

1085  
(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

**1. NAME OF PROPERTY**

HISTORIC NAME: Ponton, Dr. Arvel and Faye, House

OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

**2. LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER: 1208 Mistletoe Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Fort Worth

VICINITY: N/A

NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A

STATE: Texas

CODE: TX

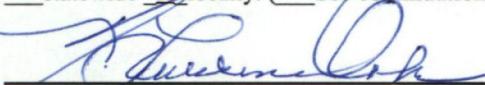
COUNTY: Tarrant

CODE: 439

ZIP CODE: 76110

**3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination  
request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of  
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  
X meets        does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant        nationally  
       statewide X locally. (        See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

  
Signature of certifying official

10/17/2006  
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property        meets        does not meet the National Register criteria.  
(        See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

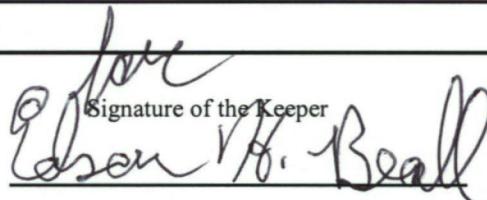
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  
       See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
       See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

11-29-06

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**5. CLASSIFICATION**

**OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:** Private

**CATEGORY OF PROPERTY:** Building

<b>NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:</b>	<b>CONTRIBUTING</b>	<b>NONCONTRIBUTING</b>
1	1	BUILDINGS
0	0	SITES
0	1	STRUCTURES
1	0	OBJECTS
	2	<b>TOTAL</b>

**NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER:** 0

**NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING:** N/A

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**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:** DOMESTIC=single dwelling  
**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:** DOMESTIC=single dwelling

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:** LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTRURY REVIVALS=Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival

**MATERIALS:** FOUNDATION CONCRETE  
WALLS STUCCO  
ROOF CERAMIC TILE  
OTHER

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION** (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-8)

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**Ponton House  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas**

**Summary Description**

Sited on the bluff overlooking the Clear Fork of the Trinity River, the Dr. Arvel and Faye Ponton House is a picturesque example of the Spanish Eclectic style as applied to a residence in Fort Worth, Texas. Designed by prominent local architect Joseph R. Pelich, it was constructed circa 1920 of clay tile sheathed in stucco painted pale pink. The house is composed of a 2-story block with 1-story wings on the north and south elevations. As is common with the style, the main block of the house has a flat roof with the exception of a low-pitched hipped roof at the northeast corner. The 1-story wings have gabled roofs. The roofs are sheathed by polychrome red barrel-shaped clay tiles. The façade of the house features large multi-light arched windows and an embellished entrance surround on the first floor. The second floor has a small balconet above the main entrance and a small window covered with a metal grille. Also on the property is one contributing landscape feature, a series of walls built in the 1930s. There are two noncontributing resources, a garage constructed in 2000, and an arbor, which may be a remnant of an earlier outbuilding but lacks integrity. The house is located at 1208 Mistletoe Drive in the Mistletoe Heights neighborhood, one of the city's Southside neighborhoods. Mistletoe Drive is a curvilinear street that defines the western boundary of the neighborhood. The Ponton House is sited on the west side of the street at the point where the street first starts to curve toward the southeast. Houses along the bluff tend to be large, architect-designed Period Revival and Prairie School homes from the same era as the Ponton House. The rest of the neighborhood is composed of 1- and 2-story houses reflecting Period Revival, Bungalow and Prairie style houses from the 1910s and 1920s although there are a few houses from later decades. The neighborhood has a high degree of integrity and has been designated a Historic and Cultural Landmark District by the City of Fort Worth.

**Description**

The Dr. Arvel and Faye Ponton House is located in the southside neighborhood of Mistletoe Heights in Fort Worth, Texas. It faces east and is sited along the bluff above the Clear Fork of the Trinity River at a point where Mistletoe Drive starts to turn toward the southeast. Designed by noted Fort Worth architect Joseph R. Pelich and constructed in c. 1920, the house features many hallmarks of the Spanish Eclectic style including a flat roof on the main portion of the house, low pitched gabled wings, stuccoed walls, large multiple-light arched windows, an embellished entrance surround and a chimney designed to resemble a belvedere. The house is composed of a 2-story block with 1-story wings on the north and south ends (Photos 1, 2, and 3). The walls are constructed of hollow clay tile covered with stucco painted pale pink. A flat roof surrounded by parapets edged with polychrome red clay tiles covers the 2-story portion of the building with the exception of a small hipped roof located at the northeast corner. A large balcony opens off of the master bedroom at the southwest corner of the two-story block (Photo 3). A simple iron balustrade is attached to the balcony's parapet. The 1-story wings have low-pitched gable roofs sheathed with polychrome red clay tiles. The façade of the house employs a variety of window types and decorative details. The entrance, located near the north end, features a glazed panel door with wrought iron grille work over the glass. The door is flanked by Corinthian engaged columns supporting a decorative frieze. Directly above this frieze is a second story door with diamond patterned lights opening to a small balconet with wrought iron railing. This door is flanked by engaged twisted columns with Corinthian capitals supporting a frieze. Above this frieze is a cartouche and finials. To the left of the entrance on the first floor is the original wrought iron wall sconce and two large multiple-light arched windows with wrought iron railing in front of them. On the 1-story southern wing, or sunroom, is another large arched window flanked by narrow French doors. Above these doors are decorative cast panels. On the second story to the left of the balconet is one small double hung window covered with a decorative iron grille. To the left of this window are paired multiple-light casement windows. Stucco walls extend from the north

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and south corners of the façade (Photo 3). The south wall extends to the south property line. The north wall becomes part of a courtyard and extends further north to incorporate a stuccoed gateway over the driveway (Photo 9).

As mentioned, the north side of the house has a 1-story gabled wing that projects from the main body of the house. Two multiple-light arched windows are on the wing's east elevation. A small walled courtyard is located in the area framed by the north elevation of the main house and the east elevation of the gabled wing (Photo 8). Paired arched French doors fronted by wood screened doors are located on the north wall of the house's central block and provide access to the courtyard. Above these doors at the second floor are paired 8-light wood casement windows. Above this window group is a decorative vent. Other windows on the projecting wing and the north elevation of the central block are 6/6 or 6/1 multiple-light double hung wood windows.

The west elevation of the 2-story block has a variety of multiple-light wood windows (Photos 5, 6 and 7). The second story has a pair of 6/1 double hung wood windows near the north end and the other three windows are single 6/1 double hung units. The first floor has paired multi-light casement windows near the north end and a slightly off-centered entrance with a glazed paneled wood door surmounted by a small clay-tiled pent roof supported by wood brackets. Two large multiple-light arched double hung wood windows to the right of the entrance illuminate the dining room. Off of the entrance is a tile and concrete deck that the current owners added in 2000. This deck replaced a small deteriorated wood porch. Below the deck is a small workroom with access to an original partial basement/mechanical room under the house.

