

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 22 1979

APR 4 1979

DATE ENTERED

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Matthew Cartwright House

AND/OR COMMON

Matthew Cartwright House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

505 Griffith Ave

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Terrell

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

CODE  
48

COUNTY

Kaufman

CODE  
257**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

 DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

## PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. James I. Cartwright

STREET &amp; NUMBER

505 Griffith Ave

CITY, TOWN

Terrell

STATE

Texas

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kaufman County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Kaufman

STATE

Texas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

January, 1979

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Texas Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Austin

STATE

Texas

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The Matthew Cartwright house is an example of the transitional hybrid of Greek Revival and Second Empire style found in Texas in the last quarter of the 19th century. D. B. Alexander, in his Texas Homes of the 19th Century, referred to this style as "symmetrical Victorian". Construction of the main block of the house was begun in 1883, and in 1894 the galleries were added. Additions at the back of the house, forming an ell with the main block, were added in 1922 and 1940. The original portion of the three bay house is symmetrical in elevation, as well as in plan, with two rooms on each side of a central hall on both floors.

The two and a half story height of the building, plus the tower, various mansard elements, dormers with metal roof cresting, and the one-bay, two story colonnaded entry portico lend a strong verticality to the composition. The two-tiered galleries, supported by columns at each level, flank the front entry and wrap around the sides of the house on both stories to add a horizontal emphasis to the composition by virtue of the pronounced cornice and balustrade.

The house is located on a city lot measuring 164' by 326', with the front entrance facing north. Partially concealed by the addition of the galleries, the bracketed, denticulated cornice of the original house is further detailed with a paneled frieze. The original portion of the house has a multi-faceted, low-hipped roof with two unusually large dormer windows containing both round topped windows and circular windows. The roof of the gallery is essentially flat. The undulating galleries are further characterized by a prominent, banded, curvilinear cornice that repeats the projections of the bay windows.

The house is of balloon frame construction with weatherboard siding. The Roman Doric fluted columns of the galleries are of cypress, as are the ballusters. The original roof was of wood shingles, painted black. The present roof is asphalt composition shingles.

The most dominant decorative element is the centrally located, Second Empire style tower. It is square in plan with two tall double-hung windows in each elevation. The windows of the front elevation appear to open onto a small, balustraded balcony. The wood shingle siding of the tower is applied in an imbricated pattern. Integral with the tower are flanking twin dormers. The flat roofed dormers provide a visual base from which the tower springs. Each dormer contains three short, round-headed, double hung windows and a round, fixed glass window at each side. The spring point of the arch of each window is accentuated by molding. The flat roof of the dormer receives decorative metal roof cresting with lightning rod accents at each corner.

Originally the roof was penetrated by four chimneys, but only three are present today. One of those remaining is particularly prominent, fluted and corbel-capped. According to early photographs, an identical chimney appeared opposite this one. The house contains eight fireplaces (four on each floor) and each of the four chimney stacks contains two flues.

A pair of windows is placed over the main entry, but more frequently the tall, one-over-one light double hung windows are used separately or grouped in three's to form a bay window. There are leaded glass windows in the dining room.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Bi-laterally symmetrical in plan, the original portion of the house contained four rooms on both floors. Due to the addition of seven rooms plus an attached garage, the rear half of the house is no longer symmetrical and room usage has been altered considerably.

The front entry and entry hall are hexagonal and triangular ceramic tile. Floors on the first floor are maple with walnut in-lay, except the dining room where the flooring is parquet. The ceilings are twelve feet high on the first floor and are detailed with molding and rosettes. The walls are plaster and have simple cornice moldings. Interior wood trim in the older part of the house is generally painted. On the first floor the wainscoating in the hall, the paneling in the dining room and the doors and trim are black walnut. The floors upstairs are yellow pine. Floor joists (continuous) are of heart pine. All original hardware is brass.

The open stair well has two landings and three flights of steps per floor, continuing to the third floor where a narrow, single flight stairway leads to the attic.

The original fireplace mantels were of east Texas slate, but some of these have been replaced with wood classically styled mantels. One fireplace is coal burning and the others are wood burning.

The original iron fence is still in situ across the front yard. Outbuildings include a gazebo, which has been moved, that formerly served as the well house. A covered cistern remains where the well house once stood. Sidewalks are concrete. Reportedly there were servants quarters, several barns, a chicken house and a pigeon cote, but these are no longer extant. The garage on the east side of the house was formerly the smoke house, until it was moved and made into a garage around 1915.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1883-4 & 1894

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Charles Alexander Gill - architect  
M. H. Marshall - contractor (1883-4)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cartwright house, built in 1883, is a distinctive example of residential architecture when the affluent used architecture to express their wealth, pride and ambition. Located at 505 Griffith Ave., the Matthew Cartwright house is the most prominent house in Terrell. The symmetrical Victorian home, exhibiting Italianate and Second Empire characteristics, was embellished in 1894 with an imposing two tiered gallery detailed in a Greek Revival manner by architect C. A. Gill.

