

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

NOV 7 1980

date entered

DEC 3 1980

## 1. Name

historic Weeks House

and/or common Weeks' Mansion, The Market Place

## 2. Location

street & number 2112 Kell Boulevard \_\_\_ not for publicationcity, town Wichita Falls \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 13thstate Texas code 048 county Wichita code 485

## 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 John Mark Hirschi

street &amp; number 3308 Kemp Street

city, town Wichita Falls \_\_\_ vicinity of state Texas

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Clerk's Office, Wichita County Court House

street &amp; number 600 Lamar Street

city, town Wichita Falls state Texas

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible?  yes  nodate  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 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 Weeks' House, 2112 Kell Boulevard, is a generously-proportioned and stately mansion built during the 1920s for a wealthy Wichita Falls lawyer. Unmistakably revivalistic in concept, the Weeks' mansion derives its symmetry and ornamental vocabulary largely from the Renaissance, to a lesser extent from Tudor England. It is a two-wing, central portico building, 2 1/2 stories in elevation with symmetrical massing on two fronts. Vitri-fied brick sheathes load-bearing masonry walls twenty inches thick. A multiple-hipped, slate roof, now turned green with age, contrasts with the red brick and white trim of the exterior. Three brick chimneys with decorated crowns pierce the roofline. The house is basically U-shaped in plan, but all facades exhibit irregularities on this plan. Fenestration varies in both size and ornamentation from facade to facade.

On the front or east face, terraced stone steps ascend gently to the dominant feature, a handsome three-bay stone portico with four pairs of columns carrying a simple entablature. It combines round Doric columns flanked by square pilasters and has recently been veiled by tinted glass. The portico arches are flat; slightly projecting beyond the flanking arches, the central arch is crowned with a segmental pediment and crest. A single front door is tucked beneath the portico and framed by a round arch with fanlight and sidelights. Two Palladian arched windows flank the front door and appear to be the same size as the door. At the second level, the single-story portico supports a balcony with a combination stone and iron railing. Three previously shuttered doors visually reinforce the three-bay portico below. These doors are surmounted at the roof by three hipped dormers.

Symmetrical pairs of shuttered, casement windows flank the portico at both levels. The 8/16 windows of the ground floor are further ornamented with stone sills and keystones whereas the 4/16 windows of the second story are adorned with only the sill. This large shuttered, casement window also appears on the south and north facades.

The strong horizontality of the Weeks' House is emphasized repeatedly on the east facade by a variety of elements: a string course of flat stone dividing upper story from lower; wide, louvered green shutters surrounding the windows, plain quoins on the lower floor; bracketed cornice with paneled frieze under the soffits; and iron railings on two pairs of semi-circular balconies projecting from the second story wing windows.

Curiously, the north facade, rather than the main (east) face, is the most highly decorative facade of the building. Here, the architect drew heavily on classical motifs to increase the dramatic effect of the dominant feature, a one-story carriage entrance. It, too, has a hipped slate roof, but unlike that of the house, the carriage roof is low-pitched. The carriage entrance is adorned with pilasters and two arched openings which in massing, proportion and detail are reminiscent of Roman triumphal arches. Two pairs of columns carrying a simple entablature support each stone arch. The outermost columns are square with square capitals while the inner pair is round with Ionic capitals. Sheltered beneath the porte cochere is an eight-paneled, single door with a semi-elliptical fanlight and sidelights. Above the carriage entrance rises a projecting gable which is pierced by a circular window at roof level and three small, single unit windows at the second story. Four massive piers support the entrance, and overhanging foliate ironwork ornaments its vehicle entrance and exit.

Dominating the other elements of the south facade is a two-story bay window with inset cut stone decoration at roof level. The windows of the bay are ornamented by stone framework and are shaded by modern awnings. The bay window is juxtaposed alongside a one-story Tudor bow window with crenellated parapets and a three-window, double hung 8/12 unit, also framed in cut stone.

The west facade, like the east facade, is reached by steps leading to a terrace. The centered, double back door is set into a two-story bay window glazed with stained glass. The other two doors of the west facade are crowned by broken triangular pediments supported by brackets. Stone sills emphasize the single unit, double hung, 8/8 ground floor windows and

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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Item number 7

Page 2

the 16/16 second story windows.