The south end of the house also has a variety of window types (Photo 4). The south and west elevations of the 1-story wing (sunroom) have triplet 6/6 double hung wood windows. The second story of the main block has triplet 6/1 double hung wood windows. Below these windows on the first floor are two arched multiple-light hung wood windows. Near the junction of the main house and wing is a French door leading to concrete stairs to a lower patio.

### **Interior Description**

The interior of the Dr. Arvel and Faye Ponton House retains a high degree of integrity. Many of the original wrought iron light fixtures remain. The original oak floors have a dark stain. Most interior doors are painted wood with a single panel and glass doorknobs. When entering the house from the front door, one encounters an earth-toned tiled floor in the foyer. Overlooking the foyer is the stairway to the second floor which features an elegant wrought iron balustrade (Photo 12). To the left of the foyer is an arched opening that leads to a large living room. The opening is wide enough to accommodate an arched niche on each side (see Photo 12). The living room has similar arched niches on the north wall. The original carved stone mantle is located on the west wall. To the left of the mantle is an opening with pocket doors and a wrought iron railing. Because the back rooms of the first floor (kitchen and dining room) are on a lower plane than the front, this opening provides an overlook to the dining room. The dining room features a 16' barrel ceiling (all other ceilings on the first floor are 10'). A twisted column is located between the arched windows on the south elevation with a plaster medallion above it. A decorative plaster molding highlights the ceiling on the east and west walls. Also notable in this room are the original wrought iron chandelier and wall sconces (Photo 13). Beyond the living room is the sunroom with a tile floor similar to that found in the foyer. The sunroom also has a unique original wrought iron pendant light fixture hanging from the ceiling. The kitchen had been altered prior to the occupation of the current owners, Bruce and Lisa Lowry. This alteration removed a butler's pantry between the kitchen and the dining room. The Lowrys have updated the kitchen with compatible wood cabinets and granite countertops. However, the kitchen still retains its original kiva on the east wall, a clay oven that is still functional. A small bathroom is located off of the kitchen underneath the

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stairs to the second floor. The north wing contains a laundry room and small reading room. The configurations of these rooms are not original to the house and an opening into the kitchen has been walled off (see first floor plan).

An interesting feature of the first floor is a small hidden door along the stairway. It can be opened from a release located in a niche in the arched entrance between the foyer and the living room. When the current owners discovered the release, they found an old bottle of liquor hidden in the compartment behind the door. As the house was constructed during the early days of Prohibition, the compartment most likely was intended to be used as a place to hide such illegal beverages.

The second story has a central hallway off of the stairway from which the four bedrooms radiate. The northeast bedroom has been converted to a study and the northwest bedroom has been converted to a closet. The master bedroom has a nonoriginal Motawi tile mantle. As mentioned previously, two arched doors provide access from the bedroom to the balcony. Bathrooms are located between the master bedroom and the northwest bedroom/closet room and the southeast bedroom and the northeast bedroom/study (see second floor plan). The ceilings on this floor are 9 1/2' with the exception of a portion of the ceiling in the northeast corner of the study. This area is below the hipped portion of the roof and the ceiling has been removed to expose the roof trusses.

**Contributing and Noncontributing Features**

To the northwest of the house is a 3-car garage constructed in 2000 by Brent Hull of Hull Historical Restoration (Photos 2 and 5). The garage has features similar to that of the house. It has stucco walls and a flat roof with blocky finials at the southeast and northeast corners. Between the finials is a pent roof with polychrome red clay tiles. The coping on the parapets is covered with clay tiles. The garage bays have paneled overhead doors with blind arches above them. One pedestrian entrance is located near the south end of the east elevation. An arcaded wing wall is attached to the northeast corner. The garage is set back from the house and hidden by a wall and gate from the main elevation and does not compromise the overall integrity of the house. This garage replaced a 1-story wood frame garage that was not original to the property (see below). The garage is counted as a noncontributing building because of its age.

Behind the garage is a concrete structure which the current owners refer to as an arbor. It is constructed into the slope of the yard so that access is provided beneath the concrete floor from below (Photo 10). On top of the structure are metal poles that support an arbor. The origins of this structure have not been determined. It may have always served as an arbor or it may be the remnants of an earlier garage/apartment. The 1927 Sanborn Map for the property reveals that it originally had a 2-story dwelling with a 1-story garage behind it in this vicinity. The 1950 Sanborn Map indicates that the 2-story building was a combination garage/dwelling and behind it was a 1-story dwelling (see Map). These buildings were likely used by the Pontons' maid and stable boy. It may be that this structure is a remnant of one of these buildings. However, because the building lacks integrity and its origins are unknown, it is counted as a noncontributing structure.

Along the sloping yard are a series of low uncoursed stone retaining walls forming terraces down to the river (Photos 10 and 11). The tops of some of the walls contain dates from the 1930s. After Fort Worth's great flood of 1949, the Clear Fork of the Trinity River was re-channeled further to the west so that the property associated with the house no longer extends to the river. The terrace walls are counted as one contributing object and are given a circa 1940 date for the period of significance.

**Alterations**

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The Dr. Arvel and Faye Ponton House retains a high degree of integrity with minimal alterations. When the current owners purchased the house in 1991, it was suffering from deferred maintenance. The large arched windows on the front elevation had failed. Originally hung wood windows, they were replaced with fixed wood windows that matched their configuration and profile. A historic photo reveals that wood shutters flanking the second story casement windows on the front elevation have been removed. In July 2003, Mid-Continental Restoration, Inc. repaired the columns flanking the front entrance and some of the capitals' broken volutes. The current owners replaced the deteriorated rear wood porch with a concrete and tile deck in 2000. A tile fountain was installed along the lower west wall of the deck in 2002 (see Photo 6). The deck is the most significant alteration to the house but its location on the rear elevation does not adversely affect its overall integrity. The kitchen was altered by previous owners and then remodeled by the Lowrys in 2000. The room configuration in the north wing has been altered and an entrance from the kitchen to the laundry room has been walled off. Upstairs, all of the rooms contain their historic configuration. The northeast bedroom is now used as a study. The ceiling below the hipped roof at the northeast corner of the room was removed to expose the roof's trusses. The northwest bedroom has been converted to a closet. The master bedroom has a nonoriginal Motawi tile mantle constructed in 2004.

The original secondary buildings on the property were removed prior to 1991. A horse stable on the property burned in 1941. The present 3-car garage was constructed in 2000. Due to the sloping nature of the site, it is not clearly visible from the street and therefore has a minimal impact on the public's view of the house and property.

As evidenced above, the Ponton House retains its integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, setting, feeling and association.

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## 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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### APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

**A** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.

**B** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.

**C** PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.

**D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

**CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS:** N/A

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:** Architecture

**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:** c. 1920 - c. 1935

**SIGNIFICANT DATES:** c. 1920, c. 1935

**SIGNIFICANT PERSON:** N/A

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** N/A

**ARCHITECT/BUILDER:** Pelich, Joseph R., architect  
Hull Historical Restoration (2000 garage, deck and kitchen rehab)

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (see continuation sheets 8-9 through 8-14).

