tour, you decided if the neighborhood along Jefferson had the right to this unusual claim.

#### 4. Henry Wedge House- 235 4th St.

The first of the Wedge homes along Jefferson Street was built in 1892 by Mr. Wedge. Coming from Wisconsin, he farmed south of town amassing 700 acres of land prior to his retirement. After his death, his second wife donated the land behind their residence to the city for a park. (1920). Today we know it as Wedgewood Park.

This square home was conservatively built in a non-bracketed late Italian style. Its simple front porch has been enclosed. The south bay window is the only ornamental feature. Once a boarding house, it is now a single family home.



## 5. Arthur Koenig House- 230 4th St.

Built in 1916, it is one of a handful of bungalow style homes nestled in between the older residences on Jefferson Street. As Plainview grew, so did the demand for housing. Many of the extra lots beside the large homes along this street were sold off to meet the demand.

The large sloping roof was characteristic of the bungalow style found on the Koenig home. The house has a flat central dormer projecting in front and the eaves are braced with “knee” brackets, popular with this style. The large open porch provided natural “air conditioning” for the resident.

Take a moment to admire the unique window placements on the first floor and the fireplace and chimney along the south.



6. New Kid on the Block! - 240 4th St.



The large impressive home with enclosed front porch is a recent addition to Jefferson Street. Moved from West Broadway in 1993 to make room for a school construction project, it seems at home on Jefferson Street!

The half round "lunette" windows in the gable ends are the dominate decoration detail in this plain, no nonsense Princess Anne Style house. It was built in the early 1900's.

7. Charlie Burchard House- 320 4th. St.



The brackets have disappeared from under the eaves, but this Italian style house built about 1878 and remodeled several times in the 1890's is pure Victorian.

The porch is a later style- Queen Anne- with its upper spindles and turned posts as it juts out in a partial octagon.

The owner, Charlie Burchard, ran a drug store and was elected to the state legislature in 1912. As choir director of the Congregational Church in the early years, he held many practices at his home. Perhaps if you listen closely, you can still hear the echoes of those evening rehearsals!

Burchard ran a seed business late in life and captured the new name "The Seed Man", having a large trading area.

Once made over into apartments, it is once again a single family home.

## 8. Dr. Slocumb House- 327 4th St.

When Charlie Burchard's daughter, Zula, married Dr. Slocumb - one of Plainview's progressive doctors, she ended up just across the street in this large home built in 1900. The large four square style house became popular at the turn of the century. The columned porch, originally with spindled railing, and roof dormers add interest to the otherwise simple design. \$5,000 built house and barn.

An accomplished cornetist, Dr. Slocumb headed a musical family. Besides practicing his cornet, he practiced medicine in Plainview for 45 years!

Always an active household, the carriage house burned in 1908 and the house caught fire in 1916 doing much water damage to the second floor. Charred rafters in the attic remain from the terrifying episode. Be assured, it was not the result of Dr. Slocumb's hot cornet playing!

An addition has been added to the side of the house and siding has covered detailing around the upstairs central window and dormer.



9. Warren Woodcock House- 342 4th St.

*Ed & Sally  
Lyons*



Another bungalow on Jefferson, this one was built in 1919. A unique element is the two story sun room projecting from the left wing. These rooms became very fashionable in style and dominated the 1920's.

A front protruding bay adds interest to the facade, but gone is the large open porch in favor of a small covering over the front door, a sign of changing times in family needs. The home is stuccoed.

Woodcock and his wife entertained in the large living room, dominating the entire front of the house, with dancing parties. Woodcock partnered with his father in the seed and oil business. The land was once part of the Wedge property next door.

## 10. George LaRue/ James Wedge House- 350 4th St.

Built in 1884 by LaRue, this square style Italian home was purchased in 1897 by James Wedge, our second Wedge on the walking tour. The house was completely remodeled in 1907 when the original porch made way for updated column posts similar to the Slocumb home across the street. Only a delicate iron cresting remains on the rooftop to identify its early Italian roots.



*Jay Huest*

Wedge, a retired farmer, took an active part in the community. Serving as justice of the peace, he was also a major stockholder in the First National Bank. Fondly called "Uncle Jim" and "Aunt Belle", the couple thoroughly enjoyed their home on Jefferson Street. If they were living today, more than likely they would be greeting you from their comfortable porch and inviting you to visit for a spell.

