

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

JUL 28 1980

SEP 30 1980

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Thomason-Scott House

and/or common

2. Location

off TX 51 and SR 922

street & number 1/2 mile west of intersection of Hwy 51 & FM922 not for publication

city, town Era vicinity of congressional district 17

state Texas code 048 county Cooke code 097

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. Glenn I. Scott

street & number P.O. Box 96

city, town Era vicinity of state Texas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cooke County Courthouse

street & number California Street

city, town Gainesville state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Recorded Texas Historic Landmark has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin state Texas

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Thomason-Scott House is a late Victorian cottage with Queen Anne/Eastlake detailing. The one story frame structure is irregular in fenestration and plan, but is basically two rooms wide and three deep; it is typical of houses illustrated in turn of the century architectural pattern books. While the structure has had minor additions, the original house and its architectural detailing remain substantially undisturbed.

The entrance (north) front of the house consists of a center front door and side window, both sheltered by the front porch, and a double window with hood supported by triangular Eastlake brackets on the shallow northeast ell. The hip roof of the porch is supported by turned posts with fan-like brackets; a small lateral gable with fishscale shingles defines the entrance. The posts are joined by a Chinese Chippendale balustrade, unusual for the area. The larger lateral gable over the double window features octagonal fishscale shingles; its vergeboard has bullseye corner blocks and beaded boards similar to architraves found inside the house. The structure is covered by bevel siding and a large hip roof with gables; a small plain balustrade runs east-west along the ridge of the roof.

The east side of the house has irregular fenestration and the roof is broken by two lateral gables similar to that on the north front. The porch too is similar in detailing to that on the entrance facade, although large sections were filled in thirty years ago. The west side of the house has three bays and one lateral gable, while the rear (south) side of the house, originally a porch, has also been partially infilled.

The north (front) door has heavy Eastlake detailing and beveled glass, and leads into the entrance hall. Interior doors have transomes and the type of corner blocks and beaded architraves found on the vergeboards of the exterior lateral gables. Bronze hardware is used throughout the front portion of the house. Noteworthy interior features include two sets of 9' sliding wood doors (one surmounted by decorative lattice work); two elaborate period mantelpieces; a built-in china cabinet in the original dining (center west) room; and a raised medicine chest in the center east bedroom for the supplies of the structure's first occupant, a doctor. The stained glass back door and the bulk of the period lighting fixtures in the house have been added recently; infilling of the porches occurred about 1948 and after 1974. As is evident in a comparison of the photos, other alterations include covering the wood shingles, removal of the chimneys in 1948 and the bricks used to construct the brick and iron porches, change in paint colors, and simplification of the roof cresting. Replacing the chimneys is the only change proposed at present, but all these alterations would seem to be reversible.

Of six known outbuildings, only the smokehouse and barn survive. They should be considered as contributing to the significance of the site.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1894

Builder/Architect George Brumbaugh

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Thomason-Scott House is a good example of the type of late Victorian cottage once prevalent in Texas towns, and, while the structure has had minor additions, the 1894 building remains largely unaltered and well preserved. It has been of significance in the village of Era since its construction, and is now the most prominent Victorian building surviving in that community. The Thomason-Scott House is also noteworthy as the home of Judge Robert Ewing Thomason, eminent legislator and jurist.

The house was constructed for Dr. Benjamin Richard Thomason and his second wife, Mary Maupin Thomason. Dr. Thomason, formerly a resident of Bedford County, Tennessee, had come to the town of Era shortly after its founding in 1878, and he was the first physician in that part of the county. The builder of the Thomason House was George Brumbaugh who, according to tradition, was sent by his family as a young man to Europe to study medicine but instead took up carpentry. The structure doubled as home for Dr. and Mrs. Thomason and their five children, and as Dr. Thomason's office. After the doctor's death in 1909, his widow sold the house. It became the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lester August Scott in 1948, and it is now owned by the Scotts' son and daughter-in-law, who have worked for six years on a restoration/renovation of the house.