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## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY** (see continuation sheets 9-15).

**PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS):** N/A

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.  
 previously listed in the National Register  
 previously determined eligible by the National Register  
 designated a National Historic Landmark  
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #  
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

**PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:**

State historic preservation office (*Texas Historical Commission*)  
 Other state agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other -- Specify Repository: Historic Fort Worth, Fort Worth, Texas

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**Statement of Significance**

The Dr. Arvel and Faye Ponton House, 1208 Mistletoe Drive, is a picturesque example of a Spanish Eclectic style house in the Southside Mistletoe Heights neighborhood in Fort Worth, Texas. Constructed in c. 1920, the house sits on a bluff top site above the Clear Fork of the Trinity River. It is composed of a 2-story block with belvedere and is flanked by 1-story, low-pitched gabled wings. It features such hallmarks of the style as clay tile roofs, large arched windows and arched doorways, stucco wall surfaces, little or no eave overhang, embellished door surrounds, a balconet, and a window grille. The Ponton House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of architecture at the local level of significance as an excellent example of the Spanish Eclectic style in South Fort Worth and as the work of prominent Fort Worth architect Joseph R. Pelich.

**Narrative History**

The Mistletoe Heights neighborhood's proximity to downtown Fort Worth, Texas belies its origins as one of the city's original streetcar suburbs outside of the city limits. It is located approximately 1 ½ miles southwest of the Tarrant County Courthouse and a few blocks south of I-30. Its western border follows the bluffs above the Clear Fork of the Trinity River. The neighborhood is actually composed of two additions out of the E. S. Harris Survey—Mistletoe Heights (1890 and 1911) and Sangamon Park (1911, recorded in 1912). The Mistletoe Heights addition comprises the southern portion of the neighborhood and wraps around the eastern boundary of Sangamon Park Addition. It was originally platted by Harvey C. Lowrie of Denver, Colorado. The streets followed a grid pattern with the exception of a portion of Mistletoe Avenue (now Mistletoe Drive) which curved to the southeast as it followed the bluffs above the river. The namesakes for the streets included Lowrie and his associates—a Judge Streeter of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and Mssrs. Feldhauser and Zang of Denver. The northern portion of the neighborhood that became the Sangamon Park Addition was owned by Judge Streeter and H.H. Buck and Charles Post of Springfield, Illinois.<sup>1</sup>

Because of its initial distance from the heart of the city and the depressed economy of the 1890s, the area remained largely undeveloped. A newspaper article from 1922 stated that a squatter claimed possession of a tract of land that contained the Mistletoe Heights addition and the property owned by Streeter, Buck and Post for ten years and placed a fence around it. The fence had to be removed with the surveying of land for the Belt Line Railroad but the squatter retained 18 acres by right of undisputed possession.<sup>2</sup>

In 1911, the Mistletoe Heights Addition was replatted and a plat for the Sangamon Park Addition was created. The Mistletoe Heights Realty Company and the Buck heirs disputed the boundary between their two additions but resolved the issue through a legal agreement. The revised Mistletoe Heights plat retained its basic grid pattern but most of the street names were changed. The size of most lots was increased from an average of 25' wide and 120' deep to 50' wide by

<sup>1</sup> Plat records for Mistletoe Heights and Sangamon Park additions, Tarrant County Clerk's Office, Fort Worth, Texas. Robert E. Hicks, "Mistletoe Heights Expected Annexation 32 Years Ago; Colorado Man is Founder," *Fort Worth (Texas) Star-Telegram*, September 28, 1922. According to the article, Charles Post was the same Post of "Post Toasties" fame.

<sup>2</sup> Hicks, "Mistletoe Heights Expected Annexation 32 Years Ago."

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120' deep. The replat also included the addition of large, deep lots on the west side of Mistletoe Avenue (now Mistletoe Drive) above the river. Most of the land comprising the Sangamon Park Addition was owned by the descendants of H.H. Buck. The remainder was owned by W. R. Booth and D.T. Bomar of Fort Worth. The Sangamon Park Addition also followed a grid street pattern but the northern boundary sloped to the southwest from its northernmost corner.<sup>3</sup>

Around 1912, a streetcar line was extended to the southwest part of Fort Worth to service the newly established Texas Christian University. The line ran along Forest Park Boulevard which cut through the middle of the Mistletoe Heights neighborhood. With the advent of a streetcar line to service the university, the Mistletoe Heights neighborhood began to develop at a quicker pace, with the majority of its houses constructed in the 1910s and 1920s. Homes in the neighborhood were predominantly designed in Period Revival, Bungalow or Prairie School styles and were constructed of brick or sheathed with stucco. The homes along the west side of what is now Mistletoe Drive tended to be large 2-story architect-designed dwellings. Many houses throughout the neighborhood also had detached combination garage/dwellings for servants located toward the rear of the lot. Bordering the neighborhood on the east were a few small wood bungalow and shotgun style houses, many of which were occupied by African Americans who worked as laborers or as domestics in the neighborhood. The area commonly referred to as Mistletoe Heights was annexed into Fort Worth in 1922.<sup>4</sup>

The Mistletoe Heights Realty Company sold Lot 5, Block 23 of the Mistletoe Heights Addition to J. F. Shelton in 1913 for \$2,980. The deed of sale placed restrictions on the property including excluding people of African descent from ever owning or living on the property except as servants to the property owner. Other restrictions prohibited the erection of commercial or multi-family buildings or certain types of outbuildings, established specific setbacks, and required the erection of a residence costing at least \$6,000.<sup>5</sup>

On October 28, 1920, Shelton sold the property to Dr. Arvel R. Ponton for the sum of \$17,000. Because Shelton stated in the deed that he had never used the property as his homestead and considering the sum for which he sold the property it may be safe to assume that the house was constructed by that date. Shelton may have had the house built for himself and then never lived there or it is possible that he had it erected as a speculative venture. However, there is no listing for 1208 Mistletoe Avenue (the original address of the house) in the 1920 City Directory and early tax records list the date of construction as 1922.<sup>6</sup>

The Ponton House derives its name from Arvel R. and Faye Ponton as they were the first owner-occupants of the property. Arvel Ponton (1885-1944) was a prominent Fort Worth physician. Dr. Ponton was born in Douglas, Kansas and raised on a farm. When his family moved to Oklahoma, he spent much of his youth in Pawnee and Osage counties (then part of Indian Territory) and at times was an interpreter for the Osage. He attended the University of Oklahoma and

<sup>3</sup> Plat records for Mistletoe Heights and Sangamon Park additions, Tarrant County Clerk's Office, Fort Worth, Texas. Some of the names in both additions come from the Buck family.

