

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Texas	
COUNTY:	Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY DATE	MAY 25 1973	

1. NAME

COMMON:

Pompeian Villa

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

1953 Lakeshore Drive

CITY OR TOWN:

Port Arthur

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

9 -- Jack Brooks

STATE

Texas

CODE

048

COUNTY:

Jefferson

CODE

245

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Vacant	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Estate of Lurlie Pedersen - Mrs. Gladys Stewart, Exec.

STREET AND NUMBER:

4039 Sierra

CITY OR TOWN:

Mobile

STATE:

CODE

Alabama

01

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Beaumont

STATE

CODE

Texas

048

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Texas State Historical Survey Committee

DATE OF SURVEY:

 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Texas State Historical Survey Committee

STREET AND NUMBER:

P. O. Box 12276, Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN:

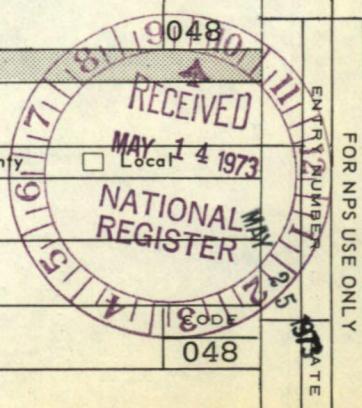
Austin

STATE:

CODE

Texas

048



STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Pompeian Villa stands as one of Port Arthur's few tangible links with the ambitious founders of the city. Built in a Classical Revival style in 1900, the house is a one-story, U-shaped structure with a hipped roof. The main entrance is protected by a central attached portico in the Roman Doric style. The original portico had a raised base encircled by a balustrade of a star motif identical to its crowning balustraded balcony. The entrance has been slightly altered and now serves as a porte cochere with fluted Doric columns on plinth bases, a classical frieze of triglyphs and metopes, a bold cornice, and the decorative balcony.

The large, trabeated windows have solid transoms, decorated with three star-shaped design motifs, identical to the design of the balustrade. The windows have elaborate molded frames with crossettes at the head and flared jambs extending below the sill to the drip course. The main entrance has the same star motif repeated in the transom above the door. The lower quarter of the door has a wooden panel, while the upper portion has a large glazed panel. An inner courtyard, surrounded by a columnated loggia, reflects a Mediterranean influence.

The house was originally intended as a winter retreat for Isaac L. Ellwood, but soon became the permanent residence of George M. Craig, a prominent local businessman, and his family. With the death of the most recent occupants, the house has been vacated. The ever-present threat of destruction, has caused many Port Arthur citizens to concern themselves with preserving this example of the fascinating heritage of their city.

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S



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) 1900

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> losophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> itarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

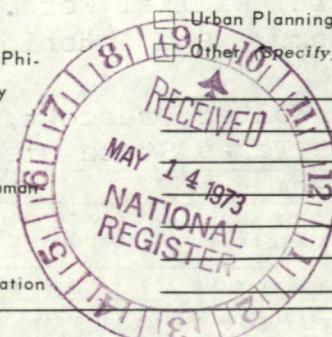
Pompeian Villa, the oldest landmark in Port Arthur, stands today as a reminder of the financial giants that founded and developed the city around the turn of the century. The villa was built by Isaac L. Ellwood in 1900, soon after the founding of Port Arthur.

Port Arthur was named for Arthur E. Stilwell, promoter and president of the Kansas City Southern Railroad, who established the city as a port and Southern terminus for his railroad. An earlier settlement, Aurora, had been founded at this site in 1840, but freezes, hurricanes, and the inaccessability of medical aid caused the area to be abandoned by 1890. Stilwell saw this land around the Sabine Lake as an ideal location for a seaport as well as a tourist attraction. He bought 53,000 acres of land, setting aside 5,000 acres for the city and in 1895 the first crews began developing the area.

Stilwell built some of the finest shipping decks and one of the best grain elevators in the nation. He built a resort hotel and the popular Pleasure Pier, and ran train excursions into Port Arthur at reduced prices in order to popularize the city. Needing additional funding, Stilwell turned in 1898 to a daring financier, John W. (Bet-a-Million) Gates to interest him in refinancing the project. In December, 1898, Gates came to Port Arthur to inspect the ship canal, grain elevator, wharves and docks. He was immediately attracted by the splendid hunting and fishing on Lake Sabine, as well as the commercial propositions in the town, and agreed to refinance the railroad. By 1904 Gates' manipulations had brought the railroad under his complete control, and Stilwell, feeling he had been frozen out, left the city.

When Gates became interested in Port Arthur he also interested his friends in making investments there. Gates, Stilwell and an associate of Gates, Isaac L. Ellwood, bought lots for \$12,000. They commissioned George C. Nimmons, a well-known Chicago architect, to build five cottages on the Sabine Lake front and to erect two mansions for Gates and

(see continuation sheet #1)



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

(Number all entries)

STATE	Texas	
COUNTY	Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
		MAY 25 1973

Ellwood. Colonial Mansion and Ellwood's Pompeian Villa were built on a tract of land on Lakeshore Drive now bounded by Vicksburg and Richmond avenues between Lakeshore Drive and Procter street.