The most prominent occupant of the house was Judge Robert Ewing Thomason (1878-1973), Dr. Thomason's eldest child. In his memoirs, Thomason, The Autobiography of a Federal Judge, Judge Thomason recalled having "hailed from Gainesville" every stick of lumber that went into our new home at Era, which house still stands and is the best one in the city." Following his graduation from the University of Texas Law School, Ewing Thomason began his long and distinguished career as a public servant. He was elected County (now District) Attorney of Cooke County (1903-07). He moved to El Paso in 1912 and there was elected to the Texas Legislature. He served as Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives (1918-1920), Mayor of El Paso (1927-1931) and Representative of the Sixteenth District of Texas to the U.S. Congress (1931-1947). During World War II he was second ranking member of the Military Committee of the House, and played an important part in shaping the military policy of the nation. In 1947 Congressman Thomason was nominated by President Truman and later confirmed by the U.S. Senate in the position of U.S. District Judge for the Western District, and he served in that capacity for many years.

Judge Thomason's daughter, Mrs. Isabelle Thomason Dechard, is a former president of the Dallas County Heritage Society, and has long been interested in historic preservation. Noting the significance of her grandfather's home as representative of its date and locale, Mrs. Dechard further remarked "It is remarkable that no major alterations have been made to the house in its eighty-five years... It seems fitting that the Thomason-Scott House be recognized as a material witness to the character of the citizenry of the community past and present."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Robert Ewing Thomason, Thomason, The Autobiography of a Federal Judge (El Paso: Western Press, 1971)
 Ida Sherrill, "Application for an Official Texas Historical Marker: The Thomason-Scott House, Era, Texas" (MS), 1979
~~Isabelle Thomason Dechard to the Texas Historical Commission, 30 March 1978~~

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 4.62 acres
 UTM NOT VERIFIED
 Quadrangle name Era Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>14</u>	<u>658960</u>	<u>3707280</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification 4 5/8 acres out of the Ramon Trevino Survey Abstract No. 1017 and the A.W. Noble Survey Abstract No. 797 situated in the town of Era in Cooke County, Texas, and more fully described as follows: Beginning in the Decatur Road on the west line of the six acre tract (continued

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

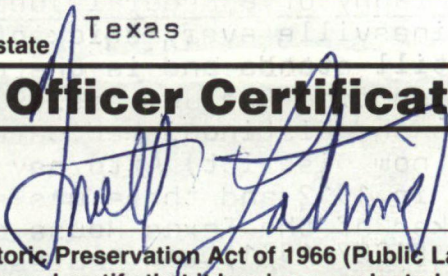
11. Form Prepared By

name/title Peter Flagg Maxson, Preservation Officer and Ira Sherrill, Gainesville
 organization Victorian Society in America, Tx. Chapter date 9 July 1980
 street & number 713 Graham Place telephone (512) GR4-4589
 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



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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer date July 17, 1980

For HCRS use only

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

J. Bell Grosvenor
 Keeper of the National Register

date 9/30/80

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 28 1980

DATE ENTERED

SEP 30 1980

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 4

conveyed by J.M. Lindsay to D.C. Allen et al, trustees, by deed February 1, 1877, recorded in Vol. 14, page 122 of Deed Records of Cooke County, Texas and at the Northeast corner of the 1 acre tract conveyed by L.F. Jones to B.R. Thomason by deed dated January 7, 1882, and recorded in Vol. 23, page 203 of said Deed Records;

Thence West 230.56 feet to the northwest corner of said 1 acre conveyed by Jones to Thomason;
Thence South 416.67 feet to center of alley;
Thence East with center of alley 531 feet to the southwest corner of the lot conveyed by the Era A.F. & A.M. Lodge to T.E. McFadden by deed dated February 26, 1918, recorded in Vol. 127, page 475 of said Deed Records;
Thence North 322 feet to the northeast corner of the lot conveyed by the said Lodge to McFedden;
Thence West 256 feet to the southwest corner of what was formerly known as Dr. Thomason's office lot;
Thence North 101 feet to the northwest corner of said office lot in Decatur Road;
Thence 41.46 feet west to the place of beginning.

Property

Thomason-Scott House

State

IL, Cooke

Working Number

7.28.80.1978

800004086

TECHNICAL

Photos 7

Maps 1

Need Levely Reappraisal

CONTROL

Good example of late Victorian cottage on a corner in TX; now the most prominent Victorian building remaining in its community. Front facade impressively intact. Also the home of an eminent state legislator and jurist.

