

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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

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

For HCRS use only

received MAR 26 1980

date entered MAY 23 1980

## 1. Name

historic Warren-Crowell House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 705 Griffith Avenue \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Terrell \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 4

state Texas code 048 county Kaufman code 257

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Murphy Leroy Crowell

street & number 705 Griffith Avenue

city, town Terrell \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of state Texas

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kaufman County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Kaufman \_\_\_\_\_ state Texas

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Recorded Texas Historic Landmark;  
title Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_\_ yes  no

date 1973;  
1979 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin \_\_\_\_\_ state Texas

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 Warren-Crowell House is a two story brick (common bond) residence with a red tile hipped roof; it is built in a combination Colonial Revival-Prairie School style.

The entrance (northeast) front of the house is symmetrical and has three large bays. The center entrance is framed by a masonry arch supported by two square brick piers with Sullivanesque capitals. The recessed front door has matching overscaled sidelights; all are of beveled leaded glass and executed in a Prairie School manner. The windows on each side of the entrance bay consist of single sheets of glass surmounted by leaded beveled transoms similar to that found in the front door. The ground floor windows are surrounded by masonry arches like that at the main entrance, while second floor windows lack the architraves. A cantilevered balcony is placed above the front door, and its exterior is defined by a series of horizontal bands and capped by a course of spheres. The glass doors and sidelights of the balcony are in antis behind four Doric columns, and small 1/1 windows flank the balcony. The entrance portico extends two full floors; its entablature is supported by two pairs of banded fluted Roman Ionic columns. The cornice of the entablature features a dentil and egg and dart motif which continues around the perimeter of the house, and rosettes are placed above each of the giant order of columns. The portico is surmounted by a third story projection rather than a pediment. Its central three part single pane windows are flanked by projecting swags; early photographs show cartouches where the swags are now, and the pressed metal shingle-like siding may also have been another early modification. The portico columns rest on brick pedestals which form part of a terrace wall extending the length of the northeast front. The sides and rear of the house have irregular fenestration generally repeated in upper and lower floors. Windows on these elevations are generally 1/1 with masonry sills. A one story porch extends the length of the northwest side and terminates at the west with a porte-cochere; portions of the porch have been enclosed and a greenhouse has been added to the southwest (rear) side of the structure. The southeast side of the house with its projecting wing, however, does not appear to have had modifications.

In plan the house consists of a wide central hall with two irregular rooms at each side and a one story service extension to the rear. The main hall connects with other major rooms by double sliding doors with shouldered architraves featuring an egg and dart border. The wainscoting in the main hall consists of repeating vertical panels. Above the picture molding is found the first in a series of elaborate stencilled wall friezes; this frieze was apparently strongly influenced by the designs of the British Arts and Crafts movement of the late nineteenth century. Elements of the frieze are repeated in the ceiling, which is divided into sections by beams with a bead and reel border. The stairwell (southwest) end of the hall is raised. Its corner fireplace with glazed tiles and the three run staircase with landings are the principal architectural features; these and a built-in bench form an oversized inglenook. Above the main (southwest) landing is an impressive Tiffany-like three-section stained glass window. Original electrical sconces and ceiling fixtures are found here and throughout most of the main portion of the house.

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

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The east (originally music) room is also stencilled above the picture molding; it features a seashell and rinceau motif, said to have a Louis XV precedent, extending along the perimeter of the coved ceiling. Rectangular and oval plasterwork and five medallions for electrical fixtures also ornament the ceiling. The conventional Colonial Revival mantelpiece consists of a shelf supported by two Doric columns, glazed tile and an overmantel with oval looking-glass. The north room (originally library) has another Arts and Crafts movement frieze around the perimeter of the room. The ceiling is divided into sections by beams, and the mantel is typical of the Colonial Revival style. The west room has yet another stencilled Arts and Crafts frieze; the major architectural feature of note in this room is an alcove, separated from the remainder of the room by Doric columns.

Perhaps the single most noteworthy room in the house is the dining (south) room, which incorporates significant Prairie Style and Art Nouveau detailing. The Prairie Style work includes the fireplace, surrounded by a plain marble slab and surmounted by a shelf enclosed by early Wrightean leaded glass; the china cabinet on the southwest wall, with glasswork similar to that above the fireplace; and the peaked, beamed ceiling. The decorative stencilled frieze, however, has very strong Art Nouveau design elements, and features a sinuous, stylized flower motif. A handsome Tiffany-like window with a palm tree design is also of interest. Service rooms to the rear of the dining room have had minor modifications and rearranging. The greenhouse on the southwest is the most significant addition to the house, but, as with other changes, required very few changes to the existing house.