The interior of the house was planned with formal living, entertaining and dining areas on the ground floor, sleeping and sitting quarters on the second and utility and recreational space in the basement. After the house was completed, additional entertaining space, including a living room and ballroom, was carved out of the basement. The kitchen, breakfast, two stairwells, conservatory, dining room and solarium occupy the south wing, ground floor. The formal entrance hall, music room and formal stairwell occupy the "curve" of the U-plan while the south wing holds a library, two bathrooms, study and stairwell. Upstairs, in addition to bathrooms, sitting and sleeping quarters, a mezzanine overlooks the formal entrance hall and music room. There are 15,000 square feet in the house.

Contrasting with a relatively restrained exterior, the interior exhibits a varied and sumptuous use of finishing materials and detail. The floors of the ground and second floors are hardwood except in the kitchen, bathrooms and solarium, which are tile. Dark-stained, two and three-tiered, Italian walnut paneling is copiously used for the walls of several ground floor rooms, including library, entrance hall and dining room. Dramatic stained glass windows two stories in elevation complement the walnut wainscoting and plaster walls in the music room. The walls in the stairwell are also wainscoted and plastered. Plaster sheathes the study, mezzanine and solarium walls. Ceilings of the ground floor rooms are either plaster, cast plaster or paneled walnut.

Two of the three groundfloor fireplaces are in original condition. A third fireplace, located in the dining room, has been reconstructed after damage sustained from a 1978 fire. Faced with glazed tile, the library fireplace is green marble, as is its hearth. Paneled walnut pilasters flank the fireplace. The spectacular music room fireplace, mantel and overmantel of highly ornate cast plaster, is faced with glazed ceramic tile and has a Tudor-arched opening which is framed with pairs of tapered pilasters and ornamented with a cartouche. A heavily moulded mantle supports a figured and foliated overmantle with six fluted pilasters, in turn carrying an elaborate entablature.

Containing the formal stairwell and mezzanine is a continuous wood and iron stairrail, which is ornamented with painted floral decorations in classical style. Brass hardware on windows and some doors is original. Wood trim and fluted colonnettes define an elegant triple-arched display case at the landing of the formal stairwell.

The solarium originally had a tiled water fountain and handpainted designs on its walls. The latter have been obscured by later generation-paintings.

Except for several reconstructed shutters, the exterior of the Weeks' House is basically unaltered. The interior has undergone some modification during its lifetime, much of which was returned to original status during the 1973 Hirschi restoration. The groundfloor bathrooms have been modernized, and the kitchen has been enlarged by an extension into the pantry. All light fixtures, with one exception, are 1920-style replacements of 1950 fluorescent fixtures. Some doors in the entertainment area were removed during the 1950s but have been replaced with French doors matching the originals.

Upstairs, the master bath has been converted to a bar, but its original sky light is intact. Some walls and closets have been removed, and the ceilings in several bedrooms and sitting rooms were lowered during the 1950s to accommodate air conditioning. In most of those cases, the original ceilings above are intact.

The property was originally part of a 12-acre tract but has been reduced to less than one acre in area. There are a few parking places on the east, north and south sides of the property.

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

**Specific dates** 1924

**Builder/Architect** Builder: W. Fred Weeks; Architect: J.F. Loucks

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

With its revivalistic tendencies, grandiose scale and remarkable interior, the Weeks' House -- like The Breakers in Newport, Rhode Island -- is a notable example of Second Renaissance Revival architecture in America. The Weeks' House also drew on Tudor England for some of its ornamental detail. Few buildings in Texas exhibit interiors designed as elegantly as this mansion. Excellently preserved and solidly constructed of the finest materials available at the time, the house reflects a socially fluid and economically bumptious environment as well as a Texas lawyer's aggressive rise to affluence and influence in Wichita Falls. The families who resided there all made fortunes through the oil industry; thus, the structure records the opulent lifestyle of this small but enormously influential class of American society. Today the Weeks' House is hemmed in by modern apartments and a freeway. Even so, it stands as an extravagant reminder of a boomtown period in Wichita Falls' history.

Like others before him, notably Cornelius Vanderbilt who built The Breakers, J. Fred Weeks of Wichita Falls and architect J. F. Louck of Kansas City chose to revive the Renaissance image and vocabulary for the Weeks' family residence. Renaissance principles of symmetry and harmony naturally impart respectability and prestige on a social level. This style was ideally suited to the social aspirations of wealthy men like Weeks and Vanderbilt before him. Though The Breakers is certainly a more elaborate and precise statement of the Second Renaissance Revival than is the Weeks' House, the two mansions share some features, including classical symmetry, detailing and articulation of their main facades.