11. William Huxley House- 375 4th St.



An example of a restoration well done is this gem of a home. Recently brought back to its original style, the 1898 home has many pleasing details starting with the two open porches with pleasing columns and spindle work. They almost seem to beckon you to on a warm summer day.

The two story bay on the side, with brackets and fish scale siding, add interest to the exterior along with the entry window and contrasting colors on the architectural detailing. Built by William Huxley, local railroad engineer, it is a beauty of a home.

327- Dr. Slocumb ●

● Warren Woodcock- 340

● Charlie Burchard- 320

● New Kid on the Block- 240

235- Henry Wedge ●

● Arthur Koenig- 230

Foster's Addition

Original city limits

235- Dr. Whitcomb ●

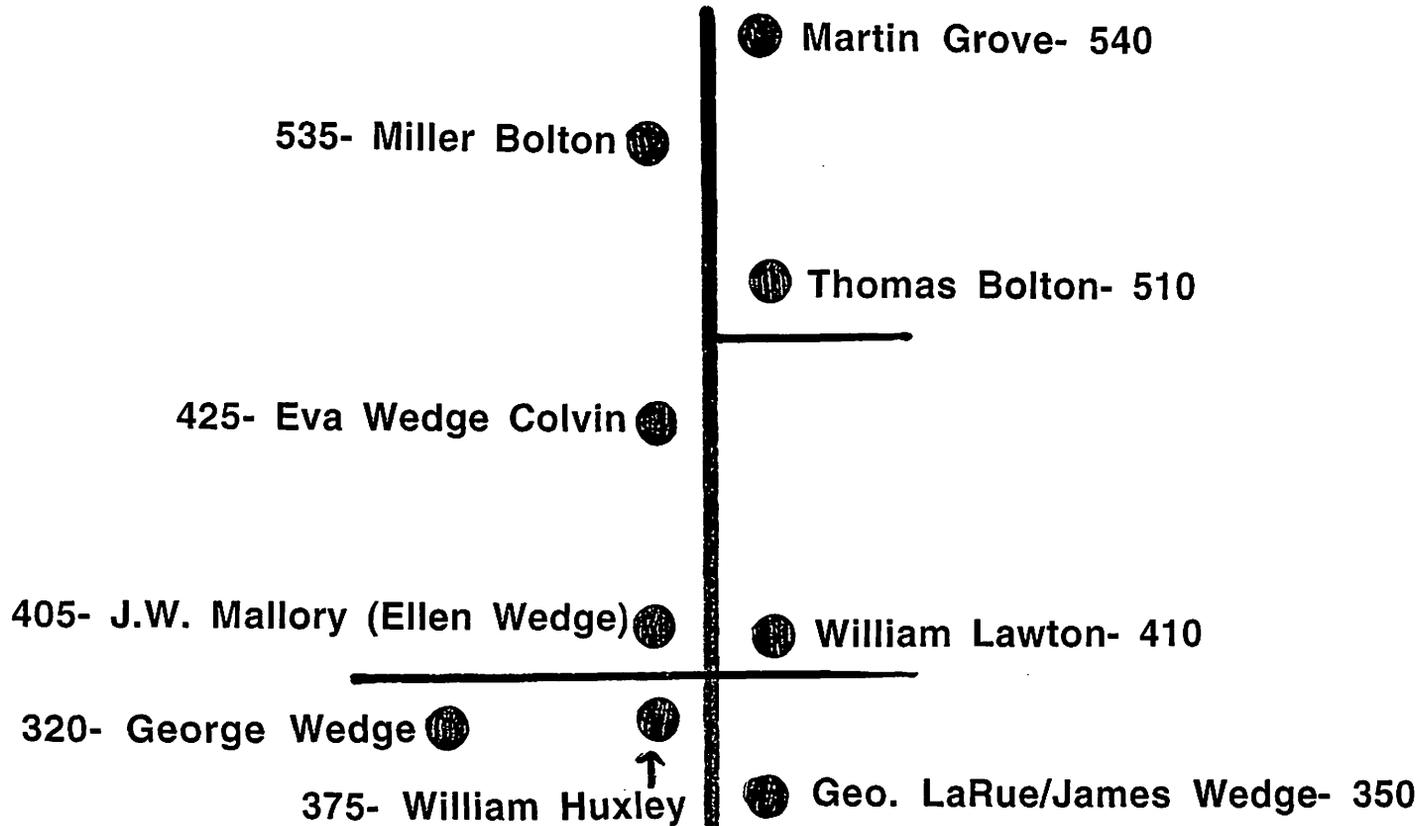
335- Dr. French/Mahle ●

● History Center- 40

Dr. E.E. Smith- 300



# Journey Down Jefferson Street Walking Tour



## 12. George Wedge House- 320 4th Ave.

It's time to sneak around the corner and take a peek at another Wedge home. It's well worth the trip. An impressive home built in 1896 at a cost of \$3,200, it is loaded with Queen Anne details.

