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

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1 NAME				
HISTORIC	John Nance Garne	r House	Contract Contract	
AND/OR COMMON	Ettie R. Garner	Memorial Buildi	ng	
2 LOCATION	1	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	With the second second	
STREET & NUMBER	333 North Park S	treet	NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN	Uvalde	VICINITY OF	** CONGRESSIONAL DISTRI	ст. 21
STATE	Texas	CODE 48.	COUNTY	CODE 463
3 CLASSIFIC	CATION		AUGULTA AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AN	
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4 OWNER O	F PROPERTY Cont	act: Mrs. Hugh	Porter, Curator	100
NAME City	of Uvalde		Park Street, Uv	valde.
STREET & NUMBER City	Hall	nie in the second		District Stay
CITY. TOWN Uval	de	VICINITY OF	STATE	exas
5 LOCATION	N OF LEGAL DESCR	RIPTION		
COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS	ETC. Office of the	County Clerk	and to the same	e / Cold
70 m d	Uvalde County	Courthouse, N.	Getty at E. Ma	in
CITY, TOWN	Uvalde			exas
6 REPRESEN	NTATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS		
None				
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DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS			1000	19000
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### 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

\_\_EXCELLENT
X\_GOOD
\_\_FAIR

\_\_DETERIORATED
\_\_RUINS
\_\_UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

\_\_UNALTERED X\_ALTERED

**CHECK ONE** 

X\_ORIGINAL SITE
\_\_MOVED DATE\_\_\_\_\_

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

From 1920 until his wife's death in 1952, Garner made his permanent home in this two-story, H-shaped, hip-roofed, brick house, which was designed for him by architect Atlee Ayers. Also included within the nominated acreage is a one-story, white-painted, framehouse that the Garners occupied from about 1900 to 1920 and in which he lived from 1952 until his death in 1967. This structure stood originally where the brick residence now rests, and to make room for the new house. Garner moved the older one back about 75 additional feet from the street. The frame dwelling remains in the Garner family (contact Mrs. John Currie, Route 2, Box 44A10, Amarillo, Texas, 79101) and serves presently as a rental property. The principal Garner residence, the brick house, was donated by Garner to the city of Uvalde in 1952 as a memorial to Mrs. Garner. It housed the community library until about 1973, but now it functions as both a Garner and a Uvalde County museum. Although library officials removed some key upstairs partitions, they did not disturb the stairway or the first story, and the exterior remains almost exactly as it was in Garner's day. Only one other extant Garner residence is known: Hotel Washington at 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. Garner occupied an apartment there from 1931 to about 1940. Clearly, the Uvalde property commemorates the former Vice President best.

Constructed of variously shaded tan brick, the east-facing Garner House sits on a stone foundation and over a full basement. The structure derives its H shape from a three-bay-wide central block that is flanked on its north and south sides by a pair of rectangular ells. Each roof section is covered with dark wood shingles, and each crest is highlighted by a row of red clay tiles. A plain, boxed cornice with paneled soffit decorates each roof eave. As with all exterior woodwork, this trim is white-painted. Two tan brick exterior chimneys pierce the roof overhang. One stack rises along the rear wall of the central block, while the other soars upward along the rear wall of the south In addition to the two end ells, there are three other appendages to the house. All were part of the original construction, but Garner may have made slight changes in them during his residency. None of them have been altered by the city. A small, two-story, hip-roofed, brick and frame wing or sunporch attaches to the rear two-thirds of the south end of the south ell; a similar but smaller wing abuts the west or rear end of the north ell; and a one-story, shed-roofed, enclosed porch passes across the rear of the central block and connects to each of the ells.

Fenestration in the Garner House is varied--basically according to section--but throughout the house, windows are rectangular in shape and set within white-painted wood surrounds. Almost all windows in the central block and two ells are six-over-six sashes, and have white-

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CONTINUATION SHEET Garner House ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE one

painted stone lintels and brick sills. A double window flanked by two single ones light the second story of the central block's front facade, while triple windows illuminate both the first and second stories of the ells' front facades. Elsewhere window placement is somewhat irregular. The north side of the north ell displays four regularly placed single windows on the second floor, while on the first story, there are three single openings and one small double window, which is positioned at the west end of the facade. The two-story sunporch along the south side of the south ell features eight one-over-one sashes on the top level and seven two-over-two sashes on the ground floor. The rear sunporch has eight one-over-one sashes, four aligned along each side of a center-placed, single, rear door.

Main entrance to the Garner House is through a recessed, three-baywide, front porch sheltered by an overhang of the central block's second story. Two cross-shaped brick pillars support the flat- and stone-arched overhang. Three full-width brick steps ascend from a concrete front walk to the porch's red tile floor, and brick corbeling decorates the central block facade just above the arches. Above this decor on the central bay hangs a sign identifying the houses as the "Ettie R. Garner Memorial Building." From the front porch, five stone-linteled doorways give access to the interior. Opening into the central block are three double, glass doors. Each pair is framed by wood surrounds and topped by a six-light transom, and each individual door consists of six horizontal rows of three glass panes. At each end of the porch, a single but similarly designed door provides access to its respective ell. Other entrances, in addition to these and the above noted rear sunporch door, are a single door with transom and side lights in the first story of the south ell's rear facade and a single, rear door in the ground level of the north ell's rear wing.

The three double, front doors open into a single, rectangular-shaped, north-south receiving hall. Here, as in the remainder of the house, the walls and ceilings are white-painted plaster and the floors are 2 1/4-inch-wide strips of pecan wood. At each end of the hall, a double, glass door--similar to the front entrance doors but without a transom--opens into an ell, and along the rear or west wall of the room, a carpeted, double-flight, open-string, balustraded stairway mounts to the second floor. The area underneath the stair is closed and contains a closet and half bath.

At the north end of the front hall, the double door leads into what served formerly as Garner's dining room. It now houses his collection of gavels as well as sundry other personal memorabilia. From this room a

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CONTINUATION SHEET Garner House ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE two

short corridor near the center of the ell's north wall leads past a pantry and enclosed basement stairway and into the former kitchen at the rear of the ell. This room now houses artifacts related to Garner's hunting and fishing interests. Beyond the former kitchen is a small rear entrance foyer formed by the rear wing.

The double door at the south end of the receiving hall opens into the Garner living room, which fills the entire first story of the south ell. Here now are some Garner and some period furnishings, a brick fire-place, and a collection of Garner's hats. Near the center of the south wall, a single door opens onto the tile-floored sunporch, where Garner usually conducted his various business affairs. Behind or west of the receiving hall is the rear sunporch, which is accessible from the former kitchen and from a single door near the south end of the front hall's west wall. This room is structurally unaltered, but the museum has placed a photographic display board temporarily across the west side of the room and against the eight rear windows and door.

Before the city library tore out the upstairs fixtures and some of the partitions, the second floor contained at least four bedrooms and Garner's study, which was in the west end of the south ell. Despite these needless alterations, the original configuration of the second floor is still clearly indicated, and the stairway's second-floor railing is intact. Most of the space here will soon be utilized for a Uvalde County museum. The attic remains unfinished and is accessible by an enclosed stair near the center of the north side of the north ell.

The Garner House sits on a large, grassy, live-oak-shaded lot and near other dwellings about the same age. A short distance from the north-west corner of the house stands a one-story, hip-roofed, brick, four-car garage erected the same year the house was built. Directly rear of the 1920 residence stands Garner's one-story, gable-roofed, white-painted, framehouse. It is east-facing and T-shaped, with the stem pointing southward. A small, shed-roofed wing attaches to the east side of the stem; an enclosed, shed-roofed porch abuts the opposite or west side of the stem; and a narrower, longer wing adjoins the west, gabled end. Recently a tree fell on the house's front porch, forcing its removal, but the structure appears to be in good condition and otherwise unaltered since Garner's death.

### 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AR	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW						
PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION				
_1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE				
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE				
_1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN				
_1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER				
_1800-1899	COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION				
X.1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	_XPOLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)				
		_INVENTION						

SPECIFIC DATES

1920-52 (1900-67)

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Atlee Ayers

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

From 1902 to 1932 John Nance Garner was one of the most influential Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, and from 1933 to 1941 he was Vice President of the United States. During World War I Garner served as liaison between President Woodrow Wilson and Congress, and in the 1920's, he was the chief Democratic critic of Republican tariff and tax policies. In 1931 he became Speaker of the House and announced that Democrats would cooperate with President Herbert Hoover in combating the depression. Garner supported Hoover's proposed Reconstruction Finance Corporation, but the two men disagreed over the relief question, and when Hoover vetoed Garner's bill for a massive public works program to put the unemployed back to work, cooperation between the chief spokesmen for the two political parties ended.

Few men have exercised as much influence on a particular epoch of history as John Nance Garner did on the New Deal period. At the 1932 Democratic National Convention his timely withdrawal on the third ballot enabled Franklin D. Roosevelt to win the nomination at a time when it appeared almost certain that the New Yorker's delegate strength would begin to decline. As Roosevelt's Vice President, Garner, according to historian Seymour V. Connor, "by persuasion, cajolery, and a mastery of parliamentary tactics ushered the New Deal into law."1 A veteran of 30 years in Congress, Garner, with his numerous friendships in both houses of Congress, proved to be the key individual in the passage of most legislation during Roosevelt's first 6 years in office. By 1938, however, the Roosevelt-Garner relationship cooled because of what Garner perceived as a too leftward slant in administration policy. Consequently new Presidential proposals encountered rough sledding. At this juncture, says biographer Bascom N. Timmons, Garner became "the symbol of opposition to the course Roosevelt was taking and the leader of conservative Democrats. 2

Seymour V. Connor, Texas: A History (New York, 1971), 338.

Bascom N. Timmons, Garner of Texas: A Personal History (New York, 1948).

Connor, Seymour V., Texas: A History (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co., Dorman, Michael, The Second Man: The Changing Role of the Vice Presidency (New York: Dell Books, 1970). 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA circa 3.5 acres. ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY\_ **UTM REFERENCES** A11,41 1412,219,8,01 13,213,115,9,01 VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The boundary of the nominated property coincides with the boundary of the legal tract known as 333 North Park Street, Uvalde, Texas, as it was constituted in 1952 prior to John Nance Garner's donation of his brick residence to the city of Uvalde. LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES STATE CODE CODE COUNTY CODE CODE COUNTY STATE FORM PREPARED BY George R. Adams, Managing Editor; and NAME / TITLE Ralph Christian, Assistant Editor ORGANIZATION DATE American Association for State and Local History April 1976 TELEPHONE STREET & NUMBER 1400 Eighth Avenue South 615-242-5583 CITY OR TOWN Nashville Tennessee 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS: STATE LOCAL\_\_\_ NATIONAL \_\_\_ As the designated State Historic Preservation 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. FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE TITLE DATE FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ATTEST DATE KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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CONTINUATION SHEET Garner House ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE one

Garner's permanent home from 1920 until 1952 was this two-story, H-shaped, hip-roofed, brick house. Also included in the nominated property is the white-painted framehouse in which Garner lived from about 1900 to 1920 and from 1952 until his death in 1967. The only other extant Garner residence is an apartment that he occupied in the Hotel Washington in Washington, D.C. from 1931 to about 1940.

#### Biography

John Nance Garner IV was born November 22, 1868, in Blossom Prairie, Tex., to John N. and Sarah G. Garner. Although his family was fairly well-to-do, his educational opportunities were limited by semifrontier conditions and his formal schooling was sporadic. Fiercely independent, Garner began to support himself at an early age, working at various times as a farm laborer, store clerk, and semipro baseball player. In 1886 Garner entered Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., but his stay proved short because of poor health and educational deficiencies. Returning to Detroit, Tex., where his family now resided, he began to study law under W. L. Sims and M. L. Wright.

In 1889 Garner won admission to the Texas bar and opened his first office, in Clarksville. Three years later his health worsened, and he visited a physician who informed him he had tuberculosis and that his only hope for recovery was to move to a drier climate. In December 1892 he moved to Uvalde, where he was to make his home for the rest of his life. Soon he had a flourishing law practice and became increasingly involved in local politics, particularly after he acquired the <u>Uvalde Leader</u> in payment of a legal fee.

Garner won his first public office in 1893 when he was elected County Judge, and 5 years later he gained election to the Texas House of Representatives. During his two terms in the legislature, he fought pork barrel legislation and won a reputation as an advocate of economy in government and a strong supporter of corporation regulation, particularly of railroads. In his last term Garner carved out his own Congressional district and had it approved by the legislature.

In 1902 Garner was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Texas' 15th Congressional District, a position he was to hold for the next 30 years. Garner devoted his first years in the House to taking care of the needs of his constituents and becoming acquainted with his colleagues. Although he made few speeches and offered no important bills, he favorably impressed the Democratic House leadership. In 1909 Champ

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CONTINUATION SHEET Garner House ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE two

Clark made him assistant whip and 2 years later promoted him to whip after the Democrats won control of the House.

In 1913 while a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Garner helped draft the United States' first income tax law following ratification of the 16th amendment. He is "chiefly credited," says historian Michael Dorman, "with bringing about the graduated income tax system that taxes citizens according to what they earn." Garner's star rose to even greater heights during World War I, when, according to historian Seymour V. Connor, he "visited the White House twice a week for private conferences with the President" and served as Wilson's liaison with Congress.

Although Garner did not officially become minority leader until 1929, in the decade of the 1920's he emerged as the leading Democratic spokesman in Congress, leading assaults on the Republican administrations of Presidents Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover. Particularly critical of tariff increases and Andrew Mellon's efforts to reduce taxes for the wealthy, Garner fought a rearguard action against these proposals and sometimes was able to have them modified. After becoming minority leader, Garner attracted much public attention because of his close friendship with the Republican Speaker Nicholas Longworth, who used the Speaker's limousine to transport Garner to and from the House each day.

