

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:	Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
	JAN 20 1972	

1. NAME

COMMON:
W. W. Browning House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
3/5 mile south of Highway 290 and FM 1155 intersection

CITY OR TOWN:
Chappell Hill

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Texas	048	Washington	477

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"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Col. Harvie R. Matthews

STREET AND NUMBER:
Church Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Chappell Hill

STATE:	CODE
Texas	048

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Brenham

STATE	CODE
Texas	048

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1936** Federal State County Local

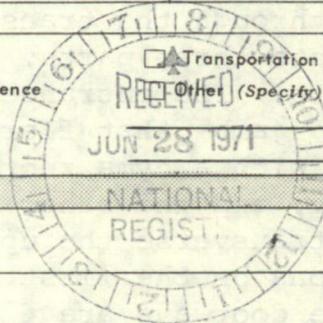
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:	CODE
DC	08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER:
FOR NPS USE ONLY

JAN 20 1972

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" 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

According to family tradition, construction on the W. W. Browning plantation house had to be undertaken a second time after a storm blew down the first framing. Consequently, when the framing was replaced, Browning built a massive, solid structure using only heavy timbers which were mortised and pegged.

The two-story raised frame structure is a large, nearly square block in the Greek Revival style, surmounted by a hipped roof with a flat deck in the center. The size, massing and strong roof line recalls some of the eighteenth century Georgian houses of Virginia (D.B. Alexander, p.246). While very massive in proportion, the Greek Revival detailing throughout the structure is extremely fine and often very delicate.

The house has a flat-roofed two-story portico on the principal of north facade that covers the broad double-door entrance. The entranceway has wide, panelled doors flanked by pilasters which separate the sidelights from the opening and extend through the transom. The transom, divided by the pilasters into three parts, is glazed with twenty-four tall, narrow lights. The entranceway is framed by a lintel with crossets and jambs that flare slightly at the base. A projecting cornice with a cyma recta molding crowns the composition. This doorway, and the other three doorways which allow the breezes to transverse the upper and lower central halls, are all variations on the first floor main entrance composition. All of these doorways are finished with an applied, painted graining.

In plan, the structure has four nearly square rooms on each floor, located to the east and west of the central hall. Fireplaces are located on the inner wall between the rooms. Each room has four large six-over-six light windows with each pane of glass fourteen by twenty inches. Each chambers on both levels on the rear or south facade also has a central door, with transom above, that opens onto the two-story gallery which extends across this facade. The second floor hall and south chambers open onto a balcony which extends the width of the center three bays.

The house appears to have been completed in 1858, for the W. W. Browning papers include a bill of lading for thirty-two blinds at \$5.50 per pair, made by H. Journeay, located on Church Street in Galveston. These blinds were ordered in August, 1858, and sent to Chappell Hill on September 10, 1858.

The house has extremely fine detailing on both the interior and exterior. Although the house is in a very poor state

(See continuation sheet #2)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	TEXAS
COUNTY	Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 20 1972

(Number all entries)

6. (contd.)

Texas Architectural Survey
1965 State
Architecture Library
School of Architecture
University of Texas
Austin, Texas 048



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

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	
TEXAS	
COUNTY	
Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 20 1972

(Number all entries)

7. (contd.)

of repair, the structure still appears sound and reveals the superior quality of its design.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

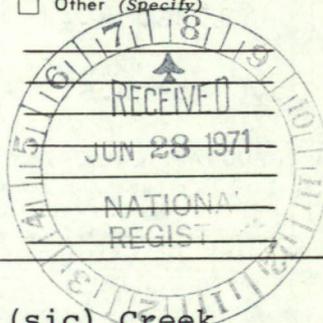
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1858

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

Chappell Hill, originally known as Ceder (sic) Creek Community, is a small town approximately ten miles southeast of Brenham. The rich, productive lands around the creek soon made the community an important agricultural center, and in the 1840s and 1850s, a number of the prosperous planters constructed outstanding Greek Revival residences.

Among the most impressive residences in the area is the Colonel William Westcott Browning plantation house, which was constructed in the late 1850s. Colonel William Westcott Browning, born in South Carolina, November 21, 1808, was among the original settlers of this agricultural community. (It is unclear whether the title "colonel" was earned in military service or was honorary.) Browning, a staunch Methodist, was apparently among those who made Chappell Hill virtually the capital of Methodism in Texas. This predominantly Methodist community also became a religious educational center with the establishment of the "Chappell Hill Male and Female Institute" in 1850. Browning served for a number of years on the board of trustees, and contributed to the financial support of the institution.