Fred Weeks made at least two fortunes, largely from the North Texas oil boom. With part of the first, he built his home in Wichita Falls. Trained to practice law, he became a famous trial and criminal lawyer specializing in oil and gas interests. Weeks was also active in real estate development, as well as civic and philanthropic affairs, in Wichita Falls. One of the early and active supporters of the Spudder's professional baseball team, he and his brother Henry donated substantial park land to the city. Weeks Park is named for them.

The Weeks were active in social and cultural affairs. Mrs. Katie Lou Avis Weeks, in particular, was vitally interested in music. She used her home, clearly designed for entertainment purposes, for many musically and socially prestigious concerts. Her keen interest in landscape gardening was demonstrated by her designs for the acreage that originally surrounded the mansion and by the early landscaping of Weeks' Park. After living in the mansion for only five years, Weeks lost his first fortune in 1931. He and his family moved to Tyler where he built up a second fortune, again by practicing law in an oil- and gas-rich economy.

In 1938, the house sold to George F. LeBus and family. LeBus was a mechanical genius who made his fortune by developing innovative oil drilling equipment. From machinery invention, LeBus developed profitable interests in oil exploration and drilling in Texas and the Southwest. Charles H. Featherston purchased the house in 1946. Featherston was first a rancher, then an oil entrepreneur, drilling the second production well in the Burkburnett field. Other business interests included real estate development and insurance, both highly lucrative endeavors for Featherston. Like Weeks, he was a civic leader in Wichita Falls, and in Oklahoma as well.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Monahan, F.D. Jr., "Historical Narrative of the Weeks' Mansion". Weeks' House file, Texas Historical Commission, Austin, Texas

UTM NOT VERIFIED  
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 0.82 acres

Quadrangle name Wichita Falls West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	4
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5	4	4	0	6	0
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3	7	4	9	9	1	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

This property is bounded on the south by Kell Freeway, on the west, north and east by Virginia Drive.

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. W. Strong

organization Researcher/Consultant date September 15, 1980

street & number 4105 Duval telephone 454-7071

city or town Austin state Texas

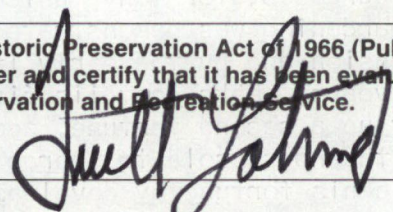
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 October 25, 1980

For HCRS use only

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

*John Beth Grovina*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 12/3/80

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service****National Register of Historic Places  
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Since 1949, the Weeks House has been used for commercial ventures. That year it was sold separately from its 11.2 surrounding acres. Apartments were built on the acreage and the house was converted to use as a private dining club. The mansion later housed an insurance company, followed by an education service center and a small theater group in the basement. Its current owner, who with a team of professionals restored the house to near-original condition in 1973, today leases the upper floors as a mini-mall of exclusive boutiques and the basement as a restaurant.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 7 1980

DATE ENTERED DEC 3 1980

**CONTINUATION SHEET**

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

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Wichita Falls City Directories, 1920-1977.

City Tax Assessor's Records. Tax Assessor's Office, City of Wichita Falls,  
Municipal Building, Wichita Falls, Texas.

Wichita County Deed Books, Vol. 505, pp. 557-558; Vol. 509, pp. 179-180. County  
Clerk's Office, Wichita County Court House, Wichita Falls, Texas.

Property

*Weeks House*

*DUE  
1/7/81*

State

*K, Wichita*

Working Number

*11, 7, 80, 2782*

**TECHNICAL**

80004158

**CONTROL**

Photos 16

Maps 1

*Notable example of Second Renaissance Revival architecture w/ elegant interior; reflects opulent lifestyle of the affluent of that period*

**HISTORIAN**

*accept  
Grosvonts  
12/3/80*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

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

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

Entered DEC 3 1980

Federal Register Entry 2.2.82

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



Weeks House  
2112 Kell Blvd.  
Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas

Photographer unknown, date of photo 1926.  
Negative of copy in possession of John M. Hirschi.

