

# TEXAS MOVER

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## The Sipe Boys Can Do It The Sipe Boys House Moving & Demolition



This Issue Features:

**Saving History from Demolition  
Using Steel Jacks**



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# The Sipe Boys Can Do It!

## *The Sipe Boys Moving & Demolition move historic church*

When it came time for The Catholic community of St. Katherine Drexel church to move to their 25 acre site on the other side of Hempstead, Texas, they had to find a mover to relocate their historic wooden church building which was constructed in 1892.

Gary, Clint and Jason Sipe researched the project and route and after coordinating with the town of Hempstead Texas, the project began.



It was a church with a lot of history, ornate painted ceilings and stained glass windows and many of the locals had been married in the church so great care and patience were needed to get this building loaded and transported along its 4 mile route to the other side of town.

Loaded height on this building was 32 ft., width was 44 ft and length was just 55 ft. It was cross loaded with 8x8 along with 6x6 beams.

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***Many of the locals had been married in this historic church, so great care and patience were needed . . .***

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***It took about three months for the city to order and install specialized 60-ft. power poles and restring lines along the entire route.***

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It took about three months for the City of Hempstead electric to order and install specialized 60-ft. phone poles and restring wires on the over height poles along the route in order to maintain continuous service throughout the entire electric grid in the town so that the nursing homes, banks, grocery stores and county offices were not without power. (Hempstead is the county seat for Waller County).



A daylight move was approved by TxDot and the City of Hempstead. This district was usually night time movement only and we were going right past the district office. City utility bucket trucks were used to help raise wires along the route. This was a slow tedious process waiting for the bucket trucks to raise the lines, pulling ahead and then waiting for them to raise the wires again and then waiting for the next set of wires to be raised. We'd done this before and it is time consuming. It probably would have been worse if the taller phone poles weren't provided!

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***City utility bucket trucks were used to raise wires along the route . . . a slow and tedious process.***

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It was a perfect sunny day and forging through the small Texas town with a very large church drew a lot of folks out on the streets to wave and shout support. Most of the town knew “The Sipe Boys.” We were local movers and the boys were always with their daddy moving houses when they were very young and all knew how much they loved what they did.

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***Most of the town  
knew the  
“Sipe Boys” and  
came out to  
watch.***

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We pulled it with our 465-horse power 18-speed double frame tandem Mack truck and used our hydraulic steering dollies to keep the load level and maneuver around a 45 degree turn. Clint was in charge of the steering of the dollies, he walked the entire route!

### **The Sipe Boys House Moving and Demolition**

P.O. Box 1694  
Waller, Texas 77484  
713.672.1797

*"The Sipe Boys" left to right - Jason, Clint and Gary in their tandem trucks ready to move anywhere in Texas!*

During the process of loading the church, our daughter, Katie, had been life-flighted to Herman Hospital after she had fallen off her horse and had been in ICU for several weeks.

The priest from the church and many parishioners prayed for her and said Mass for her recovery. It gave special meaning to the movement of their church.

Katie made a full recovery!

It took about five hours to get the church to its new location and all of the crews involved gave a cheer when it made its last turn onto the church property. It sits there today as a prayer chapel in all its antiquity and splendor.





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## House Moving MUSEUM

Fort Worth, Texas



**Antique Truck**

The museum could use some more dollies and especially the bunk on top of the dollies, original oak jack handles and help getting artifacts transported across your state and headed to the museum.

Tax deduction needed? You may qualify because the House Moving Museum is a recognized 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. Therefore, all items delivered to the museum at the owner's cost can be appraised and a tax credit certificate issued. Call for details.

**Call H.D. Snow**

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