W. W. Browning concentrated his energies on his two interests, farming and the Chappell Hill Institute; he apparently had no interest in public service and held no public office in Texas. As a planter in the pre-Civil War period, Browning was very successful and in the 1850s an inventory listed him as having property valued at \$216,790 and sixty-two slaves. (All Our Yesterdays, p.3)

Browning died in 1871 and is buried in the Chappell Hill cemetery. The plantation has remained in the family to the present.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alexander, D. B. Texas Homes of the Nineteenth Century. Austin: The University of Texas Press. 1966.

Bracken, Dorothy Kendall, and Maurine Whorton Redway. Early Texas Homes. Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press. 1956.

Ray, Worth.S. Austin Colony Pioneers. Austin: by author. 1949.
(See continuations Sheet #3)

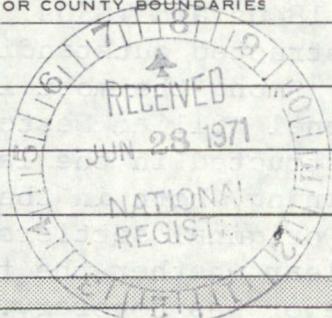
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		30° 07' 35"	96° 15' 27"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **3 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



14/764240
3335770
CO

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Wayne Bell, Project Director**
Gary Hume, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: **Texas State Historical Survey Committee** DATE: **6-21-71**

STREET AND NUMBER: **108 W. 15th Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Austin** STATE: **Texas** CODE: **048**

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: *Melvin J. Salinas*

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: June 23, 1971

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

Ernest A. Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: JAN 20 1972

ATTEST:

W. Bradford
Keeper of The National Register

Date: January 13, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #3

STATE	
TEXAS	
COUNTY	
Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 20 1972

(Number all entries)

9. (contd.)

Winfield, Nath and Judy. All Our Yesterdays. Texian Press:Waco.
1969.



72001376
W. W. Browning House Washington
 Fed

RECEIPT _____ PROPERTY _____ STATE _____ REGISTER NUMBER _____

DATE OF RECEIPT 6/28/71 YES _____ NO _____ NUMBER _____

DATA PAGE _____ ✓ _____

PHOTO (S) _____ ✓ _____ 3

PHOTO DESCRIP (S) _____ ✓ _____

MAP (S) _____ ✓ _____

MAP DESCRIPTION (S) _____ ✓ _____ 1

LOGGED _____ ✓ _____

ACKNOWLEDGE 6/29/71 _____ ✓ _____

RESUBMIT _____



REVIEW _____ OK means 9/3/71

HISTORIAN _____ Okay. Sales 11/2/71

ARCHEOLOGIST _____ OK 3 Maxson 9/5/71

ARCHITECT _____ OK Chambers 9-27-71

ASST. KEEPER _____ OK W.W., 1/13/72

KEEPER _____

ENTRY _____

CHIEF, OAHP _____ EUC 1-20

EDITORIAL PROCESSING, EDITOR _____ OK CD 9/24/71

HABS, '36

Federal Register Entry _____ Date 3/7/72

Annual Edition Entry _____

Logged 1/20/72

Card 1/20/72

WORKING NUMBER 628.71.1

COMMENTS: _____

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Dist #6 Glen Teague



NPS Number _____

Title: W.W. Browning House

Loc. Washington Co, Texas

North elevation (front)

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



WFS Number Jan 20-72

Title: W. W. Browning House

Loc. Washington Co, Texas

South (rear) elevation

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Was. C2
CH 1

NPS Number Jan 20 - 72

Title: W. W. Browning House

Loc. Wash. Co, Texas

Entrance way - north
elevation

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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	Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 20 1972

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: W. W. Browning House
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
3/5 mile south of intersection, US290 and FM 1155
CITY OR TOWN:
Chappell Hill

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
TEXAS	048	Washington	477

3. MAP REFERENCE

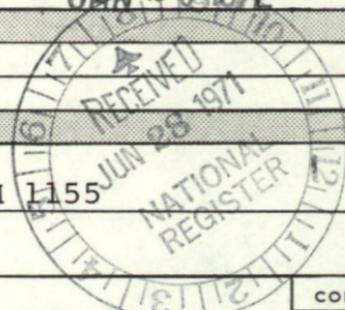
SOURCE:
United States Department of the Interior Geological Survey
SCALE: 1:24000
DATE: 1962, 1963

