

United States Department of the Interior
National Park 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 NPS use only

received

date entered

SEP 27 1983

OCT 28 1983

1. Name

historic Hamilton, William Benjamin, House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1106 Brook Avenue

N/A not for publication

city, town Wichita Falls

N/A vicinity of

~~congressional district~~

state Texas

code 048

county Wichita

code 485

3. Classification

Category

☐ district
☒ building(s)
☐ structure
☐ site
☐ object

Ownership

☐ public
☒ private
☐ both

Public Acquisition

☒ N/A in process
☐ being considered

Status

☒ occupied
☐ unoccupied
☐ work in progress

Accessible

☒ yes: restricted
☐ yes: unrestricted
☐ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture
☒ commercial
☐ educational
☐ entertainment
☐ government
☐ industrial
☐ military

☐ museum
☐ park
☐ private residence
☐ religious
☐ scientific
☐ transportation
☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name T.C. White Company and Noros H. Martin

street & number 1106 Brook Avenue

city, town Wichita Falls

N/A vicinity of

state Texas 76301

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wichita County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Wichita Falls,

state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

(1) Historic Preservation Survey and Plan for Wichita Falls, Texas
title (2) Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

(1) May 1982
date (2) August 1983 ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☒ local

depository for survey records (1) Wichita County Heritage Society (2) Texas Historical Commission

city, town (1) Wichita Falls (2) Austin state Texas

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The W. B. Hamilton House is a monumental, two-story masonry residence designed in the Classical Revival style. Located in an early 20th-century neighborhood, the house features a two-story entrance portico, and glazed sun porches and a porte-cochere on its side elevations. The interior is highlighted by a handsome molded plaster frieze in the formal rooms of the ground floor.

Located on a large corner site near downtown Wichita Falls, the W.B. Hamilton House is considerably larger in scale than most of its bungalow neighbors. Set back some distance from the street, entry to the house is by means of an elevated piazza that wraps around the east, or front, elevation. Access to this piazza is provided by staircases, with the primary stair aligned with the front door facing Brook Avenue. Brick flanker walls project out alongside the central stair, and are surmounted by large, rather classical, cast-stone urns for ivy planters. The corners of the entry portico are framed by large, brick, square piers with cast-stone bases and caps. Immediately adjacent to these piers, on both the face and the sides of the portico, are fluted giant-order Doric columns. The second-story porch is contained within the portico, and features a turned wooden balustrade. The front door, flanked by sidelights, is simply detailed in quarter-sawn oak with beveled glass. To each side of the front door are tripartite windows set within decorative brick and cast-stone frames with keystones and corner blocks.

Large tripartite window bays are set to each side of the entrance portico. The sashes in these and in the majority of all of the windows on the house are divided by muntins so that they have two large panes of glass surrounded by a series of smaller panes, with square panes set at the corners of the sash. These windows are framed by courses of bricks laid lengthwise so as to differentiate them from the common-bond pattern of the walls. The second floor of the east elevation nearly repeats the fenestration of the first, with the exception being that tripartite windows are not used on the upper levels, although the highlighting of the frame in masonry is repeated. Access to the second-story balcony is by a pair of glazed double doors flanked by sidelights.

The south elevation is divided into three bays by the projecting mass of the two-story sun porches, which are enclosed by multi-light casement sashes. The north elevation features a porte-cochere whose round arches are highlighted by cast-stone keystones and impost blocks. Curiously, the balustraded roof of the porte-cochere is inaccessible from the second floor of the house. The west elevation continues the brickwork detailing seen on the other facades, and features a small, one-story service wing with a balustrade around its roof. The entire house is ringed by a cornice of rather heavy modillions, and at the corners are paired brackets which extend down onto the masonry of the walls. The hipped roof is covered in red tile. There is a single large dormer centered above the entrance portico. The dormer, which contains a large Palladian opening, provides access onto a balustraded terrace atop the entablature of the portico.

The interior of the house was originally fairly open on the first floor, with the square entry hall opening directly into two flanking rooms of equal size by means of large framed openings. The main staircase, which is semielliptical in form, rises from the rear of the hall. To the rear of these front three rooms are the original kitchen and pantry, with a sun porch extending from the south elevation. The dominant feature of the first floor is the consistent use of ornamental, plastered detailing in the frieze and cornice of the formal rooms across the front half of the first floor.

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National Park Service**

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The frieze, which consists of a repetitive series of swags and urns, was evidently purchased from the General Catalogue of Jacobsen and Company, where it appears in their 1915 edition as "Adam #2106." The name Adam was used by the company to describe this frieze because it was inspired by the decorative designs of the Scottish, 18th-century architects Robert and James Adam. Surmounted by a dentiled cornice, this frieze is carried across the rooms on decorated lintels supported by unfluted Tuscan columns. The mantelpieces on the first floor are also detailed with Adamesque reliefs, and are in keeping with the character of the frieze. The rooms of the second story, including five bedrooms, are all oriented around the stairhall. Detailing on this level is considerably plainer than that found on the first floor.

To the northwest of the house is a two-story garage, the upper level of which must have been used for one of the house servants. The garage is built using the brick window cornice and roof detailing of the main house, making for a harmonious grouping.

