

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

JUL 30 1986

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Umphress-Taylor House

and or common James and Julia Umphress House

2. Location

street & number 301 Paris Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Van Alstyne

N/A vicinity of

state Texas

code 048

county Grayson

code 181

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 George and Diana Kerns

street & number c/o Aramco, P.O. Box 10365

city, town Dhahran

N/A vicinity of

state Saudia Arabia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Grayson County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Sherman

state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

(1) Recorded Texas Historic Landmark

title (2) Historic Sites Inventory

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date (1) 1981, (2) 1986

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin

state Texas

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input 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		N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on a half-acre corner lot at the highest point in Van Alstyne, Texas, the Umpress-Taylor House is an exuberant and locally significant example of Queen Anne style architecture with some Colonial Revival detailing. It is one of the most substantial turn-of-the-century homes in that north Texas town, and has undergone only minor modification since its completion.

The Umpress House is an irregular, two-and-a-half-story, frame dwelling which rests on a cast-stone foundation. The massing of the house is clearly Queen Anne (though there is some Colonial Revival detailing), consisting of a large rectangular block with projecting bays on each elevation covered by pedimented gable ends. A tower with polygonal, pointed roof with finial rises from the northeast corner. The roof of the main block shows hipped ends on both side elevations. Each gable end has a projecting "bargeboard" whose edges define an arch or 3/4 circle; each "bargeboard," as well as the inset gable end with single-pane, horizontal window, is covered by shingles. The exterior is generally of clapboard siding.

Windows have one-over-one lights throughout, while sidelights and transoms border the entrance doors of the front elevation. An attached, one-floor verandah wraps around all sides of the house except the western, and its roof is supported by single Doric columns below a plain entablature. Widely spaced brackets, variously placed, are found below the eaves of the porch roof and all others. A similar use of columns and entablatures appears on the small, second-story porches which are situated over the north and east entrances, although in those cases the corner columns are paired. On the rear elevation the first-floor porches were filled in long ago, while the second-floor porch with single door and single window to each side has remained open; its roof is supported by four evenly spaced columns. The roof is pierced by simple brick chimneys on the east and west elevations.

The house, as built, featured a central hall/stair hall with three rooms to the east and two to the west on the ground floor. Fireplaces were found in most of the major downstairs rooms, and mostly display Colonial Revival influence and overmantles typical of the period. The bulk of the interior woodwork remains unpainted, and contributes to the historic character of the house. Particularly noteworthy are five-panel and French pocket doors; a fine three-urn staircase with landing; and a large, built-in china cabinet in the dining room (east-center room). The enclosure of the rear porch for use as a bedroom, and the combining of the living room (at the northwest corner of the house) with the front part of the hall long ago are the major changes that have been made in the house through the years. A number of early or original light fixtures, fans, and plumbing fixtures remain. Upstairs rooms approximate those of the ground floor in size and detailing.

A simple, two-car garage with double doors and clapboard siding was added to the rear of the property probably in the 1920s. An open shelter of recent vintage, supported by six 4 x 4 support posts, is also located at the property's rear; both are unobtrusive features considered non-contributing as far as the present nomination is concerned.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" 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 1903 **Builder/Architect** John Tulloch, attributed

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Prominently sited on a large, corner lot in the North Texas town of Van Alstyne (population 1,860), the Umphress-Taylor House is a substantial and largely intact example of a turn-of-the-century residence in a transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival architectural vocabulary. It was constructed for locally prominent citizen James Causby Umphress (1841–1917) and his wife, née Julia Caroline Veasey (d. 1932), and remained in their family until 1974.

James C. Umphress was born in Tallaposa County, Alabama, in 1841. He served in the Confederate Army in the Civil War, and in 1866 married Julia Caroline Veasey. The Umphresses moved to Texas in 1870 and to the fledgling town of Van Alstyne in the northern part of the state in 1890. Umphress became prominent in the area as a landowner, banker, agriculturalist, and community leader. He was also an active Mason and member of the Methodist Church, as well as the father of nine children.

In 1903, when Van Alstyne's future seemed brightest, James and Julia Umphress began construction of a residence destined to become one of the most substantial in the town. Their architect-builder was Scotland-born John Tulloch (1860–1947), who designed a number of notable homes, churches, and public buildings in Grayson County, including the Sherman Public Library and the Munson House in Denison.

