

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 JAN 19 1984
date entered

1. Name

historic Cleveland-Partlow House

and/or common Partlow House

2. Location

street & number 2131 Grand Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Liberty N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Texas code 048 county Liberty code 291

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<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"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A 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"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Texas State Library and Archives Commission

street & number Box 12927, Capitol Station

city, town Austin N/A vicinity of state Texas 78711

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Liberty County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Liberty state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date March 1979 ☐ 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 N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The wooden-framed Cleveland-Partlow House, dating to approximately 1860, is an unusual Greek Revival structure with some Italianate decorative elements and four flanker rooms, one at each corner of attached galleries (some modified) which once encircled the house. Although a few additions and alterations were made in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the Cleveland-Partlow House stands out as an uncommon and fascinating example of late Greek Revival architecture in Texas.

The Cleveland-Partlow House is an unusual, one-story, clapboard house derived stylistically from antebellum Greek Revival architecture (with its simple geometric forms and classical details), yet demonstrating modest Italianate influence. Especially noteworthy are four corner pavilions, called garçonnieres in Louisiana and flankers in Kentucky, which were originally connected to the four galleries.

The main body of the house is square in plan with a central north-south hall and four main rooms. The composition shingle roof is hipped, and exhibits a projecting, bracketed cornice and two high brick chimneys. The attached, lower, slightly pitched roof over the galleries and four corner rooms is continuous. Across the front porch, four square Roman Doric columns with end pilasters are connected by a simple, low balustrade. The front windows have double sashes, six-over-six lights, shouldered architraves, and louvered shutters. A pair of such windows is found on each side of the Greek Revival central entrance, which is embellished with pilasters, full entablature, and side lights. A simple wooden door, at right angles to the main entrance, leads from the porch into each of the front pavilion chambers.

The east and west side porches are now enclosed with nine, adjacent, double-sash windows with one-over-one lights and with #117 wooden siding. At the rear, an early kitchen addition with gabled roof projects northward from near the northwest corner of the house just east of the place from which the corner pavilion was removed. The back porch has been eliminated and a newer porch built on the east side of the kitchen. Outside doors now exit from the east side of the kitchen and from the north end of the enclosed rear porch.

Originally, the interior of the house consisted of a central hallway with parlor and living room to east and west, respectively, with smaller rooms behind each. As mentioned previously, there were also the four garçonnieres with galleries between them. Four main changes were made to the interior through the years. (1) A kitchen was added to the northwest corner of the house. (2) The northwest garçonnierewas removed. (3) The east and west galleries were enclosed with windows; the east (enclosed after 1938) is now a library and bathroom; the west (altered in the early part of this century) contains an extension of the dining room and is otherwise an enclosed porch. (4) A bathroom was placed in the back part of the central hall, the main hall was divided, and closets were added in the resulting rear hall room. A double, interior fireplace is located on the north wall of the living room, and another on the same wall of the parlor. The latter is now closed on its north side, and has been refaced.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

1

The house is raised on red brick piers, some plastered, and it has a small attic space. No outbuildings remain standing except for a twentieth-century garage. Landscaping consists of large azaleas at the front and other shrubs around the sides and back; no historic or early gardens remain intact, although some old and large trees still shade the house.

The Cleveland-Partlow House was constructed about 1860. Best evidence indicates that the corner pavilions are original or else very early, but that the kitchen was probably added in the later part of the nineteenth century. Since 1940 new siding has been attached in some places, the kitchen has been remodeled, and some interior decorating has been done (wallpapering, etc.). Today, the house stands in good condition with no alterations that substantially affect its historic or architectural integrity.

The twentieth-century garage is not included as part of the present nomination; it does not contribute to the integrity or significance of the property.