Southeast oblique of house and grounds, camera  
facing northwest.  
Photo 1 of 16.

DEC 3 1980

DEC

NOV 7 1980



Weeks House  
2112 Kell Blvd.  
Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas

Photo by John M. Hirschi, September, 1980.  
Negative property of Mr. Hirschi.

East facade, camera facing west.

Photo 2 of 16.

3 1980

DEC

NOV 7 1980



Weeks House  
2112 Kell Blvd.  
Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas

Photo by John M. Hirschi, September, 1980.  
Negative property of Mr. Hirschi.

Northeast oblique, camera facing southwest.

Photo 3 of 16.

3 1980

DEC

NOV 7 1980



Weeks House  
2112 Kell Blvd.  
Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas

Photo by John M. Hirschi, September, 1980.  
Negative property of Mr. Hirschi.

South facade, camera facing north.

Photo 4 of 16.

NOV 7 1980

DEC 3 1980



Weeks House  
2112 Kell Blvd.  
Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas

Photo by John M. Hirschi, September, 1980.  
Negative property of Mr. Hirschi.

Southwest oblique, camera facing northeast.

Photo 5 of 16.

NOV 2 1980  
DEC 3 1980



Weeks House  
2112 Kell Blvd.  
Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas

Photo by John M. Hirschi, September, 1980.  
Negative property of Mr. Hirschi.

Northeast oblique, camera facing southwest.

Photo 6 of 16.

NOV 3 1980

DEC

NOV 7 1980



Weeks House  
2112 Kell Blvd.  
Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas

Photo by John M. Hirschi, September, 1980.  
Negative property of Mr. Hirschi.

Detail of pediment over east entrance.

Photo 7 of 16.

NOV 7 1980

DEC 3 1980



Weeks House  
2112 Kell Blvd.  
Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas

Photo by John M. Hirschi, September, 1980.  
Negative property of Mr. Hirschi.

North entry hall, camera facing north.

Photo 8 of 16.

NOV 7 1980

DEC 3 1980



Weeks House  
2112 Kell Blvd.  
Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas

Photo by John M. Hirschi, September, 1980.  
Negative property of Mr. Hirschi.

Interior of livingroom.

Photo 9 of 16.

NOV 7 1980

DEC 3 1980



Weeks House  
2112 Kell Blvd.  
Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas

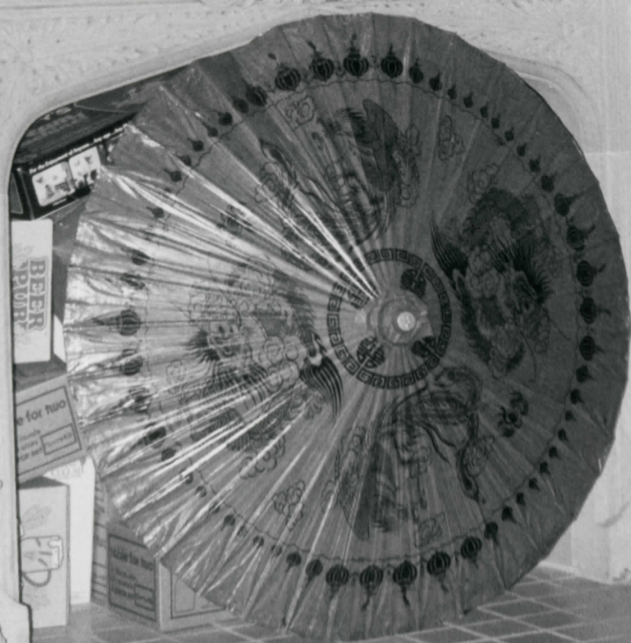
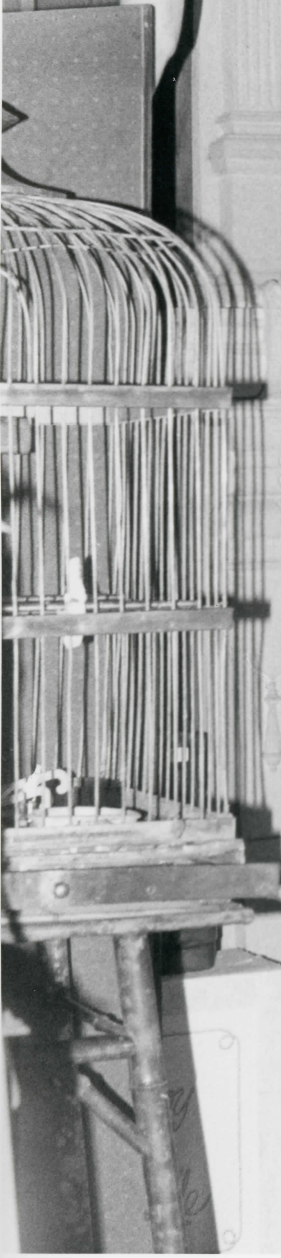
Photo by John M. Hirschi, September, 1980.  
Negative property of Mr. Hirschi.