With the exception of the wide stencilled upper hallway, the second floor rooms do not have exceptional detailing. Each of the four principle bedrooms has access to a dressing room with built-in cabinets or closets, and bathrooms contain their original fixtures. As with the downstairs, there have been no significant alterations.

The structure is located in an older residential area; neighboring houses are substantial and occupy broad, suburban lots. A barn and small outbuildings to the rear (southwest) of the Warren-Crowell House were removed before the sale of that portion of the property some years ago, but the Griffith Street (entrance) front still retains its original character and boundaries.

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 1903-04 **Builder/Architect** James Edward Flanders

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

While in some ways typical of the large turn of the century Colonial Revival houses built in Texas and elsewhere, the Warren-Crowell House has several unusual architectural and decorative features seldom found in contemporaneous houses in the state and which are even rarer for having survived intact. The decorative stencilled friezes are among the most significant of the period to be found in Texas, and most original paint colors as well as notable stained and bevelled glass, unusual Prairie School detailing, and original electrical and plumbing fixtures remain unaltered. The house was designed by James E. Flanders, one of the most important area architects of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Finally, the house, built as a direct result of Texas' best known oil boom, was the home of State Senator Robert Lee Warren, a figure of some prominence in the history of Terrell and later Dallas.

\* \* \*

The Warren-Crowell House on first glance has many similarities with other Victorian and Edwardian Colonial Revival mansions in North Texas such as the A.H. Belo House in Dallas or the Wharton-Scott House in Fort Worth (both National Register properties); Colonial Revival design elements are treated in an emphatically non-academic manner, and the proportions of such houses are overscaled and at times overwhelming. However, among the uncertain eclectic detailing of the Warren-Crowell House are found surprising and significant features. Of major interest are the stencilled decorative friezes and ceilings found in six major rooms; the Louis XV frieze in the east room is elegant but conventional, but the Arts and Crafts Movement stencilling in the upper and lower halls and the north and west rooms is very unusual, and the Art Nouveau work in the dining (south) room is one of the extremely scarce manifestations of that style to be found in the state. All stencilling was done by Keith and Company of Kansas City, who sent craftsmen to Terrell for six weeks to work on the Warren-Crowell House. The Prairie Style detailing - the front and balcony doorways and dining room cabinets and mantel - is also exceptional for residential work in the area, and the stained glass executed in a Tiffany-like manner and found in several parts of the house should be noted as well. The survival of the above and other architectural and decorative detailing and fittings is not common, and may be attributed to the fact that the structure has had only three owners, all of whom kept alterations and modernization to a minimum.

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

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The Warren-Crowell House was built in 1903-04 by Robert Warren (1865-1952) and his wife Annie, shortly after the discovery of oil on a farm near Beaumont belonging to Mrs. Warren; it was, therefore, Spindletop money which enabled the Warrens to construct their home. Warren had been born in Harrison County, Texas, and moved to Terrell with his family in the early 1880's. While trained as a pharmacist, Warren chose to read law and later achieved a degree of success as an attorney. He married Annie T. Cartwright of San Augustine, whose forbear Matthew Cartwright had settled there in the 1820's. Warren served in the Texas State Senate 1911-1915, where he was a colleague of the late Sam Rayburn. In 1920 the Warrens and their only child Annie Lee (wife of oilman and philanthropist Summerfield Griffith Roberts) moved to Dallas, where Warren worked in real estate and other investments until his death at age 87. His Terrell home was subsequently acquired by the W.C. McCord family, proprietors of a local mercantile establishment. In 1969 it was purchased by Murphy and Emily (Edwards) Crowell, and it received a Texas Historical Building Medallion in 1973.