Stylistically, the Umphress House borrows from several traditions. The massing of the house, as well as the telescoping octagonal tower and ornamental shingles, suggest Queen Anne-Eastlake influence, while the dormer window with rounded corners and the gable ends with inset rounded sections (on all facades) demonstrate some exposure to the Shingle Style. The wrap-around porch and balconies supported by Doric columns are typical of early Colonial Revival residences. The structure is not unlike large pattern-book homes of the period, but has considerable visual prominence and presence in the Van Alstyne context that added to its significance. Of added interest is the fact that John Taylor of Van Alstyne was so taken with the design of the house that he borrowed its plans and duplicated it. That house burned in the 1920s, but Taylor's son Spencer (d. 1943) married Umphress' daughter (Sallie) Maude, and the couple made their home in the Umphress House for many years.

James Umphress died in 1917 and his widow in 1932. Maude Umphress Taylor continued to reside in the house until 1974, and she died three years later at age 91. The structure became a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark in 1981, and was recently acquired by George and Diana Kerns of Dhahran, Saudi Arabia.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Umphress-Taylor House," MS by Dorothy Umphress Taylor Fielden, on file with Texas Historical Commission.

Dallas Morning News, 25 April, 1982.

Van Alstyne Leader, July 1917, 28 April, 1977. (see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Van Alstyne, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	4	7	2	5	6	6	0	3	6	9	9	8	2	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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E

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification See exhibit A. Beginning at a steel rod at the intersection of South line of Paris Street with the West line of Preston Street, said rod maintaining the Northeast corner of said 250 ft. x 300 ft. tract of land; thence South with the West line of Preston Street and the East Line (see continuation sheet)

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 Peter Flagg Maxson

organization Texas Historical Commission date January and March 1986

street & number P.O. Box 12276 telephone (512) 463-6094

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Butler Russell*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 21 July 1986

For NPS use only

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

for Patrick Anders date 9/12/86
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

Major Bibliographical References, continued:

"Van Alstyne," Van Alstyne Chamber of Commerce, n. d.

STRATHMORE PARCHMENT

100% COTTON FIBER USA

**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 10

Page 1

of said 250 ft. x 300 ft. tract, a distance of 192.00 feet to a steel rod, the North-east corner of a tract of land conveyed to Walter Barron by deed recorded in Volume 399, page 306 of said Deed Redords; thence North 89 deg. 45 min. West with the North line of said Barron tract, a distance of 125.00 ft. to a steel rod; thence North with the East line of a tract of land previously conveyed to Robert E. Fielder, a distance of 35.00 ft. to a steel rod; thence East a distance of 6.20 ft. to a steel rod; thence North a distance of 22.40 ft. to a steel rod; thence West a distance of 6.20 ft. to a steel rod in the East line of said Fielder tract; thence North with the East line of said Fielder tract, a distance of 134.60 ft. to a steel rod in the South line of Paris Street and the North line of said 250 ft. x 300 ft. tract of land; thence South 89 deg. 45 min. East with the North line of said 250 ft. x 300 ft. tract of land, a distance of 125.00 ft. to the place of beginning and containing 0.548 acre of land.