<sup>4</sup> *Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey, Phase III: Fort Worth Southside*, Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County, 1986, 3; Hicks, "Mistletoe Heights Expected Annexation 32 Years Ago." According to the Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey, a portion of Mistletoe Heights was annexed in 1909.

<sup>5</sup> Tarrant County Clerk's Office, Deed records, Volume 413, pages 206-08.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, Volume 686, page 383; Fort Worth City Directory, 1920; Tarrant County Tax Assessor's Office, tax history card for Lot 5, Block 23, Mistletoe Heights Addition.

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took his medical training at Kansas City General Hospital as well as undergoing post-graduate work at medical centers in the East. He began his medical practice at Copperas Cove and then practiced at Post and Lubbock, Texas, establishing hospitals at both places. He arrived in Fort Worth around 1920 and that same year began construction on the Protestant Hospital at 1400 Pennsylvania Avenue (demolished) with Dr. H.J. Johnson. In 1922, they sold the hospital to Baptist Hospital of Fort Worth. Ponton then maintained offices in the Farmers and Merchants Bank Building in downtown Fort Worth and then in the old Medical Arts Building, also downtown. In 1936, he and Dr. W.B. Swift and Dr. Oliver M. Phillips established the Ponton Clinic on Fort Worth's Southside at 1307 Pennsylvania Avenue (demolished). This Classical Moderne style building was designed by Joseph R. Pelich, the architect of the Ponton House. Mrs. Ponton was originally from Weatherford, Texas. The couple had two children, Arvel R. Ponton, Jr., also a physician, and Virginia Elizabeth. Dr. Ponton died in 1944 from injuries he received while riding his horse on his ranch near Aledo, Texas.<sup>7</sup>

Following Dr. Ponton's death, the clinic was leased to the Veterans Administration. In 1949, Arvel R. Ponton, Jr. established his own practice in the building. The house was sold to Dr. Edward M. Wier in 1948 and remained in the Wier family until sold to Dr. Gregory and Sherian Phillips in 1985. The current owners, Dr. William Bruce and Lisa Lowry, purchased the house in 1991. It was designated as a City of Fort Worth Historic and Cultural Landmark in 2002.

**Architectural Significance**

The Ponton House is an excellent example of the Spanish Eclectic style of architecture in South Fort Worth, Texas. As described in Virginia and Lee McAlester's book *A Field Guide to American Houses*, this style is noted for its red tile roofs; arches above doors, principal windows, or beneath porch roofs; stucco wall surfaces; little or no eave overhang; embellished door surrounds, balconets, and window grilles. The Ponton House features all of these details in a picturesque manner. It is composed of a 2-story block with the chimney resembling a belvedere. Gabled one-story wings flank this central section. A wall extends from the northeast corner of the house and forms a gate over the driveway. Another wall extends from the southeast corner of the house to the southern property line. A small courtyard is located between the north wall and the north gabled wing. Large multiple-light arched windows are found along the first floor of the front (east) elevation and on the south and west elevations of the dining room. The house is located at a prominent point above the Clear Fork of the Trinity River. The window groupings facilitated cross ventilation, an important consideration in the hot Texas summers in the days before air conditioning. During the winter when leaves are off of the trees, the rear of the house and its terraces are very visible from the west bank of the river and beyond. The interior also contains elements of Spanish Eclectic design in such features as wrought iron light fixtures, arched niches in walls, tiled floors in the foyer and sunroom, and the kiva in the kitchen.<sup>8</sup>

The Ponton House is among a small number of early 20<sup>th</sup> century, 2-story Spanish Eclectic style houses on Fort Worth's Southside. The Historic Preservation Council for Tarrant County published a survey of Fort Worth's Southside in 1986. The Southside has several examples of 1-story Spanish Eclectic houses but none have the details as those found on the Ponton House. Several 2-story Spanish Eclectic (or Mediterranean style as classified in the Preservation Council's Southside survey) were documented. These include the Maxwell-Kimbell-Carter House (c. 1927) at 2330 Medford Court East and the Shotts House (c. 1929) at 2301 Medford Court West. Both of these houses are located in the nearby Park

<sup>7</sup> "Dr. Arvel Ponton Dies of Injury Suffered at Ranch," *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, April 12, 1944.

<sup>8</sup> Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1986.

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Ponton House

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Hill neighborhood. Both have white stucco walls and tiled roofs. The Maxwell-Kimbell-Carter House is a large rambling house composed of a 2-story hipped-roof block with projecting 2- and 1-story bays on the front elevation, the latter having three arched multiple-light wood windows, and a low-pitched gabled wing on the north elevation. The Shotts House is composed of a 2-story side gabled block with a projecting 2-story gabled entrance bay. It employs a variety of arched windows and has an embellished entrance surround with a second story balcony above it. The architects of either house have not been identified. Both houses appear to be eligible for the National Register as contributing resources in the Park Hill neighborhood. With identification of their architects, they may also be individually eligible for the National Register and the Maxwell-Kimbell-Carter House may be eligible for its association with occupants who were significant in Fort Worth's history.<sup>9</sup>

The Dr. Arvel and Faye Ponton House is also significant as the work of prominent local architect Joseph R. Pelich (1894-1968). Pelich was born in Prague, then part of Austria, and immigrated to Cleveland, Ohio with his family when he was five years old. He received a Bachelor of Architecture degree from Cornell University in 1916. He received the Beaux-Arts Society (1916), Charles Goodwin Sands Memorial (1916) and Clifton Beckwith Brown Memorial (1916) medals and studied at the Sorbonne in Paris. From 1915 to 1917 he worked with architectural firms in Cleveland. With the country's entrance into World War I, Pelich joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and was sent to Canada for training with the Royal Flying Corps. He was later assigned to Fort Worth, Texas and eventually became the chief flying instructor for the city's three army airfields. When he was discharged from service in 1919, he remained in Fort Worth and started his own architectural practice.<sup>10</sup>

Pelich's designs were varied and included such works as the original circular Casa Manana outdoor dinner theater for Billy Rose's Fort Worth Frontier Fiesta in 1936, as well as commercial and educational structures. His residential designs generally followed Period Revival influences and can be found in Fort Worth's Southside neighborhoods of Ryan Place, Park Hill, University West, and Mistletoe Heights, as well as designs in the West Side's Arlington Heights and the exclusive Westover Hills and Rivercrest neighborhoods. He also designed the Douglas Chandler residence in Weatherford and the Landreth Lodge on Eagle Mountain Lake. The Ponton House is one of Pelich's earliest extant projects and its Spanish Eclectic design was unique among his works. Many of his buildings, including the Ponton House, were included in a portfolio of his work published in 1937 under the title *Architecture and Design: The Work of Joseph R. Pelich, AIA, Architect, Fort Worth, Texas*. A list of his works is included at the end of this section.

