

## 9. FIELDS

Crops grown here would have been partially consumed by the family, or sold locally, but most of it was likely intended for animal consumption. In 1878, Nash Farm produced 118 bushels of spring wheat, 33 bushels of winter wheat, 500 bushels of Indian corn, 200 bushels of oats, 100 bushels of potatoes and 80 gallons of molasses. In the 1880s, they began growing cotton.

## 10. CISTERN & WINDMILL

Surface water on the prairie was limited. The Nash property had several streams and water collection areas. Before the addition of a windmill, the Nashes had to carry water to the house or collect it from their roof. The brick cistern is original to the farmstead. The catch basin for the cistern is located under the house and is roughly 14' x 6' x 6'. This c.1890 windmill sits atop an 80' deep well.

## 11. KITCHEN GARDEN

The kitchen garden produces vegetables and herbs the Nash family would have grown for cooking. A garden of this size, inside the house fence, would hold herbs and some produce. Excess seasonal produce would have been preserved by canning or drying to provide tasty food all year long.

The Post Oak tree that is in the corner of the fenced in yard is home to a native colony of bees that help in the pollinating of all the plants on the farm and the surrounding area.



# LIFE on the FARM



*A self-guided tour of Nash Farm.*



## THE NASH FAMILY HISTORY

The Nash Family was part of a migration of farmers from the Upper South (Missouri, Kentucky and Tennessee) who settled on the Grape Vine Prairie in the years prior to the Civil War. Thomas Jefferson Nash was born in Marion County, Kentucky, on March 4, 1827. His wife, Elizabeth Mouser, was born in Washington County on October 20, 1828. They were married on February 17, 1848. They had five daughters and one son. The oldest three were born in Lebanon, Kentucky, and the youngest three were born in Grape Vine, Texas.

William P. Nash, Thomas' brother, was born on July 2, 1828. Thomas and William were very close and William lived with Thomas and his family most of his adult life. William was a stonemason.



**Welcome to Historic Nash Farm**, the oldest farm in Tarrant County. The Grapevine Heritage Foundation is dedicated to preserving the Nash Farmstead, recognizing its historic value to Grapevine and the entire Metroplex. The mission statement for Nash Farm is to "Preserve, protect and visually reflect the significance of our farming and agricultural heritage so that future generations may appreciate a way of life lived by settlers on the Grape Vine Prairie."



## THE GRAPE VINE PRAIRIE

The Grape Vine Prairie, a part of the Blackland Prairie, has gently rolling hills of fertile soil. Grapevine is located on the border of the Cross Timbers, a narrow band of forest (oak, pecan, black walnut) extending from Central Texas to Southern Kansas and the Blackland Prairie. Wild mustang grapes grew abundantly in this area and gave the local prairie the name "the Grape Vine Prairie." The soils of this area have a sandy to clay-loam content. Sandy areas tend to support tree growth and clay soil support prairie grass. Most of the Nash's land was open prairie, but records show they also had large stands of the Cross Timbers (forest) on their property. The Nashes utilized both areas, the prairie for farming and the timbered area for firewood. The 1880 Tarrant County Agricultural Census records indicate they sold ten cords of wood (the equivalent of 15 oak trees) from the forested sections of their property.

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## 1. FARMHOUSE

The Nash family moved to Grapevine in 1859. They purchased 110 acres of property and a log cabin from Henry Suggs. In 1869, the family constructed the house at this location. Following the Victorian tradition of using vibrant colors, the Nashes painted their home a rich green and trimmed it in gold.



**A. Front Parlor**  
A 19th Century parlor offered a common space for families and their guests to gather. It was also a place for learning and entertainment and sometimes a place to rest.

**B. Entry Hall**  
The entry hall was an important part of the house as guests were received from this room and it served as a corridor in which house circulation could be ventilated.

**C. Master Bedroom**  
The master bedroom would not have been open to guests visiting Nash Farm. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Nash, under the age of six, would have also slept in this room in the trundle bed that you may see under the main bed. This trundle has rope springs, which gave the expression "sleep tight" its meaning.

**D. Dining Room & Kitchen**  
The Nash Farmhouse kitchen of today actually comprises three separate rooms that all play a very important role in the history of the family and life of the 19th Century. The first room was a cross hall which provided access to the east and west porches. The kitchen and dining room were built separately from the rest of the house due to the heat created by the wood burning stove.



## 2. CHICKEN COOP

The 1880 Tarrant County Agricultural Census recorded that the Nashes kept 50 head of poultry and sold 200 dozen eggs. Breed selection would have been based on characteristics such as being a good meat bird, egg layer and the ability to forage for their food. The chickens here at Nash Farm are Speckled Sussex, a heritage breed, that has been endangered in the past. Nash Farm operates as a conservancy for such animals.



## 3. SMOKEHOUSE

The smokehouse was a place for smoking and storing cured meat that would be eaten throughout the year. Hogs were butchered during the cold weather months. After the hogs were butchered, a salt and sometimes sugar cure would be applied at intervals to the meat. After the meat was cured, it was usually smoked. Smoking the meat not only imparted a good flavor, but would keep insects away.



## 4. POLE BARN

The pole barn, built in 1997, serves as an area for school tours and as a public meeting facility. This pole barn contains limited kitchen facilities and public restrooms. The building is also rented for meetings and weddings.

## 5. SOIL CONSERVATION BUILDING

The Soil Conservation building is a living example of the historical importance of agriculture and education to Grapevine, Texas. Constructed in 1945 at Main and Hudgins Street, it was acquired in late 1948 for the United States Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service (SCS) building in Grapevine. From this office, local farmers received conservation information, instruction and encouragement to put into place the techniques that would protect the precious Grape Vine Prairie from erosion.

The Soil Conservation Service building was relocated to its current location to be used for educational and training purposes.



## 6. BARN

Built c. 1905 by the Nash's oldest son, John, the barn provided shelter for working with animals, kept hay dry in the loft, provided a covered work space and a temporary garage. Support beams in the barn have worn edges and rub marks from animals. In 1870, the Nash family owned nine horses, five milk cows, six working oxen, 75 other cattle, 50 sheep and 60 hogs. The Nashes produced 25 fleeces weighing a total of 125 pounds and churned and sold 150 pounds of butter in 1870. This barn added barn space for the family's needs.



## 7. EQUIPMENT SHED

The equipment shed is a modern building that was built to protect standard pieces of equipment used on the Grape Vine Prairie to cultivate and harvest wheat, cotton and corn. Animal power (horse, oxen and mules) was used primarily until 1910. From 1910 to 1940 animals and machines were used depending on the wealth, innovation and choice of the farmer. From 1940, there was a complete shift from animals to machines. Each piece of equipment is explained in the shed.



## 8. CEMETERY

The small cemetery is the resting place for six people. The stone pedestal marker in the center of this small cemetery bears the names of Clint and Thomas Payne, grandsons of Thomas and Elizabeth Nash. Their mother, Apolona Nash Payne, was the oldest Nash child. Tradition holds that the children's great uncle, William Nash, carved the marker. Thomas, Elizabeth and William are buried in the Grapevine Cemetery on Dooley Street.

