

Pankey-Baker House, 1899 - 604 College Ave.



When built in 1899, this house was known as “Park Place.” The style is Colonial Revival. It contains stained glass windows, hand-painted canvas walls and three fireplaces. It was built by D.B. Pankey, son of one of the oldest pioneers in Dunklin County. Born in 1861, D.B. was educated in Dunklin County, Cape Girardeau and St. Louis. In 1888 he married Josie Rayburn of Clarkton who was known as “one of the leading belles of Clarkton...and a leader” in Kennett society.

Mr. Pankey held numerous positions in Dunklin County and was an early county clerk. When the Bank of Kennett was organized in January 1891 he was chosen cashier and held that position until his death in 1915. The newspapers reported that the funeral service held on the 5 acre lawn in front of the house “was dotted with people from every walk of life, from the country and towns for miles around.”

The house remained vacant for several years before being purchased in 1929 by Charles B. Baker for the price of \$5,000. Mr. Baker founded Baker Implement Co., Baker Welman and Brown Insurance and numerous other businesses.



Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Pankey Park Place (left) and their earlier residence below.



Sources: *History of Southeast Missouri*, Robert Sidney Douglass, 1912; *History of Dunklin County, Mo.*, Mary Smythe-Davis, 1895; *Dunklin County Historical Society*; *Dunklin Daily Democrat*, *Twice-A-Week Democrat*. Sketches by KHS Art Club, 1982. Scan the QR code for more information on Kennett’s history.