In 1931 Garner became the first Democrat since Champ Clark in 1919 to serve as Speaker of the House. Shortly after assuming office, Garner announced that he and his party would cooperate with President Hoover in combatting the depression. Actually, says historian Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., Garner "vacillated between cooperation and obstruction in his attitude toward the administration." Although Garner supported such Hoover proposals as the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, the Texan concerned himself more with developing a Democratic program against the depression. In February 1932, he formed a Democratic Economy Committee whose duty was to do everything possible to balance the Nation's budget. The committee recommended a national sales tax which Garner reluctantly accepted, but efforts to pass such a tax were to no avail. Garner then proposed a massive public works program to put the unemployed back to work. It passed Congress but was vetoed by President Hoover. This veto

<sup>3</sup>Michael Dorman, The Second Man: The Changing Role of the Vice Presidency (New York, 1970), 143.
4Connor, Texas, 311.

<sup>5</sup>Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., The Crisis of the Old Order, 1919-1933 (Boston, 1957), 228.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Garner House ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE three

virtually destroyed efforts at cooperation between the President and the Democrats.

Because of his National prominence, Garner began to receive mention as a potential candidate for the 1932 Democratic nomination for President. Garner disavowed any intention of seeking the office, but his candidacy received impetus from William R. Hearst, who supported the Texan, according to historian Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., because of his "opposition to all foreign entanglements as well as his devotion to economy and thrift." Thanks to Hearst, Garner defeated Alfred E. Smith and Franklin D. Roosevelt in the California primary, and with the solid support of the Texas delegation entered the convention with 90 delegates. After the 3rd ballot, certain that Roosevelt was the popular favorite and fearing a repeat of the long 1924 convention, Garner withdrew, enabling Roosevelt to win on the next ballot. After much persuasion, the Speaker agreed to accept second spot on the ticket.

Garner in 1933 became the first man since Schuyler Colfax in 1869 to succeed to the Vice Presidency from the House Speakership. As Vice President, says historian James T. Patterson, Garner's "old congressional friendships made him a valuable administration man in both houses." A veteran of 30 years in Congress, Garner proved to be the key individual in the passage of most legislation during Roosevelt's first 6 years in office. By 1938, however, relations between the two men cooled because of what Garner perceived as a too leftward slant in administration policy. New Presidential proposals encountered rough sledding, and Garner, according to historian Donald Young, came to symbolize "the resistance within the Democratic party to the Roosevelt leadership." Strongly opposed to the third term, Garner announced his candidacy in 1940 but was swamped in the primaries by "Draft Roosevelt" sentiment.

When Garner left office in 1941 he held an international record, says Bascom N. Timmons, because "he had continuously presided over a par-

Tbid., 286.

James T. Patterson, Congressional Conservatism and the New Deal (Lexington, 1967), 131.

Donald Young, American Roulette: The History and Dilemma of the Vice Presidency (New York, 1965), 171.

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

CONTINUATION SHEET Garner House ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE four

liamentary body for ten consecutive years, a record then and still unequaled." Garner returned home to Uvalde where he devoted himself to his business interests. He passed away on November 7, 1967, 15 days before his 99th birthday, making him the longest-lived President or Vice President in American history.

Bascom N. Timmons, John Nance Garner of Texas on the American Political Stage (Uvalde, Tex., n.d.), 3.

CONTINUATION SHEET Garner House ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE one

New York Times, obituary, November 8, 1967.

Patterson, James T., Congressional Conservatism and the New Deal (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1967).

Schlesinger, Arthur M., Jr., The Crisis of the Old Order, 1919-1933 (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1957).

Timmons, Bascom N., Garner of Texas: A Personal History (New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1948).

, John Nance Garner of Texas on the American Political Stage (Uvalde, Tex.: Garner Memorial Museum, n.d.).

Young, Donald, American Roulette: The History and Dilemma of the Vice Presidency (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1965).



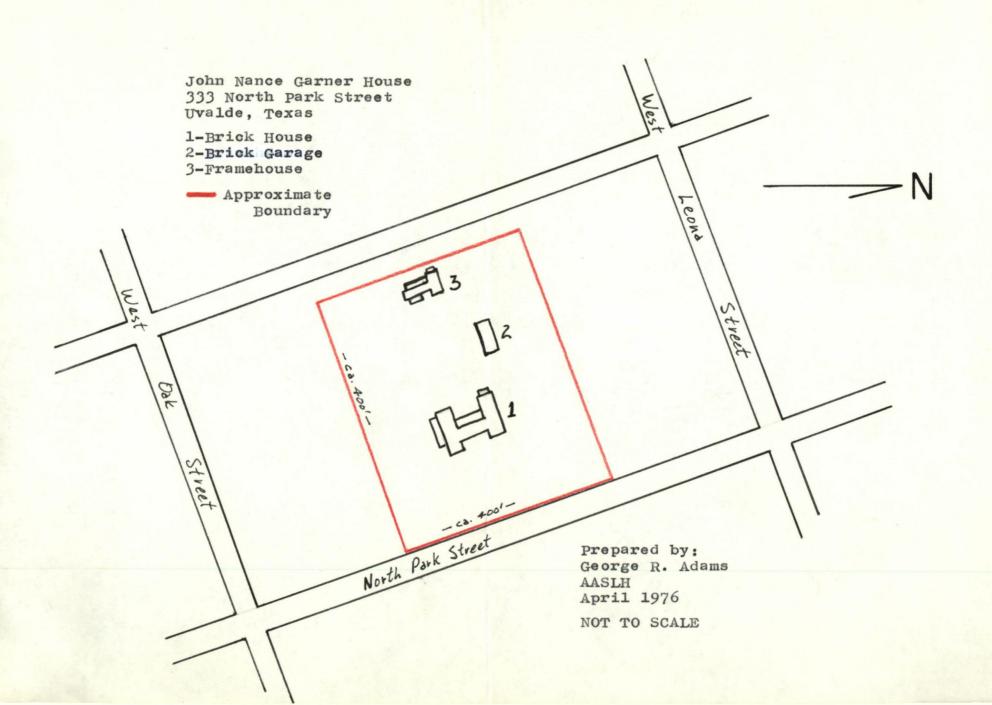
#### Attention: BENJAMIN LEVY

Attached to this inventory is a sketch map based on the best information available to us at the time of preparation of the report. My recommendation, however, is that you either do not use it or that you use it with the awareness that the indicated boundary is only an approximation and that it is not based upon a personal examination of the property's legal description.

what is certain is that the total acreage is under 10, that the entire city block is not included, and that both houses rest on the legal tract known as 333 N. Park.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY

1315 Eighth Avenue South • Nashville, Tennessee 37203 • Telephone [615] 242-5583





John Nance Garner House

Uralde, Texas

March 1976

Photo: AASLH

John Nance Garner House Moto #1

333 N. Parle St.

Uvalde, Tey.

Ceorge R. Adams, MASLH

March 1976

Neg. of Historic Sites Survey, NPS

Brick House: East (front) facade & north side.

REGISTERED NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

168

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John Nance Garner House

AND/OR COMMON

Ettie R. Garner Memorial Building

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

\_\_\_VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

COUNTY

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

**PHOTO CREDIT** 

George R. Adams, AASLH

DATE OF PHOTO

March 1976

**NEGATIVE FILED AT** 

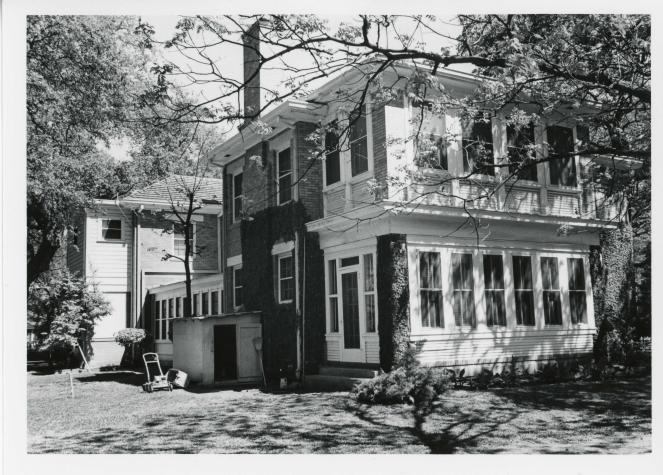
Historic Sites Survey, NPS

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

РНОТО NO.

Brick House: East (front) facade and north side.



Tolu Hance Jarner House Photo #2 333 W. Park St. avalde, Terper George R. Adams, AAShH Narch 1976 Neg-at Historie Sites Survey, MPS Brito House. Celest Crear) focade

REGISTERED NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John Nance Garner House

AND/OR COMMON

Ettie R. Garner Memorial Building

\_VICINITY OF

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Uvalde

STATE Texas

COUNTY

Uvalde

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

George R. Adams, AASLH

DATE OF PHOTO

March 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Historic Sites Survey, NPS

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Brick House: West (rear) facade and south side.

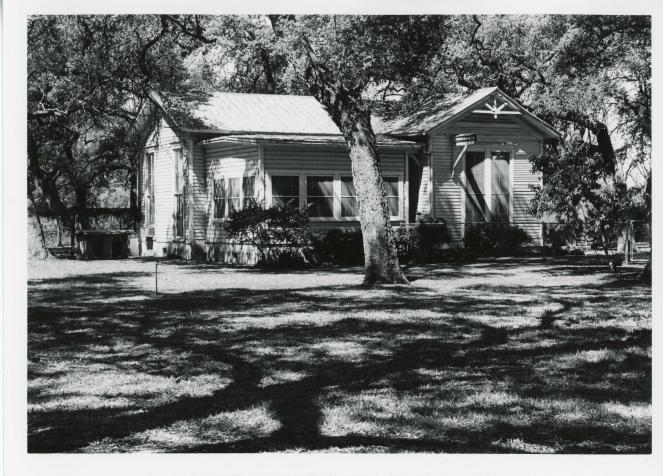


Photo # 3 Tolin Nance Carner House 333 N. Park St. Woulde, Toy. Greorge R. Addus, AASIH Neg at Historie Setter Survey, NPS Franchoure. South end and front (east) fleeade.

> REGISTERED NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

Form No. 10-301 (Rev. 10-74)

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John Nance Garner House

AND/OR COMMON

Ettie R. Garner Memorial Building

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Uvalde

\_\_\_VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Uvalde

STATE

Texas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Series

Texas; Uvalde Quad.

SCALE

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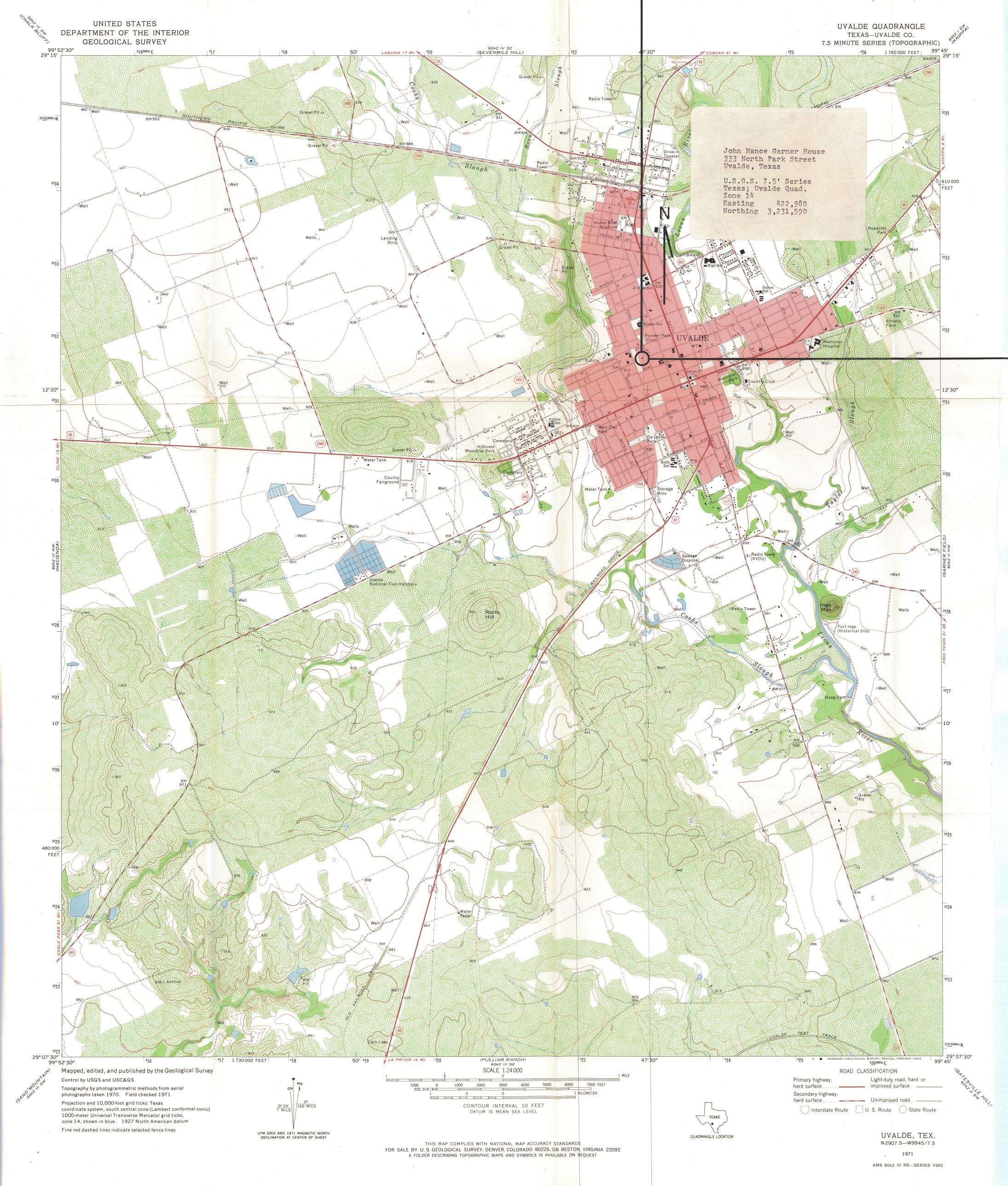
DATE

1971

**4 REQUIREMENTS** 

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- 1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
- 2. NORTH ARROW
- 3. UTM REFERENCES



# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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NAME	John Nance Garn	er House	A ( )
AND/OR COMMON	Ettie R. Garner	Memorial Buildin	ng
LOCATION	1		
STREET & NUMBER	333 North Park	Street	NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN	Uvalde	VICINITY OF	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT . 21
STATE	Texas	CODE 48	COUNTY Uvalde CODE 463
CLASSIFIC	ATION		
CATEGORY DISTRICT  X_BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT	OWNERSHIP  _PUBLIC  _PRIVATE  XBOTH  PUBLIC ACQUISITION  _IN PROCESS  _BEING CONSIDERED	XOCCUPIED  UNOCCUPIED  WORK IN PROGRESS  ACCESSIBLE  XYES: RESTRICTED  YES: UNRESTRICTED  NO	PRESENT USE  _AGRICULTURE X_MUSEUM  _COMMERCIALPARK  _EDUCATIONAL X_PRIVATE RESIDENCE  _ENTERTAINMENTRELIGIOUS  _GOVERNMENTSCIENTIFIC  _INDUSTRIALTRANSPORTATION  _MILITARYOTHER:
	of Uvalde		Porter, Curator orial Museum Park Street, Uvalde.
City	Hall		
Uval	de	VICINITY OF	Texas
LOCATION	OF LEGAL DESC	RIPTION	
COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS,	ETC. Office of th	e County Clerk	
STREET & NUMBER	Uvalde Count	y Courthouse, N.	Getty at E. Main
CITY, TOWN	Uvalde		STATE Texas
REPRESEN  TITLE  None	TATION IN EXIS	TING SURVEYS	
DATE		FEDERALS	STATECOUNTYLOCAL
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CITY, TOWN			STATE

### 7 DESCRIPTION

\_EXCELLENT

FAIR

CONDITION

\_\_DETERIORATED
\_\_RUINS

CHECK ONE

\_UNALTERED

CHECK ONE

X\_ORIGINAL SITE

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

From 1920 until his wife's death in 1952. Garner made his permanent home in this two-story, H-shaped, hip-roofed, brick house, which was designed for him by architect Atlee Ayers. Also included within the nominated acreage is a one-story, white-painted, framehouse that the Garners occupied from about 1900 to 1920 and in which he lived from 1952 until his death in 1967. This structure stood originally where the brick residence now rests, and to make room for the new house Garner moved the older one back about 75 additional feet from the street. The frame dwelling remains in the Garner family (contact Mrs. John Currie, Route 2, Box 44A10, Amarillo, Texas, 79101) and serves presently as a rental property. The principal Garner residence, the brick house, was donated by Garner to the city of Uvalde in 1952 as a memorial to Mrs. Garner. It housed the community library until about 1973, but now it functions as both a Garner and a Uvalde County museum. Although library officials removed some key upstairs partitions, they did not disturb the stairway or the first story, and the exterior remains almost exactly as it was in Garner's day. Only one other extant Garner residence is known: Hotel Washington at 15th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. Garner occupied an apartment there from 1931 to about 1940. Clearly, the Uvalde property commemorates the former Vice President best.

Constructed of variously shaded tan brick, the east-facing Garner House sits on a stone foundation and over a full basement. The structure derives its H shape from a three-bay-wide central block that is flanked on its north and south sides by a pair of rectangular ells. Each roof section is covered with dark wood shingles, and each crest is highlighted by a row of red clay tiles. A plain, boxed cornice with paneled soffit decorates each roof eave. As with all exterior woodwork, this trim is white-painted. Two tan brick exterior chimneys pierce the roof overhang. One stack rises along the rear wall of the central block, while the other soars' upward along the rear wall of the south In addition to the two end ells, there are three other appendages to the house. All were part of the original construction, but Garner may have made slight changes in them during his residency. None of them have been altered by the city. A small, two-story, hip-roofed, brick and frame wing or sunporch attaches to the rear two-thirds of the south end of the south ell; a similar but smaller wing abuts the west or rear end of the north ell; and a one-story, shed-roofed, enclosed porch passes across the rear of the central block and connects to each of the ells.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Garner House ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE one

painted stone lintels and brick sills. A double window flanked by two single ones light the second story of the central block's front facade, while triple windows illuminate both the first and second stories of the ells' front facades. Elsewhere window placement is somewhat irregular. The north side of the north ell displays four regularly placed single windows on the second floor, while on the first story, there are three single openings and one small double window, which is positioned at the west end of the facade. The two-story sunporch along the south side of the south ell features eight one-over-one sashes on the top level and seven two-over-two sashes on the ground floor. The rear sunporch has eight one-over-one sashes, four aligned along each side of a center-placed single, rear door.

Main entrance to the Garner House is through a recessed, three-bay-wide, front porch sheltered by an overhang of the central block's second story. Two cross-shaped brick pillars support the flat- and stone-arched overhang. Three full-width brick steps ascend from a concrete front walk to the porch's red tile floor, and brick corbeling decorates the central block facade just above the arches. Above this decor on the central bay hangs a sign identifying the houses as the "Ettie R. Garner Memorial Building." From the front porch, five stone-linteled doorways give access to the interior. Opening into the central block are three double, glass doors. Each pair is framed by wood surrounds and topped by a six-light transom, and each individual door consists of six horizontal rows of three glass panes. At each end of the porch, a single but similarly designed door provides access to its respective ell. Other entrances, in addition to these and the above noted rear sunporch door, are a single door with transom and side lights in the first story of the south ell's rear facade and a single, rear door in the ground level of the north ell's rear wing.

The three double, front doors open into a single, rectangular-shaped, north-south receiving hall. Here, as in the remainder of the house, the walls and ceilings are white-painted plaster and the floors are 2 1/4-inch-wide strips of pecan wood. At each end of the hall, a double, glass door--similar to the front entrance doors but without a transom--opens into an ell, and along the rear or west wall of the room, a carpeted, double-flight, open-string, balustraded stairway mounts to the second floor. The area underneath the stair is closed and contains a closet and half bath.

At the north end of the front hall, the double door leads into what served formerly as Garner's dining room. It now houses his collection of gavels as well as sundry other personal memorabilia. From this room a

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CONTINUATION SHEET Garner House ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE two

short corridor near the center of the ell's north wall leads past a pantry and enclosed basement stairway and into the former kitchen at the rear of the ell. This room now houses artifacts related to Garner's hunting and fishing interests. Beyond the former kitchen is a small rear entrance fover formed by the rear wing.

The double door at the south end of the receiving hall opens into the Garner living room, which fills the entire first story of the south ell. Here now are some Garner and some period furnishings, a brick fire-place, and a collection of Garner's hats. Near the center of the south wall, a single door opens onto the tile-floored sunporch, where Garner usually conducted his various business affairs. Behind or west of the receiving hall is the rear sunporch, which is accessible from the former kitchen and from a single door near the south end of the front hall's west wall. This room is structurally unaltered, but the museum has placed a photographic display board temporarily across the west side of the room and against the eight rear windows and door.

Before the city library tore out the upstairs fixtures and some of the partitions, the second floor contained at least four bedrooms and Garner's study, which was in the west end of the south ell. Despite these needless alterations, the original configuration of the second floor is still clearly indicated, and the stairway's second-floor railing is intact. Most of the space here will soon be utilized for a Uvalde County museum. The attic remains unfinished and is accessible by an enclosed stair near the center of the north side of the north ell.

The Garner House sits on a large, grassy, live-oak-shaded lot and near other dwellings about the same age. A short distance from the north-west corner of the house stands a one-story, hip-roofed, brick, four-car garage erected the same year the house was built. Directly rear of the 1920 residence stands Garner's one-story, gable-roofed, white-painted, framehouse. It is east-facing and T-shaped, with the stem pointing southward. A small, shed-roofed wing attaches to the east side of the stem; an enclosed, shed-roofed porch abuts the opposite or west side of the stem; and a narrower, longer wing adjoins the west, gabled end. Recently a tree fell on the house's front porch, forcing its removal, but the structure appears to be in good condition and otherwise unaltered since Garner's death.

### 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	_COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
_1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
X_1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY _INVENTION	XPOLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES 1920-52 (1900-67)

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Atlee Ayers

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

From 1902 to 1932 John Nance Garner was one of the most influential Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, and from 1933 to 1941 he was Vice President of the United States. During World War I Garner served as liaison between President Woodrow Wilson and Congress, and in the 1920's, he was the chief Democratic critic of Republican tariff and tax policies. In 1931 he became Speaker of the House and announced that Democrats would cooperate with President Herbert Hoover in combating the depression. Garner supported Hoover's proposed Reconstruction Finance Corporation, but the two men disagreed over the relief question, and when Hoover vetoed Garner's bill for a massive public works program to put the unemployed back to work, cooperation between the chief spokesmen for the two political parties ended.

Few men have exercised as much influence on a particular epoch of history as John Nance Garner did on the New Deal period. At the 1932 Democratic National Convention his timely withdrawal on the third ballot enabled Franklin D. Roosevelt to win the nomination at a time when it appeared almost certain that the New Yorker's delegate strength would begin to decline. As Roosevelt's Vice President, Garner, according to historian Seymour V. Connor, "by persuasion, cajolery, and a mastery of parliamentary tactics ushered the New Deal into law." A veteran of 30 years in Congress, Garner, with his numerous friendships in both houses of Congress, proved to be the key individual in the passage of most legislation during Roosevelt's first 6 years in office. By 1938, however, the Roosevelt-Garner relationship cooled because of what Garner perceived as a too leftward slant in administration policy. Consequently new Presidential proposals encountered rough sledding. At this juncture, says biographer Bascom N. Timmons, Garner became "the symbol of opposition to the course Roosevelt was taking and the leader of conservative Democrats. 2

Seymour V. Connor, Texas: A History (New York, 1971), 338.

Bascom N. Timmons, Garner of Texas: A Personal History (New York, 1948).

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CONTINUATION SHEET Garner House ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE one

Garner's permanent home from 1920 until 1952 was this two-story, H-shaped, hip-roofed, brick house. Also included in the nominated property is the white-painted framehouse in which Garner lived from about 1900 to 1920 and from 1952 until his death in 1967. The only other extant Garner residence is an apartment that he occupied in the Hotel Washington in Washington. D.C. from 1931 to about 1940.

#### Biography

John Nance Garner IV was born November 22, 1868, in Blossom Prairie, Tex., to John N. and Sarah G. Garner. Although his family was fairly well-to-do, his educational opportunities were limited by semifrontier conditions and his formal schooling was sporadic. Fiercely independent, Garner began to support himself at an early age, working at various times as a farm laborer, store clerk, and semipro baseball player. In 1886 Garner entered Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., but his stay proved short because of poor health and educational deficiencies. Returning to Detroit, Tex., where his family now resided, he began to study law under W. L. Sims and M. L. Wright.

In 1889 Garner won admission to the Texas bar and opened his first office, in Clarksville. Three years later his health worsened, and he visited a physician who informed him he had tuberculosis and that his only hope for recovery was to move to a drier climate. In December 1892 he moved to Uvalde, where he was to make his home for the rest of his life. Soon he had a flourishing law practice and became increasingly involved in local politics, particularly after he acquired the <u>Uvalde Leader</u> in payment of a legal fee.

Garner won his first public office in 1893 when he was elected County Judge, and 5 years later he gained election to the Texas House of Representatives. During his two terms in the legislature, he fought pork barrel legislation and won a reputation as an advocate of economy in government and a strong supporter of corporation regulation, particularly of railroads. In his last term Garner carved out his own Congressional district and had it approved by the legislature.

In 1902 Garner was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Texas' 15th Congressional District, a position he was to hold for the next 30 years. Garner devoted his first years in the House to taking care of the needs of his constituents and becoming acquainted with his colleagues. Although he made few speeches and offered no important bills, he favorably impressed the Democratic House leadership. In 1909 Champ

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PAGE two

Clark made him assistant whip and 2 years later promoted him to whip after the Democrats won control of the House.

In 1913 while a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Garner helped draft the United States' first income tax law following ratification of the 16th amendment. He is "chiefly credited," says historian Michael Dorman, "with bringing about the graduated income tax system that taxes citizens according to what they earn." Garner's star rose to even greater heights during World War I, when, according to historian Seymour V. Connor, he "visited the White House twice a week for private conferences with the President" and served as Wilson's liaison with Congress.

Although Garner did not officially become minority leader until 1929, in the decade of the 1920's he emerged as the leading Democratic spokesman in Congress, leading assaults on the Republican administrations of Presidents Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover. Particularly critical of tariff increases and Andrew Mellon's efforts to reduce taxes for the wealthy, Garner fought a rearguard action against these proposals and sometimes was able to have them modified. After becoming minority leader, Garner attracted much public attention because of his close friendship with the Republican Speaker Nicholas Longworth, who used the Speaker's limousine to transport Garner to and from the House each day.

In 1931 Garner became the first Democrat since Champ Clark in 1919 to serve as Speaker of the House. Shortly after assuming office, Garner announced that he and his party would cooperate with President Hoover in combatting the depression. Actually, says historian Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., Garner "vacillated between cooperation and obstruction in his attitude toward the administration." Although Garner supported such Hoover proposals as the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, the Texan concerned himself more with developing a Democratic program against the depression. In February 1932, he formed a Democratic Economy Committee whose duty was to do everything possible to balance the Nation's budget. The committee recommended a national sales tax which Garner reluctantly accepted, but efforts to pass such a tax were to no avail. Garner then proposed a massive public works program to put the unemployed back to work. It passed Congress but was vetoed by President Hoover. This veto

<sup>3</sup>Michael Dorman, The Second Man: The Changing Role of the Vice Presidency (New York, 1970), 143.

4Connor, Texas, 311.

<sup>5</sup>Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., The Crisis of the Old Order, 1919-1933 (Boston, 1957), 228.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Garner House ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE three

virtually destroyed efforts at cooperation between the President and the Democrats.