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

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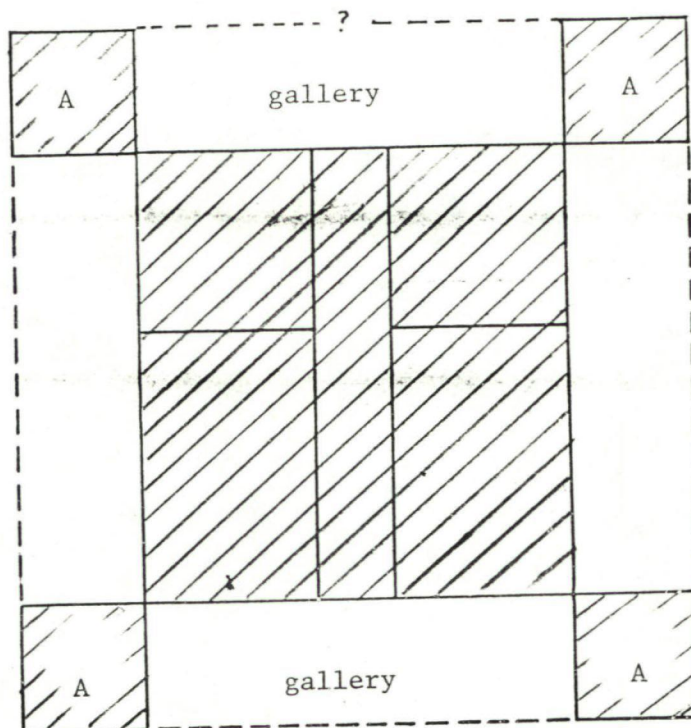
received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2



Original Plan of Cleveland-
Partlow House (hypothetical)
showing galleries and garçonnieres (A)

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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1860

Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built in 1860 by Judge C. L. Cleveland, a native of Kentucky, the Cleveland-Partlow House is the second-oldest house still standing in Liberty. Declared a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1963, it combines an unusual architectural style with a rich history closely linked to the development of Liberty. Owned by the Partlow family from 1886 until 1983, when it was bequeathed to the Texas State Library Commission, the Cleveland-Partlow House is now administered by the Libertad Chapter of the D. A. R., and will be made accessible to the public as a house museum.

The original twelve-acre lot on which the Cleveland-Partlow House is located was deeded in 1842 by the City of Liberty to E.T. Branch and W.C. Abbott for \$48.00. By means of various deeds the title passed through Billups Gayle and his heirs to Sara A. Wrigley in 1857. In 1860, C.L. Cleveland bought the property from Sara and John Wrigley, and in that year, it is said he erected the house which still stands on its original site. In late 1871 or early 1872, Col. F.F. Foscue bought the house and property for \$3,000. Fourteen years later, on February 6, 1886, William Samuel Partlow bought 24 acres (Lots 3 and 4) from Foscue for \$750. "This included not only the land and house, but a large two-room servant's house, a smokehouse, chicken house, butchering block, a large barn with stables and pens, and a colonial-type four-seater outhouse with separate rooms for men and women (Miriam Partlow, 1974, page 292)." By this date, the kitchen had probably been added to the house.

For the century that they owned the house, the Partlow family have been influential citizens in Liberty and in Texas. W.S. Partlow, a native of Greenwood, South Carolina, and his wife, the former Ellen Beard of Liberty, had six surviving children, most of whom lived in a family compound known locally as Partlow Row, created in part by the division of the Partlow House property. Nannie Partlow, eldest daughter of the Partlows, was the mother of Guam Governor Bill Daniel and Texas Governor Price Daniel; the latter was considered a favorite nephew of Miss Miriam Partlow and spent much of his time there and continues his interest in preserving and documenting the house. W.S. Partlow himself held many offices in local groups and was county treasurer. Miss Partlow, last owner, was active in civic affairs, a life-long music teacher, and an active historian of Liberty County.

In plan, the Cleveland-Partlow House may be related back to Mulberry Plantation (1714) in South Carolina. The plan of Mulberry, which is much larger and has a second floor, is like that of the Cleveland-Partlow House, with its square central section divided into four rooms and four corner pavilions, described as "pseudo-military towers. . . put there purely for ornament and ostentation (Samuel Gaillard Stoney, 1938, page 50)."

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

In a chapter entitled "The Geometric Phase," Clay Lancaster (1961) describes several houses with flankers and similarly symmetrical plans, and gives Mulberry as precedent for this type of plan. C.L. Cleveland, who had the house built, was from Kentucky and there probably became familiar with one or more of the houses with four corner rooms, four main rooms, generous porches, and restrained architectural detailing. Tradition has it that Cleveland put these four corner pavilions on his house for his four sons who were approximately ages 11, 6, 4, and 1 when the house was built. Throughout the history of the house, these rooms have served many functions which range from family bedrooms, storage rooms, boarder rooms, and offices. They were called "tramp" rooms by the Partlows, making reference to the needy who were sometimes given a night's rest in them.

