

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: TEXAS	
COUNTY: Williamson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.10.48.0034	DATE 10/15/70

1. NAME

COMMON:
Captain Nelson Merrell House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
east of Round Rock on 2
North side of US 79, 1.6 miles west of IH 35

CITY OR TOWN:
Round Rock vicinity

STATE Texas	CODE 78664	COUNTY: Williamson	CODE 491
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Wayne Bell and Joe Colwell

STREET AND NUMBER:
703 East 38th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Austin

STATE:
Texas

CODE:
042

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Williamson County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Georgetown

STATE:
Texas

CODE:
042

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey (John Garner)

DATE OF SURVEY: **1965** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

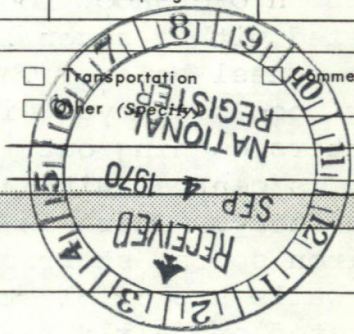
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
District of Columbia

CODE:
08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: **TEXAS**

COUNTY: **Williamson**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: **70.10.48.0034**

DATE: **10/15/70**

7. DESCRIPTION

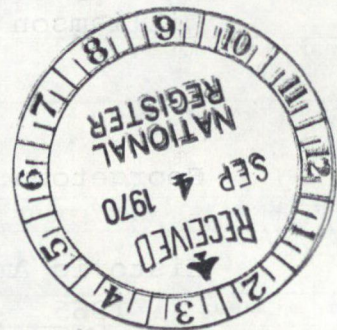
CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

A two-story symmetrical, rectangular, coursed ashlar limestone residence with a gable roof with the ridge parallel to the long (front) side. There is a five bay deep double gallery attached under an extension of the main roof. The gallery has simple capped posts. The closely spaced turned balusters have been removed. They are believed to have been added about 1890. Simple slat balusters will be installed. At the center of the roof there is a dominant tall rectangular frame cupola with one window in each side and a balustraded Captain's Walk. Two stone chimneys are at the center of the ends of the house, each serving an upper and lower room. The lime mortar has been set out and squared off at the front elevation to more closely resemble cut stone but the other elevations are flush joint. There is a one-story limestone ell at the rear that was the original kitchen and dining room. It also has a fireplace. There is a one-story porch across the back and along the ell, under a lean-to roof at the back and under an overshoot roof along the ell. The main door is nine paneled with a seven light transom and three light sidelights with panels below. The windows are six over six light double-hung wood sash type with two panel adjustable louvered wood shutters opening out. The openings have flat arch heads. The plan is central with a center hall flanked by two rooms on each story. There is an open stairway to the second floor and an iron spiral stairway to the attic has been added. The interior walls are of plastered and painted limestone. The house is situated on fairly flat land and faces the highway. There is a barn (c.1900), hexagonal cistern house and the ruins of a stone smokehouse.

railing replaced
restored

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

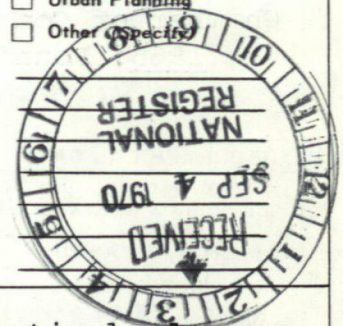
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1870-71

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Captain Nelson Merrell was a prominent Austin land owner, Round Rock farmer, Texas Ranger, and postmaster. His notable two-story stone house was built in 1870 and 1871. It has a full width double front gallery and, at the center of the roof, an unusual and prominent tall rectangular frame cupola capped with a balustraded Captain's Walk. The Merrell House is just outside of Round Rock, Texas, near Brushy Creek.

Merrell was born October 14, 1810, in Connecticut, and spent his early life in Ohio. In 1837, he emigrated west once again, coming to Texas. He joined a Dr. Kinney in 1839 in settling on Brushy Creek, where he devoted his time to farming, hunting deer, and catching mustangs.

Prior to 1839, Merrell was a member of Captain M. Andrew's company of rangers and took a prominent part in capturing the Flores-Cordova gang. Late in 1839, he raised a company himself and joined General Canales and the Liberals of Mexico who were warring against the Centralists. Merrell met, defeated, and captured General Parbon at Alcantara, but ultimately the Merrell-Canales campaign failed and the Texans returned to their homes north of the Rio Grande.