Because of his National prominence, Garner began to receive mention as a potential candidate for the 1932 Democratic nomination for President. Garner disavowed any intention of seeking the office, but his candidacy received impetus from William R. Hearst, who supported the Texan, according to historian Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., because of his "opposition to all foreign entanglements as well as his devotion to economy and thrift." Thanks to Hearst, Garner defeated Alfred E. Smith and Franklin D. Roosevelt in the California primary, and with the solid support of the Texas delegation entered the convention with 90 delegates. After the 3rd ballot, certain that Roosevelt was the popular favorite and fearing a repeat of the long 1924 convention, Garner withdrew, enabling Roosevelt to win on the next ballot. After much persuasion, the Speaker agreed to accept second spot on the ticket.

Garner in 1933 became the first man since Schuyler Colfax in 1869 to succeed to the Vice Presidency from the House Speakership. As Vice President, says historian James T. Patterson, Garner's "old congressional friendships made him a valuable administration man in both houses." A veteran of 30 years in Congress, Garner proved to be the key individual in the passage of most legislation during Roosevelt's first 6 years in office. By 1938, however, relations between the two men cooled because of what Garner perceived as a too leftward slant in administration policy. New Presidential proposals encountered rough sledding, and Garner, according to historian Donald Young, came to symbolize "the resistance within the Democratic party to the Roosevelt leadership." Strongly opposed to the third term, Garner announced his candidacy in 1940 but was swamped in the primaries by "Draft Roosevelt" sentiment.

When Garner left office in 1941 he held an international record, says Bascom N. Timmons, because "he had continuously presided over a par-

Ibid., 286.

James T. Patterson, Congressional Conservatism and the New Deal (Lexington, 1967), 131.

Donald Young, American Roulette: The History and Dilemma of the Vice Presidency (New York, 1965), 171.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Garner House ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE four

liamentary body for ten consecutive years, a record then and still unequaled." Garner returned home to Uvalde where he devoted himself to his business interests. He passed away on November 7, 1967, 15 days before his 99th birthday, making him the longest-lived President or Vice President in American history.

Bascom N. Timmons, John Nance Garner of Texas on the American Political Stage (Uvalde, Tex., n.d.), 3.

CONTINUATION SHEET Garner House ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE one

New York Times, obituary, November 8, 1967.

- Patterson, James T., Congressional Conservatism and the New Deal (Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1967).
- Schlesinger, Arthur M., Jr., The Crisis of the Old Order, 1919-1933 (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1957).
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- , John Nance Garner of Texas on the American Political Stage (Uvalde, Tex.: Garner Memorial Museum, n.d.).
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9 MA	IOR	BIBLIO	GRAPI	HICAL.	REFER	ENCES
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Connor, Seymour V., Texas: A Histor 1971).	y (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Co.
Dorman, Michael, The Second Man: The dency (New York: Dell Books, 1	e Changing Role of the Vice Presi-
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ORGANIZATION Ralph Christi	ms, Managing Editor; and an, Assistant Editor  DATE tate and Local History April 1976
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1400 Eighth Avenue South	615-242-5583 STATE
Nashville	Tennessee
12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OF THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS P	FICER CERTIFICATION
NATIONAL STATE	LOCAL
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National	
hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.	and certify that it has been evaluated according to the
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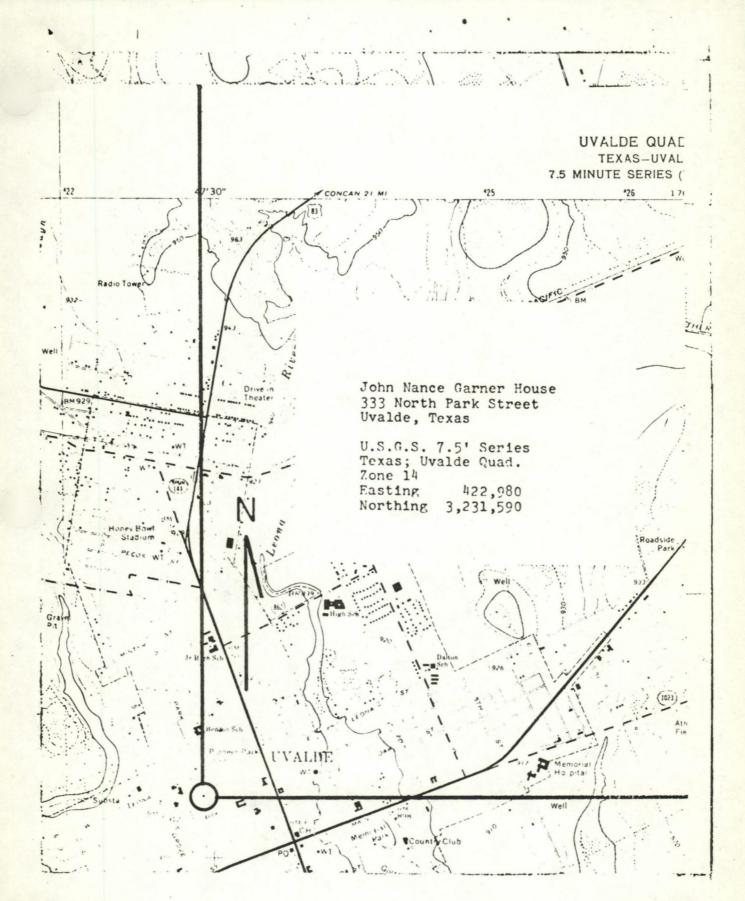


John Nance Garner House

Uralde, Texas

March 1976

Photo: AASLH



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Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

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	TYPE ALL ENTR	IES COMPLETE APPLICAE	BLE SECTIONS
NAME			
HISTORIC	John Nance G	arner House	
AND/OR COMMON	Ettie R. Gar	ner Memorial Buildi	ing
LOCATION	V		
STREET & NUMBER	333 North Par	rk Street	NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CITY, TOWN	Uvalde	VICINITY OF	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT . 21
STATE	Texas	CODE 48.	COUNTY Uvalde CODE 46
CLASSIFIC	CATION		
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### 7 DESCRIPTION

EXCELLENT

X GOOD

FAIR

CONDITION

\_\_DETERIORATED
\_\_RUINS
\_\_UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

\_UNALTERED

**CHECK ONE** 

X\_ORIGINAL SITE
\_\_MOVED DATE\_\_\_\_\_

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CONTINUATION SHEET Garner House ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE one

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CONTINUATION SHEET Garner House ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE two

short corridor near the center of the ell's north wall leads past a pantry and enclosed basement stairway and into the former kitchen at the rear of the ell. This room now houses artifacts related to Garner's hunting and fishing interests. Beyond the former kitchen is a small rear entrance foyer formed by the rear wing.

The double door at the south end of the receiving hall opens into the Garner living room, which fills the entire first story of the south ell. Here now are some Garner and some period furnishings, a brick fire-place, and a collection of Garner's hats. Near the center of the south wall, a single door opens onto the tile-floored sunporch, where Garner usually conducted his various business affairs. Behind or west of the receiving hall is the rear sunporch, which is accessible from the former kitchen and from a single door near the south end of the front hall's west wall. This room is structurally unaltered, but the museum has placed a photographic display board temporarily across the west side of the room and against the eight rear windows and door.

Before the city library tore out the upstairs fixtures and some of the partitions, the second floor contained at least four bedrooms and Garner's study, which was in the west end of the south ell. Despite these needless alterations, the original configuration of the second floor is still clearly indicated, and the stairway's second-floor railing is intact. Most of the space here will soon be utilized for a Uvalde County museum. The attic remains unfinished and is accessible by an enclosed stair near the center of the north side of the north ell.

The Garner House sits on a large, grassy, live-oak-shaded lot and near other dwellings about the same age. A short distance from the north-west corner of the house stands a one-story, hip-roofed, brick, four-car garage erected the same year the house was built. Directly rear of the 1920 residence stands Garner's one-story, gable-roofed, white-painted, framehouse. It is east-facing and T-shaped, with the stem pointing southward. A small, shed-roofed wing attaches to the east side of the stem; an enclosed, shed-roofed porch abuts the opposite or west side of the stem; and a narrower, longer wing adjoins the west, gabled end. Recently a tree fell on the house's front porch, forcing its removal, but the structure appears to be in good condition and otherwise unaltered since Garner's death.

### 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
_PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
_1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	_SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	-ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
_1800-1899	COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
X.1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	XPOLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
		_INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1920-52 (1900-67)

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Atlee Ayers

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

From 1902 to 1932 John Nance Garner was one of the most influential Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, and from 1933 to 1941 he was Vice President of the United States. During World War I Garner served as liaison between President Woodrow Wilson and Congress, and in the 1920's, he was the chief Democratic critic of Republican tariff and tax policies. In 1931 he became Speaker of the House and announced that Democrats would cooperate with President Herbert Hoover in combating the depression. Garner supported Hoover's proposed Reconstruction Finance Corporation, but the two men disagreed over the relief question, and when Hoover vetoed Garner's bill for a massive public works program to put the unemployed back to work, cooperation between the chief spokesmen for the two political parties ended.

Few men have exercised as much influence on a particular epoch of history as John Nance Garner did on the New Deal period. At the 1932 Democratic National Convention his timely withdrawal on the third ballot enabled Franklin D. Roosevelt to win the nomination at a time when it appeared almost certain that the New Yorker's delegate strength would begin to decline. As Roosevelt's Vice President, Garner, according to historian Seymour V. Connor, "by persuasion, cajolery, and a mastery of parliamentary tactics ushered the New Deal into law."1 A veteran of 30 years in Congress, Garner, with his numerous friendships in both houses of Congress, proved to be the key individual in the passage of most legislation during Roosevelt's first 6 years in office. By 1938, however, the Roosevelt-Garner relationship cooled because of what Garner perceived as a too leftward slant in administration policy. Consequently new Presidential proposals encountered rough sledding. At this juncture, says biographer Bascom N. Timmons, Garner became "the symbol of opposition to the course Roosevelt was taking and the leader of conservative Democrats. 2

Seymour V. Connor, Texas: A History (New York, 1971), 338.

Bascom N. Timmons, Garner of Texas: A Personal History (New York, 1948).

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET Garner House ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE one

Garner's permanent home from 1920 until 1952 was this two-story, H-shaped, hip-roofed, brick house. Also included in the nominated property is the white-painted framehouse in which Garner lived from about 1900 to 1920 and from 1952 until his death in 1967. The only other extant Garner residence is an apartment that he occupied in the Hotel Washington in Washington, D.C. from 1931 to about 1940.

#### Biography

John Nance Garner IV was born November 22, 1868, in Blossom Prairie, Tex., to John N. and Sarah G. Garner. Although his family was fairly well-to-do, his educational opportunities were limited by semifrontier conditions and his formal schooling was sporadic. Fiercely independent, Garner began to support himself at an early age, working at various times as a farm laborer, store clerk, and semipro baseball player. In 1886 Garner entered Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., but his stay proved short because of poor health and educational deficiencies. Returning to Detroit, Tex., where his family now resided, he began to study law under W. L. Sims and M. L. Wright.

In 1889 Garner won admission to the Texas bar and opened his first office, in Clarksville. Three years later his health worsened, and he visited a physician who informed him he had tuberculosis and that his only hope for recovery was to move to a drier climate. In December 1892 he moved to Uvalde, where he was to make his home for the rest of his life. Soon he had a flourishing law practice and became increasingly involved in local politics, particularly after he acquired the <u>Uvalde Leader</u> in payment of a legal fee.

Garner won his first public office in 1893 when he was elected County Judge, and 5 years later he gained election to the Texas House of Representatives. During his two terms in the legislature, he fought pork barrel legislation and won a reputation as an advocate of economy in government and a strong supporter of corporation regulation, particularly of railroads. In his last term Garner carved out his own Congressional district and had it approved by the legislature.

In 1902 Garner was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives from Texas' 15th Congressional District, a position he was to hold for the next 30 years. Garner devoted his first years in the House to taking care of the needs of his constituents and becoming acquainted with his colleagues. Although he made few speeches and offered no important bills, he favorably impressed the Democratic House leadership. In 1909 Champ

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CONTINUATION SHEET Garner House ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE two

Clark made him assistant whip and 2 years later promoted him to whip after the Democrats won control of the House.

In 1913 while a member of the Ways and Means Committee, Garner helped draft the United States' first income tax law following ratification of the 16th amendment. He is "chiefly credited," says historian Michael Dorman, "with bringing about the graduated income tax system that taxes citizens according to what they earn." Garner's star rose to even greater heights during World War I, when, according to historian Seymour V. Connor, he "visited the White House twice a week for private conferences with the President" and served as Wilson's liaison with Congress.

Although Garner did not officially become minority leader until 1929, in the decade of the 1920's he emerged as the leading Democratic spokesman in Congress, leading assaults on the Republican administrations of Presidents Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover. Particularly critical of tariff increases and Andrew Mellon's efforts to reduce taxes for the wealthy, Garner fought a rearguard action against these proposals and sometimes was able to have them modified. After becoming minority leader, Garner attracted much public attention because of his close friendship with the Republican Speaker Nicholas Longworth, who used the Speaker's limousine to transport Garner to and from the House each day.

In 1931 Garner became the first Democrat since Champ Clark in 1919 to serve as Speaker of the House. Shortly after assuming office, Garner announced that he and his party would cooperate with President Hoover in combatting the depression. Actually, says historian Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., Garner "vacillated between cooperation and obstruction in his attitude toward the administration." Although Garner supported such Hoover proposals as the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, the Texan concerned himself more with developing a Democratic program against the depression. In February 1932, he formed a Democratic Economy Committee whose duty was to do everything possible to balance the Nation's budget. The committee recommended a national sales tax which Garner reluctantly accepted, but efforts to pass such a tax were to no avail. Garner then proposed a massive public works program to put the unemployed back to work. It passed Congress but was vetoed by President Hoover. This veto

<sup>3</sup>Michael Dorman, The Second Man: The Changing Role of the Vice Presidency (New York, 1970), 143.
4Connor, Texas, 311.

<sup>5</sup>Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., The Crisis of the Old Order, 1919-1933 (Boston, 1957), 228.

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

CONTINUATION SHEET Garner House ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE three

virtually destroyed efforts at cooperation between the President and the Democrats.