The huge wrap around porch is covered with pleasing posts and banisters that were restored after years of neglect. The huge palladian windows in the attic gable with detailed round arch panels are an eye catcher. The two story bay on the side has the same brackets as the Huntley house. Take a moment or two to drink in the detail. It's quite a feast!

Retired farmers, the Wedge's at this locale had a sense of humor. When the local newspaper mistakenly reported the family gone for the week, Mrs. Wedge held a tea party to convince the neighbors she was very much at home!

Once made over into two large apartments, it is now a single family dwelling.



*Curt Bueck*

### 13. J. W. Mallory House (Ellen Wedge)- 405 4th St.

It's back to Jefferson Street and, you guessed it, another Wedge house! Have you been keeping track? It's Wedge house number 4! Can you begin to see why the families along Jefferson Street were feeling "wedged in"?

The Rev. Willard house, built in 1866 on this site, was moved in 1902 to make room for this \$3,500 home. There were problems at the local quarry, so stone for this home was hauled by railroad car from Viola- ten miles away!

The house is built in the Princess Anne style, a simplified Queen Anne minus all the details, but capturing the size of the former style with its projecting roof lines, but more formal window placement.

The front gable sports a modest square lattice diamond pane window. Originally there was an open porch wrapping around the north side with columned posts. A separate small ice house was built in back to supply the families needs.

A retired farmer, Julius Mallory never lived to see the house completed. His widow, Ellen, and later her daughter's family, occupied the home for several years.



*Pict  
Koblaric*

#### **14. William Lawton House- 410 4th St.**

Across the street is the Lawton Home. Built in 1893, it is a modest Victorian home but loaded with wonderful gingerbread.

Look first at the front gable end and enjoy the maze of detailed fret work. The side gable is similar. The original Queen Anne porch has been removed, but the little square window remaining above it has its border full of the characteristic small pane colored glass telling us it is Queen Anne. The projecting bay on the street side adds a pleasing element to this delightful home.



Built by grocer Lawton, it can brag as one of the first homes in town to have a telephone. Mr. Lawton connected it to his store on Broadway so that the family could communicate back and forth. The reason is uncertain. It was a well known fact that the store was a

center for much socializing- Mr. Lawton was a civil war veteran, and the "old boys" would get together and swap war stories. Perhaps Mrs. Lawton needed to check up from time to time to keep things going! We'll never know.

The evergreens were planted in 1895, adding interest to our walk down Jefferson Street.

### 15. Eva Wedge Colvin House- 425 4th St.

We finally made it! The last Wedge house! It's almost unbelievable, I know. That makes number five!



*Don & Ann  
Harrington*

Built in 1903 by Mrs. Colvin, it was similar to the other Wedge homes in its large scale. The half lunette window is the main detail of its Princess Anne style. The open porch has disappeared to make way for a garage but traces still remain.

Mrs. Colvin didn't like living alone, and according to family stories, after her only daughter married, she showed up at their new home for a short stay, but little by little, Mrs. Colvin managed to move her furniture in piece by piece and she never left! How's that for a mother-in-law?

If you're good, at the end of the Jefferson Street Journey, you can have a look at the "mother-in-law" house. It's not on Jefferson, but real close!

### 16. Thomas Bolton House- 510 4th St.

One of Plainview's few remaining brick homes, this eye pleaser was built in 1876 by druggist Bolton. Although in the Italian style, it has none of the bracketed eaves that were characteristic of the style. The stone lintels over the windows add to the contrast of red brick. The Italianate porch details has been removed.



*Maggie Davis*

Originally the kitchen was in the basement and a "dumb waiter" elevator brought the food to the first floor dining room. A wealthy family, no expense was spared in the furnishings.