Some of Pelich's other works included Daniel-Meyer Coliseum at Texas Christian University, Eastern Hills Senior High School, St. Joseph's Hospital (all 1950), Daggett Junior High (1955), and the William Edrington Scott Theatre (1966), all located in Fort Worth.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>9</sup> *Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey, Phase III*, pp. 24 and 28.

<sup>10</sup> *Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. "Pelich, Joseph Roman," <http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/PP/fpepv.html> (accessed November 26, 2005).

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid; Architecture and Design: The Work of Joseph R. Pelich, AIA, Architect, Fort Worth, Texas*, New York: Architectural Catalogue Company, Inc., 1937.

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Continuation Sheet**

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Ponton House

Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Pelich was a charter member of the Texas Society of Architects and served as the first president of the Fort Worth Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1946. In 1967 he was the first architect to receive the Texas Restoration Award from the Texas State Historical Survey Committee (now the Texas Historical Commission) for his work on the restoration of the birthplace of former president Dwight D. Eisenhower at Denison, Texas. Pelich was a member of the Fort Worth Boat Club, the Fort Worth Club, and the Order of the Daedalians, a fraternal organization of World War I military pilots. He died on July 19, 1968.<sup>12</sup>

The Ponton House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion C. It is an excellent local example of the Spanish Eclectic style in South Fort Worth. It features many elements of the style including stuccoed walls, flat or low pitched roofs sheathed in clay tile, embellished door surrounds, large multiple-light arched windows and arched doors, a balconet, grille work over one window, and a belvedere. It is also significant as the work of prominent local architect Joseph R. Pelich. The period of significance is c. 1920 when the house was completed to c. 1935 to encompass the construction of the stone retaining walls along the terraces in the back yard.

**Works by Joseph Pelich**

Ponton House, 1208 Mistletoe Drive, c. 1920, (Spanish Eclectic)  
 Crites-Lawrence House, 2622 Fifth Avenue, 1922 (Baroque/Mission Revival)  
 Melat House, 2600 Ryan Place Drive, 1923 (Colonial Revival)  
 Reich House, 1206 Mistletoe Drive, 1924 (Germanic/Tudor Revival)  
 Bryan House, 901 Hillcrest Street, c. 1924 (Colonial Revival)  
 Greene House, 511 Rivercrest Drive, 1926-27 (Eclectic Period Revival)  
 Morgan House, 619 Rivercrest Drive, 1926-27 (Colonial Revival)  
 Thomas House, 501 Rivercrest Drive, 1927 (Eclectic Period Revival)  
 Fleming House, 2350 Medford Court E., 1927 ((Italian Renaissance)  
 Bewley Hall, Fort Worth Woman's Club, 1300 block Pennsylvania Avenue, 1929 (Italian Renaissance)  
 Freese House, 3318 Avondale Avenue, 1929 (Tudor Revival)  
 House at 2000 Spanish Trail, c. 1930 (French Eclectic)  
 Bristol House, 2424 Medford Court W., 1930 (Tudor Revival)  
 Pelich House, 716 Westview Avenue, 1930-31 (Tudor Revival)  
 Stafford House, c. 1931 [attributed] (Tudor Revival)  
 Friedson House, 2420 Medford Court E., 1931 (Tudor Revival)  
 Thompson House, 500 Alta Drive, 1931 (Tudor Revival)  
 Filter Building, North Holly Water Treatment Plant, 1500 11<sup>th</sup> Ave, 1932 (Mission Revival)  
 Cummins House, 3309 Avondale Avenue, 1934 (Tudor Revival)  
 Stewart House, 2237 Winton Terrace W., 1934 (Tudor Revival)  
 Alice E. Carlson School Addition, 3320 Cantey Street, 1935 (Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival)

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

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## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 14

Ponton House

Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

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Parsons House, 3315 Avondale Avenue, 1935 (Tudor Revival)  
Oaklawn Elementary School, 3220 Hardeman Street, 1935-36 (Spanish Eclectic)  
Van Zandt Cottage, 2900 Crestline Road, 1936 restoration/rehabilitation  
Ninnie Baird House, 2429 Rogers Avenue, 1936 (Colonial Revival)  
Polytechnic Senior High School, 1300 Conner Avenue, 1936-37, 1954 (Georgian Revival)  
Hill House, 3100 Avondale Avenue, 1937 (Tudor Revival)  
Herd House, 3208 Avondale Avenue, 1937 (Georgian Revival)  
Ponton Clinic, 1307 Pennsylvania, 1930s (Classical Modernistic)  
Fort Worth Public Library, 1938 (Classical Modernistic)  
Buckler-Landreth House, 104 Hazelwood Drive, 1938-39  
Harding-Reynolds House, 1605 Sunset Terrace, 1940 renovation  
Bomar-Carter House, 1220 Broad Avenue, 1944 addition  
WBAP/KXAS TV-Radio Studios, 3900 Barnett Street, 1948 (Spanish/Mediterranean)  
Fort Worth Club Building, 306 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, 1953-54 renovation  
Carr Chapel—Beasley Hall—Brite Hall, TCU, 1953-54, (Georgian Revival)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9 Page 15

Ponton House

Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

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### Bibliography

*Architecture and Design: The Work of Joseph R. Pelich, AIA, Architect, Fort Worth, Texas.* New York: Architectural Catalogue Company, Inc., 1937.

“Cause of Ponton Stable Fire Sought: Horses Rescued.” *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, October 23, 1941.

“Dr. Arvel Ponton Dies of Injury Suffered at Ranch.” *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, April 12, 1944.

“Dr. Arvel Ponton Rites Tomorrow.” *Fort Worth Press*, April 12, 1944.

Fort Worth (Texas) City Directories. Various years between 1920 and 1949.

*Handbook of Texas Online*, s.v. “Pelich, Joseph Roman,”  
<http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/PP/fpepv.html> (accessed November 26, 2005).

Hicks, Robert E. “Mistletoe Heights Expected Annexation 32 Years Ago; Colorado Man is Founder.” *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, September 28, 1922.

Roark, Carol. *Fort Worth's Legendary Landmarks*. Fort Worth, Texas Christian University Press, 1995.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. Fort Worth, Texas, 1927, volume 4, sheet 501 and 1950, volume 5, sheet 505.

Tarrant County (Texas) Clerk's Office. Deed and Plat Records.

*Tarrant County Historic Resources Survey: Phase III, Fort Worth's Southside*. Fort Worth: Historic Preservation Council of Tarrant County, 1986.

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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**ACREAGE OF PROPERTY** Approximately 1 acre

<b>UTM REFERENCES</b>	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>
1	14	654031	3622427

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION** Block 23, Lot 5A, Mistletoe Heights Addition to Fort Worth, Texas

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION** That is the legal description associated with the nominated property.

