

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 21 1979

DATE ENTERED

JUL 27 1979

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Tol Barret House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

1/2 mile west of FM 2863, S of Nacogdoches

STREET & NUMBER approx. 3 1/2 miles south of Nacogdoches

CITY, TOWN

Nacogdoches

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2

STATE

Texas

CODE

048

COUNTY

Nacogdoches

CODE

347

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
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Captain and Mrs. Charles K. Phillips (Ret.)

STREET & NUMBER

Route 4 Box 462

CITY, TOWN

Nacogdoches

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas 75961

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Nacogdoches County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Texas Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Austin

STATE

Texas

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1975</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Tol Barret House is a one-story, frame, east Texas farmhouse constructed in about 1848 of locally milled pine lumber. The original site for the structure was nine miles southeast of the city of Nacogdoches; however, when threatened with demolition in 1975, the building was moved about ten miles west of its original site. Efforts to persuade the owners to save the building failed, and numerous attempts to raise money to move the house to Nacogdoches as part of a Bi-Centennial project proved unsuccessful. Recognizing the structure's historical importance, the current owners purchased the building and re-located it on their property. The house is presently being restored and will be used as a guest house for the owners.

The front elevation displays a symmetrical facade with a central door flanked by two 12/12 windows on either side. A covered porch extends the length of the house and is supported by six unadorned, wood square columns. The original floor plan included two rooms with an open hallway (dog-run) dividing the two rooms. The current owner speculates that the hall was enclosed before 1913 to help accommodate Barret's large family - Barret had eight children. Exterior brick chimneys extended beyond the gable roof on the east and west facades, but were removed when the house was relocated. The chimneys will be reconstructed. In the early twentieth century a metal roof replaced the original wood shingled roof.

The removal of the lap siding (applied in the early twentieth century) revealed vertical 2" x 12" pine boards which extend vertically from the floor joists. This feature is unusual for this type of structure. The removal of the siding also exposed the original window frames of the east and west facades. Exhibiting identical proportions as the front windows, these openings have been replaced with 12/12 windows.

A shed roof addition was attached onto the rear which provided three more rooms. The central room contained the kitchen and dining room while the outer two rooms were used as bedrooms. The 4/4 windows of the addition indicate that the rear section was constructed in the late nineteenth century.

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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)

Association with first man in Texas to drill for oil.

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tol Barret House represents a good example of a mid-nineteenth century east Texas farmhouse. Built about 1848, the one-story frame house served as the home of the state's first successful oil well driller, Tol Barret, from 1867 until his death in 1913, and stands as the only remaining building directly associated with Barret. The house displays many unusual architectural details for a house of the late 1840's. The 12/12 windows distinguish the structure from other east Texas homes of that period. The building also exhibits vertical board and batten construction, an extremely unorthodox method for that region and period.

Lyne Taliaferro Barret was born in Appomattox, Virginia in 1832. After moving to Tennessee, he and his family settled in Texas in 1842 and were listed as residents of Nacogdoches county in the 1850 census. When he was 25 years old, Barret married Angelina Thomas of Melrose and began work as a clerk in Angelina's uncles' general store. One of the uncles, John B. Hardeman, had constructed the two room, dog-run residence two miles west of Melrose about 1848 and sold the house to Barret when Hardeman's wife died in 1867. Barret lived in the house until his death in 1913.

Barret proved to be a very industrious and enterprising individual. Besides his success as a clerk at the general store (he became one of the partners in 1862 and eventually became the owner), Barret obtained a lease to drill for oil near the city of Nacogdoches in early 1859, but the Civil War and the lack of machinery prevented him from producing what could have possibly been the world's first oil well (the first was drilled in Pennsylvania in August 1859). Barret also served in the Confederate Army from 1863 to 1865 and was commissioned a captain at the war's conclusion.

