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Faded Glory // Elegance of Brady Mansion Now Only a Memory

By [Yvonne Litchfield](#)
3/5/1994

Like the tragic lady she is, "Tulsa's Arlington" - modeled after Robert E. Lee's home - hides a broken heart behind her faded splendor at 620 N. Denver Ave.

Built by W. Tate Brady, the mansion has a Greek Revival architectural style and was designed by Tulsa architect John Curtain.

A gallant host, Brady entertained with flair and the hospitality was southern style. Murals painted on the mansion's canvas walls were scenes of the Confederacy. Toasts were called as young gallants gathered in front of the mantle, where there was a wall painting of Generals Robert E. Lee, Joseph E. Johnston and Stonewall Jackson.

Brady was a pioneer merchant and an incorporator of the city, as well as a political leader at the time of statehood. The Bradys came from Kennington, Ga., by way of Missouri. His father was a shoe merchant. Tate came to Indian Territory as a shoe salesman for his father at the age of 17 and in 1890 opened a mercantile store, advertising that he paid the highest prices for hides, furs and wild game.

His girls, Ruth and Bess Lacy, were educated at Cottey College



in Missouri. When they were young, they were entertained all over the nation as oil heiresses, and were awarded many different titles as their father went about in political circles.

The Brady brothers were Haskel, H. Tate and Dave. They all attended the Woodrow Wilson

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inauguration and William Jennings Bryan visited them at Tulsa's "Arlington." When the Red Fork oil discovery came in, W. Tate Brady built the first first-class hotel in town - it had baths. Oil men gathered in the lobby of the Brady Hotel to make oil deals beginning in 1902. It heralded the "Oil

Capital of World" title for the town.

Whenever his wife's party guests overflowed the large house up on the hill, she just brought them all down to the hotel and they kept on dancing. She was known to have a bridge party with as many as a 100 tables set up.

Betty Fogleman, granddaughter of Tate, played there all her growing-up years and tells bittersweet memories of the families' attempts to have their "Arlington" saved for Tulsa, but without success.

She has served many years on the board of directors of the Tulsa Historical Society and is presently president of the Tulsa Association of Pioneers.

"Over the year's many organizations have tried to help save this grand old lady, but sadly nothing ever worked out," she said.

The mansion was a victim of the mistaken idea by early day builders, that prudent people would never build houses south along the sandy Arkansas River bottom, a scene of shanty boats, the city trash dump and floods. They were wrong. But that mistaken belief lasted long enough to fill the beautiful promontories of the Osage Hills with fashionable families and houses.

In 1918 Tate Brady tore down his first house at 620 N. Denver Ave. to build his "Arlington" on the hill he loved. But delays caused by World War I prevented completion until 1922.

The marble came from the Tate Marble Works in Georgia. For his daughter, Mrs. Ruth Carroon, he built a house next door south.

In 1918 Brady organized probably what was Tulsa's largest national convention up to that time - the annual reunion of the Veterans of the Confederacy.

In 1941, Mrs. Brady announced the home would be open as an exclusive clubhouse for the United Daughters of the Confederacy, but World War II broke out, producing a plea for housing of soldiers. She offered the mansion.

It was to provide rooms and an entertainment center for soldiers - a project that made the family proud.

But when the war was over, she found the changes were to great for her to restore the home.

Sadly, the murals of the Confederacy were gone with the wind. She sold the house and it is now divided in apartments.

[By Yvonne Litchfield](#)

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