In 1840, Merrell married Rachel McKennon in Austin, and for the next twenty-five years much of his life centered around the growth of Austin and Travis County. By 1846 he was living on Walnut Creek, where a postoffice was established and he was appointed postmaster. In Austin, Merrell was responsible for laying out the city streets; September 30, 1861, he was commissioned as manager of the Lunatic Asylum(sic).

Merrell's first wife died September 2, 1862, and he married Martha Jane Pennington August 2, 1864. Then, in 1870, he hired A. Smith to build a stone house on Brushy Creek to replace his first frame residence on the same site. Smith completed the home May 1, 1871. It has remained largely unaltered except for the closing in of part of the L-shaped rear veranda and frame kitchen addition to the north. In the restoration now in progress these additions have been removed

(see continuation sheet #1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alexander, D.B. Texas Homes of the Nineteenth Century. Austin, 1966.
 Anderson, Mrs. Emil. "Nelson Merrell-Commissions and Biographical Data, 1810-1879," Archives, Library of the University of Texas. Austin, 1932.
 Chamber of Commerce, Round Rock, Texas. Round Rock, Texas, 1840-1965. Round Rock, 1965.
 (See continuation sheet #2)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

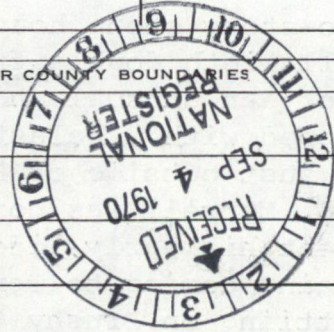
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		30°	31'	00"
NE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"		97°	39'	41"
SE	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				
SW	0' 0" 0"	0' 0" 0"				

14/628450
3376680
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5.6 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Wayne Bell, Project Director
Roxanne Williamson, Architectural Historian (MD) (SB)

ORGANIZATION: Texas State Historical Survey Committee DATE: 8-3-70

STREET AND NUMBER: 108 W.15th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Austin STATE: Texas CODE: 042

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: [Signature]
 Title: State Liaison Officer
 Date: August 27, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

[Signature]
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

OCT 15 1970

Date: _____
 ATTEST:
[Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: SEP 25 1970

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

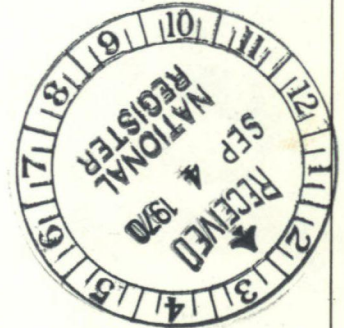
(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE		TEXAS
COUNTY		Williamson
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
70.10.48.0034	10/15/70	

(Number all entries)

8. (cont'd)

and the house is being put back into its original exterior appearance by Wayne Bell, architect and present owner of the property. Victorian balusters added around 1890 are being removed. They will be replaced by square, simple balusters which were found on the rear veranda and also as shims under the front veranda. Plans are to continue to use the house as a residence. Modern conveniences will be installed but no new walls or structural changes are to be made.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE		TEXAS
COUNTY		Williamson
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
70.10.48.0034	10/15/70	

(Number all entries)

9. (cont'd)

Personal Papers, accounts and records of Captain Nelson Merrell. Mrs. A.J. Crumley, Copperas Cove, Texas.

Webb, Walter Prescott, ed. Handbook of Texas. Austin, 1952.



RECEIPT

PROPERTY

Merrell (Capt. Nelson) House

STATE

Tex.

REGISTER NUMBER

DATE OF RECEIPT

9/4/70

YES

NO

NUMBER

DATA PAGE

✓

7

70,10,48,0034

10/15/70

PHOTO (S)

✓

PHOTODESCRIPTION (S)

✓

MAP (S)

✓

1

70000778

MAP DESCRIPTION (S)

✓

LOGGED

✓

ACKNOWLEDGE

9/8/70

RESUBMIT

11/16/70

REVIEW

OK

577

9/8

HISTORIAN

Levy

OK

9/15/70

HISTORIAN

ARCHITECT

OK

Chambers

9/23/70

ASST. KEEPER

OK

Bradford

9/25

KEEPER

ENTRY

CHIEF, OAHF

OK

etc
30-15-70

EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR

HABS

OK
CD 9/10/70

Federal Register Entry

12/1/70

Annual Edition Entry

Logged

10/15/70

Card

10/15/70

WORKING NUMBER

9-4-70-2





NPS Number

70-10-48-0034

Title:

Merrill, Captain Nelson,

House

LOC.