After the war, Barret once again focused his attention on drilling for oil and founded the Melrose Petroleum Co. in 1865. In early fall 1866, Barret successfully completed Texas' first producing oil well. (This site, Oil Springs Oil Field Discovery Well was listed on the National Register November 23, 1977). With this success, Barret traveled to Pennsylvania to secure financial backing for his oil venture. He convinced John Carll, an early pioneer in Pennsylvania's oil industry, to invest in Barret's enterprise. After several unsuccessful attempts, Carll lost interest, abandoned the search and returned to Pennsylvania. Barret became discouraged and returned to his mercantile business. He never again attempted to drill another well.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

On March 23, 1913, Barret died, but the house continued to be owned by Barret's descendants until 1956 when the Irvines purchased the house. Since that time, the structure had been neglected.

In 1975, the owners planned to raze the building and use the scrap lumber to construct a new barn. Numerous attempts were made to save the building, but these efforts failed. Finally, the current owners, realizing its historical significance, purchased the structure and moved it to its present location - about 12 miles from its original site. The new location closely resembles the rural setting of the original site, and does not adversely affect the historical integrity of the new setting. The owners are in the process of restoring the structure to the period when Barret resided in the house.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Alexander, Drury Blakely, Texas Homes of the 19th Century, Austin: University of Texas Press, 1966.
 Phillips, Charles, National Register submission filed at the Texas Historical Commission, 1978.
The Handbook of Texas, edited by Walter Prescott Webb, Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1952.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Nacogdoches, Texas

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62,500

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 341750 34900000
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

David Moore/Historian Joe Williams/Project Director

ORGANIZATION

Texas Historical Commission

DATE

10/31/78

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 12276

TELEPHONE

512-475-3094

CITY OR TOWN

Austin

STATE

Texas

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

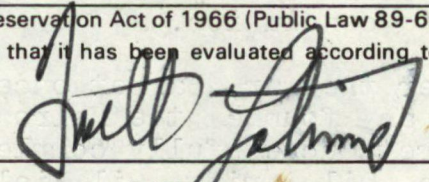
THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

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 May 14, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

acting Charles G. Henry
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 ATTEST: Carol Brooks
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 7.27.79

DATE 7/25/79

79002998

Property Barret, Tol, House
State TX (Nacogdoches) Working Number 5.21.79.1183

TECHNICAL

Photos 5
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK *pl*
5.22.79

Association with Barret of significance in Texas oil history and as local merchant. Although moved in 1975, this house is only surviving structure with Barret association.

HISTORIAN

Accept

Sheffield 7-24-79

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

This resource meets the criteria for a building that has been moved in that it has architectural value as a good example of a mid-19th century east Texas farmhouse and as the only surviving structure associated with the owner. Current owners rescued the house from demolition and are restoring it to its 19th century appearance.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Gale Brooks
7/25/79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 9-4-79