Matthew Cartwright was born in San Augustine, Texas, in 1855. Both of his parents were from pioneer families that moved to Texas from Tennessee. Following his graduation from Cumberland University in Lebanon, Tennessee, where he was influenced by the ante-bellum mansions of Memphis, Matthew Cartwright moved to Terrell, Texas, in 1874. In 1876 he married Mary Davenport and became a successful rancher, cattleman, banker, land owner and authority on land value. With expanded railroad services, a wider variety of building materials could be obtained in Texas as well as the same furniture, clothing, and architectural styles as those current in Memphis or New York, St. Louis and New Orleans. The addition of the galleries was particularly appropriate to the climate of east Texas and reflects the reluctance with which the Greek Revival style was given up in Texas. The restraint with which detail is used, combined with the formality of the symmetrical organization, give the Matthew Cartwright house great distinction.

The house was apparently built over a long period of time which accounts for some of the stylistic variations evident. The galleries (1894) and the sleeping porch (1922) were the only additions made during Matthew Cartwright's occupancy. The galleries have been attributed to Charles Alexander Gill, who was also a native of Tennessee. He was born in Fayetteville, Tennessee, in 1837. He came to Texas via Athens and Huntsville, Alabama, where he became an apprentice carpenter. He continued his carpentry work in Rienzi, Miss., but returned to Huntsville, where he worked with the Memphis and Charleston Railway during the Civil War. In 1870 he set up a planning mill in Huntsville. By 1874 he moved to Dallas where he was a contractor and builder for fourteen years. He became engaged in the practice of architecture in 1888 and designed numerous houses and commercial buildings in Dallas and the surrounding area including Terrell, until his death in 1916. The third city hall in Dallas, built in 1888 is attributed to C. A. Gill.

Following the deaths of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Cartwright in 1925 and 1937 respectively, the ownership of the house was passed on to one of their daughters, Mrs. Jerome C. Head who was born in the house and lived there until her marriage. Following the death of her husband, Mrs. Head resumed living in the home with her mother. Upon the death of Mrs. Mary Davenport Cartwright in 1937, the heirs sold their interests in the house to Mrs. Head and her sister, Mrs. C. S. Pickrell. Ownership of the house has remained in the Cartwright family with the current owners being Mr. and Mrs. James I. Cartwright, grandson of Matthew Cartwright.

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The house has always been kept in good repair and today it is in excellent condition. Additions occurring mainly at the rear of the house have been done in a sympathetic way to the original house and gallery, with the front elevation being relatively free of intrusive additions.

The Matthew Cartwright house in Terrell is representative of the large, central hall plan, frame houses built in Texas during the latter half of the 19th century. The Cartwright house in Terrell still retains an aura of plantation and cattle wealth and Victorian ostentation that recalls the period following the Civil War, when the leading families were building their mansions. The house with much of its furnishings intact still remains in the Cartwright family.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

D. Blake Alexander, Texas Homes of the 19th Century, Austin: University of Texas Press, 1966.  
 Marcus Whiffen, American Architecture Since 1780, Cambridge, M.I.T. Press, 1969.  
Dallas Morning News, June 11, 1916.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.227 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Terrell North, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 7514 4410 3626 11610

B                        

C                        

D                        

E                        

F                        

G                        

H                        

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The property is designated as Revised Lot - 2B Block - 385 City of Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas. The property is further described by the following: BEGINNING at the North corner of a tract heretofore conveyed to Eugenia P. Cartwright by Matthew Cartwright and wife, Mary C. Cartwright, by Deed dated August 1, 1922, recorded in

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Joe R. Williams, Project Director  
Ruth Parshall, Restoration Consultant

ORGANIZATION Texas Historical Commission

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station

CITY OR TOWN Austin

DATE 2/1/79

TELEPHONE 512-475-3094

STATE Texas 78711

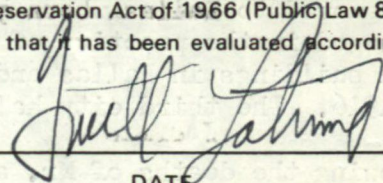
# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL    STATE    LOCAL X

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE February 9, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER Chuck Adams