The architect of the house was James Edward Flanders (1849-1928), one of the most prolific and versatile architects in North Texas in the period 1875-1915. Born in Chicago, Flanders apparently apprenticed as an architect in Minneapolis before moving to Dallas in 1876. During the next forty years, he designed 125 structures (residential, institutional, commercial and ecclesiastical) in the area. A great many of these have since been demolished, but at least two - the Shackelford County Courthouse in Albany and the Trinity Methodist Church in Dallas - are on the National Register of Historic Places. Flanders was a true eclectic architect, and worked in a variety of styles including Eastlake, Second Empire, Prairie School and Gothic, Moorish and Colonial Revival styles. After moving to California in 1915, his repertoire expanded further, and he designed several handsome structures in a Greene & Greene style.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Jack Stoltz, Terrell, Texas, 1873-1973 (San Antonio: The Naylor Company, 1973); Kahn/Flanders Collection, Dallas Historical Society, Fair Park, Dallas, Texas; Emily Edwards (Mrs.M.L.) Crowell to Peter Maxson, interview, Terrell, 12/18/79; Annie Lee Warren (Mrs.S.G.) Roberts to Maxson, interview, Dallas, 1/5/80; Buie Harwood to Maxson, interview, Austin, (University of Texas), 1/17/80.

# 10. Geographical Data

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreege of nominated property 2 1/4  
 Quadrangle name Terrell South

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	4	7	5	4	2	4	0	3	6	2	6	3	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Being a tract of land situated in the R.O. Redding Survey, City of Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas, and part of Block 597 according to the revised map of said city. Beginning at an iron rod for a corner on the intersection of the Northwest line of Ninth Street and the (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  
 organization Victorian Society in America Texas Chapter date 18 February 1980  
 street & number 713 Graham Place telephone (512) GR4-4589  
 city or town Austin state Texas

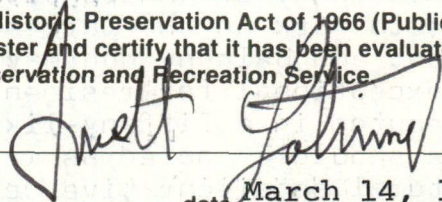
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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

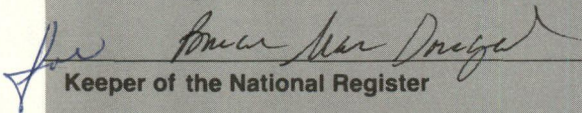


title State Historic Preservation Officer

date March 14, 1980

For HCRS use only

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

  
 Keeper of the National Register

date 5/23/80

Attest: Beth Grovona  
 Chief of Registration

date 5/19/80

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Southwest line of Griffith Avenue. Thence South 45<sup>00</sup>' west with the Northwest line of Ninth Street 195.4 feet to an iron rod for a corner; thence north 45<sup>00</sup>' west 303 feet to an iron rod for a corner; thence north 45<sup>00</sup>' with a fence line 195.4 feet to an iron rod for a corner on the southwest line of Griffith Avenue; thence south 45<sup>00</sup>' east with the southwest line of Griffith Avenue 303 feet to the point of beginning. (Kaufman County Public Survey - Improved Survey, 10/2/72)

Property

Warren-Crowell House

80004137

State

Tx - Kaufman

Working Number

3-26-80 981

**TECHNICAL**

**CONTROL**

Photos 11

Maps 1

An interesting blend of styles popular during the period - notable primarily for its unusual decorative features, especially the fine stenciled friezes and ceilings, and the stained and beveled glass. Impressively intact interior. Built as a direct result of one of the state's major oil booms, it was the home of state Senator Robert Lee D'Warren.

**HISTORIAN**

accept

Grosvenor

5/19/80

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

accept

Grosvenor

5/19/80

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered MAY 23 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_



Warren-Crowell House  
705 Griffith Avenue  
Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas

MAY 23 1980

Photo by Danny Hardy, 1979.  
Negative on file at Texas Historical Commission.

Northeast facade, camera facing southwest.

Photo 1 of 11.

MAR 26 1980



Warren-Crowell House  
705 Griffith Avenue  
Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas

MAY 23 1980

Photo by Danny Hardy, 1979.  
Negative on file at Texas Historical Commission.

East oblique, camera facing west.

Photo 2 of 11.

MAR 26 1980



Warren-Crowell House  
705 Griffith Avenue  
Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas

MAY 23 1980

Photo by Danny Hardy, 1979.  
Negative on file at Texas Historical Commission.

South oblique, camera facing north.

Photo 3 of 11.

MAR 26 1980



Warren-Crowell House  
705 Griffith Avenue  
Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas

MAY 23 1980

Photo by Danny Hardy, 1979.  
Negative on file at Texas Historical Commission.

Northwest facade, camera facing southeast.

Photo 4 of 11.