HISTORIAN

*accept
Grosvenor
9/30/80*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered SEP 30 1980

Federal Register Entry _____

2.3.81

Re-submit _____



Thomason-Scott House

Near intersection of State Highway 51 & FM 922
Era, Cooke County, Texas

Photo courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn I. Scott,
photographer unknown. Date: 1897. Negative
of copy property of Mr. and Mrs. Scott.

North facade, camera facing south. Dr. Thoma-
son (second from left) and his family in
front of the house.

Photo 1 of 7. JUL 28 1980

SEP 30 1980

Photo taken in 1897. Dr.
Thomason (second from left)
and his family in front of
the house.



Thomason-Scott House
Near intersection of HW 51 and FM 922.
Era, Cooke County, Texas

Photo courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn I. Scott.
Photo by Gene's Photos, Gainesville, TX,
1979. Negative property of Mr. and Mrs. Scott.

North facade, camera facing south.

Photo 2 of 7.

JUL 28 1980

SEP 30 1980

North (front) facade taken
in August 1979.

GENE'S PHOTOS
115-17 N. Commerce St.
Gainesville, Texas 76240



Thomason-Scott House

Near intersection of HW 51 and FM 922
Era, Cooke County, Texas

Photo courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn I. Scott.
Photo by Gene's Photos, Gainesville, TX, 1979.
Negative property of Mr. and Mrs. Scott.

Northeast oblique, camera facing southwest.

Photo 3 of 7.

JUL 28 1980

SEP 30 1980

Northeast corner capturing
many of the architectural
detailings including both
east and north (front)
porches and massive gables
with fancy-butt shingles.

GENE'S PHOTOS
115-17 N. Commerce St.
Gainesville, Texas 76240



Thomason-Scott House
Near intersection of HW 51 and FM 922
Era, Cooke County, Texas

Photo courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn I. Scott.
Photo by Gene's Photos, Gainesville, TX 1979.
Negative property of Mr. and Mrs. Scott.

Northwest oblique, camera facing southeast.

Photo 4 of 7.

JUL 28 1980

SEP 30 1980

Northwest corner. The
bricks used in the walks
are from the original
chimneys which were removed
in 1948 due to deterioration.
Future plans include
replacing the chimneys.



Thomason-Scott House
Near intersection of HW 51 and FM 922
Era, Cooke County, Texas

Photo courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn I. Scott.
Photo by Gene's Photos, Gainesville, TX, 1979.
Negative property of Mr. and Mrs. Scott.

East facade, camera facing west.

Photo 5 of 7.

JUL 28 1980

SEP 30 1980

East side showing the
partial enclosure of the
porch to incorporate the
bath.

GENE'S PHOTOS
115-17 N. Commerce St.
Gainesville, Texas 76240



Thomason-Scott House
Near intersection of HW 51 and FM 922
Era, Cooke County, Texas

Photo courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn I. Scott.
Photo by Gene's Photos, Gainesville, TX, 1979.
Negative property of Mr. and Mrs. Scott.

South facade, camera facing north.

Photo 6 of 7.

JUL 28 1980

SEP 30 1980

South facade showing the
enclosed back porch which
was originally screened

GENE'S PHOTOS
115-17 N. Commerce St.
Gainesville, Texas 76240



Thomason-Scott House
Near intersection of HW 51 and FM 922.
Era, Cooke County, Texas

Photo courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn I. Scott.
Photo by Gene's Photos, Gainesville, TX, 1979.
Negative property of Mr. and Mrs. Scott.

Southwest oblique, camera facing northeast.