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**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

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**NAME/TITLE:** Susan Allen Kline

**ORGANIZATION:** **DATE:** JULY 2006

**STREET & NUMBER:** 2421 Shirley Avenue **TELEPHONE:** 817-921-0127

**CITY OR TOWN:** Fort Worth **STATE:** Texas **ZIP CODE:** 76109

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**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

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**CONTINUATION SHEETS**

**MAPS** (see continuation sheet MAP-16)

**PHOTOGRAPHS** (see continuation sheet PHOTO-19 through PHOTO-20)

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS** (see continuation sheet PLAN-17 through PLAN-18)

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**PROPERTY OWNER**

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**NAME:** Dr. William Bruce and Lisa Lowry

**STREET & NUMBER** 1208 Mistletoe Drive

**TELEPHONE:** 817-926-9391

**CITY OR TOWN** Fort Worth

**STATE** Texas

**ZIP CODE** 76110

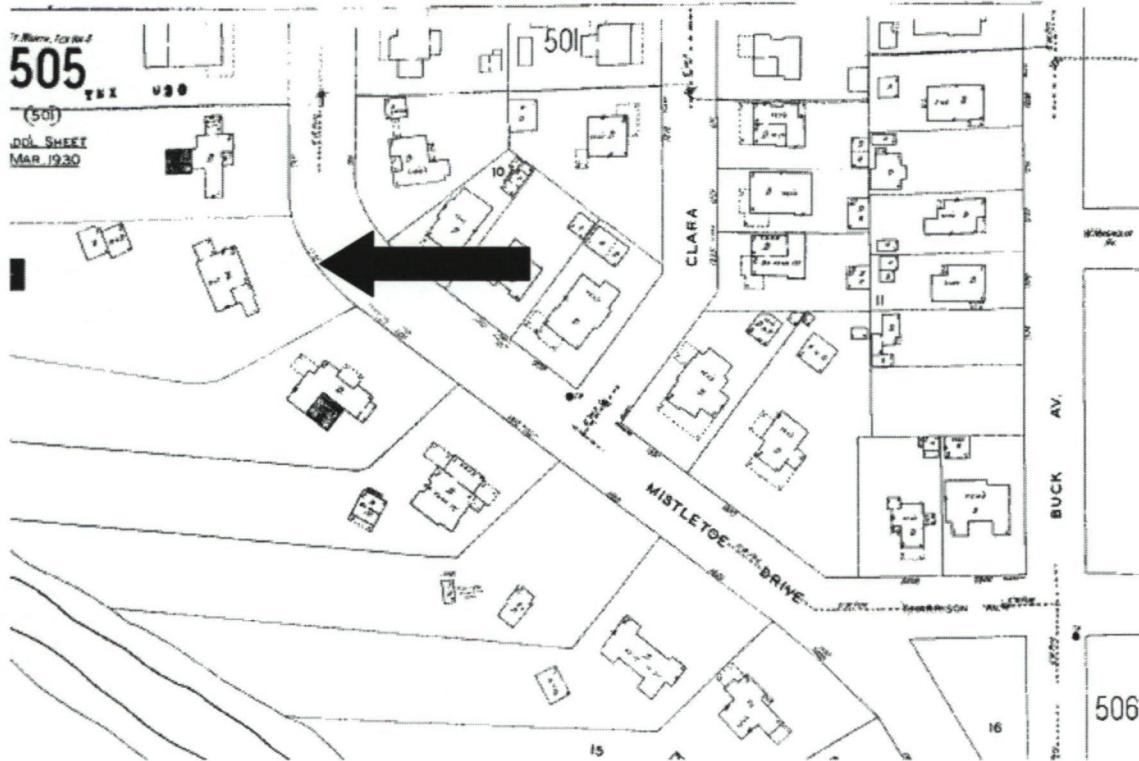
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section MAP Page 16

Ponton House  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

**Map 1** 1950 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Fort Worth, TX Volume Five, Sheet 505  
1208 Mistletoe Drive



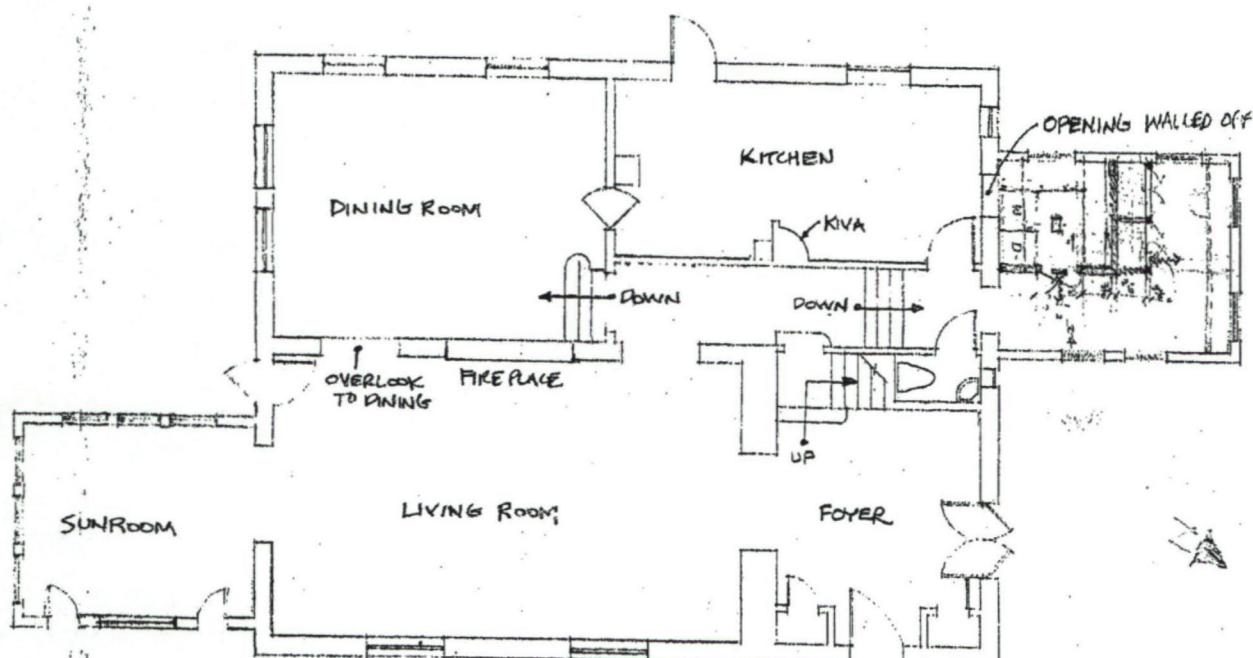
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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PLAN Page 17