The well and cistern were located beneath the back porch so that water could be drawn or pumped without going outside. The cistern, now filled with growing flowers, still rests outside the kitchen where it was once covered by the old porch. The lumber for the house was cut from heart pine and put together with wooden pegs and square nails. Some round-headed nails have been found on the outside walls of the southwest corner pavilion, which gives credence to the theory that these rooms were not original to the house. In any case, they were, if added, probably constructed by the Clevelands early in the history of the house, and are today an important part of the building's architectural and historic significance.

The Cleveland-Partlow House is located in an older residential neighborhood in Liberty. Its siting at the head of San Jacinto Street gives it added prominence, and the entrance front has apparently remained unchanged for over a century. Alterations to the sides and rear of the house are not easily visible from the street, and the interiors retain their essential historical character.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Lancaster, Clay. Ante Bellum Houses of the Bluegrass: The Development of Residential Architecture in Fayette County, Kentucky. Lexington: University of Kentucky Press, 1961.

Partlow, Miriam. Liberty, Liberty County and the Atascosito District. No printer given, 1974.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .86 acres

Quadrangle name Liberty, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	5	3	2	7	9	4	0	3	3	2	7	0	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification Tract 18, Lot 3, Outer Block 15 of Liberty County, Texas.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Minnette Boesel, Barrie M. Scardino

organization Preservation Services date August 24, 1983

street & number 2230 Rice Boulevard telephone 528-7129
528-1521

city or town Houston state Texas 77005

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 12 Jan. 1984

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

2/16/84

Keeper of the National Register

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

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

The Liberty Vindicator, various years.

Stoney, Samuel Gaillard. Plantations on the Carolina Low Country. Charleston:
Carolina Art Association, 1938.

Interview with Gov. Price Daniel, July 1983, by Minnette Boesel.

Liberty County Tax Roles, various years.

Sanborn Insurance Maps, Liberty County, Texas, 1938. ~~various years~~.

U.S. Census records, Liberty County, Texas, various years.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Cleveland-Partlow House
Liberty County
TEXAS

Working No. JAN 19 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.85
Date Due: 2/16/84 — 3/4/84
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 2/16/84
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

Entered in the
National Register

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	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair		
<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated		
<input type="checkbox"/> ruins		
<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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: _____



Cleveland-Partlow House
2131 Grand
Liberty, Liberty County, Texas

Photo: bu Minnette Boesel, August 1983; neg. on file
with Preservation Services, 2230 Rice Boulevard,
Houston, 77005.

Main facade, looking north.

Photo 1 of 6.



Cleveland-Partlow House
2131 Grand
Liberty, Liberty County, Texas

Photo: by Minnette Boesel, August 1983; neg. on file
with Preservation Services, 2230 Rice Boulevard,
Houston, Texas, 77005.

Facade, camera looking northeast.

Photo 2 of 6



Cleveland-Partlow House
2131 Grand
Liberty, Liberty County, Texas

Photo by Minnette Boesel, August 1983; neg. on file
with Preservation Services, 2230 Rice Boulevard,
Houston, Texas 77005

Entrance doorway, camera facing north.

Photo 3 of 6



Cleveland-Partlow House
2131 Grand
Liberty, Liberty County, Texas

Photo by Minnette Boesel, August 1983; neg. on file
with Preservation Services, 2230 Rice Boulevard,
Houston, Texas 77005.

Porch and "tramp" room, camera looking east.

Photo 4 of 6



Cleveland-Partlow House
2131 Grand
Liberty, Liberty County, Texas

Photo by Minnette Boesel, August 1983; neg. on file
with Preservation Services, 2230 Rice Boulevard,
Houston, Texas 77005.

West elevation, camera looking east.

Photo 5 of 6.



Cleveland-Partlow House
2131 Grand
Liberty, Liberty County, Texas

Photo by Minnette Boesel, August 1983; neg. on file
with Preservation Services, 2230 Rice Boulevard,
Houston, Texas 77005.

West elevation-kitchen wing, looking southeast.

Photo 6 of 6