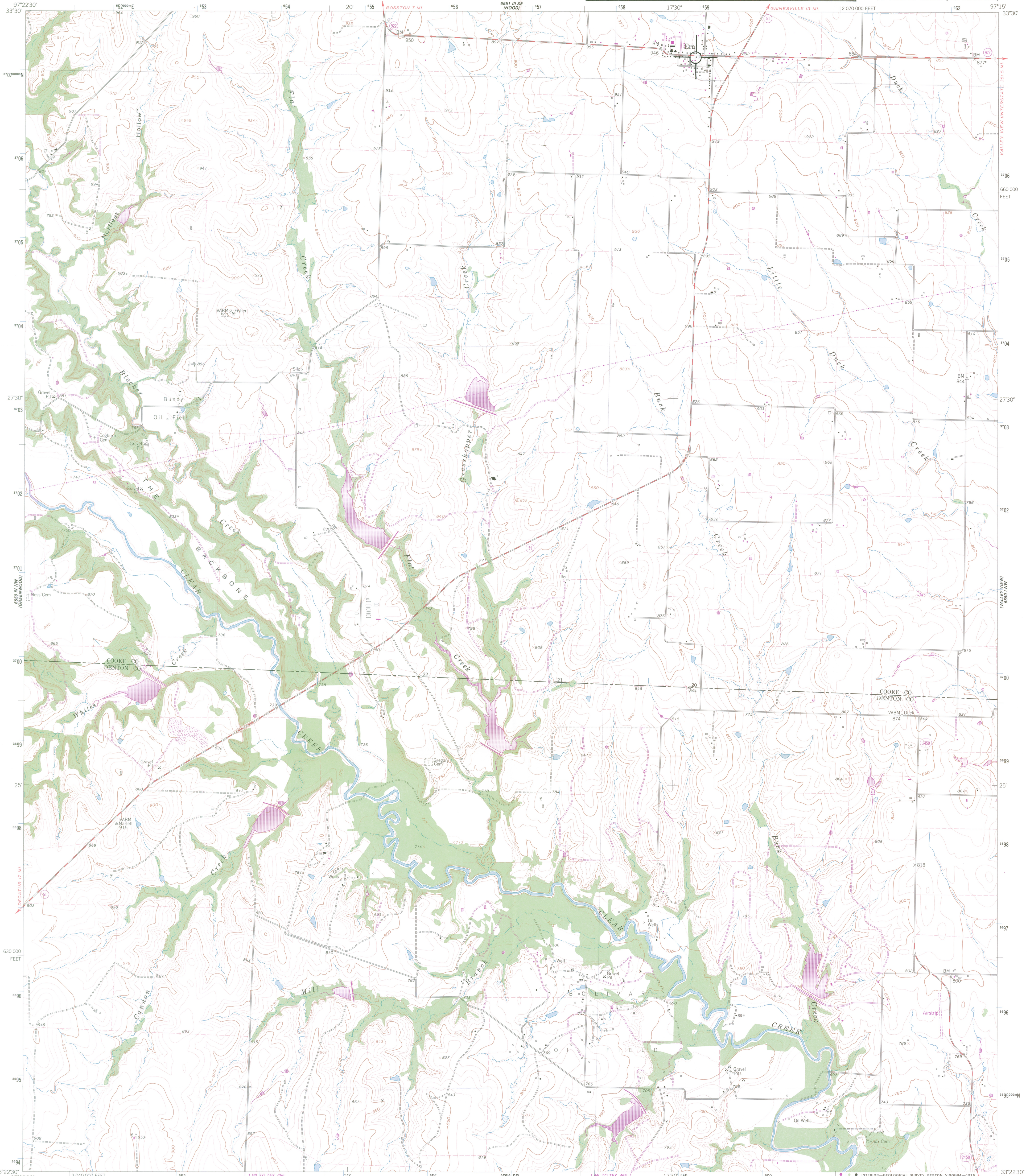
Photo 7 of 7.

JUL 28 1980

SEP 30 1980

The southwest corner. Note
the steep pitched roof and
massive windows

GENE'S PHOTOS
115-17 N. Commerce St.
Gainesville, Texas 76240



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

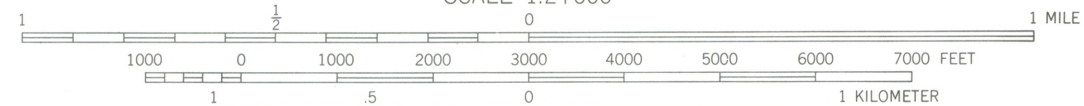
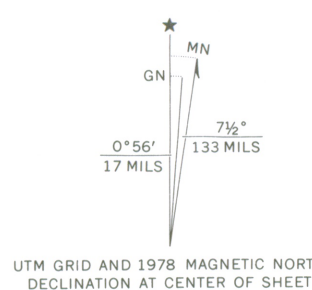
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1957. Field checked 1961