As revealed in his nickname, Gates was a persistent gambler. A natural born super-salesman, Gates rose from the rank of a salesman to that of a dazzling, free-wheeling financial giant in only a few years. In 1873 Gates went to work as a salesman for Isaac L. Ellwood, the major developer of barbed wire. Within two years Gates proved his salesmanship talent and the barbed wire industry began to boom. However, when Gates asked Ellwood to make him a full partner and Ellwood refused, Gates left and formed his own barbed wire company. Ellwood brought injunctions against him, but the results were unsatisfactory. The two men finally compromised and joined as associates in 1897 to form the American Steel and Wire Company.

Both Gates and Ellwood intended their Port Arthur mansions to be winter retreats. Gates moved his family to Port Arthur in 1899 and lived there a few months every year until his death in 1911. The Spindletop Oil Well, which blew up in 1901, only 12 miles north of Port Arthur, assured the continued and active interest of the ambitious Bet-a-Million Gates in this area. He was influential in locating the Gulf and Texaco Oil Refining Companies in Port Arthur, as well as establishing the city as the Port of Entry for the entire Sabine district in 1906. Gates also built a hotel, hospital, library, and business college in Port Arthur.

Ellwood, on the other hand, never settled in Port Arthur, but sold his villa within a year of its completion to James Hopkins, another business friend and associate of Gates. Mrs. Hopkins, after inspecting the area, was unhappy with the mosquitoes and muddy streets and refused to live in Port Arthur. Thus, Hopkins sold his property to George M. Craig.

Craig had been one of the initial settlers of Port Arthur in 1897. He became one of the most influential men in the entire Sabine district and was an energetic leader in Port Arthur's development. His first success was in helping Gates get deep water to Port Arthur for the shipping industry.

(see continuation sheet #2)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	Texas	
COUNTY	Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
MAY 25 1973		

(Number all entries)

He became the first president of the First National Bank in 1900, was top man in the Port Arthur Townsite Company, and was later president of the Port Arthur Water Company. In addition, he was a big factor in helping to get the Gulf and Texaco Oil Refining Companies to locate in Port Arthur and made a special trip to Washington, D. C, with Gates to attempt to designate Port Arthur as the Port of Entry. In 1909 Craig left the First National Bank and became the founder and first president of the Merchants National Bank.

Mr. Gates wanted Mr. Craig as his neighbor and encouraged him to buy the Ellwood home next to him. Craig did buy the house in 1902, but failing to envision the enormous future growth of the Texas Company, he unfortunately paid for the house with his 10 percent stock in that company. Craig and Gates remained close friends until Gates' death in 1911. Craig lived in the Pompeian villa until he died in 1950. The original Gates home was demolished in 1960, but Pompeian Villa stands today as a visible link with those ambitious founders of Port Arthur.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hopping, Richard C. "The Ellwoods: Barbed Wire and Ranching, Museum Journal, VI. Lubbock: West Texas Museum Association 1962.

Stewart, William Ford. Collision of Giants, The Port Arthur Story. San Antonio: The Naylor Co., 1966.

Webb, Walter Prescott, ed. The Handbook of Texas. Austin: The Texas State Historical Association, 1952). see cont. sheet

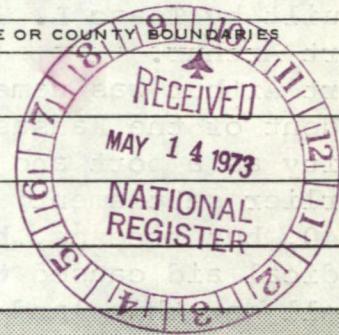
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	OR	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "		Degrees Minutes Seconds 29 ° 52 ' 58 "	Degrees Minutes Seconds 93 ° 55 ' 22 "
NE					
SE					
SW					

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2.5 acres

11. 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



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Gary L. Hume, Project Director
Marie Deacon, Historian

ORGANIZATION DATE
Texas State Historical Survey Committee 5-2-73

STREET AND NUMBER:

P. O. Box 12776

CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE
Austin Texas 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: Truett Latimer
Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: 5-2-73

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

Robert W. Utley
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 5/25/73

ATTEST:

W. D. Mustafas
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 5/23/73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

15/
410890
3305990
HF

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Texas	
COUNTY	Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

(Number all entries)

MAY 25 1973

Bibliography continued:

Webb, Walter Prescott, ed. The Handbook of Texas. Austin:
The Texas State Historical Association, 1952.



PROPERTY Pompeian Villa

WORKING NUMBER 5.14 B. 2908

STATE Tex.

73001967

TECH REVIEW

Photos 4

Maps 1

6/13/73
Jefferson

CONTROL REVIEW

cm

5-18-

73

OK

HISTORIAN

Jerry - this is interesting. Do you know Richard Hopping, who wrote the article on the Ellwoods? Accept- Ann 5/18/73 Accept 5/21/73