STRATHMORE PARCHMENT

100% COTTON FIBER U.S.A.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

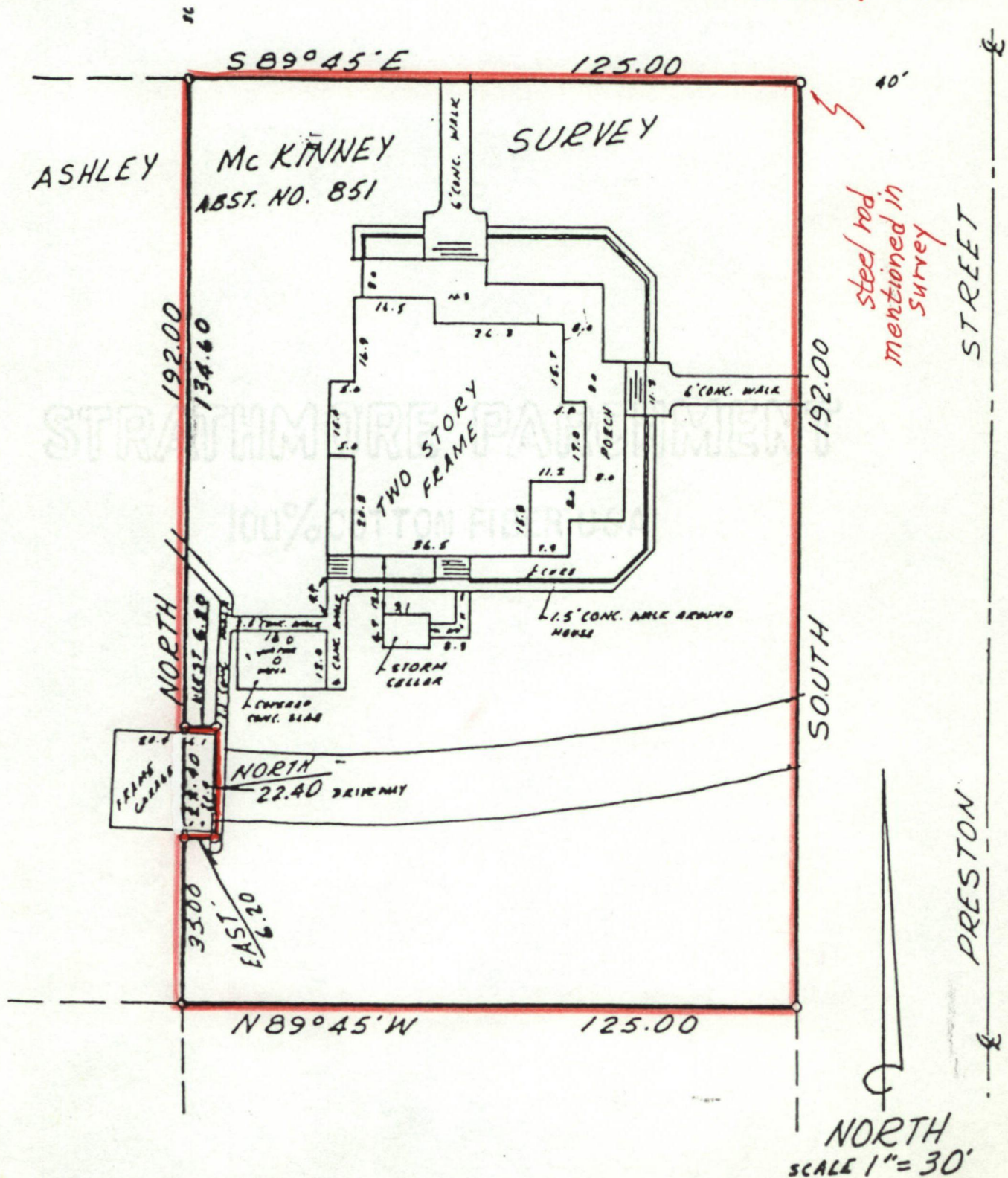
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 2

EXHIBIT A



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Umphress--Taylor House
Grayson County
TEXAS

Substantive Review

JUL 30 1986

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

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: 9/3/87
Date Due: 8/28/86 - 9/13/86
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 9-2-86
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

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

Reviewer's comments: *The Umphress-Taylor House is an irregular, two-and-a-half story, frame dwelling which illustrates Queen Anne style architecture with some Colonial Revival detailing. Umphress was a native Alabamian who settled in Texas following the Civil War. He evidently became a prominent local citizen in the town of Van Alstyne, although this case is not made strongly enough to justify granting acceptance under criterion B. The boundary description included in Exhibit A did not agree with the written boundary*

Recom./Criteria Accept/C
Reviewer Bruce J. Noble, Jr.
Discipline Historian
Date 9/12/86
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below *description. After consulting with the Texas office, the lines in Exhibit A were slightly altered to conform with the written boundary description.*

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"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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

- ☐ 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



Umphress-Taylor House

301 Paris Street, Van Alstyne, Grayson Co., Texas

Photo by George Kerns, January 1986; negs. with
photographer.

North (entrance) facade, looking south.