Ponton House  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

**Plan 1** First floor plan



FIRST FLOOR

PONTON HOUSE, FORT WORTH, TX

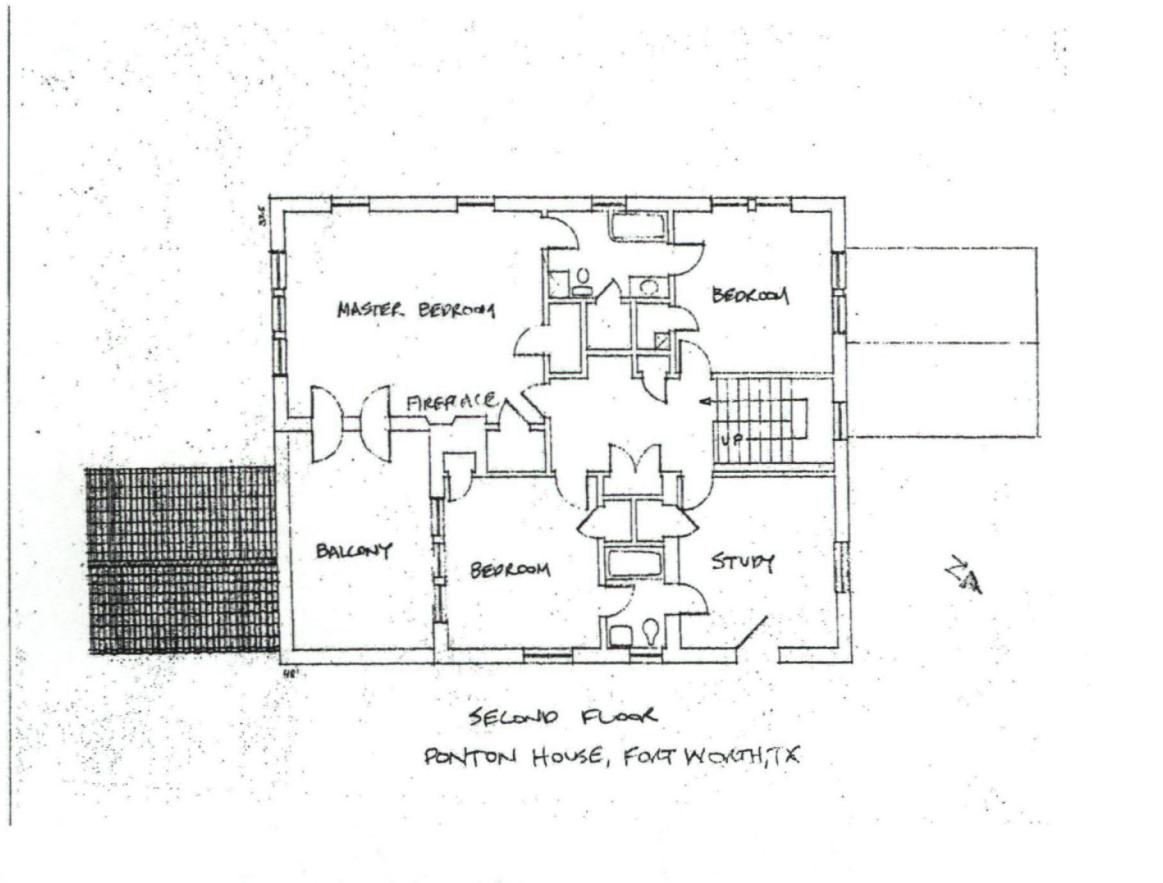
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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PLAN Page 18

Ponton House  
Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

**Plan 2** Second floor plan



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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section PHOTO Page 19

Ponton House

Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

Photo 1 Ponton House  
Tarrant County, Texas  
Photographer: Unknown  
Date: Unknown, possibly c. 1937  
Negative: Fort Worth Public Library, Fort Worth, Texas  
Looking Northwest  
1 of 13

Photos 2 – 13 share the following information except as noted

1. Name: Ponton House
2. County and State: Tarrant County, Texas
3. Photographer: Susan Kline
4. Date: January 24, 2006
5. Location of Negative: Lisa and Bruce Lowry, Fort Worth, Texas

Photo 2

5. January 25, 2006
6. Looking West/Southwest
7. #2 of 13

Photo 3

5. January 25, 2006
6. Looking Northwest
7. #3 of 13

Photo 4

6. Looking NE at rear elevation of sunroom and west half of south elevation
7. #4 of 13

Photo 5

6. Looking N/NW at rear of house and at garage (noncontributing)
7. #5 of 13

Photo 6

6. Looking NE at rear (west elevation) of house
7. #6 of 13

Photo 7

6. Looking SE at portions of north and rear elevations
7. #7 of 13

Photo 8

6. Looking SE at north elevation
7. #8 of 13

Photo 9

6. Looking NE at gate over drive and north courtyard
7. #9 of 13

Photo 10

6. Looking N at retaining walls and arbor
7. #10 of 13

Photo 11

6. Looking NW at retaining walls toward Clear Fork of the Trinity River
7. #11 of 13

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTO Page 20

Ponton House

Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas

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Photo 12

6. Looking NW from living room toward foyer and stairway
- 7 #12 of 13

Photo 13

6. Looking South from hallway into dining room
7. #13 of 13

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Ponton, Dr. Arvel and Faye, House  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Tarrant

DATE RECEIVED: 10/19/06 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/06/06  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/21/06 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/02/06  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 06001085

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 11.29.06 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



1. Fonton, Dr. Arvel and Faye, House
2. Fort Worth, Tarrant Co., TX
3. Photographer Unknown
4. Date Unknown, possibly c. 1937
5. Negative: Fort Worth Public Library, Fort Worth, TX
6. Looking Northwest
7. 1 of 13































