



The Cloyce Box House :

The steel skeleton of the grand old home stands in the middle of a pasture on the Brinkmann Ranch, just west of Hillcrest Road on Main Street. It is only fitting that one of Frisco's most enigmatic structures has a fascinating back story, complete with Hollywood connections and heartbreaking loss.

The home that originally stood on that spot was a 14,000 square-foot mansion originally built in 1941.

Cloyce Box, a former NFL receiver turned oil tycoon, moved to Frisco with his family in 1965 and purchased the home as well as the surrounding ranchland.

The two-story colonial-style home was remodeled extensively, and in 1978 would become the site of the original Southfork ranch location, where the initial five episodes of Dallas were filmed, being the exterior location for the first season of the wildly popular TV show Dallas.

Despite the glamour of having the Ewing family at his Frisco home, Mr. Box declined further involvement with the show after the first season due to the racy nature of the prime-time soap. The show moved to the ranch "Duncan Acres", near Plano, Texas, where the series was filmed for the rest of its run.



Then, in 1987, a terrible fire destroyed the mansion. "It was the biggest fire you ever saw," remembers one witness to the blaze. "There were no utilities out there at the time so all the fire trucks had to pull water out of the lake, and there was just no way with a house that big there was no putting it out." Eventually, Mr. Box started rebuilding the home, but foreclosures and health problems prevented him from completing the job. "That's the

structure that you see today," says the witness. "He intended to rebuild it as it had been – 28 rooms and a full basement. It was a big house."

The structure and the surrounding ranchland now belong to Baxter Brinkmann, who purchased additional land surrounding the Box Ranch, making him Frisco's largest

single landowner. It's still a real working ranch, encompassing approximately 2,000 acres.

If you want to see the inside of the original house watch the movie "Hush Hush sweet Charlotte" which was filmed in and around the house before Box owned it. the house was old and unoccupied for many years before box bought the original 200 acres for around a quarter million or so (probably spent millions on remodeling the place through the years). Actually it was being remodeled again when it burned down. a painter was finishing some cabinets when he was told to get his compressor and put it outside and he did. the next day he placed the compressor in the room again, but by the door. However, he had a five gallon bucket of paint thinner next to the compressor and it caught fire. freaking out he tried to throw the bucket out the door burning himself severely and setting off a huge fire which basically destroyed everything in the house. There were many unreplacable items destroyed in the next couple of hours. none of the Boxes live in Frisco anymore.

Sources have stated that the owner of the original ranch was under investigation for some less savory business deals and decided he did not want a film crew hanging around so informed the Ewings they would have to move. And move they did into the home we now all know and love.