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Accept
KH
5/21/73

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

OPB 9
5/23/73

KEEPER

Wm
5/23

National Register write-up

Send-back

Federal Register entry 7-3-73

Re-submit

Entered

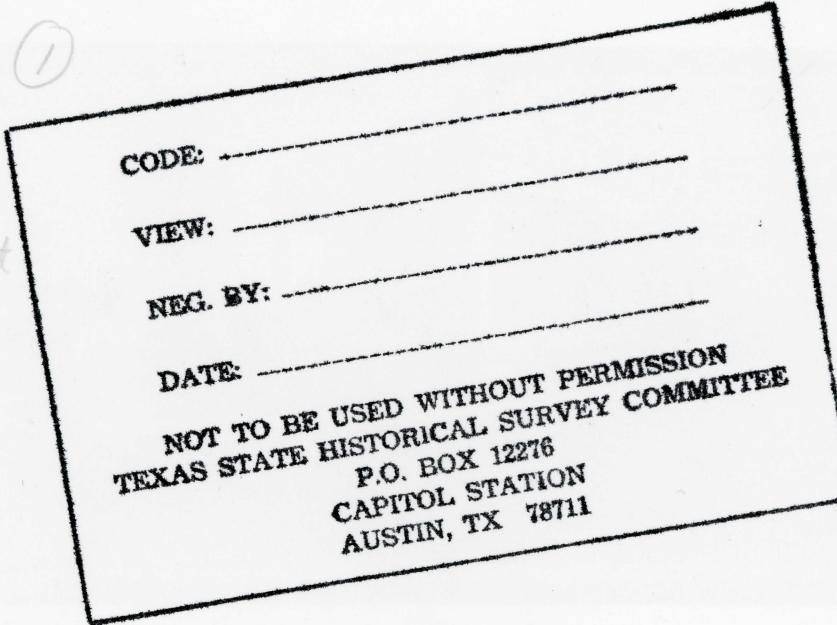
MAY 25 1973



NPS Number 5.25.73

Title: Pompeian Villa ①

Loc: Jefferson Co., Tex.
New from the southeast
of Pompeian Villa



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

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STATE	Texas	
COUNTY	Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
MAY 25 1973		

1. NAME

COMMON: Pompeian Villa

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

1953 Lakeshore Drive

CITY OR TOWN:

Port Arthur

STATE:

Texas

CODE

048

COUNTY:

Jefferson

CODE

245

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee

DATE OF PHOTO: unknown (pre-1960)

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

Texas State Historical Survey Committee

MAY 14 1973

NATIONAL
REGISTER

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View from the Southeast of Pompeian Villa.
The Gates Home is in the background.



NPS Number 5.25.73

Title: Pompeian Villa

Loc. Jefferson Co. Texas (2)
View from the rear
of the garage

CODE: _____

VIEW: _____

NEG. BY: _____

DATE: _____

NOT TO BE USED WITHOUT PERMISSION
TEXAS STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE
P.O. BOX 12276
CAPITOL STATION
AUSTIN, TX 78711

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

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1. NAME

COMMON: Pompeian Villa

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

1953 Lakeshore Drive

CITY OR TOWN:

Port Arthur

STATE:

Texas

CODE

048

COUNTY:

Jefferson

CODE

245

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee

DATE OF PHOTO: March, 1973

NEGATIVE FILED AT:

Texas State Historical Survey Committee

MAY 14 1973

NATIONAL
REGISTER

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View from the rear of the loggia, which encloses the inner courtyard.

STATE	Texas	
COUNTY	Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
MAY 25 1973		

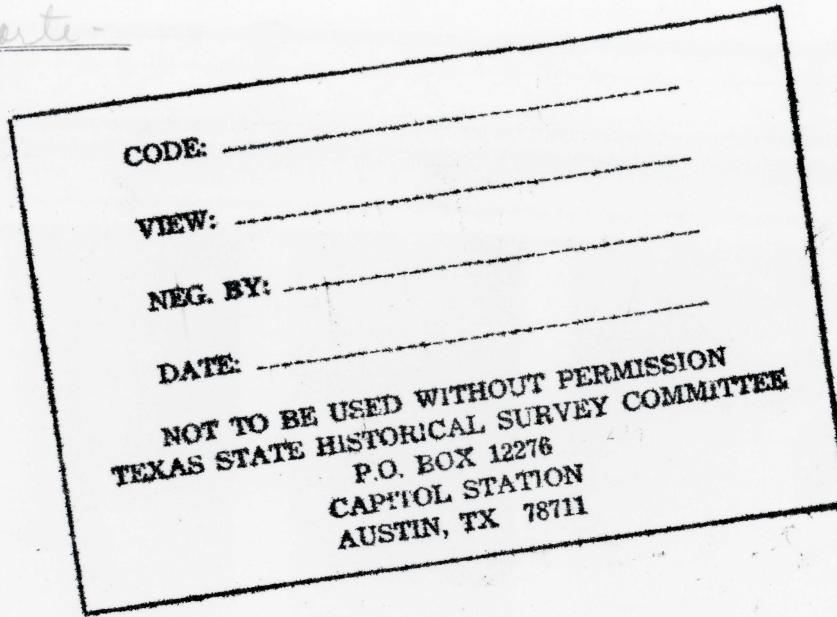


NPS Number 5.25.73

Title: Pompeian Villa

Loc. Jefferson Co., Texas (3)

Detail of the front
entrance and porte-
cochere



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE	Texas	
COUNTY	Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
MAY 25 1973		

1. NAME

COMMON: Pompeian Villa

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

1953 Lakeshore Drive

CITY OR TOWN:

Port Arthur

STATE:

Texas

CODE

048

COUNTY:

Jefferson

CODE

245

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Texas State Historical Survey Committee

DATE OF PHOTO: March, 1973

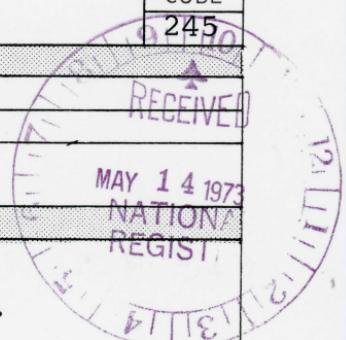
NEGATIVE FILED AT:

Texas State Historical Survey Committee

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Detail of the East entrance and porte-cochere.