View of livingroom fireplace and part of balcony.

Photo 10 of 16.

NOV 7 1980

DEC 3 1980



Weeks House  
2112 Kell Blvd.  
Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas

Photo by John M. Hirschi, September, 1980.  
Negative property of Mr. Hirschi.

Livingroom fireplace.

Photo 11 of 16.

NOV 7 1980

DEC 3 1980



Weeks House  
2112 Kell Blvd.  
Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas

Photo by John M. Hirschi, September, 1980.  
Negative property of Mr. Hirschi.

Livingroom interior.

Photo 12 of 16.

NOV 7 1980

DEC 3 1980



Weeks House  
2112 Kell Blvd.  
Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas

Photo by John M. Hirschi, September, 1980.  
Negative property of Mr. Hirschi.

Interior arched windows overlooking livingroom  
from upper hall.

Photo 13 of 16.

NOV 7 1980

DEC 3 1980



Weeks House  
2112 Kell Blvd.  
Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas

Photo by John M. Hirschi, September, 1980.  
Negative property of Mr. Hirschi.

Detail of livingroom window.

Photo 14 of 16.

NOV 7 1980

DEC 3 1980

2524



Weeks House  
2112 Kell Blvd.  
Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas

Photo by John M. Hirschi, September, 1980.  
Negative property of Mr. Hirschi.

Library interior.

Photo 15 of 16.

NOV 7 1980

DEC 3 1980



Weeks House  
2112 Kell Blvd.  
Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas

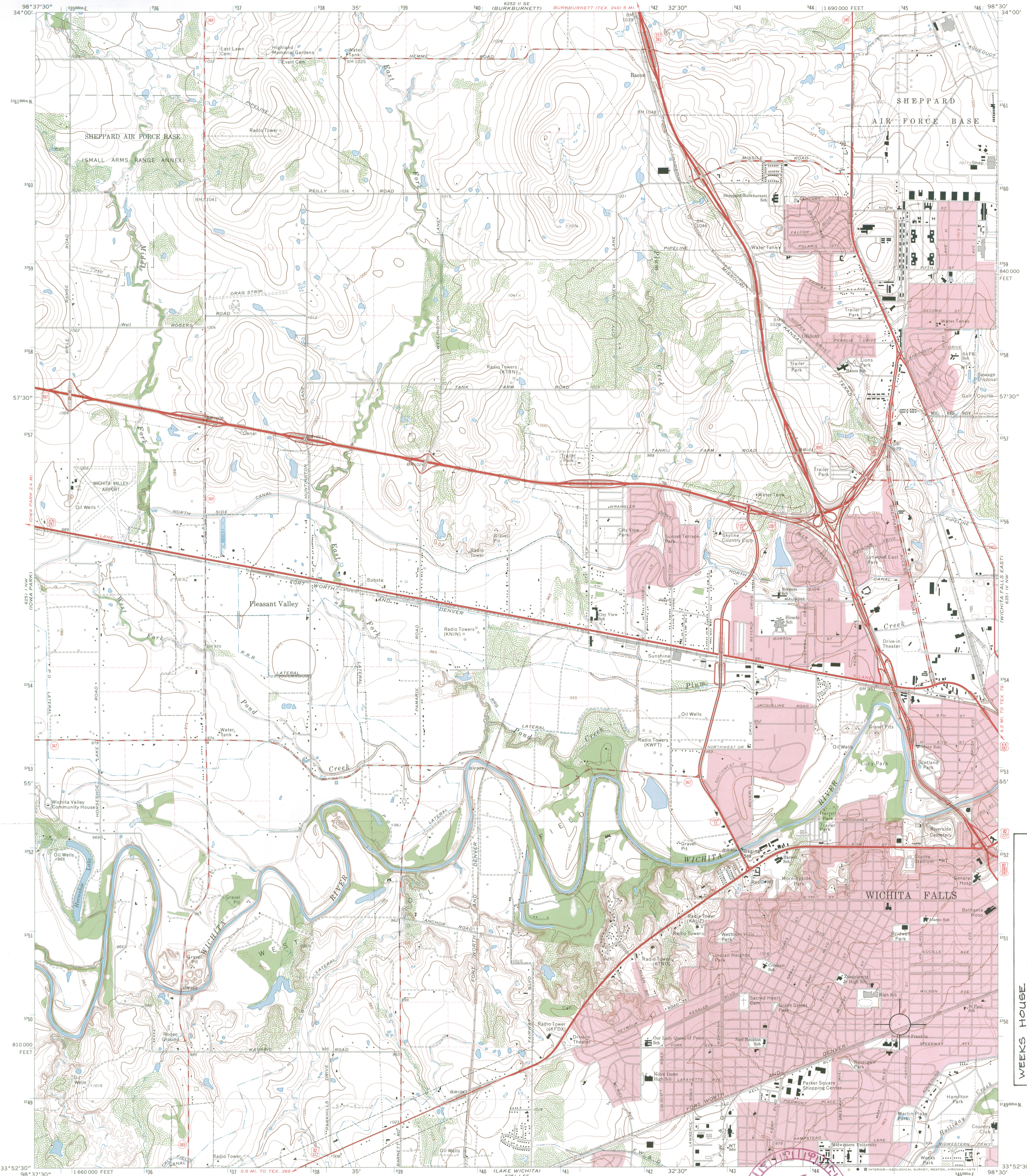
Photo by John M. Hirschi, September, 1980.  
Negative property of Mr. Hirschi.