Because of his National prominence, Garner began to receive mention as a potential candidate for the 1932 Democratic nomination for President. Garner disavowed any intention of seeking the office, but his candidacy received impetus from William R. Hearst, who supported the Texan, according to historian Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., because of his "opposition to all foreign entanglements as well as his devotion to economy and thrift." Thanks to Hearst, Garner defeated Alfred E. Smith and Franklin D. Roosevelt in the California primary, and with the solid support of the Texas delegation entered the convention with 90 delegates. After the 3rd ballot, certain that Roosevelt was the popular favorite and fearing a repeat of the long 1924 convention, Garner withdrew, enabling Roosevelt to win on the next ballot. After much persuasion, the Speaker agreed to accept second spot on the ticket.

Garner in 1933 became the first man since Schuyler Colfax in 1869 to succeed to the Vice Presidency from the House Speakership. As Vice President, says historian James T. Patterson, Garner's "old congressional friendships made him a valuable administration man in both houses." A veteran of 30 years in Congress, Garner proved to be the key individual in the passage of most legislation during Roosevelt's first 6 years in office. By 1938, however, relations between the two men cooled because of what Garner perceived as a too leftward slant in administration policy. New Presidential proposals encountered rough sledding, and Garner, according to historian Donald Young, came to symbolize "the resistance within the Democratic party to the Roosevelt leadership." Strongly opposed to the third term, Garner announced his candidacy in 1940 but was swamped in the primaries by "Draft Roosevelt" sentiment.

When Garner left office in 1941 he held an international record, says Bascom N. Timmons, because "he had continuously presided over a par-

Ibid., 286.

James T. Patterson, Congressional Conservatism and the New Deal (Lexington, 1967), 131.

Donald Young, American Roulette: The History and Dilemma of the Vice Presidency (New York, 1965), 171.

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

CONTINUATION SHEET Garner House ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE four

liamentary body for ten consecutive years, a record then and still unequaled." Garner returned home to Uvalde where he devoted himself to his business interests. He passed away on November 7, 1967, 15 days before his 99th birthday, making him the longest-lived President or Vice President in American history.

Bascom N. Timmons, John Nance Garner of Texas on the American Political Stage (Uvalde, Tex., n.d.), 3.

CONTINUATION SHEET Garner House ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE one

New York Times, obituary, November 8, 1967.

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Timmons, Bascom N., Garner of Texas: A Personal History (New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1948).

, John Nance Garner of Texas on the American Political Stage (Uvalde, Tex.: Garner Memorial Museum, n.d.).

Young, Donald, American Roulette: The History and Dilemma of the Vice Presidency (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1965).

9 MAIOI	RBIBLIOGRA	PHICAL	REFERENCES

Connor, Seymour 1971).	V., Texas: A F	History (Ne	w York: Thom	as Y. Crowell C	0.
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American	Association	for State	and Local His	story April 19	76
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CITY OR TOWN			STATE	01) 1 1	
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12 STATE HISTORIC	PRESERVATION UATED SIGNIFICANCE OF				
NATIONAL	ST	ATE	LOCAL		
As the designated State Historic F hereby nominate this property for criteria and procedures set forth b FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNA	r inclusion in the Nationa y the National Park Service	Register and certif			
TITLE	TORE		DATE		
FOR NPS USE ONLY					
HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS	PROPERTY IS INCLUDE	D IN THE NATIONA			
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHI	OLOGY AND HISTORIC	PRESERVATION	DATE		-
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL R	EGISTER				
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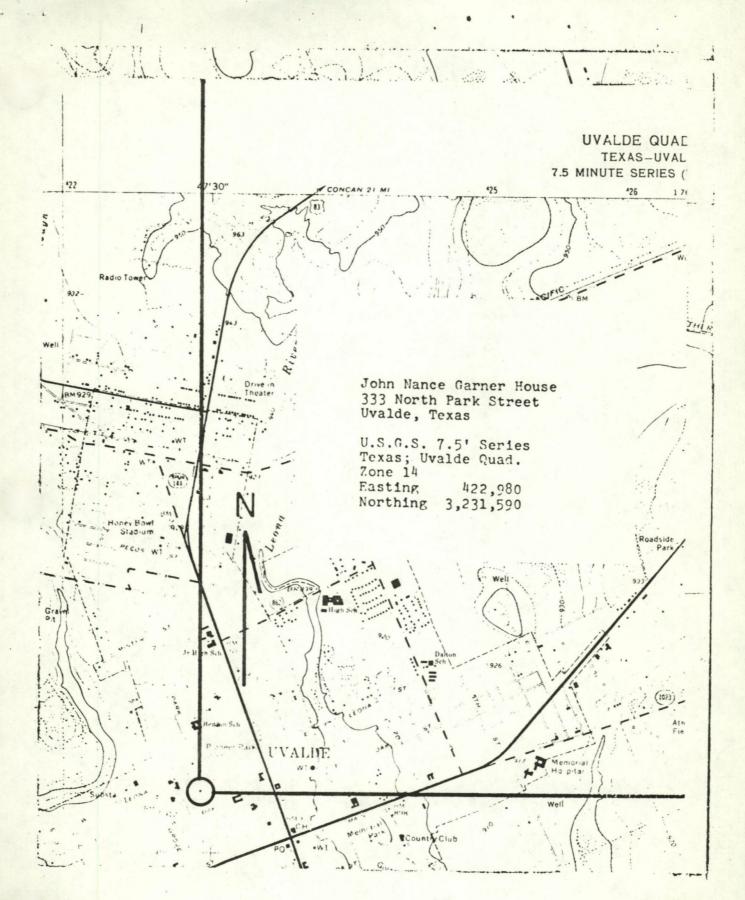


John Nance Garner House

Uralde, Texas

March 1976

Photo: AASLH





#### .exas State Historical Survey Committee.

Box 12276, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711
Truett Latimer

Executive Director

September 13, 1972

Dr. Robert Utley, Director
Office of Archeology and
Historic Preservation
Department of the Interior
801 19th Street, NW
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Bob:

Yesterday, the Chairman of our Uvalde County Historical Survey Committee was in the office and was asking about the possibilities of the John Nance Garner Home in Uvalde being designated as a National Historic Landmark. I am enclosing some brief history for your information.

Would it be best for a request of this nature to be initiated by their Congressman and our two United States Senators? Please let me have the benefit of your thinking on this matter, so we will know how to proceed.

Sincerely,

Frustt Latimer

Executive Director

TL:fl

cc: Mr. William Alex Kincaid

Enclosures: 2

16 : 12" Official Texas Grav Tarker

Uvalde County - 12-30-68 - at grave, old section of

Uvalde Cemetery, Highway 90W

COHN NANCE GARNER (NOVEMBER 22, 1868-NOVEMBER 7,1967)

VICE PRESIDENT OF U.S.1933-1941.

BEGAN CAREER AS UVALDE COUNTY

GUDGE 1893-1896.SERVED IN TEXAS

LEGISLATURE 1898-1902; IN U.S.

CONGRESS 1904-1932, WHERE HE WAS,

EN LAST TERM, SPEAKER OF HOUSE

OF REPRESENTATIVES. ALSO AN ABLE

TRIAL LAWYER, RANCHER, BANKER, AND

BENEFACTOR OF SOUTHWEST TEXAS

JUNIOR COLLEGE. MARRIED ETTIE

RHEINER. HAD A SON, TULLY; ONE

GRANDCHILD, GENEVIEVE G. CURRIE.

KNOWN AS "CACTUS JACK"FOR HIS UNLOWE WESTERN ENDIVIDUALISM.

RECORDED---1968

16" x 12" Medallion Plate Uvalde County

JOHN NANCE GARNER HOME.

MEMORIAL TO ETTIE R.GARNER.

SECRETARY TO HER HUSBAND IN HIS

LONG CAREER AS A STATESMAN.

JOHN NANCE GARNER, BORN NOV. 22,

1868, WAS IN TEXAS LEGISLATURE,

1898-1902; U.S. CONGRESS, 1902-

1932 (SPRAMER OF THE HOUSE IN

LAST TERM); VICE-PRESIDENT OF

THE UNITED STATES, 1933-1941.

THIS HOME, BUILT 1920, SCENE OF

VISITS OF WORLD FIGURES, GIVEN

TO UVALUE BY VICE-PRESIDENT

GARNER AND SON TULLY IN 1952.\*\*

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK, 1965.\*\*\*

\*1/2" lettering \*\*3/8" lettering \*\*\*1/4" lettering Н34-РИН

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

Dear Truett:

I have received your letter of September 13 regarding possible national historic landmark status for John Nance Garner's House of the 1920 period in Uvalde County, Texas. My suggestion would be for you to recommend the house to the National Register of Historic Places now as a site of State significance for the following reasons:

- National historic landmark criteria has a 50-year rule, and normally we would not consider the Vice-President Garner House until the 1982-86 period.
- 2. It is a fact that not one Vice President of the United States from 1789 to 1922 has yet to achieve national historic landmark status unless that person later became a President of the United States or did some other historically important act, such as sign the Declaration of Independence.

If the Garner House is now placed on the National Register as a site of State significance, it will receive the same legal protection and be eligible for the same financial benefits that it would if it was a national historic landmark, and, finally, its position on the National Register would not preclude the structure from being studied for possible national historic landmark status when the 50-year waiting period for Vice-President John Nance Garner has expired.

Sincerely yours,

Robert M. Utley

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

Director, Southwest Region w/c of inc.

w/c of inc.

PHHS-Mr. Sheely w/c of inc.

FNP: CWSnell:mc 9/22/72

PHHS-Mr. Snell

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HH

HP-Texas-Vice-President John Nance Garner House

Comercia March 5, 1976 Mr. Harry Hornby Uvalde Leader News Uvalde, Texas 78801 Dear Mr. Hornby: Enclosed are the materials that I promised you by phone. We are working under contract to the Park Service and will submit our field report on the Garner House in about a month. It and our other nominated sites will be reviewed in the fall, and an announced decision will be forthcoming sometime after that. Meanwhile, we would be grateful if you could confirm 4 833 whether Atlee Ayers was the architect of the main (museum) house. If you know the construction date of the frame house, we would appreciate that information also. This data will be most helpful to us if received within the next two weeks. Sincerely, George R. Adams Managing Editor Historic Landmarks Project GRA:mjg enclosures

Came your March 5, 1976 Mr. Hugh Porter, Curator Garner Memorial Museum 333 North Park Street Uvalde, Texas 78801 Dear Mr. Porter: Thanks largely to you, I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to the Garner Museum. Learning that Garner's first house--the frame one -- is extant was particularly pleasant. We will send you a copy of our report when it is completed. Meanwhile, all best wishes. Coedially, George R. Adams Managing Editor Historic Landmarks Project GRA:mjg enclosure



March 12, 1976

Mrs. Hugh Porter, Curator The John Nance Garner House 333 North Park Street Uvalde, Texas 78801

Dear Mrs. Porter:

At the request of the National Park Service, we are preparing a series of reports on potential National Historic Landmarks related to the theme Political and Military Affairs 1900 to 1929. Because of John Nance Garner's significance both before and after 1929, we are interested in including the Garner House in our study. Accordingly we wish to visit it for the purpose of photographing both the exterior and interior and gathering data for an architectural description and historical background sketch.

During the last week of this month, I will be visiting potential landmarks in several southern and southwestern states, and I will be in Uvalde on March 29. I would appreciate the opportunity of touring the Garner House that day, beginning if possible at approximately 8:30 a.m.

For your information and convenience, I am enclosing a Park Service brochure that describes the NHL program. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to call. In any case, we look forward to hearing from you by March 26.

Sincerely,

George R. Adams
Managing Editor
Historic Landmarks Project

enclosure

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR STATE AND LOCAL HISTORY

1400 Eighth Avenue South · Nashville, Tennessee 37203 · Telephone [615] 242-5583



#### GARNER MEMORIAL MUSEUM

333 North Park Street

Uvalde, Texas, 78801

March 18, 1976

Mr. George R. Adams
Managing Editor
Historic Landmarks Project
1400 Eighth Avenue South
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

Dear Mr. Adams:

Thank you for your letter regarding your intention to visit the Garner Memorial Museum in Uvalde, Texas.

We will be looking forward to your visit on March 29th at 8:30 a.m.

Sincerely,

30) rs. Dorter /lw

Mrs. Hugh Porter Curator

HP/lw

# JOHN NANCE GARNER HOUSE

May 5, 1976

Mrs. Hugh Porter, Curator Garner Memorial Museum 333 North Park Street Uvalde, Texas 78801

Dear Mrs. Porter:

Enclosed is a copy of our nomination of the John

Nance Garner House as a National Historic Landmark. We enjoyed preparing it and hope that you will enjoy reading it.

Please remember that the house will not come up for review by the National Park Service until late fall. Until then we will mentally keep our fingers crossed for a favorable decision.

Cordially,

George R. Adams

Managing Editor

Historic Landmarks Project

GRA:mjg

Enclosure



## United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

DEC 1 6 1976

The Secretary of the Interior

Thomas S. Kleppe

is pleased to inform you that the historic properties in your State described in the enclosed brief summaries have been found to possess national significance in commemorating the history of the United States. On the recommendation of the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments these properties have been designated national historic landmarks. We hope this action will be of interest to you and your constituents.

Also enclosed are leaflets explaining in detail the historic preservation programs of the National Park Service. National historic landmark status automatically enrolls the property on the National Register of Historic Places and extends to it the safeguards provided by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Recognition of the property's significance as a landmark is accorded by certificates and bronze plaques which are provided free of charge to the owners or administrators of these properties upon their agreement to adhere to simple preservation practices. The Director of the National Park Service will shortly notify the owners about these benefits and provide them with the appropriate agreement forms.

The owners of these properties are to be commended for preserving these significant examples of our Nation's cultural heritage for the education and enjoyment of all our citizens.

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN

FNP:HJ Sheely:kr 10/8/76 bcc: Regional Director, Southwest Region 9/2-Sheely

Enclosures

NOLUTION GLOCKITER

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Luca

Hon. John G. Tower Hon. Lloyd Bentsen United States Senate Washington, D.C. U.S.S. TEXAS, TEXAS HANGAR **9** JOHN NANCE GARNER HOUSE

Hon. Bob Eckhardt House of Representatives Washington, D.C. U.S.S. TEXAS

Hon. Abraham Kazen, Jr. House of Representatives Washington, D.C.

