

**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

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street & number 301 Paris Street N/A not for publication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	Ownership	Status	Present Use
district	public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	museum
structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	commercial
site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	educational
object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	entertainment
	being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	industrial
			military
			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 Saudi 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

title (1) Recorded Texas Historic Landmark
(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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	good	<input type="checkbox"/>	ruins
<input type="checkbox"/>	fair	<input type="checkbox"/>	unexposed
		<input type="checkbox"/>	unaltered
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	altered
		<input type="checkbox"/>	original site
		<input type="checkbox"/>	moved date _____
			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 Tallapoosa 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
Zone	Easting

7	2	5	6	6	0
Northing					

C

E

G

B

D

F

H

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
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Peter Flagg Maxson		
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organization	Texas Historical Commission	date	January and March 1986
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street & number	P.O. Box 12276	telephone	(512) 463-6094
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city or town	Austin	state	Texas
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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

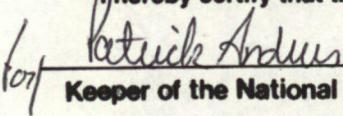


title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 21 July 1986

For NPS use only

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


107
Patrick Andrews
Keeper of the National Register

date 9/12/86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

date

**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
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**National Register of Historic Places
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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 USA

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

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

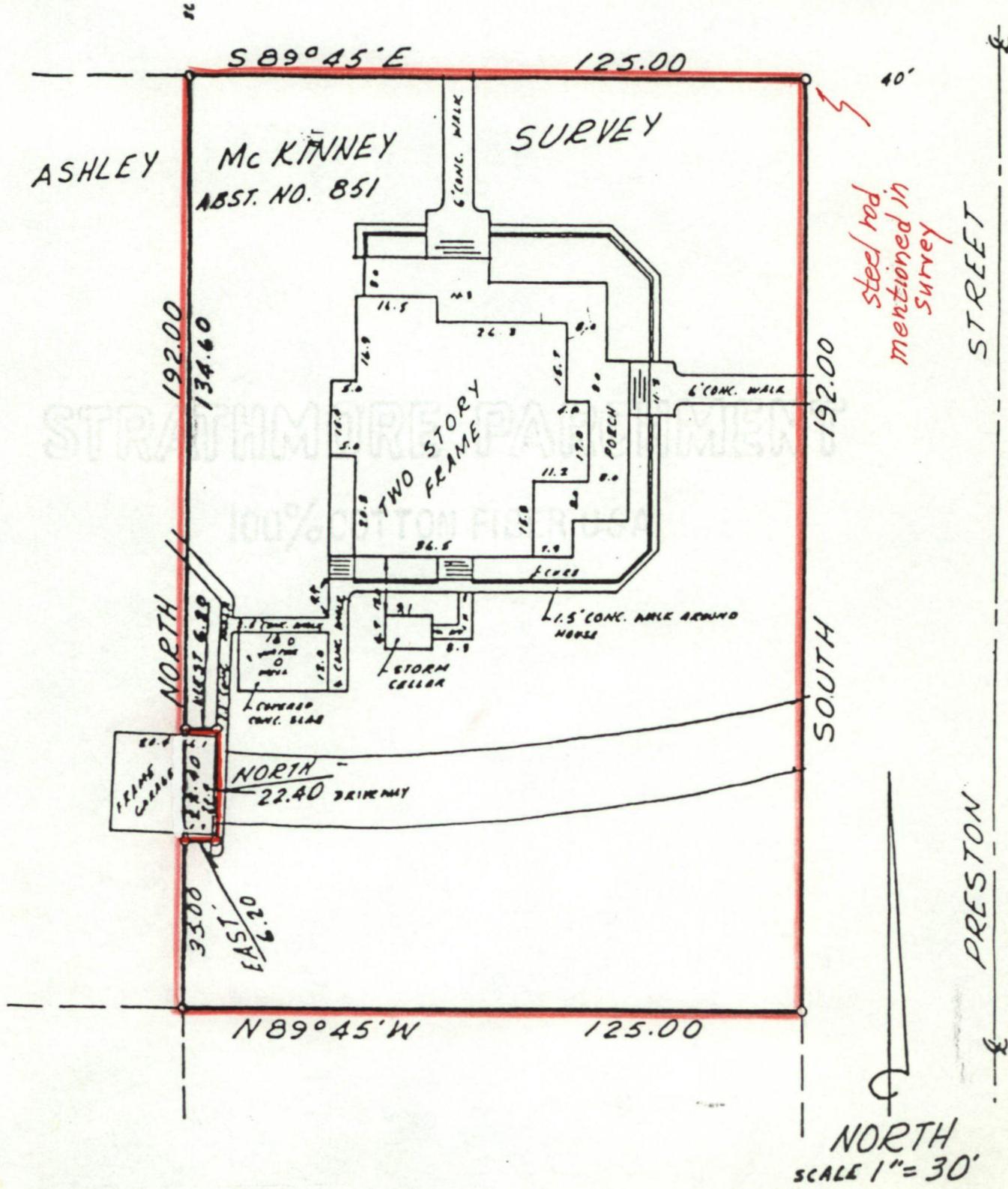
For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 2

EXHIBIT A



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Umphress--Taylor House
Grayson County
TEXAS

Substantive Review

JUL 30 1986

Working No. 913787Fed. Reg. Date: 8/28/86Date Due: 8/28/86 - 9/13/86Action: ACCEPT 9/2/86RETURN _____REJECT _____

Federal Agency: _____

resubmission
 nomination by person or local government
 owner objection
 appeal

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

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.