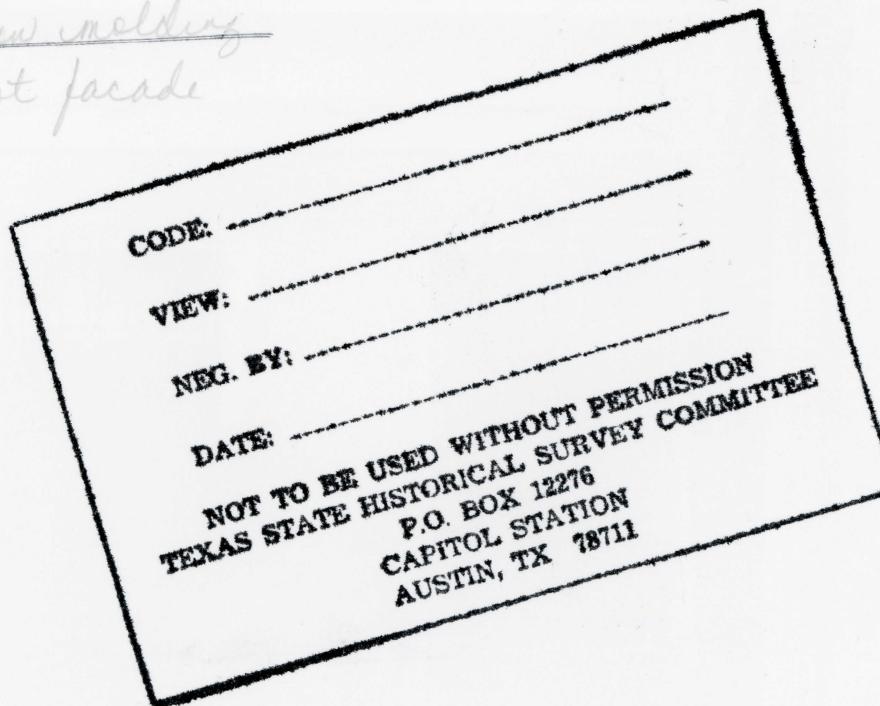
NPS Number 5.25.73

Title: Penitentiary Villa

Loc. Jefferson Co., Texas

Detail of the cornice
and window molding
on the east facade

(4)



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

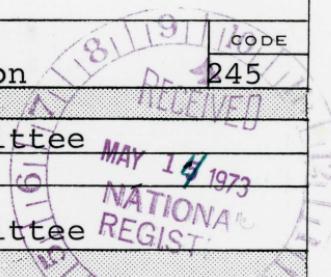
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

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STATE	Texas	
COUNTY	Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	
MAY 25 1973		

1. NAME		
COMMON:	Pompeian Villa	
AND/OR HISTORIC:		
2. LOCATION		
STREET AND NUMBER: 1953 Lakeshore Drive		
CITY OR TOWN: Port Arthur		
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:
Texas	048	Jefferson
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT:	Texas State Historical Survey Committee	
DATE OF PHOTO:	March, 1973	
NEGATIVE FILED AT:	Texas State Historical Survey Committee	
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		
Detail of the cornice and window molding on the east facade.		



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Pompeian Villa

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

1953 Lakeshore Drive

CITY OR TOWN:

Port Arthur

STATE:

Texas

CODE

048

COUNTY:

Jefferson

CODE

245

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U. S. Geological Survey

SCALE: 1:24000

DATE: 1957

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

Texas map reference # 2993E333

STATE	Texas		
COUNTY	Jefferson		
FOR NPS USE ONLY			
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE 25 1975 MAY		
RECEIVED MAY 14 1973 NATIONAL REGISTER			

APR 10 1972

Hon. Jack Brooks
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Brooks:

We are pleased to acknowledge your inquiry in behalf of Mr. W. F. Fredeman concerning the preservation and restoration of Pompeian Village located in Port Arthur, Texas.

We appreciate your interest in this matter and will provide you a reply at our earliest opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

George B. Hartzog, Jr.

Director

cc:

(LS)

FNP:CRBraxton:dvt:4-7-72

H34-HR

APR 20 1972

Jefferson
Beaumont

Beaumont
FBSARLES
S. Bradford
W. McLaughlin
R. Utley
Wood & Co
Landon
4/20

Hon. Jack Brooks
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Brooks:

Thank you for your inquiry on behalf of Mr. W. F. Freedman concerning the possibility of Federal funding for preservation of the Pompeian Villa in Port Arthur, Texas.

We are enclosing a folder, "The National Register of Historic Places," and a fact sheet describing the grants-in-aid program authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (80 Stat. 915), as amended. A property must be listed on the National Register and must accord with an approved State Historic Preservation Plan before it can be considered for a matching grant under this program. At present the grants-in-aid program is funded at a level far below the total of matching funds available from the States and, consequently, only a portion of grant applications can be approved. The "Budget of the United States for Fiscal Year 1973," under "Preservation of Historic Property, National Park Service," page 586, requests \$6,205,000 for grants-in-aid. This is an increase of \$225,000 over the program's 1972 appropriation of \$5,980,000 but still far below the 1973 authorization of \$15 million.