During the course of the recent renovation of the property, both the main house and the garage underwent some alterations to their original fabric. The porte-cochere on the north elevation of the house was converted into a conference room, with the addition of a concrete floor, and the infilling of the round-arch openings with tinted glass in anodized aluminum frames. Internally, the cased openings between the entry hall and the adjacent rooms were partially filled in for more privacy in the offices now housed within. It should be noted that this infill was executed in a sympathetic manner, with no original detailing being removed, and the possibility remaining for the later removal of the infill and re-exposure of the original frames. The handsome frieze and cornice, which were originally painted to simulate a rather antique appearance, were painted over, thus losing some of their character. The garage was remodeled as lease office space, with one original opening on the east elevation being filled in, and the original double-width garage opening being filled in largely with glass to illuminate the interior.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400-1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500-1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600-1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☐ 1800-1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☒ 1900-	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1918 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The W.B. Hamilton House is significant because of its Classical Revival architecture and its connections with prominent Wichita Falls citizens William and Pearl Bess Hamilton. For a north Texas residence, the Classical Revival style and intricacy of the house are unusual for its scale. The structure is particularly noteworthy for its Adam-influenced interiors. William B. Hamilton (1887-1961) was an oilman, civic leader, and mayor of Wichita Falls. His wife, Pearl Bess Walker Hamilton (1892-1981), was also closely associated with a variety of local philanthropic and civic endeavors.

The W.B. Hamilton House was built in 1918 as the residence of Mr. and Mrs. T.P. Adams. While the architect is not known, it is evident that he was clearly influenced by the mainstream of thought in American architecture at the time, which leaned strongly toward the revival of classical forms and details. The large scale of the house, in relation to its smaller neighbors, makes it all the more conspicuous, and the high calibre of its architectural detailing is unusual in a residence in this part of the state. The likelihood that some of the interior detailing, particularly the plaster frieze, was purchased from the catalogue of Jacobsen and Company is of significance, as it indicates the widespread use of mass-produced architectural ornament.

After the death of Mrs. Adams in 1922, the house and all its furnishings were sold to Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Hamilton for the sum of \$60,000. The Hamiltons were close friends of the Adams, and were to occupy the house until the death of Mrs. Hamilton in 1981.

William Benjamin Hamilton was an oilman, rancher, real-estate developer, and civic leader. Born in Jonesboro, Texas, to William Franklin and Sarah Jane Wilson Hamilton, W.B. Hamilton was a cum laude graduate of Southern Methodist University and recieved a graduate degree from the University of Texas. He was president of Texhoma Oil and Refining Co. from 1919 until 1926, when the company was merged with Continental Oil Co. Mr. Hamilton owned the T-Bone Ranch with properties in Texas, Colorado, and New Mexico. The Country Club Estates Subdivision in Wichita Falls was owned by the Hamilton Investment Co., and developed during the 1920s-1940s. Sixty acres of land were donated to Hardin College by Hamilton. This was the fore-runner of Midwestern State University. Land was also donated for the Woman's Forum and Ben Franklin Elementary School. The Hamilton Office Building (a local landmark in downtown Wichita Falls) was erected by Mr. Hamilton in 1926-28. When Mr. Hamilton served as mayor in 1944-48, his chief accomplishment was the construction of Lake Kickapoo to serve the water needs of Wichita Falls.

Mrs. Hamilton devoted a large part of her 88 years toward improving the quality of life for all Wichitans. A daughter of Ageililaus and Rosa Ella Reeder Walker, she was educated at Polytechnic College in Fort Worth and Melmont Seminary in Washinton, D.C. The Hamiltons were married in 1913 and had two sons. Mrs. Hamilton was involved in a number of philanthropic endeavors in Wichita Falls, particularly the Wichita Falls Symphony.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Wichita Falls Times and Record News.

Articles from the files of Mr. and Mrs. W.B. Hamilton dealing with Hamilton family history.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Wichita Falls West, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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3	7	5	1	0	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification

S. 113 feet of Lot 1 Block 8, Southland Addition

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Eva Nell Cook

organization Wichita County Heritage Society

date Dec. 6, 1982

street & number 201 North Beverly

telephone 817 322-9559

city or town Wichita Falls

state or Texas 76305

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 16 Sept 1983

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

Keeper of the National Register

date 10/28/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Page 1

In 1979, she personally financed a facility to house a special collection of books at the Kemp Public Library. Mrs. Hamilton was an active participant in the Woman's Forum, Bethania Hospital Auxilliary Altrusa Club, Farm and Ranch Club, and the Methodist Church.

83003826

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Hamilton, William Benjamin, House
Wichita County
TEXAS

Working No. SEP 27 1983

Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85

Date Due: 10/28/83 - 11/11/83

Action: ACCEPT 10/28/83

RETURN

REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category

Ownership

Status

Present Use

Public Acquisition

Accessible

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

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

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____

Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



W.B. Hamilton House
1106 Brook Ave, Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas

Photo by John C. Ferguson, July 1983; neg. on file
at Texas Historical Commission

Oblique view of main (east) facade, looking
southwest

Photo 1 of 5



W.B. Hamilton House
1106 Brook Ave., Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas

Photo by John C. Ferguson, July 1983; neg. on file
at Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Portico of main (east) facade, looking west-by-
northwest

Photo 2 of 5



W.B. Hamilton House
1106 Brook Avenue, Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas

Photo by John C. Ferguson, July 1983; neg. on file
at Texas Historical Commission, Austin

Looking southeast from second-floor portico porch

Photo 3 of 5



W.B. Hamilton House

1106 Brook Avenue, Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas

Photo by John C. Ferguson, July 11 1983; neg. on file
at Texas Historical Commission, Austin

View from entrance hall looking west

Photo 4 of 5



W.B. Hamilton House
1106 Brook Avenue, Wichita Falls, Wichita County, Texas

Photo by John C. Ferguson, July 1983, neg. on file
at Texas Historical Commission, Austin

View of fireplace in south parlor, looking south

Photo 5 of 5