Photo 1 of 10



Umphress-Taylor House
301 Paris Street, Van Alstyne, Grayson Co., Texas
Photo by George Kerns, January 1986; negs. with
photographer
East facade, camera facing west.
Photo 2 of 10



Umphress-Taylor House

301 Paris Street, Van Alstyne, Grayson Co., Texas

Photo by George Kerns, January 1986; negs. with
photographer

NE oblique view, camera facing southwest.

Photo 3 of 10



Umphress-Taylor House

301 Paris Street, Van Alstyne, Grayson Co., Texas

Photo by George Kerns, January 1986; negs. with
photographer

SE oblique view, camera facing northwest.

Photo 4 of 10



Umphress-Taylor House

301 Paris Street, Van Alstyne, Grayson Co., Texas

Photo by George Kerns, January 1986; negs. with
photographer

SE oblique view, camera facing northwest

Photo 5 of 10



Umphress-Taylor House
301 Paris Street, Van Alstyne, Grayson Co., Texas
Photo by George Kerns, January 1986; negs. with
photographer
W facade, camera looking east-southeast
Photo 6 of 10



Umphress-Taylor House

301 Paris Street, Van Alstyne, Grayson Co., Texas

Photo by George Kerns, January 1986; negs. with
photographer

Garage, camera looking south

Photo 7 of 10



Umphress-Taylor House

301 Paris Street, Van Alstyne, Grayson Co., Texas

Photo by George Kerns, January 1986; negs. with
photographer

Picnic pavilion, camera facing north-northeast

Photo 8 of 10



Umphress-Taylor House

301 Paris Street, Van Alstyne, Grayson Co., Texas

Photo by George Kerns, January 1986; negs. with
photographer

Main staircase, central downstairs hall

Photo 9 of 10



Umphress-Taylor House

301 Paris Street, Van Alstyne, Grayson Co., Texas

Photo by George Kerns, January 1986; negs. with
photographer

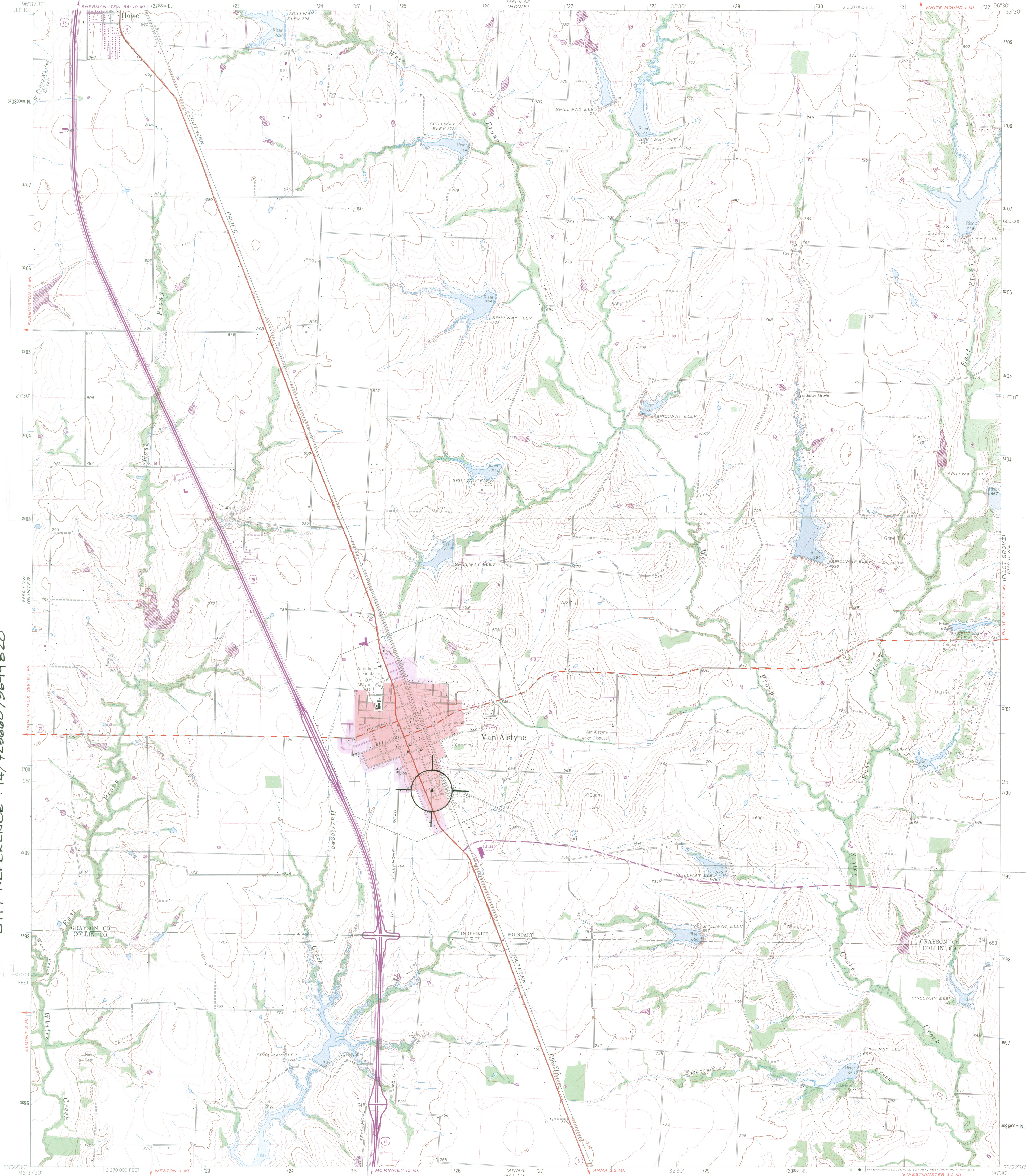
Built-in cupboard, dining room (middle east room)
downstairs