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered JUL 27 1979



Tol Barret House
Nacogdoches vicinity, Nacogdoches County, TX

Photo by Danny Hardy, Texas Historical
Commission, April, 1979

North (front) elevation

Photo #105

MAY 21 1979

DOE
JUL 27 1979



Tol Barret House
Nacogdoches vicinity, Nacogdoches County, Texas

Photo by Danny Hardy, Texas Historical
Commission, April, 1979

Northwest oblique

Photo #2 *075*

MAY 21 1979

DOE
JUL 27 1979



Tol Barret House
Nacogdoches vicinity, Nacogdoches County, Texas

Photo by Danny Hardy, Texas Historical
Commission, April, 1979

East facade

Photo #3 *of 5*

MAY 21 1979

DOE
JUL 27 1979



Tol Barret House
Nacogdoches vicinity, Nacogdoches County, Texas

Photo by Danny Hardy, Texas Historical
Commission, April, 1979

South facade

Photo #4 *of 5*

MAY 21 1979

DOE

JUL 27 1979



Tol Barret House
Nacogdoches vicinity, Nacogdoches County, Texas

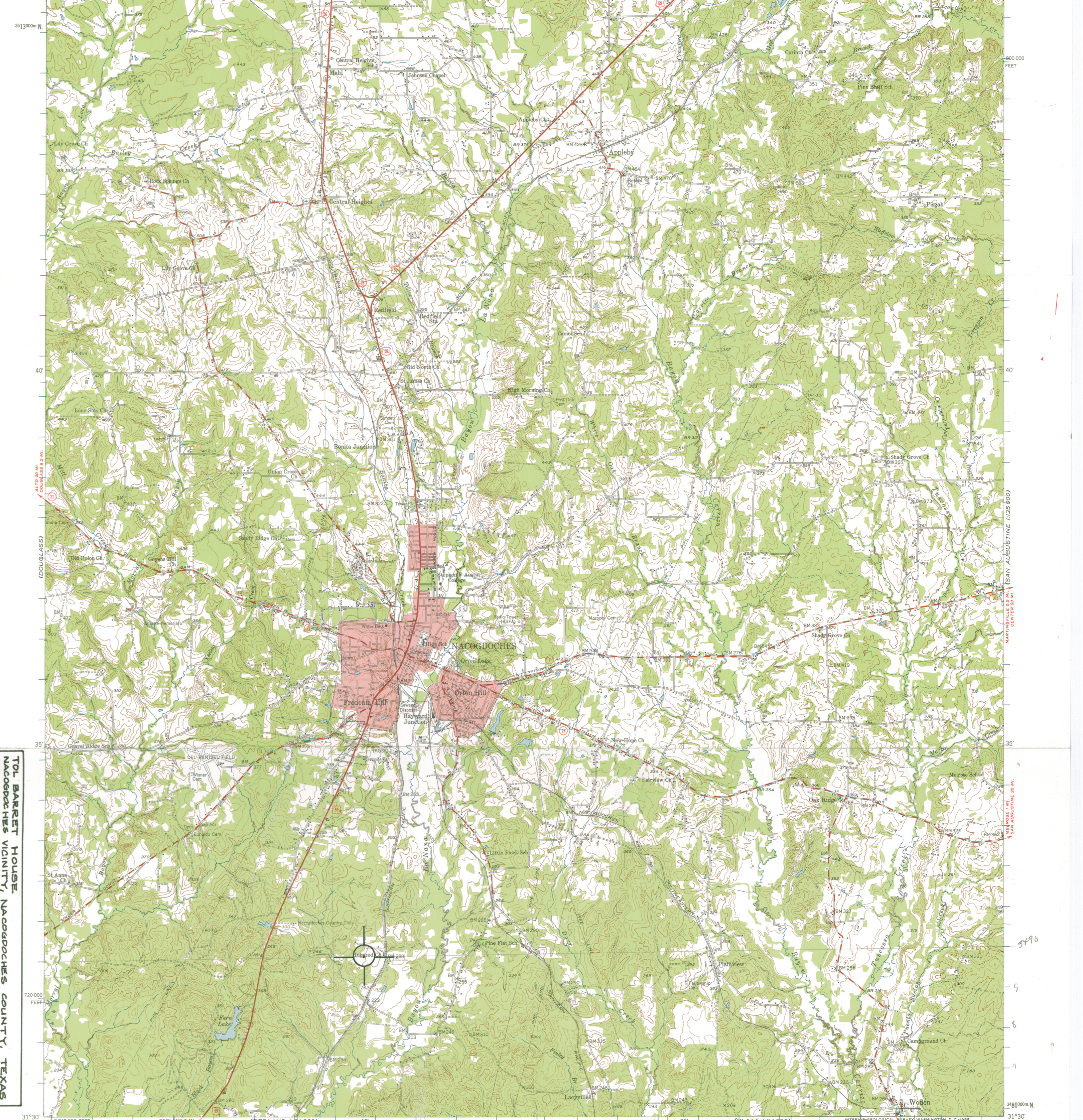
Photo by Danny Hardy, Texas Historical
Commission, April, 1979

Northeast oblique, showing reconstructed
well house.