HANGAR 9 JOHN NANCE GARNER HOUSE

Tion.



IN REPLY REFER TO:

Sheen

H. J. Shealy 12/28/76

### United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

DEC 2 8 1976

The Director of the National Park Service

Gary Everhardt

is pleased to inform you that the historic property described briefly in the enclosure has been found to possess national significance in commemorating the history of the United States and has, therefore, been designated a national historic landmark.

The purpose of landmark designation is to recognize nationally significant sites and to encourage their owners to preserve them. Landmarks are chosen through studies prepared by the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings; evaluated by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments; and approved by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Historic Sites Act of 1935.

Recognition of the property's significance as a landmark is accorded by certificates and bronze plaques which are provided free of charge to the owners or administrators of these properties upon their agreement to adhere to simple preservation practices which would satisfy the criteria for continuing eligibility. These are set forth in the enclosed leaflet. We will be pleased to provide a certificate and bronze plaque. Enclosed are copies of the agreement. The form should be completed in triplicate and two copies returned to the National Park Service. The third copy may be retained for your records.

National historic landmark status automatically enrolls the property on the National Register of Historic Places. Under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, entry on the National Register provides each property with safeguards against damage by Federal undertakings and fulfills one qualification for participation in a grant-in-aid program to assist in its preservation. Further information is contained in the enclosed leaflet describing the National Register.

We are pleased to include this property among the sites already designated national historic landmarks.

Hon. Jack Caffall City Manager Uvalde, Texas 78801

cc: Mrs. Hugh Porter Curator Garner Memorial Museum 333 North Park Street Uvalde, Texas 78801



JOHN N. GARNER HOUSE, TEXAS



Texas Historical Commission Box 12276, Capitol Station Austin, Texas 78711 Truett Latimer Executive Director

January 18, 1977

Ms. Margaret G. Twyman
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
P. O. Box 728
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Dear Ms. Twyman:

We have been in touch with the local historical people in Uvalde and would like to know approximately when the National Historic Landmark plaque will be cast and available for placing at the John Nance Garner house.

Inasmuch as Governor Briscoe had a close association with Mr. Garner and held him in very high esteem, we are certain that he will want to participate in the presentation ceremony.

Please let us hear from you and we will keep in touch with the local people.

Singerely,

Executive Director

TL: SW

cc: Mr. Wm. Alex Kincaid, Uvalde County Historical Commission Chairman Officers of THC JAN 2 1 1977

JAN 2 1 1977

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700

January 25, 1977 (Date)

Mr. Gary Everhardt Director National Park Service Department of the Interior Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Everhardt:

located	in	Uvalde	Uvalde	Texas
		(City)	(County)	(State)

(X,we) hereby accept your offer of a certificate (X) and a bronze plaque, 17" x 18" (X), formally marking this historic property a national historic landmark. (Check one or both as desired.)

- 1. Fully conscious of the high responsibility to the Nation that goes with the ownership and care of a property classified as having national significance and worthy of national historic landmark status, (I,we) agree to preserve, so far as practicable and to the best of (my,our) ability, the historical values that will satisfy the criteria for continuing significance.
- 2. Toward this end, (I,we) agree to continue to use the property only for purposes consistent with its historical character.
- 3. (I,we) agree to permit an annual visit to the property by a representative of the National Park Service, as a basis for continuing landmark status.
- 4. If, for any reason, the three conditions mentioned above cannot continue to be met, it is agreed that the national historic landmark status shall cease and that until such status is restored by the Secretary of the Interior, neither the national historic landmark certificate nor the plaque will be displayed.

Sincerely yours,

Mayor/City of Uvalde

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JAN 28 9 01 AH 11 JAN 26 1977

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Mr. Truett Latimer Executive Director Texas Historical Commission Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Mr. Latimer,

Your letter of January 18 regarding a plaque and certificate for John Garner House has been received.

Not having noted a copy of a plaque order for this site, I checked with Mrs. Porter, Curator, to ascertain if an Agreement had ever been signed. She didn't know and suggested I ask Jack Caffall, City Manager. Mr. Caffall advises that only today he had taken it to the Mayor for signature, so it is now on its way to Washington. As you know, plaque orders are not placed until Agreements are signed. It takes from 8-12 weeks for a plaque to be completed and received through the mail, but I will urge our Washington Office to make this a "rush" order and will ask that it be mailed directly to the Museum, not to me.

May I suggest, therefore, that you and others interested in this dedication plan a laterspring ceremony, sometime in April perhaps. Then we can be reasonably sure that the plaque will be there, possibly in time to have it mounted in advance. We will have a signed certificate there as well, of course.

Do keep me advised of your plans, and let me know if I can be helpful in any way.

Sincerely,

Margaret G. Twyman National Historic Landmark Specialist

cc: Mr. Jack Caffall City Manager, Uvalde, Texas 78801

> Mrs. Hugh Porter, Curator Garner Memorial Museum 333 No. Park St. Uvalde, Texas 78801

bcc:Division of Historic Sites Survey, WASO Atten: Sheely and Ross w/inc.cc

KP Ross 2/2/17 14. J. Sheely 2/4/72 Africay 2/4/17

H3417-772

FEB 9 1977

Honorable Howard T. Langford Mayor of Uvalde Uvalde, Texas 78801

Dear Mayor Langford:

Thank you for the agreement form sent on January 25, 1977, accepting the certificate and plaque identifying the John N. Garner House, Uvalde, Texas, as a national historic landmark. We are proceeding with the preparation of the certificate and plaque.

Our Southwest Regional Office coordinates planning for presentation ceremonies in Texas. The Regional Director will inform you when the certificate and plaque for the John N. Garner House have been completed. Should you wish the help of the Service in arranging ceremonies for the presentation, he will be glad to assist you. His name and address is: Mr. John Cook, Regional Director, Southwest Regional Office, National Park Service, P.O. Box 728, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501.

We are pleased to know that you plan active participation in the National Historic Landmarks Program.

Sincerely yours,

#### /Sgd/ Jerry L. Rogers

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

#### Enclosure

FNP:KP Ross:kr 2/3/77

bcc: Regional Director, Southwest Region a/c application form

001-Reading File

040 772-Reading File

HP - Texas - John N. Garner House

760-Rogers

7/2-Sheely w/c application form

:00

Mr. Truett Latimer Executive Director Texas State Historical Commission P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station Austin, Texas 78711

8 11



## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

SOUTHWEST REGION P.O. Box 728 Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

MAY 6 9 02 AH 11

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H34-(SWR)PSP

MAY 4 1977

East Point Foundry, Inc. 1312 Central Avenue

P. O. Box 90238 East Point, Georgia 30344

Attention: Mr. W. A. King

Dear Mr. King:

This is just a note to check with you regarding two National Historic Landmark plaques which were ordered some time ago and have not been received here. They are for the Edward D. White House and the John Garner House. They were ordered on March 3 and the delivery date was listed as April 4. Because I anticipate early dedication ceremonies for these two sites, I would like to know precisely the status of these orders.

Thank you for giving me the information at your earliest convenience. If you prefer phoning, my number here is (505) 988-6445.

Sincerely yours,

(SIGNED)

Margaret G. Twyman National Historic Landmark Specialist Southwest Cultural Resources Center

bcc: Horace Sheely, HASO Cummings, CR

#### NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK BIENNIAL VISIT REPORT

SITE JOHN NANCE GARNER HOUSE

	TED JULY	28,	1977
	Month	Day(s)	Year
ISITED BY	EDWARD C. RODRIG	UEZ,JR.	
	(Name		
	SUPERINTENDENT		
	(Tit	le)	-
	AMISTAD RECREATI	ON AREA	
	P. O. BOX 1463,		EXAS 78840
	. (Add	ress)	
	(F) O) 777 7103		
the state of	(512) 775-7491		
	(Pho	ne Number)	
	HOWARD, MAYOR PRO		
	CAFFALL, CITY MANA		
MR. JACK C	CAFFALL, CITY MANA	GER, CITY O	
MR. JACK O	PORTER, CURATOR OF A WINN, CITY SECRE	GER, CITY OF THE JOHN	NANCE GARNER HOUSE OF UVALDE, TEXAS O EDITOR/PUBLISHER
MR. JACK O	PORTER, CURATOR OF A WINN, CITY SECRE	GER, CITY OF THE JOHN TARY, CITY NCILMAN ANI	NANCE GARNER HOUSE OF UVALDE, TEXAS O EDITOR/PUBLISHER
MR. JACK O	PORTER, CURATOR OF A WINN, CITY SECRE	GER, CITY OF THE JOHN TARY, CITY NCILMAN ANI	NANCE GARNER HOUSE OF UVALDE, TEXAS O EDITOR/PUBLISHER
MR. JACK O	PORTER, CURATOR OF A WINN, CITY SECRE	GER, CITY OF THE JOHN TARY, CITY NCILMAN AND VALUE COUNT	NANCE GARNER HOUSE OF UVALDE, TEXAS O EDITOR/PUBLISHER

Title Superintendent

Date July 28, 1977

Signature

I.	Did you have any difficulty making contact with the owner or administrate in advance of your visit? Yes No X If yes, please describe:
	(My Secretary, Bettye Briscoe, very efficiently made contacts and arranged my schedule)
II.	Did you feel that your visit was welcome? Yes not welcome?  If not, please describe circumstances:
111.	Was the material provided by SWRO ample and helpful? Yes X No If not, please explain:
IV.	Approximately how long did you spend at the site? Five Hours
v.	Please describe the condition of the site (structure(s), grounds, furnishings, etc.)
	Home-exterior in excellent shape and very well kept.
	Grounds-very effectively landscaped and they must have a very good gardener. Beautiful setting in large oak trees, surrounded by homes of comparable beauty.
vi.	Based on the reasons for the original designation, is it your opinion the integrity of the site is being adequately maintained? Yes X No If no, please explain:
	[12] 그렇지않는 보이면 하다 하는 사람들이 보이면 보이면 보이면 되었다. [12] [12] [12] [12] [12] [12] [12] [12]
VII.	Please describe in detail the management of the site (owner-managed, employee-managed, government-managed, etc.):
	Owned by the City of Uvalde since 1952, managed by a Curator on site. Financed by the City of Uvalde and Uvalde County.
VIII.	In your opinion, is the site management adequate? Yes X No If you have any reservations, please describe:
	(The City officials, Advisory Board, and the Curator are all doing a very commendable job. It is a place of which the Citizens of this nation and certainly the citizens of the City of Uvalde should be very proud.)

IX. Is the site use for commercial purposes? Yes No If yes, does this present any problems related to maintaining the integrity of the site? Yes No If yes, please describe:

The House is opened to the public seven days a week from 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Admission is free but they do accept donations from the visitors. All related to Vice President Garner is downstairs. The second floor is used as Uvalde County Museum. Visitation averages 1,000 month Please describe any financial problems related to the site:

None. The City staff and the Advisory Board operate the House. The City of Uvalde and Uvalde County share in the cost of maintaining and operating the House.

- XI. What other problems did you encounter, if any?

  None. However, using the second floor as a County Museum rather than exhibiting Garner family possessions could in time distract from the major significance that it was the home of Vice President John Nance Garner.
- XII. What specific suggestions, if any, did you make to the owner or administrato That a handout showing the original floor plan of the Vice President's home be furnished to visitors. Some visitors asked and were more interested in the original floor plan of the second floor than in what is on exhibit.
- XIII. What follow-up action do you suggest for the SWRO and/or others?

  (Note XV on the dedication)
  - XIV. Is there any urgency regarding the suggested action? Yes No X

    If yes, please clarify:
    - XV. If this site is being managed under the terms of a signed agreement, has the plaque been mounted? Yes No If yes, describe exact location. If no, please explain why it has not been accepted or not been mounted. Also, describe location of the Certificate.

      The plaque and certificate are available at Region and should not be presented or unveiled unless a definite dedication ceremony is scheduled. November 22, 1977, was suggested for the dedication as that is Vice President John Nance Garner's birthday. He would have been 109 years old presented in 1977. The City of Uvalde representatives seemed to be receptive to that date especially if Governor Briscoe and other dignitaries would be available.

(PLEASE ENCLOSE PHOTOS, CLIPPINGS, COPIES OF CORRESPONDENCE, OR ANY OTHER MATERIALS WHICH WILL SUPPLEMENT THE INFORMATION GIVEN IN THE REPORT)

**MEMO** 

Date: August 15, 2001

To: Bob Spude

From: Vicky Jacobson and Charles Haecker

Re: Trip report, NHL Sites visit, Central Texas, 7/15-7/19/01

We met at the office and drove down to Albuquerque on Sunday morning, 7/15, flew into San Antonio, picked up a rental car and drove to Uvalde.

At 8:30 a.m. Monday morning, July 16, we met with Evangeline Salazar at the John Nance Garner House, and were given a tour of the house, from basement to attic, and around the site. The situation is the same as was reported in the 1999 status report. The frame house in which in the Garners lived until their deaths is still out in Barksdale, and has yet to be HABS documented due to the current owner's refusal to allow the recording or the sale and return of the house to the original site. In addition, the current owners of the frame-house site are still not maintaining the property and continue to store abandoned vehicles there. The brick house has some structural problems which will be attended to when the new owners, the Museum of the University of Texas, get their team out there this summer if all goes as planned. We gave them some recommendations for some moisture issues that can be addressed independently of the structural issues and are mostly maintenance-related.

Ms. Salazar asked that we send copies of any correspondence with her to Dr. Don Carlton, Director, The Center for American History, Sid Richardson Hall 2.101, University of Texas/ Austin, Austin, TX 78712.

Specific Observations and Recommendations made regarding the Garner House Museum: Foundations continue to settle, causing interior and exterior cracking and movement. The University is planning on having an on-site architect to evaluate the structure and make proposals for stabilizing foundations. The back porch appears to be falling off and pulling away from the house. This is probably related to the above-stated foundation issues. Although the roof cover was replaced in 1994, a small area of roof deck, visible at the attic entrance stairway, is rotted and spongy. Evidence of a leaky roof in that area needs to be monitored. Puddles of water are visible on the basement floor near HVAC equipment and water heater. It should be ensured that the units are operating properly and not leaking. A condensation catchment should be provided if that is the source of the water. Paint on some of the interior wooden doors and trim is cracked and crazed. It is not known if substrate was properly prepared prior to painting.