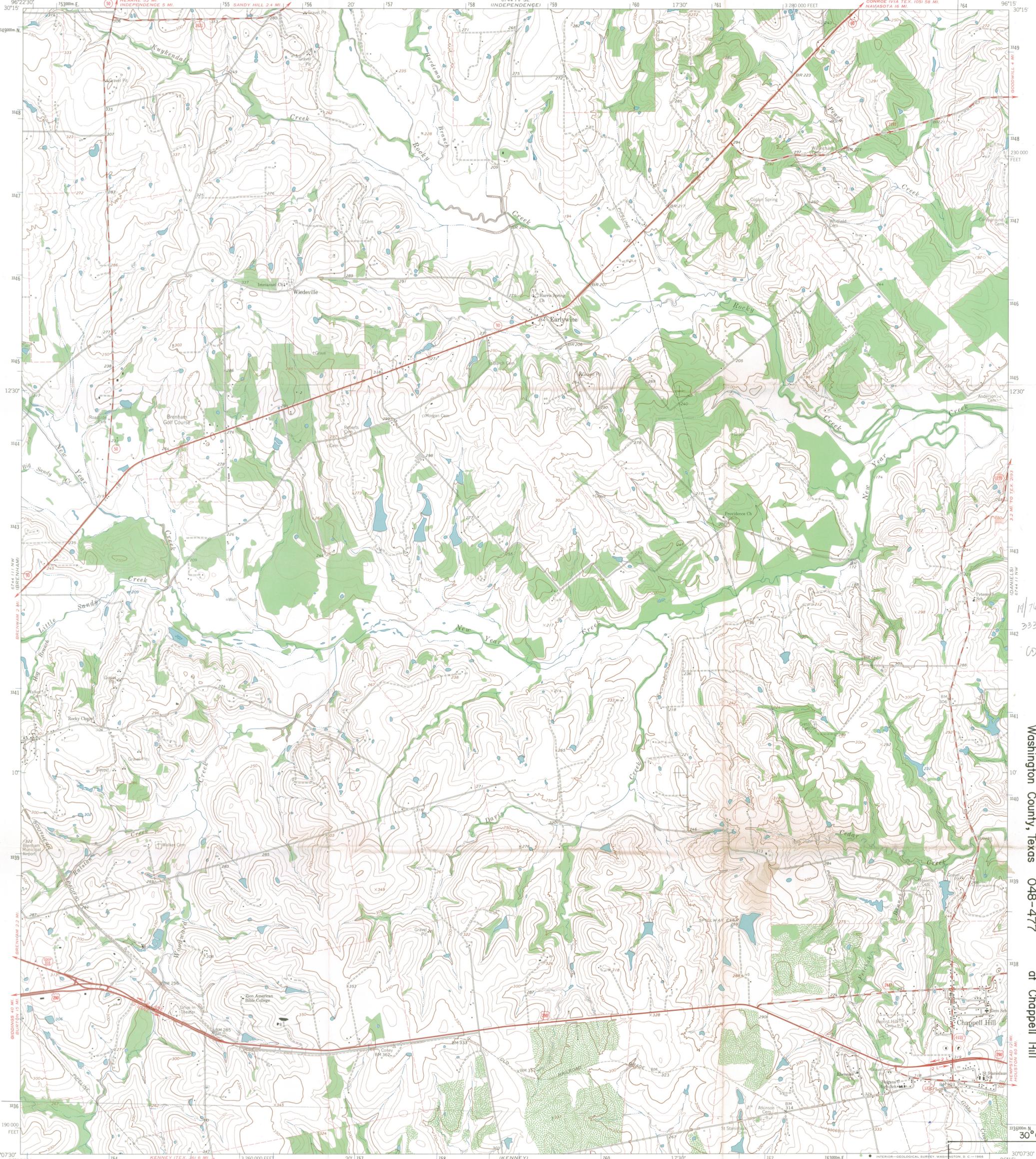
4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- Property boundaries where required.
- North arrow.
- Latitude and longitude reference.

Texas Map Reference #3096-124
Chappell Hill, Texas





674 11 SE
104 11 SW

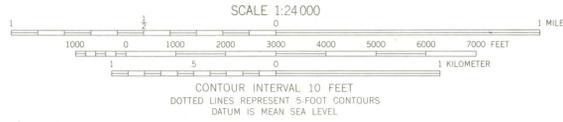
14764 240
3335770
5

W. W. Browning House
3/5 of a mile south of intersection of US290 and FM1155
Washington County, Texas 048-477
at Chappell Hill

104 11 SW
674 11 SE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1962. Field checked 1963
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
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



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route

CHAPPELL HILL, TEX.
N3007 5-W9615 7.5

AUG 19 1966

3096-124

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered JAN 20 1972

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
King William Historic District	San Antonio Bexar County
Browning (W.W.) House	Chappell Hill Washington County
La Villita Historic District	San Antonio Bexar County

Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower
Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen
Hon. Henry B. Gonzalez
Hon. Olin Teague

Director, Southwest Region

HR NRowland:mm 1/18/72

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