Nominations to the National Register, as well as applications for matching grants, generally are made by the States through the State Liaison Officer for historic preservation. The Texas State Liaison Officer is listed on the second page of the fact sheet.

The folder also lists related programs of other agencies that may interest Mr. Freedman.

(CL-29203)

✓ (BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR)

Pompeian 4-19
Texas Gen.

We appreciate your interest in the programs of the National Park Service.

Sincerely yours,

Robert M. Utley

Director

Office of Archeology

and Historic Preservation

Enclosures (Constituent's material returned)

cc:

Mr. Truett Latimer,
Executive Director
Texas State Historical Survey Committee
Post Office Box 12276
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711) w/c of inc.

CL

Director, Southwest Region) w/c of inc.
LS)

I - Mr. Winge
HR)

FNP:FSarles:lbb:4-19-72

PORT ARTHUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PORt ARTHUR, TEXAS 77640

March 10, 1972

Congressman Jack Brooks
U. S. Capital Building
Washington, D. C.

MAR 16 1972

Dear Jack:

The Port Arthur Historical Society has compiled the enclosed history of the 1953 Lakeshore Drive "Pompeian Village" for study by your commission. It is the sincere hope that they will see fit to grant us enough money to begin at once to preserve and restore Port Arthur's oldest and last existing landmark. The house and three acres of grounds can be purchased for around thirty thousand dollars.

Port Arthur, in 1973, celebrates its Diamond Jubilee, and this would be a great step in that direction.

No monies have ever been allotted this community for the preservation of its past. Our people are, for the most part, good working people, our city being heavily industrialized.

In June, 1964, we became a non-profit State Chartered Organization. Charter number 204945 was issued to us. Account No. 1,154,922 was given us by Mr. Robert S. Calvert, Comptroller of Public Accounts, Austin, Texas.

All the assistance that you can give us to further this endeavor will be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mrs. W. F. Fredeman

Mr. W. F. Fredeman, President
221 Dryden Place
Port Arthur, Texas 77640

WFF:pwb

1.

POMPEIAN VILLA, 1953 Lakeshore drive

Built in 1900 by Isaac Ellwood, an associate of John W. (Bet-a-Million) Gates, financier and philanthropist, the Pompeian villa, still standing at its original site, 1953 Lakeshore drive, is the only structure, remaining intact in Port Arthur indicative of those days when Arthur E. Stilwell's "Dream City" was becoming a reality and the Spindletop gusher brought Gates into the picture.

When Gates became interested in Port Arthur, he also interested his friends in making investments here ... especially Isaac Ellwood, wholesale hardware dealer, and James Hopkins, the Diamond Match king.

The three purchased a tract of land on Lakeshore drive, bounded by Vicksburg and Richmond avenues between Lakeshore drive and Proctor street.

Ellwood was a friend of Gates and had hired him to sell his barbed wire fencing. When Gates demanded half interest in Ellwood's company and Ellwood refused, Gates started his own barbed wire plant. Ellwood secured injunctions against him but found the results unsatisfactory. They compromised -- and again became associates.

Ellwood and Gates decided to build their winter homes in Port Arthur. Ellwood's home was to be a Pompeian villa with an inner court with the grounds forming an elaborate Italian setting. Gates' home was to be a palatial Colonial mansion. Each cost \$50,000.

Hopkins never built on his land. A year after the Ellwood home was completed, he purchased it.

However, when Mrs. Hopkins and their two daughters came here, Mrs. Hopkins found the mosquitoes and muddy streets too much to contend with.

For awhile officials of the Guffey Petroleum Company rented the house.

Then George M. Craig, who was living at Hotel Sabine with his wife and children, offered to rent the Pompeian villa. After living there a year, Craig purchased the beautiful house from Hopkins.

For the house, Craig gave Hopkins his 10 per cent of Texaco Company stock. The Texas Company, one of many oil companies that sprang up overnight in which Gates was interested, had been capitalized at \$100,000. Craig had invested \$10,000 in the new venture.

Asked later by his daughter, Mrs. Bennett C. Germain, why he gave up all his Texas Company stock for the house, Craig said: "Oil companies were a dime a dozen then. How did I know The Texas Company would survive?"

Today Mrs. Germain figures the house would be worth some \$8 million dollars for that 10 per cent of The Texas Company!

POMPEIIAN VILLA, 1953 Lakeshore drive, 1900

MARCH 24, 1900 -- The Port Arthur Herald carried the following news story, captioned, "Two Palatial Homes":

"Ground was broken Monday for the Gates and Ellwood residence a Pompeian villa and an old Colonial mansion, both to be reproduced in Port Arthur with elaborate settings.

APRIL 9, 1900 -- Work on the Gates and Ellwood mansions is progressing satisfactorily though it is stated that employment would be given to 50 more carpenters if they were to be had. The work on the houses themselves is nearing completion and the large barn is well under way. A number of workmen are also engaged in building the pier out into the lake and in a short time the work of constructing boat houses and pavilions at the lake end of the pier will be begun.