Williamson Co, Texas

Side elevation, from the

west

①

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



NPS Number 70-10-48-0034

Title: Merrell, Captain Nelson,
House

Loc. Williamson Co., Texas (2)

Bear elevation, from the
north

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



NPS Number 70-10-48-0034

Title: Merrell, Captain Nelson,
House

Loc. Williamson Co, Texas

Side and rear elevations,
from the southwest

(3)



NPS Number 70-10-48-0034

Title: Merrell, Captain Nelson,

House

Loc. Williamson Co, Texas

(4)

Front & side elevations, from
the southeast



NPS Number 70-10-48-0034

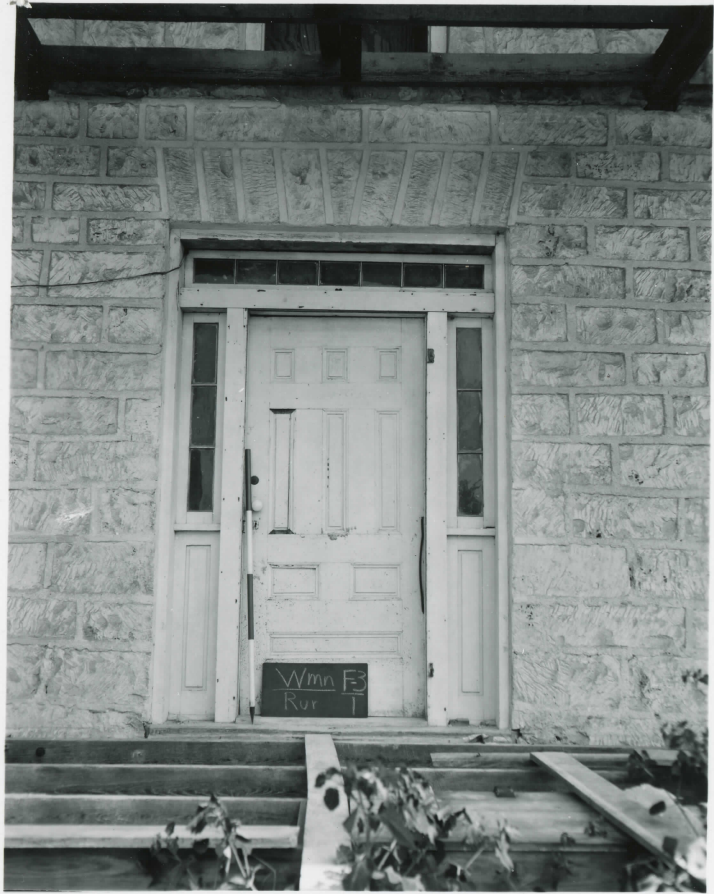
Title: Merrell, Captain, Nelson

Loc. Williamson Co, Texas

Front elevation from the
South

(3)

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Wmn F3
Rur T

NPS Number 70-10-48-0034

Title: Merrell, Captain Nelson,

Loc. Williamson Co, Texas (D)
Detail, front door

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Wmn: F3
Rur: 1

NPS Number 70-10-48-0034

Title: Merrell, Captain Nelson,
House

Loc. Williamson Co, Texas ⑦
Detail, first floor
window

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

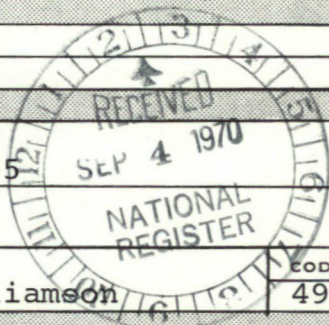
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
TEXAS	
COUNTY	
Williamson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		Captain Nelson Merrell House	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
US highway 79, 1.6 miles west of IH 35			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Round Rock			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Texas	042	Williamson	491
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey			
SCALE: 1:62500			
DATE: 1923-25, revised 1949			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.		Texas Map Reference #3097-310	
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			





UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

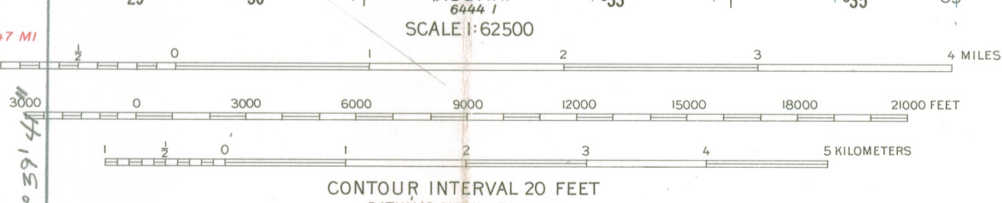
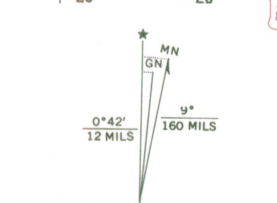
STATE OF TEXAS
REPRESENTED BY THE
BOARD OF WATER ENGINEERS

ROUND ROCK QUADRANGLE
TEXAS - WILLIAMSON COUNTY
15-MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



CAPTAIN NELSON MERRELL HOUSE
U.S. HIGHWAY 79, 1.6 MI. WEST OF INTERSTATE HWY, 35
ROUND ROCK, TEXAS

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Culture and drainage in part compiled from
aerial photographs taken by Air Corps, U.S. Army
Surveyed by plane-table methods in 1923-1925
Revised in 1949
Polyconic projection, North American datum
10000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

HARD-SURFACE ALL WEATHER ROADS	DRY WEATHER ROADS
Heavy-duty, 4 LANE LANE	Improved dirt, 2 LANE LANE
Medium-duty, 2 LANE LANE	Unimproved dirt, 2 LANE LANE

U.S. Route State Route

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROUND ROCK, TEX.
N 3034 W 3730 15
11499
3097-310
AMS-6445 II-SERIES V782

14/628 450
3376 680
CD

Merrell (Captain Nelson) House
Williamson Co., Texas

SMarusin
10/9/70

H30-HR

OCT 14 1970

Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas State Historical Survey
Committee
Post Office Box 12276
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mr. Latimer:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Senators Ralph W. Yarborough and John A. Tower and the appropriate Representatives have also been notified. Please withhold any publicity on this until you have received a carbon copy of the Congressional correspondence.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Ernest Allen Connally

Ernest Allen Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology
and Historic Preservation

Enclosure

OCT 14 1970

Entered in the National Register _____

cc:

HR

10/9/70

SMarusin:drs

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

TEXAS

Pampell-Day House
French Home Trading Post
Fort House
Merrell (Captain Nelson) House
Inn at Brushy Creek
Mile Canyon
Fredericksburg Historic District

Brenham, Texas
Beaumont, Texas
Waco, Texas
Round Rock, Texas
Round Rock, Texas
Langtry, Texas
Fredericksburg, Texas

OCT 27 1970

H30-ER

Hon. Ralph W. Yarborough
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator Yarborough:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been nominated by the State Liaison Officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Texas and have been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. Senator John G. Tower and the appropriate Representatives have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Liaison Officer, Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, Post Office Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.

Director

Enclosures

OCT 14 1970

Entered in the National Register _____

cc: Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, Post Office Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711

Duplicate letter sent to: Hon. John G. Tower
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

SMarusin:drs

10/9/70

Director, Southwest Region
LL: Mr. Melvin
T

HR

Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

TEXAS

Pampall-Day House
French Home Trading Post
Fort House
Merrell (Captain Nelson) House
Inn at Brushy Creek
Mile Canyon
Fredericksburg Historic District

Brenham, Texas
Beaumont, Texas
Waco, Texas
Round Rock, Texas
Round Rock, Texas
Langtry, Texas
Fredericksburg, Texas

OCT 27 1970

SMarusin
10/9/70
Connelly 10-15
Freema
10/24
T. Wood
10/22
E. Tol 10/23

H30-HR

Hon. J. J. (Jake) Pickle
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Pickle:

We are pleased to inform you that the historic properties listed on the enclosure have been nominated by the State Liaison Officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Texas and have been entered into the National Register of Historic Places. Senators Ralph W. Yarborough and John G. Tower have also been provided with this information. By copy of this letter, the State Liaison Officer, Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, Post Office Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711, has likewise been notified. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) GEORGE B. HARTZOG, JR.

Director

Enclosures

OCT 14 1970

Entered in the National Register

cc: Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, Post Office Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711

Director, Southwest Region

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR

SMarusin:drs

10/9/70

LL: Mr. Melvin
T
HR

Properties added to the National Register of Historic Places

TEXAS

Merrell (Captain Nelson) House

Round Rock, Texas

Inn at Srasby Creek

Round Rock, Texas