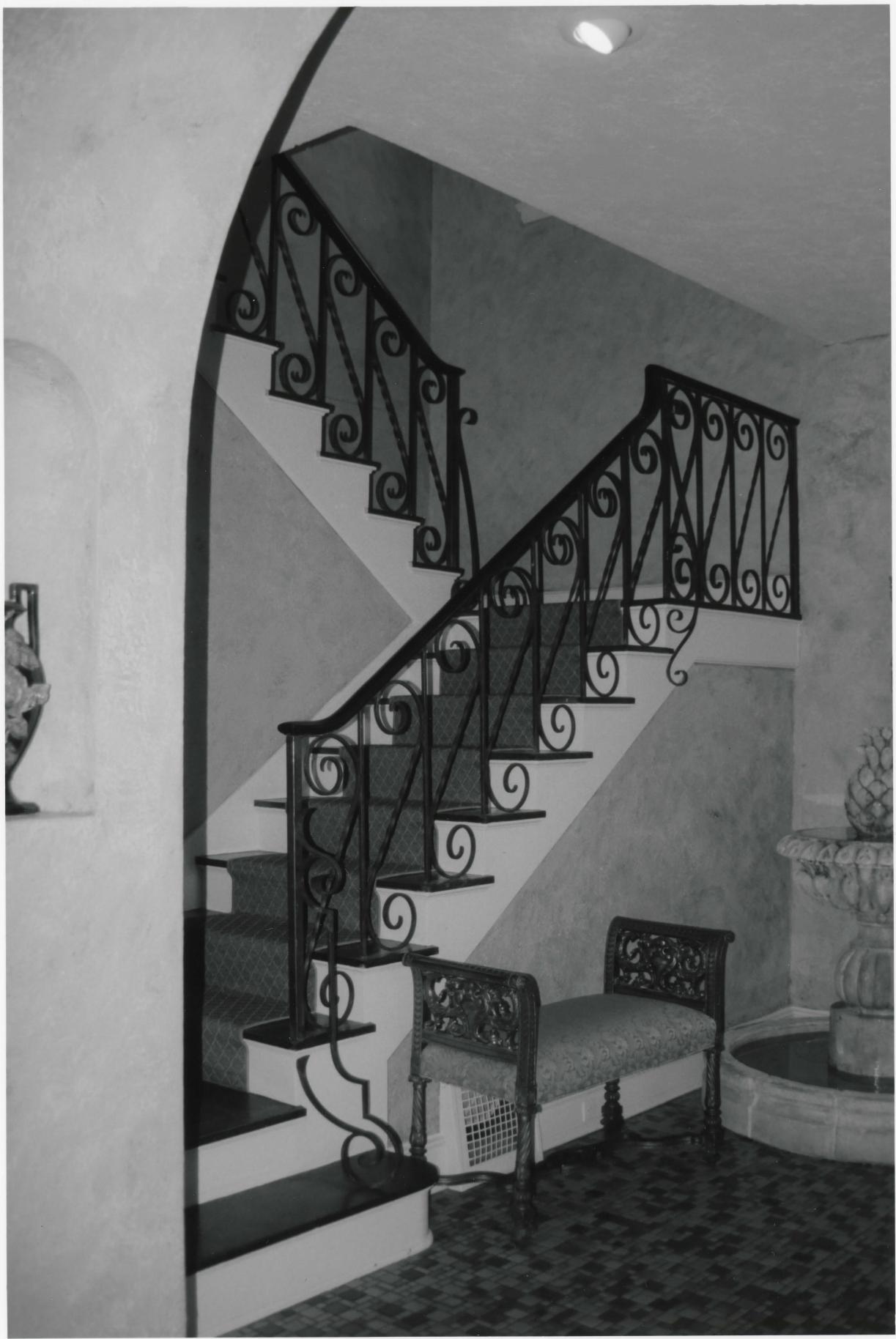








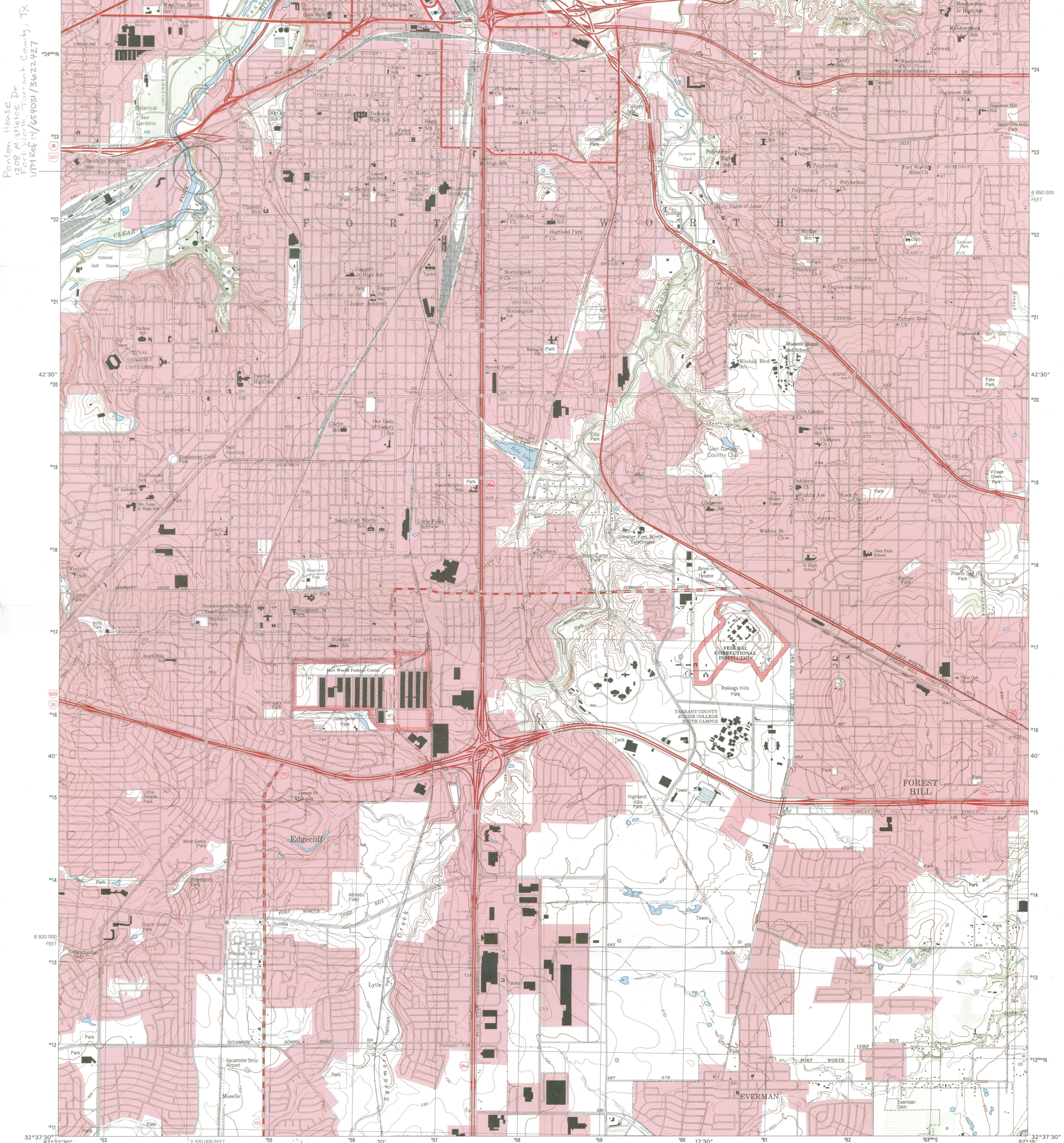












20%  
TOTAL RECOVERED FIBER

UTM GRID AND 2001 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



# TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Rick Perry • Governor  
John L. Nau, III • Chairman  
F. Lawrence Oaks • Executive Director

*The State Agency for Historic Preservation*

TO: Janet Matthews, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Hannah Vaughan, Historian  
Texas Historical Commission

RE: Dr. Arvel and Faye Ponton House, Fort Worth, Tarrant Co., TX

DATE: October 16, 2006



The following materials are submitted regarding: The Ponton House

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Original National Register of Historic Places form
<input type="checkbox"/>	Resubmitted nomination
<input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple Property nomination form
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Photographs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	USGS map
<input type="checkbox"/>	Correspondence
	Other: _____

**COMMENTS:**

SHPO requests substantive review

The enclosed owner objections (do   ) (do not   ) constitute a majority of property owners

Other \_\_\_\_\_