It is estimated that not less than \$20,000 will be expended in beautifying the grounds, which are to be elaborately laid out in imitation of the Pompeian manor.

Here are other items taken from editions of The Port Arthur Herald, 1900:

The bath and toilet fixtures for the Gates-Ellwood cottages arrived Wednesday.

The inclement weather during the first part of the week was quite a drawback in the construction of the Gates-Ellwood houses. The roads were all but impassable in places, making it difficult for contractors to deliver materials on the grounds to keep workmen busy.

Mr. George C. Nimmons, the Chicago architect who made the design for the Gates-Ellwood cottages to be built on the Lakeshore drive, is expected to reach here with the plans this morning.

The Gates and Ellwood mansions are now enclosed and are being pushed to completion with a celerity that seems little short of the magical. A large force of men are employed in the buildings, while others are getting the grounds in shape. The sewers are practically dug and the sewer pipe is on the grounds ready to lay. In their present state of forwardness of construction, it is easy to conjecture how beautiful and imposing they will be when finished. There is no doubt but that they will be ready to be occupied, if not entirely completed by June, the time stipulated by the owners on their recent visit.

Mike Powers has the contract for furnishing the grounds about the Gates and Ellwood homes with shells. He and Pat McGraw went over to Grigsby's Bluff the first of the week and returned with a boatload containing 137 yards of shells.

The lumber is being placed on the grounds for the Gates-Ellwood boat pier. The pier will extend out into the lake a sufficient distance to make a landing for small passenger craft. Its length will be about a half mile and the breadth eight feet. On the end will be a pavilion, something similar to the one

The car of furniture for the Gates mansion, so long delayed, arrived Tuesday and was delivered Wednesday. Mesdames John W. Gates and Charles G. Gates impressed all hands about the premises and the work of opening and placing it in position was done with all possible speed.

A carload of furniture for the Ellwood residence arrived Thursday evening and has been moved and is being put in readiness to receive the Ellwood family shortly.

Here is an item from THE BEAUMONT JOURNAL, 1900:

"In stating that the home of John W. Gates at Port Arthur would cost \$5,000, the Journal made a mistake of \$35,000, as the mansion will cost \$60,000.

"Mr. Isaac Ellwood, his business associate, will also build a \$50,000 residence at the Port, and the two millionaires are expected to expend in the neighborhood of \$500,000 in improving the premises surrounding their palaces.

"Port Arthur, therefore, is to be doubly congratulated, while Beaumont and Jefferson County have cause to congratulate themselves on their good luck."

Mr. P. E. Ellwood, son of Isaac Ellwood, arrived this week in company with his wife, and are at home at their beautiful Pompeian villa on the lake shore. Several van loads of furniture have been received this week, and Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Ellwood are expected down soon to spend some time here.

Additional items in THE PORT ARTHUR HERALD, 1901:

EB. 18, 1901 -- Mr. Isaac Ellwood has sold his beautiful Pompeian villa on Lake Shore drive to Mr. E. R. Hopkins of St. Louis, Mo. At the time Messrs. Gates and Ellwood purchased the lots on which they built their handsome homes, Mr. Hopkins bought lots in that part of the city with a view of building some time in the future.

Mr. Hopkins is a well known capitalist, who has been largely interested in the companies that built the Port Arthur canal and docks, the Kansas City Southern Railroad, etc., and has always taken a warm personal interest in the growth and development of this city with a view of building some time in the future.

The Herald is glad to know that he has acquired this handsome property and hopes he will become so enamored with it and our beautiful little city as to make it his home a large part of every year.

The Ellwood home on Lake Shore drive, now owned by Mr. Hopkins of St. Louis, has been leased by some of the officers of the Guffey Petroleum company and is being fitted up ready for immediate occupancy.

George M. Craig and family have taken up their residence in the



JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE

Mrs. W. F. FREDEMAN
CHAIRMAN
221 DRYDEN
PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS 77640
986-2516

March 10, 1972

Congressman Jack Brooks
U.S. Capital Building
Washington, D.C.

Dear Jack:

The undersigned is in full accord with the request stated here-in.

Sincerely,

Mrs. W. F. Fredeman

Mrs. W. F. Fredeman, Chairman
221 Dryden Place
Port Arthur, Texas 77640

MRS. EDWARD B. GERMAIN
3738 LAKESHORE DRIVE
PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS 77640

March 1, 1972.

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Home of Mr. & Mrs., George M. Craig,
1953 Lake Shore Drive,
Port Arthur, Texas. 77540.

The above house was built in 1900 and was and still could be, in my opinion, the handsomest place in Port Arthur. The place has been neglected for several years, as has been the three acres of grounds. It is a great pity if this place is not restored promptly and used as an asset to Port Arthur.

My father and mother, Mr. & Mrs. George M. Craig, bought this house in 1902 and with their three small children, lived there happily for many years. I married in 1913 and moved to New York, my sister Louise married and moved to Beaumont, my brother, George T. Craig, died when he was thirty years of age, of ruptured appendicitis. Later, my mother died in 1940 and father, in 1950. It then became necessary to sell the old home to Capt. and Mrs. Arne Peterson, who lived there until about four years ago, when they both died and the old house has been vacant since then. If restoration is not begun promptly, it may be too late.