ATTEST: Marcella Sheffy

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 4-7-79

DATE 4-2-79

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

(continued boundary description)

Volume 254, Page 619, Deed Records of Kaufman County, Texas;  
THENCE S 45 W 326 feet to a point in the West line of said tract;  
THENCE N 45 W 164 feet, more or less, to corner in the East line of the B. L. Gill  
homestead tract;  
THENCE N 45 E 326 feet, more or less, to corner in the Southwest line of Griffith Avenue,  
which point is also the East corner of the B. L. Gill homestead tract;  
THENCE S 45 E 164 feet, more or less, to the place of beginning; said tract of land having  
been conveyed to Mary C. Pickrell and Jerome C. Head by Deed dated March 22, 1939, from  
Holman Cartwright, et al, and recorded in Volume 265, Page 328 of the Deed Records of  
Kaufman County, Texas.

79002988

Property Castwright, Matthew, House

State Id. (Huffman)

Working Number 2.22.79.343

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 8  
Maps 1

**CONTROL**

*OK 2.23.79*

*Well-stated significance - covered in context of specific association with influential Castwright family, as representation of the architecture of that period, not for good - evolved architectural styling.*

**HISTORIAN**

*ibey  
4-2-79  
accept*

*Well-written form.*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_  
Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

*see above -*

*ibey  
4-2-79  
accept*

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_  
Federal Register Entry 5-1-79

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_  
Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

Entered APR 4 1979



Matthew Cartwright House  
505 Griffith Ave.  
Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas

Photo by Stan Klein, Texas Historical Commission  
1978

North elevation  
Photo #1

FEB 22 1979

APR 4 1979



Matthew Cartwright House  
505 Griffith Ave.  
Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas

Photo by Stan Klein, Texas Historical Commission  
1978

East elevation  
Photo #2

FEB 22 1979

APR 4 1979



Matthew Cartwright House  
505 Griffith Ave.  
Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas

Photo by Stan Klein, Texas Historical Commission  
1978

Northwest oblique  
Photo #3

FEB 22 1979

APR 4 1979



Matthew Cartwright House  
505 Griffith Ave.  
Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas

Photo by Stan Klein, Texas Historical Commission  
1978

Northeast oblique  
Photo #4

FEB 22 1979

APR 4 1979



Matthew Cartwright House  
505 Griffith Ave.  
Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas

Photo by Stan Klein, Texas Historical Commission  
1978

Southwest oblique  
Photo #5

FEB 22 1979

APR 4 1979



Matthew Cartwright House  
505 Griffith Ave.  
Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas

Photo by Stan Klein, Texas Historical Commission  
1978

North oblique of addition wing  
Photo #6

FEB 22 1979

APR 4 1979



Matthew Cartwright House  
505 Griffith Ave.  
Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas

Photo by Stan Klein, Texas Historical Commission  
1978

South elevation  
Photo #7

FEB 22 1979

APR 4 1979



Matthew Cartwright House  
505 Griffith Ave.  
Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas

Photo by Stan Klein, Texas Historical Commission  
1978

Oblique of Gazebo  
Photo #8

FEB 22 1979

APR 4 1979

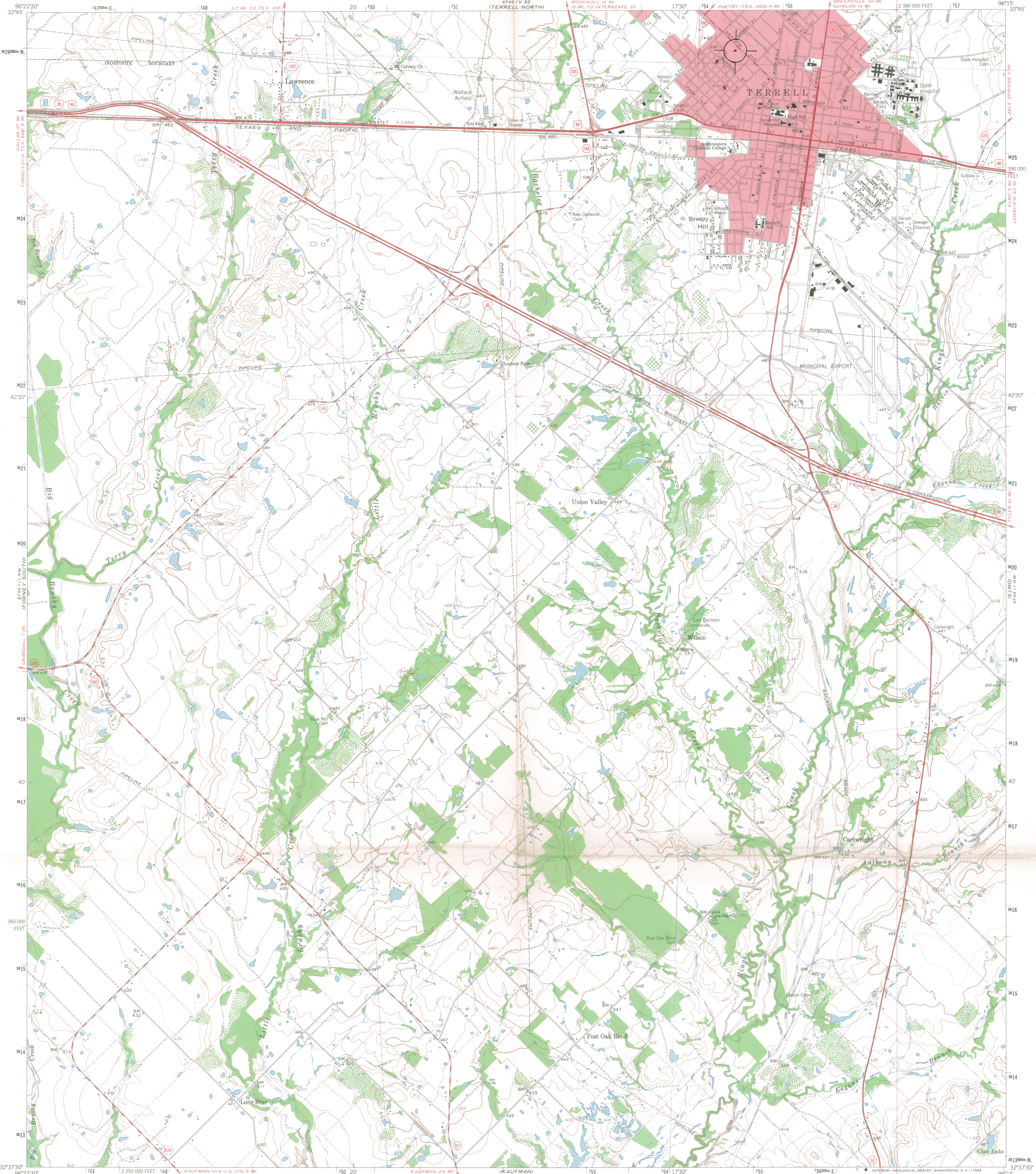
6749 11 NW  
(FORNEY NORTH)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

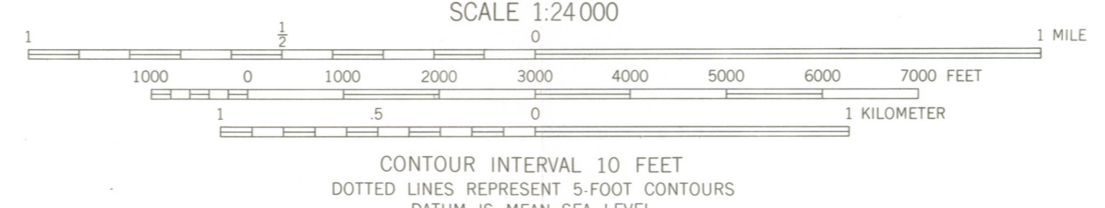
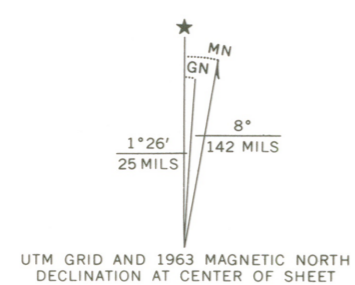
**MATTHEW CARTWRIGHT HOUSE**  
505 GRIFFITH AVENUE  
TERRELL, KAUFMAN CO, TEXAS  
UTM REFERENCE:  
14/ 754440 / 3626160

TERRELL SOUTH QUADRANGLE  
TEXAS-KAUFMAN CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

6749 1  
QUINLAN 1:625000



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1961. Field checked 1963  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum. 10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, north central zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



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

RECEIVED  
FEB 22 1979  
NATIONAL REGISTER  
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty — Light-duty  
Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt  
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

TERRELL SOUTH, TEX.  
N3237.5-W9615.7.5  
1963  
AMS 6749 111 NE-SERIES V882

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered APR 4, 1979

Name

Location

Galvez Hotel

Galveston  
Galveston County

Cartwright, Matthew, House

Terrell  
Kaufman County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower  
Honorable Jack Brooks  
Honorable Ray Roberts

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

NR Byers/bjr 4/9/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.