Molding detail from diningroom.

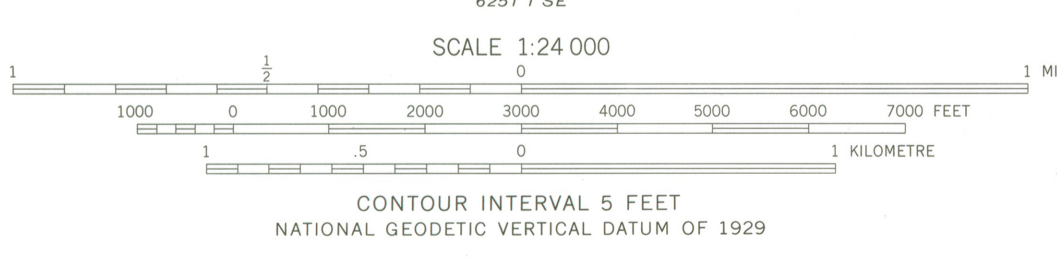
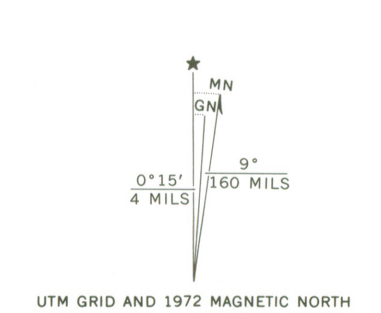
Photo 16 of 16.

NOV - 7 1980

DEC 3 1980



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1954. Topography by plane-table surveys 1916. Revised  
from aerial photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1972  
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Texas  
coordinate system, north central zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 14, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings  
are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



RECEIVED  
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NATIONAL REGISTER

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

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

3398-344

WICHITA FALLS WEST, TEX.  
NE/4 WICHITA FALLS WEST 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3352.5—W9830/7.5  
1972  
AMS 6251 | NE—SERIES V882

WEEKS HOUSE  
212 KELL BOULEVARD  
WICHITA FALLS, WICHITA COUNTY, TEXAS  
UTM REFERENCE:  
14T 544060/3749910

JAN 1

VP

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered

DEC 3 1980

Name

Location

Courtlandt Place Historic District

Houston  
Harris County

Weeks House

Wichita Falls  
Wichita County

Van Pelt House

Ballinger  
Runnels County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd Bentsen

Honorable John G. Tower  
Honorable Mickey Leland  
Honorable Jack E. Hightower  
Honorable Thomas G. Loeffler

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/1/6/81

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