Why do I not buy the place? When my husband died in 1959, I decided to return to Port Arthur to live and at that time tried to buy back the home, but the Petersons refused to sell. not realizing, of course that they were to die so soon. I then bought a lot on Lake Shore Drive and built the house I am now living in. I can not own both houses and maintain them properly.

I do hope that some worthy organization will see fit to restore the place as it could be a great credit to them and a shrine to the people of Port Arthur.

Thanking you,

Bennette Craig Germain
(Mrs. Edward B. Germain.)

Bet-a-million built palatial home here

When the palatial Bledsoe home on Lakeshore drive was razed, one of Port Arthur's early day landmarks was destroyed.

Here is what The Port Arthur News, dated July 3, 1960, had to say in part:

A claw hammer, wrecking bar and lots of back-breaking toil is slowly tearing down a Port Arthur landmark, something that 60 years of nature's best winds, rain and hurricanes couldn't do.

The old Bledsoe home is being razed.

Located just off the 2100 block of Lakeshore drive, the Bledsoe home was for more than 30 years one of the most beautiful homes in Port Arthur. Countless dances and social functions were held on the front porch of the rambling, two-story manor when it was the home of Dr. Murf F. Bledsoe's family.

But the structure's link to Port Arthur's early days is even more impressive.

It was built in 1900 for the internationally famous John W. (Bet-A-Million) Gates, who, with Arthur Stilwell, had the foresight to see Port Arthur the progressive city it is today.

Gates a capitalist with interests in multiple ventures — including the Kansas City Southern railroad — came to Port Arthur in December, 1899, to inspect the ship canal, elevator (grain), wharves and docks.

During his stay, Gates, Stilwell and Isaac L. Ellwood bought 12 lots, bordering on the Sabine lakefront. Soon afterwards, Gates and Ellwood commissioned a well-known Chicago architect to erect for them two

\$500,000 homes.

The structures, a colonial mansion for Gates and a Pompeian villa for Ellwood, were completed in nine months.

Some doubt has been cast by several Port Arthurans whether Gates' mansion actually cost half a million dollars, when at the turn of the century, that much money was worth a conservative two or three times as much as it is today.

However, the cost is believed to have included costly draperies, art work and complete furnishings for the home, which Gates referred to as "his hunting lodge." It was a duplicate of another of his homes in Illinois.

Gates and his family lived in the home only rarely, it was reported, since his interests took him to almost all parts of the world.

In the original construction, the Gates home was just one of several buildings on the estate-sized lot. Two servants quarters, an ice house, a carriage house and even a barber shop were situated at the rear of the mansion. A stone canal, elevator (grain), garage was reportedly built in later years.

Dr. Bledsoe bought the Gates home in 1920. Six years later, he had it moved about 100 feet toward the rear of the original plot to allow for the sub-division of the acreage into what later became, and still is, Bledsoe Place.

The home, with its stately white columns, was remodeled in 1926-27 when five rooms were removed. Originally there were seven bedrooms, a maid's room, play room and six baths upstairs. Downstairs were a morning room, drawing room, reception room, sun porch, den, kitchen, pantry, and two butler's pantries.

Even in 1900, the home was equipped with an inter-communications system, with speakers in many of the original 18 rooms.

Three of the original bedrooms had fireplaces, although the huge mansion was heated by steam. The house had numerous vases, urns and statuettes and many irreplaceable works of art.

The Bledsoes lived in the home until the early 1940's when it was leased to the government as an apartment house during the World War II years. It has been an apartment building ever since.

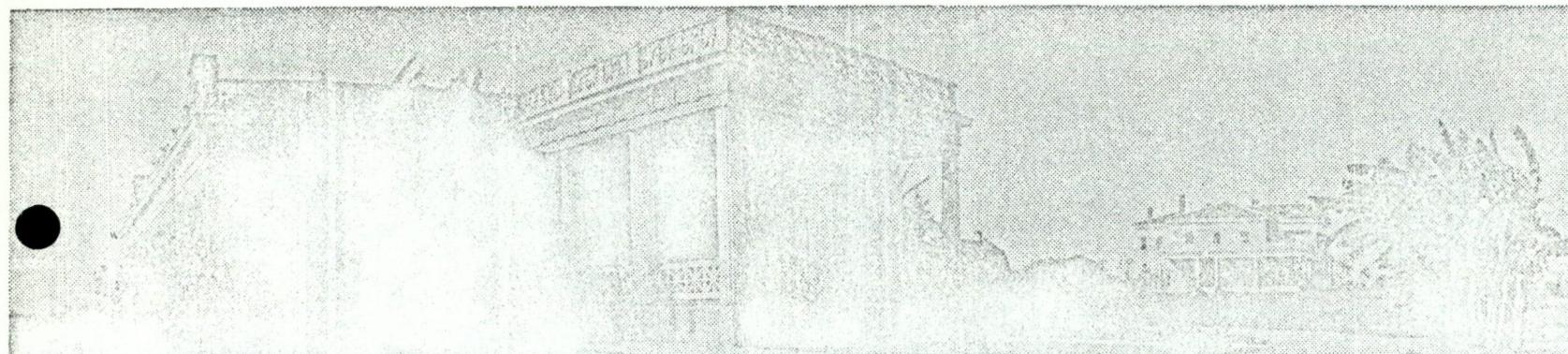
Now the house is being torn down by George Henry, a professional house wrecker, who is selling everything salvageable.