Gutter ends in two locations are lower than the nearest downspout, causing water to pour down below low points. This has created obvious moisture damage to the masonry and wood surface below. Water damage has occurred on infill wood paneling directly above the window air conditioner and below the too-low gutter end. This AC unit has not been in use for several months, the assumption being that the unit was causing the moisture problem. Correcting the slope of the gutter should eliminate the problem. Wood infill 'skirting' below the back porch/gallery is in direct contact with soil and vegetation, causing obvious moisture damage to the wood. In addition, metal mesh installed on the outside of this skirt to prevent passage of squirrels into the crawlspace is preventing grass from being cut at the building line. As a result, water is retained up against the building. Preferably, a mowing strip that is sloped away from the wall would help to prevent premature deterioration of the wooden skirting, as well as deflecting additional moisture away from the foundation and/or footings. The rodent-proof mesh could then be reinstalled on the inside of the wall surface. Ventilation under this porch could also help relieve moisture problems in that area. Priority Status unchanged: Priority 2 until dispute over frame house resolved.

We left Uvalde after lunch and drove to San Angelo, where we made a quick tour of **Fort Concho** before dining with Director Bob Bluthardt, Director. Bob gave us a very thorough tour of the city that evening. The next morning, Tuesday, 7/17, we got the tour of all of the fort buildings, discussed the structural issues that have been ongoing, and the progress being made to address them. Bob is doing a great job and is learning how to be a tourism booster as well as becoming a taskmaster at partnering.

Remove Begin THE HO mor have 2



Specific Observations & Recommendations for Fort Concho: The consulting engineers report on the foundation settlement in Officers Quarters 7, 8, and 9. The resource is obviously being attended to in a professional manner. NPS will send Ft. Concho the Challenge Cost Share literature as an additional opportunity to get funding for their rehabilitation efforts. In addition we will send them literature on crack monitors since they are currently using tape to monitor the ongoing 'crack" activity. Priority Status unchanged: Priority 2 until the rest of the buildings exhibiting major foundation problems are stabilized.

We left San Angelo in the afternoon, arriving in Fredericksburg to see HA 19, the Japanese mini sub located at the Admiral Nimitz Museum. The interpretive approach for the sub is misleading: one can see a portion of the starboard side of the sub by entering a small viewing room that is located outside at the rear of the museum. This side has a row of Plexiglas portals (not original—must have been added after the sub's capture, hopefully not done after it was designated a NHL) that allows one to look inside the sub. The sub interior includes two manikins in a rather strange pose, presumably representing two Japanese crewmen (the manikins look like escapees from the Sears Men's Dept., and are not wearing the uniform of the Japanese Imperial Navy). We then went inside the museum to notify the contact person, Ms. Helen McDonald, that we had arrived for a scheduled meeting/tour. The docent at the front desk had not been notified regarding our meeting, and no interpretive literature regarding the submarine was available. We left after giving the docent a status report form to give to Ms. McDonald. Unfortunately we left the museum with the impression that what we saw of the sub was all that the museum intended to show of it. We later found out, after returning to Santa Fe, that the sub's port side is entirely exposed inside the museum, and exhibited as if it were on the deck of the "mother" sub. Priority 3, unchanged. After leaving the museum we drove around Fredericksburg. We did find some beautiful homes in the nearby neighborhoods, then left town and drove to our motel in nearby Kerrville.

Specific Observations and Recommendations regarding HA 19: Due to the method of exhibition a visitor might not know that, in fact, there is more to see of the sub than what one can see on the "non-admission fee" side. It would be a good idea if the museum could place a sign to that effect at or near the starboard side. We also recommend that there would be some interpretive literature beyond the plaques on the wall in the viewing room. Finally, the museum's web site, last updated in 1998, does not provide any specific details regarding the sub, and does not state that it is a NHL.

On the following day, Wednesday, 7/18, we drove to LBJ Ranch, where Virginia Kilby gave us a tour of the newly completed and in-process renovation/restoration projects. We took pictures of the newly enclosed carport which Ms. Kilby asked us to share with Virginia Salazar, since it was "collections" funding that paid for the construction of the glass enclosure. There is an excellent crew of seasonals who are very good at restoration work. Their work includes restoring three, circa 1960 trailers that served as the Secret Service's operations center during the Johnson administration. We left there around 10 a.m., and arrived at San Antonio Missions headquarters just after all of the cultural resources staff had left for lunch, so we rescheduled that visit for later in the afternoon, and drove over to Fort Sam Houston.

At Fort Sam Houston we met with David Brigham, Cultural Resources Specialist, and Michael Johnson, Historical Architect. They gave us a great tour of all of the historic district post buildings, mostly viewed from the car, and described their successes with finding tenants for the buildings abandoned when the new hospital opened.

Specific Observations & Recommendations regarding Fort Sam Houston: The Army is currently having a nomination prepared to add the Mission Revival portion of the fort to the NHL district, and we will need to prepare an initial "intent to study" notification soon, since they want to initiate the work as soon as possible. Under the leadership of David Brigham, the Army has managed to secure tenants for all but one of the excess, abandoned historic structures vacated due to the opening of the new hospital. These tenants are required to develop and implement rehabilitation and preservation maintenance plans for the buildings that they are leasing. Rehabilitation is actively underway on several structures, with plans in process for several others. NPS will provide information on Challenge Cost Share Program. Priority 2 Status appropriate level until lease program is well established.

We got back to San Antonio Missions around 3:30 p.m., and met with Steve Whitesall, Superintendent; James Oliver, Landscape Architect; Ross Hunt, chief of Maintenance; and Susan Strong, Archeologist. We talked about their issues, and the filling Mark Chavez' position as well as the maintenance-preservation continuum. We left

headquarters just in time for rush hour traffic, and headed downtown for the "River Walk" experience (100 % humidity, and approaching  $100^{\circ}$  F), quenched our respective thirsts at an accommodating pub, then checked into our hotel close to the airport.

We returned to Santa Fe on 7/19, arriving back at the office around 4 p.m.

National Endowment for the Arts
Save America's Treasures Grant
Photographs
John Nance Garner House



#### GARNER HOUSE

Exterior view of the front of the house Nov 2001



GARNER HOUSE Exterior view of southeast corner Nov 2001



### GARNER HOUSE

Active structural cracking due to inadequate foundation. Previous repairs have reopened cracks.

Nov 2001

OOIMHHHH 24



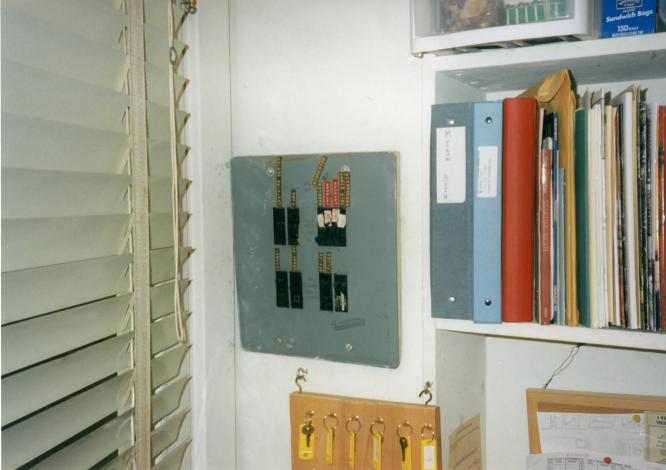
## **GARNER HOUSE**

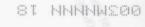
Significant wood rot due to poor drainage Nov 2001

eeinhhhh 15









GARNER HOUSE
Outdated electrical wiring resulting in
fire a hazard
Nov 2001

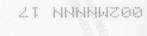


## GARNER HOUSE

HHHHUSSE

Historic display cases in significant space Nov 2001





GARNER HOUSE Water damage at the ceiling Nov 2001



GARNER HOUSE
Water damage at the ceiling
Nov 2001

HHHHUSSE





GARNER HOUSE Plaster damage from roof leaks Nov 2001

NATION	JAL RE		R DAT	ra si	
NAME as it appears on federal Garner, John Nance, House	register:	② OTHER NAMES:		V.	date of entry: 463
SLOCATION street & number 333 North Park Street	City / town Uvalde	- A	TX	Uvalde Uvalde	6NPS REGION: Southwest
OWNER PRIVATE STATE MUNICIPAL COU			rate.	BADMINISTRAT	OR:
(1) EXISTING SURVEYS HABS HAEL WHALL			SOURCE of NOMINATION	STATE XFEDERA	
WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?	XING XES, NAME	HISTORIC LANDWARK? Same		3.5	te who prepared form?
9 5		nal site features:	SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1	SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT	-2 g SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3
K) mood	□unaltered □move		0	P□ NOT INTACT-O	©□NOT INTACT - O
Deals	reconstructed Dunkn	own		UNKNOWN-5	D UNKNOWN -6
	excavated			MOT APPLICABLE-8	NOT APPLICABLE - 9
BACCESS YES-Restricted TYES-Un	restricted No Access Un	AND ADAPTIVE USE YE			HISTORIC DISTRICT? yes Ano
@ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:	□ ENGINEERING - 11 □ LAND	SCAPE ARCH 15 POLITICS/GO	OVT21 RECREATION -2	8 CLAIMS:	explain
ARCHEOLOGY - prehistoric - 2 COMMERCE - 6	□ ENTERTAINMENT - 26 □ LAW-			'first'	
ARCHEOLOGY - histor C- COMMUNICATION'S	S-7 DEXPLORATION-12 DITER	RATURE - 17	URBAN PLANNI	NG-31 'oldest'	
GONSERVATION - 8	B HEALTH-27  MILIT	TARY-18 🗆 SOCIAL/HUM	IANITARIAN-24 DOTHER (SPECIF		
☐ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ECONOMICS-9	☐ INDUSTRY-13 ☐ MUSIC	C-19 SOCIAL / CUI	LTURAL-30	— 'only' □	
☐ ART-5 ☐ EDUCATION-10	☐ INVENTION - 14 ☐ PHILO	OSOPHY - 20  TRANSPORTA	ATION - 25		
(3) functions		adates of initial of	construction: 1920-		ETHNIC GROUP
WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: House		major alterations :			ASSOCIATION
CURRENTLY: Library, Museum		historic events:	1920-1952		
architectural style(s): Z Vernacular		Atlee Ayers	master build	ler:	engineer:
(3) landscape architect/garden desig	gner: interior decorate	or: artist:	33 artisan:	3 builder	/contractor:
NAMES give role & date  PERSONAL: Home of U.S. Vice President John Nance Garner from 1920-1952					
EVENTS:					
INSTITUTIONAL:					
MATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-	Brick, 2stories,	wx H-shaped, hipper	d roof sections wi	th overhanging	eaves, exterior
K	O1,				
chimneys, five front entrances within recessed porch access central block and flanking ells, xxxx 2-story/sunporches					
attached to rear of N and S ells, 1-story rear shed porch along central block; 1-story hip-roofed brick garage;					
1-story gable-roofed frame c		Home of John Nance	e Garner, Wxxx Spe	aker of the U.S	S. House of Representa
tives (1931-33) and U.S. Vic	e-President (1933-1941	from 1920-1952.			

reviewers initials 87 date 8/28/78

# John Nance Garner of Texas

## ON THE AMERICAN POLITICAL STAGE

By Bascom N. Timmons

## John Nance Garner of Texas On the American Political Stage

By Bascom N. Timmons

Hyrnes, of South Caroline, spoke up:

One day shortly after he had been reelected Vice President of the United States in 1936, John Nance Garner sat with a group of visitors in the President's office off the Senate Chamber in Washington.

"Four years from now, I am going to Texas; my office-holding days will be over. I expect to live to be ninety-three."

Postmaster General James A. Farley, one of the group, asked: "Why ninety-three years?"

Garner replied: "Well, I have been in public life for forty-six years at that time. I want to have one more year in private life than I had in public life."

Senator James F. Byrnes, of South Caroline, spoke up:

"If John Garner says he is going to live ninety-three years, he will. Nobody ever heard him say he was going to do something he did not do."

John Garner was sixty-eight years old when he made that remark. At his death on November 7, 1967, he was within a few days of his 99th birthday—nearly 6 years more than the goal he had set for himself. No other President or Vice President of the United States had ever reached so advanced an age.

Except that he has been saddened by the death of his wife, Marietta, Garner has enjoyed those years as a private citizen, perhaps even more than he enjoyed his public service.

### And What a Record of Public Service He Had!

When John Nance Garner left Washington on January 20, 1941, he was the asknowledged foremost parliamentary authority of the nation. He held an international record; he had continuously presided over a parliamentary body for ten consecutive years, a record then and still unequalled. Eight of those were in the Senate, two in the House of Representatives.

There may have been men who knew the rules of the House of Representatives as well as he did, and there may have been men who knew the rules of the Senate as well; but no man was his peer on the rules of both branches of Congress.

Only one other man (Schuyler Colfax, of Indiana) had ever been presiding officer of both House of Representatives and Senate. Colfax, elected for Grant's first term, resigned as Speaker the day he was sworn in as Vice President. Garner walked directly from the Speaker's dais (on March 4, 1933) to the Vice President's dais in the Senate Chamber. That was breaking a precedent. But Garner broke precedents throughout his public life.

One precedent he shattered in being the first nominee for Vice President of the United States not to receive formal notification of his nomination from a committee.

Instead, at Garner's request, Alben W. Barkley, temporary chairman of the 1932 Democratic National Convention, notified him by letter. Garner wrote his reply, put a three-cent stamp on the letter containing the acceptance, and mailed it to Barkley. In 1936, he attended the Philadelphia convention and accepted the nomination in person.

He set a precedent of being the only Vice President not to make any formal speeches anywhere in the United States during his term of office. He gave his opinions freely and frankly at the Capitol and at Cabinet meetings; and he made some informal remarks in Manila, where he went at the head of a congressional party for the launching of the new Philippine Government in the autumn of 1935. On that trip, he also paid a formal call on the Emperor of Japan, and visited in China.