Recom./Criteria Accept/ CReviewer Bruce J. Noble, Jr.Discipline HistorianDate 9/12/86

see continuation sheet

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: _____



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



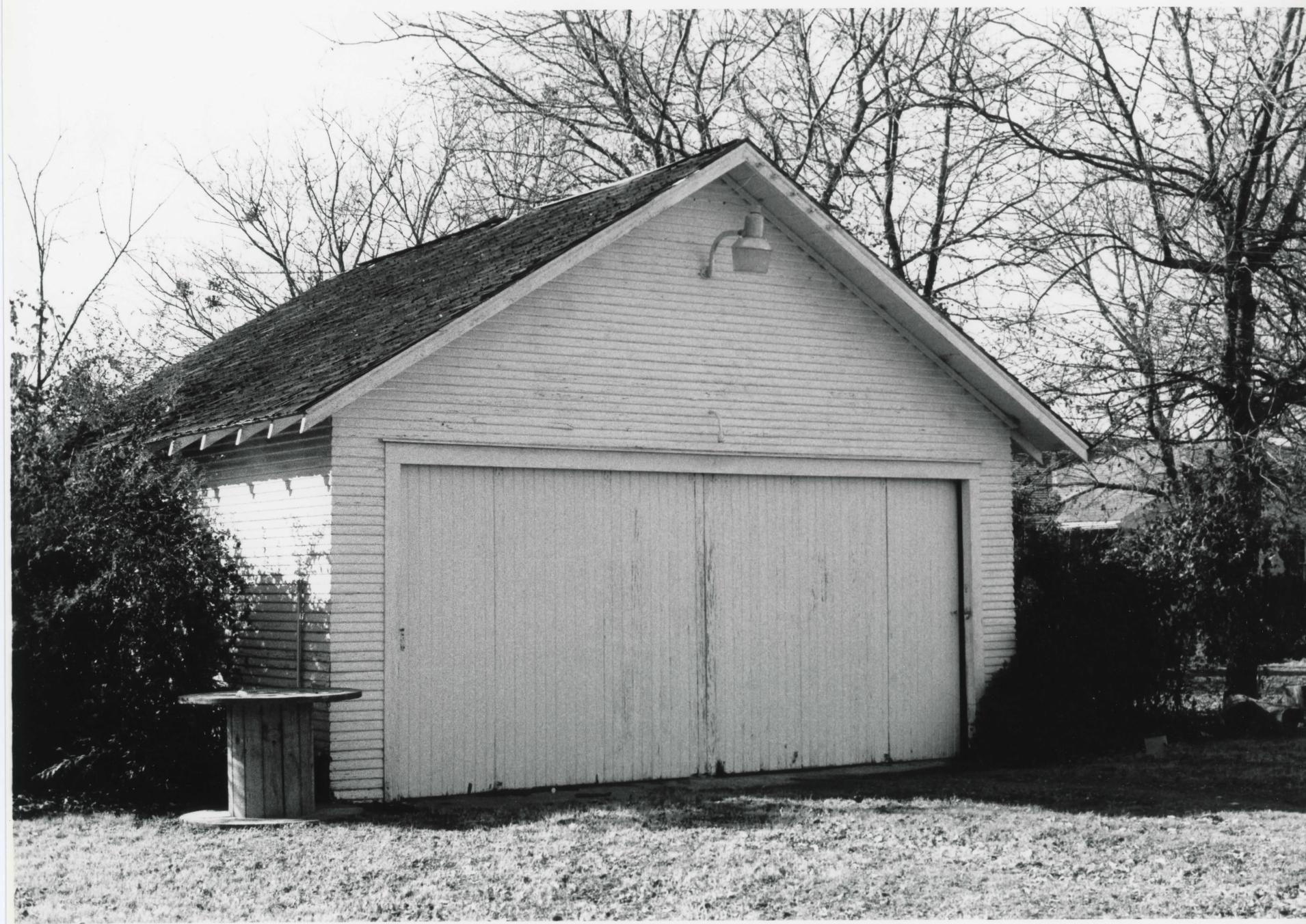
Umphress-Taylor House
301 Paris Street, Van Alstyne, Grayson Co., Texas
Photo by George Kerns, January 1986; negs. with
photographer
W facade, camera looking east-southeast
Photo 6 of 10



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

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