Republic Savings points to growth

Hesitant about taking a job that from the day we opened with the new savings and the doors on September 28, 1955, until I retired in 1967,

over \$20 million in assets with 15 employes.

"In 1967, I began to con-



FINANCIER'S HOMES—Here are the fabulous homes, built by financiers John W. (Bet-a-Million) Gates and Isaac L. Ellwood on Lakeshore drive, facing Sabine Lake, in 1900. Purported cost of the homes was said to be \$500,000. The property where the Masonic Temple now stands was purchased by James Hopkins, president of the Diamond Match company, whose wife refused to live here because of the mosquitoes. Later the Ellwood home, an Italian villa, (in the foreground) was purchased by Hopkins, who was another friend of Gates, whose

sprawling mansion is shown in the background. The Hopkins home was purchased by George M. Craig, president and founder of Merchants Bank, who handled Gates' interests here for many years, and the Gates home was purchased by Dr. M. F. Bledsoe, pioneer physician. The Craig home, later the property of the late Capt. and Mrs. Arne Pederseb, still stands at 1953 Lakeshore drive. The Bledsoe home was razed a number of years ago. (Photo loaned by Mrs. E. B. Germain).

Koppers
come
in 1951

Family

Action Office
For info only

NP

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

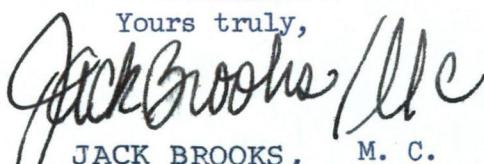
Washington, D.C.

March 27, 1972

Congressional Liaison
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The attached communication
is sent for your consideration.
Please investigate the statements
contained therein and forward me
the necessary information for re-
ply, returning the enclosed corre-
spondence with your answer.

Yours truly,

JACK BROOKS, M. C.

NINTH DISTRICT, TEXAS

CL-29203

MAR 25 1972

POR T ARTHUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

POR T ARTHUR, TEXAS 77640

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ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS
Date Entered MAY 25 1973

Name

Location

Camp Verde (41 KR III)

Camp Verde vicinity
Kerr County

Pompeian Villa

Port Arthur
Jefferson County

Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower
Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen, Jr.
Hon. O. C. Fisher
Hon. Jack Brooks
Director, Southwest Region

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



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H34-PR

MAY 29 1975

Mrs. Pat Wood, Jr.
3217 Woodlawn Drive
Groves, Texas 77619

Dear Mrs. Wood:

Thank you for your letter requesting information on the National Register of Historic Places.

We are enclosing a fact sheet entitled "The National Register of Historic Places" which explains the criteria for nominations and describes related programs of the National Park Service. All nominations are submitted through the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer.

In addition to the Pompeian Villa, other properties in Jefferson County entered in the National Register of Historic Places are French Trading Post, 2995 French Road; McFadden House Complex, 1906 McFadden; and Lucas Cusher, Spindletop Oil Field, all in Beaumont. We are enclosing an order blank for the publication "The National Register of Historic Places." This publication will give you excellent examples and photographs of listed properties in all the States.

We have enclosed a xerox copy of the Pompeian Villa nomination which was submitted by Mr. Truett Latimer, Executive Director, Texas State Historical Survey Committee, Post Office Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711, who could provide you with additional information concerning the preservation program in Texas.

We appreciate your interest in historic preservation programs of the National Park Service.

Sincerely yours,

Charles W. Murtagh

William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register



Enclosures

June 4, 1975

Dear Sir:

In my recent correspondence with you, you sent me a letter (copy with this) and the program of the National Register. You offered to send a copy of the Pompeian Villa nomination. This was not enclosed with your letter. Would you please send me a copy. It would be most helpful.

Thank you,

Mrs. Pat Stodd, Jr.
3217 Woodlawn Drive
Oaks, Pa. 19451

Dorothy

Sent by sej 6/12/75

RECEIVED

JUN 9 1975

DEPT. OF INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Dr. William J. Montagh
Keeper of the National Register
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington, D.C. 20240



PROPERTY TX, Jefferson Co., Pompeian Villa

Date: Oct 3, 1975

National Register property descriptions are being rewritten for entry in the cumulative 1976 National Register publication. In order to make certain that write-ups are correct, please provide the information indicated below within 10 days.* The material should be forwarded directly to the Branch of Publications, National Register.

* Please let us know if additional time is needed.

Attn: Mickey Hutz

202-523-5486

1. Name _____

2. Location _____

3. Ownership Port Arthur Historical Society numerous private?

4. Accessible to the public _____

5. Present use house museum

6. Description (remodeled, restored?) Construction? What is under
the stucco? Frame? Brick? Restored? - date

Thank you.

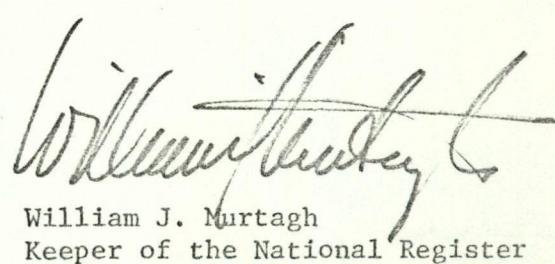
7. Photo _____

8. Other _____

Thank you.

RECEIVED
OCT 8 1975

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION


William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register