MAR 26 1980



Warren-Crowell House  
705 Griffith Avenue  
Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas

MAY 23 1980

Photo by Danny Hardy, 1979.  
Negative on file at Texas Historical Commission.

Detail of front entrance (northeast facade).

Photo 5 of 11.

MAR 26 1980



Warren-Crowell House  
705 Griffith Avenue  
Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas

MAY 23 1980

Photo by Danny Hardy, 1979.  
Negative on file at Texas Historical Commission.

Entry hall and stair detail.

Photo 6 of 11.

MAR 26 1980



Warren-Crowell House  
705 Griffith Avenue  
Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas

MAY 23 1980

Photo by Danny Hardy, 1979.  
Negative on file at Texas Historical Commission.

Diningroom fireplace.

Photo 7 of 11.

MAR 26 1980



Warren-Crowell House  
705 Griffith Avenue  
Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas

MAY 23 1980

Photo by Danny Hardy, 1979.  
Negative on file at Texas Historical Commission.

Front (left) parlor detail.

Photo 8 of 11.

MAR 26 1980



*Crowell*

*Hall - floors*

*18-A*

Warren-Crowell House  
705 Griffith Avenue  
Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas

MAY 23 1980

Photo by Andy Hanson, Dallas, 1973. Courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Crowell. Location of negative not known, perhaps property of Dallas Times Herald.

Entrance hall detail.

Photo 9 of 11.

MAR 26 1980

*entrance*

DALLAS TIMES HERALD  
SUNDAY MAGAZINE

ISSUE APR 29 1973  
PAGE 18  
PHOTO A

*170 years old*

*640*

PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
ANDY HANSON  
2328 NORTH PRAIRIE  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75204



PHOTOGRAPHY BY  
ANDY HANSON  
2328 NORTH PRAIRIE  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75204

Warren-Crowell House  
705 Griffith Avenue  
Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas

MAY 23 1980

Photo by Andy Hanson, Dallas. Date not certain,  
most likely 1973. Courtesy of Mr. and Mrs.  
Crowell. Location of negative not known.

Diningroom detail.

Photo 10 of 11.

MAR 26 1980



Warren-Crowell House  
705 Griffith Avenue  
Terrell, Kaufman County, Texas

MAY 23 1980

Photo by Danny Hardy, 1979.  
Negative on file at Texas Historical Commission.

Interior detail of front door.

Photo 11 of 11.