Always active in community affairs, Bolton was not only a druggist, but newspaper editor, city official, helped organize the electric light company in 1902 and was instrumental in the introduction of a cooperative corn canning company in 1903.

Serving as a cabin boy on the Mississippi River in his youth, Bolton led an interesting and varied life. It was through his efforts that the front addition to the Methodist Church, now the History Center, was built.

#### 17. Miller Bolton House- 535 4th St.



The next home has almost been changed beyond recognition from its original design, but is impressive none the less. The wrap around porch has been added to this

1907 home built by Thomas Bolton's son. It started out as a modest American four square, but with a recent remodeling, has become much more!

It was Miller Bolton who takes the credit of convincing Henry Wedge's widow to make the land behind her home into Wedgewood park. Miller worked vigorously to secure a park for the children of the village and was successful with the cooperation of Mrs. Wedge.

The Bolton's lived here only a short time before moving into the Mallory house- Bolton's wife was the daughter of J.W. and Ellen Mallory. They didn't have far to go, and they didn't have to leave Jefferson street. And while they lived here, because Mrs. Bolton's mother was a Wedge, you could call this Wedge house number 6! But that's only if you wanted to stretch the point!

### 18. Martin Grove House- 540 4th St.

Some might say we saved one of the best until last. You be the judge!

Built in the stick style Queen Anne, this 1902 beauty cost \$4,500 and retains much of the original detailing.

Like the Mallory house, the stone for the basement was brought by railroad from Viola due to difficulties at the local quarry, perhaps adding to the expense. This house has the only turret in Plainview. Although modest in size, it is topped with a pleasing crown finale and its lacy oval window makes this tiny tower a delicious addition.

The main gable end is topped with a unique styled support with boxed fret work above the bracket.

The large open porches on front and side have



disappeared, but enough remain to give you the outline. Originally supported with half length columns arranged in pairs, it was another feature of the interesting detailing.

This home was a center of many musical events. The ladies orchestra rehearsed in this home. Maybe you can hear them practicing even now?

And for those hot summer days, the Groves had their own ice house in back to supply them with the cool wetness so desirable in those early days before refrigerators.

A civil war veteran, Martin Grove farmed in the Millville area before moving to Plainview where he ran a farm implement business for a few years and then operated a furniture store. I'm glad he took time in his busy life to build this unique home at the south end of Jefferson Street . It's a nice way to complete our journey.

Is there any tread left in your shoes? Still have wind in your sails? Then perhaps you'll enjoy the return trip down Jefferson Street as you take a second look at the homes along your journey.

And remember the "mother-in-law" house? Well, if you didn't cheat on the way, you can have a look at it now. Just keep walking back to Charlie Burchard's house and look left. You can't miss it. It sits right at the end of the street.

19. Dr. E.E. Smith House- 300 5th St.

*Dear Sally  
Harrington*



It's another bungalow and this one was built in 1910, one of the first of its kind in Plainview. It drew a lot of attention with its low sloping roof dominated with a central, flaring ended gable and small center door. Even the front porch seems tucked away and protected from view.

The porch post are a simple square style, in contrast with the popular round columns dotting Jefferson

Street. Another new and interesting feature is the rafter ends that stick out as part of the bungalow style.

The tile garage tucked around the side was part of Dr. Smith's "Ford" venture. Having one of the first dealerships in the area, his sales technique was unique. He simply went to the Twin Cities and bought a Ford, drove it home and round town until someone asked to buy it. Then he went back and got another car. No overhead!

This was where Eva Colvin moved her furniture and little by little made it her home. So if you want to do a little more stretching, you could call this Wedge house number 7! Now that would really make the neighbors feel "wedged in"!

Thank you for taking the "Jefferson Street Journey". We hope it was an interesting and enjoyable time giving you a taste of long ago. There were many homes along the way omitted from narration, but we hope you enjoyed them as well. Jefferson Street truly played a unique roll in the history of our community.

We welcome your visit to the Plainview Area History Center and hope you consider becoming a member of the organization.

Ask us about other activities and places of interest in the community. We want to make your time in our community rewarding and interesting.

The Plainview Area History Center

## **Mission Statement**

**The Plainview Area History Center**, an affiliate of the Rural America Arts Partnership, is committed to telling the stories and preserving the history of people and events of the Plainview area, believing an understanding of the past will enrich our present and future.

## **Membership**

Individual- \$12/year

Family- \$24/year