Polycyclic 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

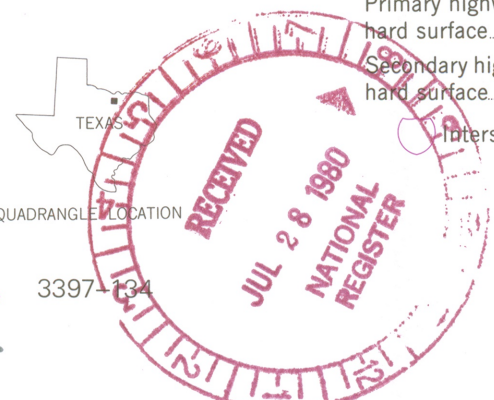
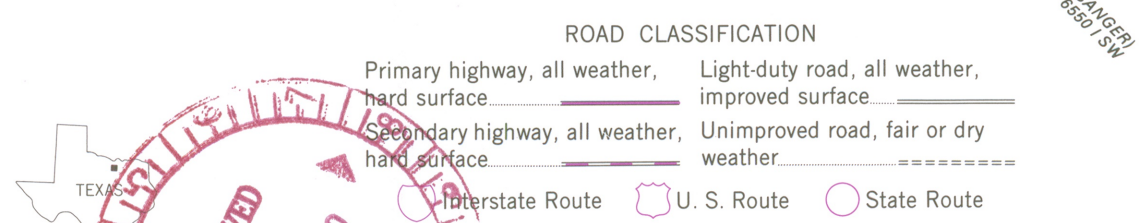
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1976. This information not field checked
Map edited 1978



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5 FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ERA, TEX.
N3322.5-W9715/7.5

1961

PHOTOREVISED 1978
AMS 6550 IV NE-SERIES V82

SEP 30 1980

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered SEP 30 1980

Name

Location

Bartlett Commercial Historic District

Bartlett
Bell and Williamson Counties

Thomason-Scott House

Era
Cooke County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd Bentsen
Honorable John G. Tower
Honorable James M. Leath
Honorable Charles W. Stenholm

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

NR

Byers/js

10/21/80

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

Sheffield 10-14-80
Shuller
10-15
Walsh for
Freder 10/17
H T M 10/17

OCT 20 1980

Honorable Charles W. Stenholm
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Stenholm:

Thank you for your inquiry of September 30, 1980, concerning the nomination of the Thomason-Scott House, Cooke County, Texas, to the National Register of Historic Places.

We are pleased to inform you that the Thomason-Scott House was entered in the National Register on September 30, 1980. We are enclosing a brochure which describes the National Register program.

If we can be of further assistance to you, please let us know. We appreciate your interest in the historic preservation programs of the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Sincerely,

MARGARET G. MAGUIRE

for Chris Therral Delaporte
Director

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Truett Latimer, SHPO, Austin, Texas 78711) w/c of inc.

bcc: Director's Reading File
CL / FHR-CL
FHR-Lumpkin
Associate Director for Cultural Programs-Moore
Deputy Associate Director for Cultural Programs
NR-Reading File)
NR-Sheffield)

FHR:S Sheffield:mc:10/14/80:343-6401

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN NR

TEXAS-Cooke County

CHARLES W. STENHOLM
17TH DISTRICT
TEXAS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1610 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-6605

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

DISTRICT OFFICES:
P.O. Box 192
STAMPFORD, TEXAS 79553
(915) 773-3623

P.O. Box 1101
ABILENE, TEXAS 79604
(915) 673-7221

September 30, 1980

Mr. Chris T. Delaporte
Heritage Conservation and
Recreation Service
Pension Building
440 G. Street
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Delaporte:

On July 18, the State Review Board of the Texas Historical Commission submitted final nomination to the Department of Interior for the Thomason-Scott House to be granted the designation of National Register.

As this historic home is located in Cooke County in the 17th District of Texas, I would like to express my personal interest in this matter and to also ask for a review of the application's progress.

Thank you for giving this request your prompt attention and, with best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,



Charles W. Stenholm
Member of Congress

CWS/jmc