Silent though he was in his eight years as Vice President, all the nation knew he was not inactive. In an administration which saw the enactment of more far-reaching legislation than any in decades, his more than thirty years' knowledge of parliamentary mechanics, his ability to see situations, his familiarity with the rules and the temperament of Senate and House, his balance and shrewd judgment of the effect of legislation, the esteem in which senators and representatives held him, gave him a dominant role in many exigent matters.

Another unprecedented record of Vice President Garner was that he was the first Vice President to preside over two impeachment trials.

No more interesting and colorful character than John Nance Garner has trod the American political stage. County judge of a frontier county, member of the Legislature, member of the National House of Representatives, and his party's floor leader, then Speaker of the House and Vice President of the United States, John Garner never was a political drudge. Always he had a passion for service; always he was increasing his talents. Never did he take a step upward but he was prepared for it.

He was a legislative force in Congress long before the newspaper headlines knew his name. Always he had a genius for staunch friendships, which had nothing to do with political beliefs. He could get intellectual pleasure out of fighting his friend and predecessor Speaker, Nicholas Longworth, on issues. After he had battled Longworth bluntly and savagely on the floor, they would spend hours together in delightful friendship.

Few members of Congress have ever had just the sort of arrangement he had with his constituency.

He started out in the early days of the century by telling the people of the congressional district he represented that he thought most unpleasant situations arose from misunderstanding; therefore he wanted a distinct understanding. He felt that this is a representative government. He wanted to represent his district in Congress as long as he could be their representative. As such, he expected to study legislation and understand it to the best of his ability. He wanted the views of his constituents; but he proposed to make up his own mind, and did not intend to vote for any measure unless he believed that measure was in the public interest.

On that understanding, his district sent him back to Congress term after term. He was defeated for office just once; that was a county office. He made up for that in 1932, when he was elected to two offices, Vice President and member of Congress, in the same election.

In Washington, he was sometimes called Jack or Cactus Jack; in Texas, in his office-holding days, he was John. When a Texan spoke of "John," he meant John Garner; if he meant any other John, he would have told you so.

Texans sometimes liked to refer to him as a typical Texan. I have never thought he was; I have always thought him an extraordinary Texan, an extraordinary American.

The same kind of understanding he had with his constituents, John Garner always had with men with whom he worked. Intensely honest, he never deceived a man in his ilfe. Forthright and direct, he never broke a promise in his life; and I do not believe he ever lost a friendship in his life. I never saw a man cherish friendships more.

"The secret of getting along with men is being honest with them, and never telling them anything but the truth," he once said.

Once he told the House of Representatives, speaking of Representative Finis J. Garrett of Tennessee:

"I pay him the highest tribute I could pay to any man when I say, 'You could not wring a falsehood from him'."

John Nance Garner was thirty-five years old and weighed 132 pounds when he arrived in Washington in 1903 to take his seat in Congress. Theodore Roosevelt was President. Mr. Garner came to the National Capitol directly from four years of service in the Texas Legislature. In the pink-granite Texas Capitol Building, he had shown an aptitude for fiscal matters: state finance, taxation, and economics. He came to the seat of national government eager to increase his knowledge in these, and to study the tariff. His heart was set on the Ways and Means Committee, the committee of Congress most directly interested in the financial operations of the Government.

Joseph G. Cannon was Speaker of the House and its czar, controlling all committee assignments. Speaker Cannon was putting no first-termers on the important Ways and Means Committee. He assigned Garner to the Committee on Railways and Canals, a committee which had not met in years. The assignment left Garner plenty of time on his hands. He employed it in getting acquainted, forming friendships, and studying the rules of the House.

It was not long until House leaders recognized the young Texan as a comer. Capable, energetic, and with ability to make friends on both sides of the aisle, he eventually became a valuable lieutenant of Minority Leader Champ Clark. He made no speeches on the floor of the House; and it was not necessary for him to speak in his home district, where he was firmly entrenched.

It was not until 1913 that he achieved the place on the ways and Means Committee which he had sought. By that time, he had sufficient seniority on the Foreign Affairs Committee to have been its Chairman. Instead, he took the Ways and Means post, going near the foot of the list.

By now, Garner has studied taxation, tariff, and Government finances for ten years, had become an expert parliamentarian; and his influence was felt in all party councils.

As he abandoned his role of silence and began to appear in House debates, leaders noted that he was quick at repartee, chain lightning on his feet in rough and tumble combat.

His gifts for leadership became more and more apparent; and, as years and the fate of politics took the old leaders off the scene, Garner forged to the front. He was well equipped for the big roles he was to fill. He had physical toughness, earnestness, courage, conviction, ability, and vigor; a fast thinker and a hard hitter, he was picturesque in debate. President Wilson relied on him in many delicate matters; and he was summoned frequently to the White House.

Garner really began to attract national notice in the Harding Administration. The Republican landslide of 1920 left him the ranking Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee. He took part in framing the budget legislation and other fiscal matters. By now, he knew the House as well as any man in it. With a pitifully small Democratic minority back of him, he fought the Fordney-McCumber tariff.

A little later, he began his long battle with Secretary of the Treasury Andrew Mellon. This conflict between Garner and Mellon, although they had high personal regard for one another, lasted until Mellon left the Cabinet, ten years later.

The election of 1922 increased the Democratic membership; and, although still outnumbered, the Democrats under his leadership won the fight against the abolition of estate taxes. In 1924, he attacked the Mellon tax bill as unfair to the little man; in a flank attack, he won over enough Republicans to rewrite it entirely. Crowds came flocking to the Capital to fill the galleries when Garner arose to blast the Mellon policies.

In the Seventy-first Congress, he became minority leader. Garner always got great fun out of his job; but he probably never enjoyed anything so much as this leadership in parliamentary give - and - take. Certainly, he never appeared to better advantage. The House credited him with swift judgement, level-headedness, self-possession, and decisiveness. He further increased his fame as an extemporaneuos debater. He made quick decisions with complete reliance on his own judgment. The record made by Democrats in the House under Garner leadership, and in the Senate under the leadership of Senator Joseph T. Robinson, played a big part in the capture of the House by the Democrats in the election of 1930, and special elections midway of the Hoover Administration.

The Democrats in the Seventy-second Congress unanimously nominated Garner for the Speakership. His margin to work with was paper-thin, only three more Democrats than Republicans. President Hoover was in the White House; the Senate was republican. The country was deep in the depression.

The political story of that era was one, at times, of cooperation between two able men (Hoover, the President; and Garner, the Speaker, holding the highest office of any Democrat in the nation), or of a bitter struggle between them at times.

But, years later, when both were out of office; and the nation, without regard to politics, had great admiration for both, Hoover was to say:

"John Garner knew how to play politics; he was a master at that game. But he was a true patriot, a sound thinker, and absolutely trustworthy in his engagements."

Speaker Garner made an excellent presiding officer of the House of Representatives; and the nation began to talk of him as presidential timber. The delegates from Texas were instructed for him in convention. In California, he carried the primary over Franklin D. Roosevelt and Alfred E. Smith.

The delegates from these two states voted for him on the first three ballots at the 1932 Democratic National Convention in Chicago. Garner then released them; and they voted for Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt, of New York, furnishing the votes Roosevelt needed for the nomination. Speaker Garner was unanimously nominated for Vice President.

Speaker Garner made just one speech in the winning campaign of that year; it was rated one of the best made. He talked on something in which he was expert, national finances.

As presiding officer of the Senate, Vice President Garner added to the fame he had won as presiding officer of the House. His geniality and fairness won him additional friends and admirers. He had been in the Senate only a short time when his handling of a parliamentary situation was so skillful that Senator William E. Borah, of Idaho, senior Republican member of the Senate, sent a note to the Vice President's desk, congratulating him. At the end of the session, Borah presented a resolution thanking Garner for his fairness.

The nation seemed to like the idea of a Vice President who performed his constitutional duties meticulously, but made no speeches or laid no cornerstones.

Moreover, the nation seemed to like the idea of a Vice President who eschewed social life and threw all of his tremendous energy into public service; who did nothing which was not in good taste. Without any effort on his part, he became immensely popular.

As Vice President, his habits were those of past years. Mrs. Garner was his secretary. They went to the Capitol every morning at seven-thirty. He began the day by reading newspapers, the Congressional Record and other matter placed before him; read his mail which came from every state in the Union; saw people who came on public business. At twelve o'clock, he opened the session of the Senate. With Mrs. Garner, he left his office for his hotel residence at five-thirty. Sometimes, he read the afternoon papers or played cards until dinner. After dinner, he read books. His taste in literature was wide.

John Nance Garner was born in a mud-chinked log cabin near Clarks-ville, Red River County, Texas, November 22, 1868. His family were pre-Revolutionary Virginians. His branch of the family emigrated to Tennessee, the Tennessee of Jackson and Houston. Garner has something of the Jackson mold but, unlike Jackson, possessed high talent for diplomacy.

The Garner who established the Texas line was Rebecca Garner, grandmother of the Vice President. Widowed and the mother of six children, she emigrated from Tennessee to Texas in 1842. One of her sons was John Nance Garner, father of the Vice President. Mr. Garner's mother lived to see him elected Speaker and nominated for Vice President, but died during the campaign of 1932, at the age of eighty-two.

Such common-school education as Vice President Garner obtained,

he got by walking miles to a frontier school. At sixteen, he was a clerk in his uncle's store, and had decided he was going to study law. To add to his meager earnings, he played shortstop for the Clarksville semi-professional baseball team. Oldtimers in that section told you they had forgotten about the excellence of his fielding and hitting but remembered that he was a fast base-runner, and scrappy on the field. Some of the games broke up in riots; and Garner was suspected of having done nothing to discourage such disturbances.

At eighteen, Garner had saved enough money to enter Vanderbilt University. His health failed; and he returned to Clarksville, Texas.

He read law for a time in the office of M. L. Sims, a Confederate veteran and leading legal light of North Texas. He took advantage of a Texas law which permits the removal of legal disabilities in order to begin the practice of law before he was twenty-one years old.

At twenty-two, his health had again failed. Physicians told him the only way to save his life was to go to a high altitude, dry climate. Young Garner chose Uvalde, ninety miles west of San Antonio, in the cactus and chaparral.

There he formed a law partnership with Tully Fuller. In an unpainted office in the frontier town, Fuller and Garner practiced law. Their fees were not always in cash. Of necessity, Garner became the trading member of the firm. Progressively, he traded hogs, goats, cows, pecan orchards, bank stock, and ranches. Fuller and Garner obtained a newspaper, the Uvalde Leader; and Garner wrote the snappy editorials. In after years, he jocularly told of the days when, as an editor, he was a "molder of public opinion and destroyer of private character."

Four years after he had arrived at Uvalde, the thrifty young lawyer had a private, unencumbered treasury balance of \$18,000; at about the same time, he was chosen County Judge of Uvalde County.

In 1895, he met Miss Mariette Rheiner, daughter of a ranchman. They were married in November 25, 1895. Their son and only child, Tully, was named for Tully Fuller, Mr. Garner's law partner.

By now, he had overcome his early physical handicap and was wiry of body. The same plain living by which he laid the foundation of health and vigor, he continued to follow. His vitality and endurance became a marvel to his friends.

In 1898, he was elected to the first of his two terms in the Legislature. When the census of 1900 gave Texas additional congressional membership, State Representative Garner took no inconspicuous part in carving out the district from which he was elected to Congress in 1902, and continued to represent until he was elected Vice President, thirty years later.

The relations of Roosevelt and Garner during the first four years of the Roosevelt Administration were close; Garner favored most of the legislation enacted. He had attempted to have bank-deposit insurance enacted during the Hoover Administration, and continued his support of it, although Roosevelt opposed it. The Garner-endorsed bank insurance passed.

He tried to dissuade Roosevelt from recognizing Soviet Russia, continuing the nonrecognition policies of the Wilson, Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover Administrations in that respect, but was unsuccessful.

His one big disagreement with Roosevelt was over the third term which Roosevelt sought. In an effort to prevent the breaking of a tradition against a third term for a President, going back to the founding of the Republic, Garner even allowed his own name to be used as a candidate. He had no expectation to winning, merely wishing to express his protest. Even then, their personal relations were cordial.

Back in Texas in 1941, Citizen Garner assumed his new role. He gave much attention to his banks, ranches, and other holdings, built additional town property. His heart had always been in Texas; he had never owned a home in Washington, living in hotels during sessions of Congress. In Uvalde, he always said, he got the view of an American community on government.

To Uvalde, the former Vice President was the same kind, friendly man, with a gracious charming wife, who went their way, simple and unaffected. His neighbors told you that to know John Nance Garner was to learn a lesson in democracy.

The unpretentious, substantial brick home the Garners had built for themselves stood among century-old Texas live oaks. The house was filled with mementoes of happy associations. Sometimes, in afternoons, the former Vice President napped under the pecan trees in his back yard. The Garner lawn was a bird sanctuary. Mrs. Garner planted additional flowers.

They had planned some travel; but Mrs. Garner became ill. She was in somewhat better health when they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1945. But her condition grew worse; she died in August 1948.

For the fifty-three years of their married life, they had been inseparable; they had been partners in everything. When he was elected to the Legislature, she had studied stenography to become his secretary.

This companionship ended, Garner no longer wanted to live in the comfortable brick house; back of it still stood the little white house where they lived when they were first married. The former Vice President gave the brick house, with its furnishings and mementoes, to the

City of Uvalde for a library and museum, as a memorial of his wife, and moved to the little white house. There he observed all of his birth-days from his 80th to his 98th.

Every year visitors from all over the nation were to stop for a visit with John Nance Garner. On his eighty-ninth birthday in 1957, he told friends that his book showed that persons from all except two states visited him that year.

Once or twice, Garner let old writer friends use comments he made on public matters, but he declined all requests for formal interviews, and refused numerous offers to make known his views on radio and television.

"Too many people give too many interviews on too many subjects," he said. John Garner liked to be a private citizen, enjoyed being out of the spotlight.