Photo #5 *of 5*

MAY 21 1979

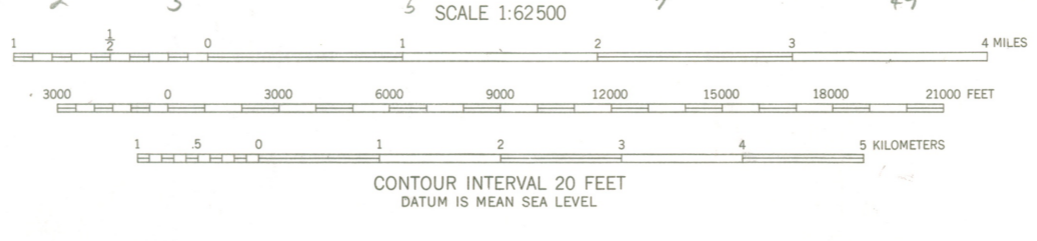
DOE
JUL 27 1979



TOL BARRET HOUSE
 NACOGDOCHES VICINITY, NACOGDOCHES COUNTY, TEXAS
 U.T.M. REFERENCE: 15/341750/3440000

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC&GS
 Topography from aerial photographs by Kelsh plotter
 Aerial photographs taken 1947. Field check 1952
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
 central zone
 Red tint indicates areas in which only
 landmark buildings are shown
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 15, shown in blue

TRUE NORTH
 MAGNETIC NORTH
 APPROXIMATE MEAN
 DECLINATION, 1952



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
 Heavy-duty 4 LANE 16 LANE Light-duty
 Medium-duty 4 LANE 16 LANE Unimproved dirt
 U. S. Route State Route

RECEIVED
 MAY 21 1979
 NATIONAL REGISTER
 JUL 27 1979
 NACOGDOCHES, TEX.
 N3130-W9430/15
 3194-1952-310

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, FEDERAL CENTER, DENVER, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



VP

Leano Grande Plantation
Route 4 Box 462

Nacogdoches, Texas. 75961

12 June, 1979

(TX)

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
44 G. Street N.W.
Washington D.C. 20243

Dear Dr. Murtagh,

We were pleased to receive your letter H32-NR of May 30th advising that the nomination of the Tol Barret House would soon be processed and hope that you find it worthy of listing. Mrs. Phillips and I had wanted to tell you about it that evening at Grove Park Inn when we all sat around the table with W^m. Seale but weren't sure at that point whether Truitt Latimer's people had sent the nomination forward.

We believe the house has merit both for its long association with the man who drilled the first oil well in Texas and for its architectural features of large 12 over 12 windows and vertical 2" x 12" sheathing which was most unusual for the 1840-50 period of rural Texas.

The National Register Program will surely miss your guidance but we are happy that



it is Columbia that will benefit. Our daughter was secretary to the Dean of Admissions at the Graduate School of Architecture for a number of years and it was Fitch who inspired our son to add the BArch. and MArch. to his BA in history and math. Charles and his wife, Laura who is an architectural historian are both engrossed in restoration in Winston-Salem where he is Director of Restoration at Old Salem, Inc.

Best wishes,

Sincerely,
Charles K. Phillips
Captain USN (Ret.)

lo 6/25

THE NAME _____

DATE **JUN 20 1979**

POSTAL SERVICE HISTORIC PLACES

_____ L. RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

_____ VE. MATERIAL SENT

_____ TELECALL (ATTACHED)

D. T. E. C. N. _____

INITIALS _____

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

TEXAS

STATE

JUL 27 1979

Date Entered

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Arnot House	Marshall Harrison County
Scholz Garten	Austin Travis County
Kennedy Bakery	Houston Harris County
Barret, Tol, House	Nacogdoches vicinity Nacogdoches County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower
Honorable Sam B. Hall, Jr.
Honorable J. J. (Jake) Pickle
Honorable George Thomas
Honorable Charles Wilson

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

NR Byers/bir 8/2/79

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