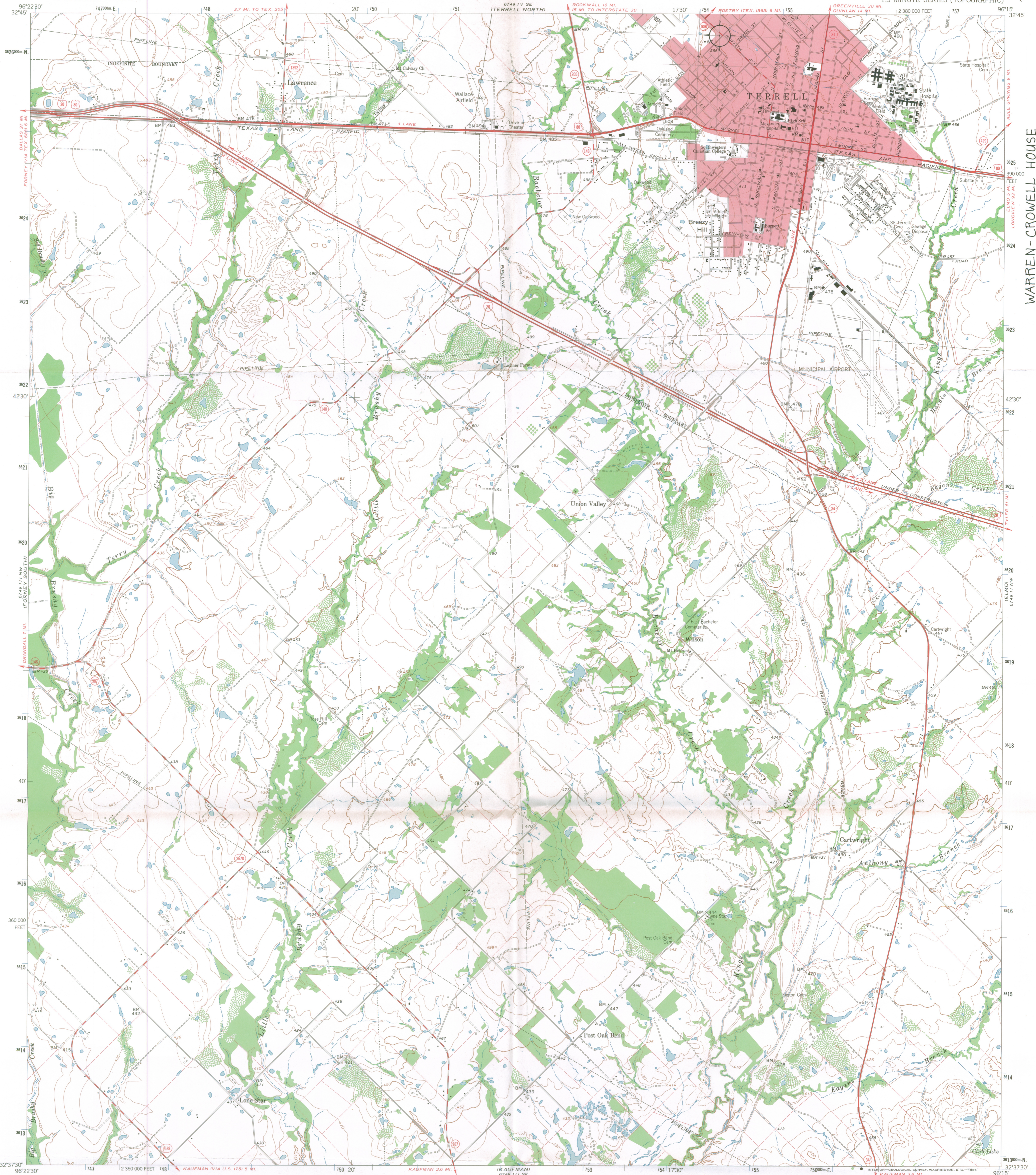
MAR 26 1980

STATELY NORTH

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

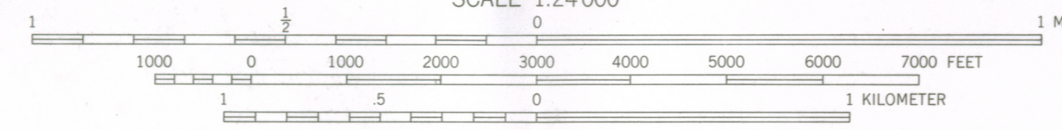
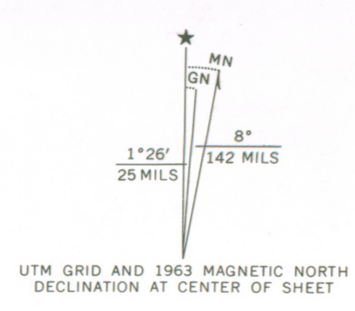
TERRELL SOUTH QUADRANGLE  
TEXAS-KAUFMAN CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

6749 1  
QUINLAN 162500



WARREN-CROWELL HOUSE  
705 GRIFFITH AVENUE  
TERRELL, KAUFMAN COUNTY, TEXAS  
UTM REF: 14754240/3626360

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



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

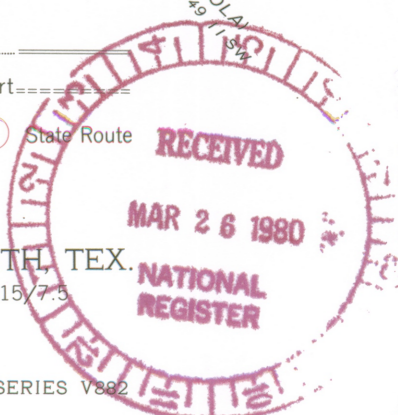
TERRELL SOUTH, TEX.  
N3237.5-W9615.7

1963

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

3296-424

AMS 6749 111 NE-SERIES V862



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE    TEXAS

Date Entered    MAY 23 1980

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Miller, John Hickman, House	Dallas Dallas County
Warren-Crowell House	Terrell Kaufman County
Whaley House	Longview Gregg County
Park Hotel	Seguin Guadalupe County
Taylor National Bank	Taylor Williamson County
Hays County Courthouse	San Marcos Hays County
Scanlan Building	Houston Harris County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower

Honorable James M. Collins

Honorable Ray Roberts

Honorable Abraham Kazen, Jr.

Honorable James M. Leath

Honorable J. J. (Jake) Pickle

Honorable Mickey Leland

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

6/2/80

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