Photo 10 of 10

UMPHRESS - TAYLOR HOME
301 PARIS STREET
VAN ALSTYNE, GRAYSON CO, TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE : 14 725660 3699820

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

VAN ALSTYNE QUADRANGLE
TEXAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

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

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum. 10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system, north central zone. 1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue.

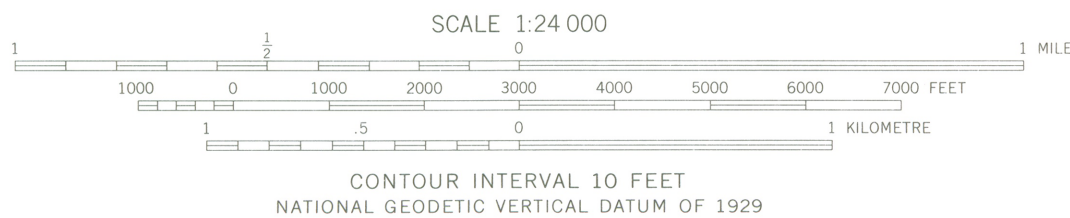
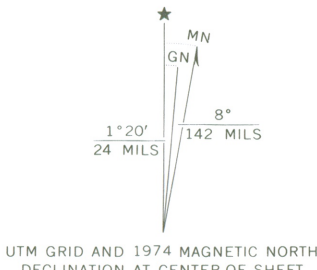
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown.

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines.

Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern are subject to controlled inundation.

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1974. This information not field checked.

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas.



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

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

VAN ALSTYNE, TEX.
N3322.5 - W9630.7.5

1961
PHOTOREVISED 1974
AMS 6650 I NE-SERIES V882

3396-244

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

TELEPHONE REPORT

DATE

9/12/86

TIME OF CALL

4:00

AM
PM

1. CALL ☒ TO: ☐ FROM (Name)

Peter Maxon

2. ADDRESS (Tel. No. if needed)

Texas Historical Commission

3. SUBJECT, PROJECT NO., ETC.

Umphress - Taylor House N.R. nomination

4. DETAILS OF DISCUSSION

Although the verbal boundary description included in this nomination was accurate, the map which constituted Exhibit A showed the boundary line passing directly through the garage (non-contributing structure). I called Peter about redrawing the boundary line on Exhibit A so that it conformed with the verbal description. He gave his consent, the boundary line was redrawn, and the property was listed.

NAME OF PERSON PLACING/RECEIVING CALL

Bruce Noble

TITLE

Historian

OFFICE

Natl. Register