

Two Historic Houses and ONE REMARKABLE WOMAN

The Life and Legacy of Jessie Daniel Ames

By Ellen Davis

Michele Ledeborn and husband Herb had never heard of Jessie Daniel Ames until they started looking for an historical Georgetown home and stumbled upon the historical marker in front of the house at 1004 S. Church Street. “Her accomplishments are amazing and inspiring,” Michele says.

Barbara Meyer believes Jessie also lived in her house at 705 East 3rd Street. She and husband George bought it in 1989 and lovingly restored the house to become one of the city’s finest historic homes. But they had no idea about its history until Barbara later read Jessie’s biography. Now it’s definitely a point of pride.

And with good reason. Jessie Daniel Ames was one of the great unsung heroes of several U.S. rights and equality movements going back nearly 100 years, and she spoke up for what was right when society called for women to remain silent. Starting here in Georgetown, Jessie ran the local phone company, helped Texas women earn the right to vote, and took a leadership role in the anti-lynching movement. Former Southwestern University History Professor Martha Mitten Allen credits Jessie as “a pioneer who laid the groundwork for the flowering of the black rights and



A historical plaque marks the front of 1004 S. Church Street.



Jessie’s Daniel Ames’ first Georgetown house at 705 East 3rd Street.

