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NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: F.T. and Belle Ramsey House

other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: 4412 Avenue B

city/town: Austin

state: TX County: Travis

code: 453

zip code: 78751

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing:

HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES OF HYDE PARK, AUSTIN, TEXAS

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Curtis J. Murrell
Signature of certifying official

27 June 1990
Date

Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

X entered in the National Register
See continuation sheet.

____ determined eligible for the
National Register

See continuation sheet.

____ determined not eligible for the
National Register

____ removed from the National Register

____ other (explain): _____

Antoinette Lee 8/16/90

for _____
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Domestic Sub: single dwelling

Current: Domestic Sub: multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Other: vernacular
Queen Anne

Other Description: L-plan

Materials:	foundation	wood
	walls	wood - weatherboard
		wood - shingles
	roof	metal
	other	

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

 X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally

Applicable National Register Criteria: B C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture
Agriculture

Period(s) of Significance: 1894-1932

Significant Dates: 1894

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

 X See continuation sheet.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Built in 1894, the 2-story frame dwelling at 4212 Avenue B is situated at the southwest corner of Avenue B and West 45th Street. Although nearby historic dwellings complement the Ramsey House, modern apartment and commercial buildings have intruded on the historic character of adjacent areas. The building retains much of its noteworthy architectural fabric, although vegetation obscures portions of the dwelling from public view.

The dwelling presents many features generally associated with late 19th-century domestic architecture. In contrast to the subdued, horizontal lines of the bungalow tradition, this house displays a strong vertical emphasis in its overall form and shape, with detailing characteristic of the Victorian era. The L-shaped plan, steeply pitched cross-gabled roof and jigsawn trim are important aesthetic features. The most prominent architectural element, a 2-story L-shaped porch, features turned-wood columns, diamond-patterned shingles in a pent roof, and a checkered balustrade with gouged members. Other features lending visual interest to the composition include the front-projecting wing with angled corners, tripled gabled extensions and jigsawn bargeboards. The main single-door entrance is set within the porch, near the juncture of the front-projecting wing and the main body of the house. A single door on the south wall of the front wing's second floor provides access to the upper level of the porch. The windows are double hung with wood sashes and 1/1 lights. No significant alterations detract from the dwelling's overall integrity.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

A frame 2-story L-plan dwelling, The F.T. and Belle Ramsey House is one of a handful of imposing Victorian-era residences completed in Hyde Park before 1900. Dating to the earliest period of development in Hyde Park, The Ramsey House is the only large Victorian-era dwelling adjacent to West 45th Street, an area that generally developed after World War I. The house is also the sole link to the extensive Ramsey Nursery grounds that defined the early 20th century character of the area north of 45th Street. The Ramsey House's size and rich architectural detailing testify to the rewards of the horticultural efforts of one of Texas' best-known nurserymen. As the architecturally significant residence of F.T. Ramsey, considered by historian Samuel Wood Geiser to have been one of the most Texas' most prominent horticulturalists, it is being nominated under Criteria B and C.

Frank Taylor Ramsey was born June 15, 1861, to Alexander Murray Ramsey. The family moved in 1858 from Jackson, Mississippi, to Mahomet in Burnet County where the elder Ramsey established the Lone Star Nursery. In 1894 they relocated to Austin, opening the A.M. Ramsey & Son nursery on 300 acres north of 45th Street and west of Avenue B (Pecan Press, September 1980:2).

On February 12, 1894, F.T. Ramsey purchased lots 29-32 in Block 8 of the Hyde Park Addition from the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Land and Town Company for \$525.00 (DR 120:318). He and his wife, Belle (Sinclair) Ramsey, are believed to have constructed the house at 4412 Avenue B shortly thereafter.

Upon his father's death in 1895, F.T. became the owner and manager of the nursery. By 1929 he was recognized as "the most widely known nurseryman of the Lone Star State" (Davis and Grobe 1929:2720-21) and as "one of the most active and effective Texas horticulturalists" (Geiser 1945:71-73). He and his nursery are credited with developing dozens of varieties of peaches and plums and numerous apples, nectarines, pecans, dewberries, blackberries, persimmons, mulberries, figs, and apricots, an accomplishment which won him the moniker "Fruit Tree" Ramsey (Pecan Press, September 1980:2).

On December 28, 1932, Ramsey died and left the house to his children, who subsequently sold it to Riley M. and Lillian Mae Meeker on June 5, 1944 (Probate File No. 7826; DR 735:593). The Meekers made repairs and improvements to the house in 1944 and 1950 (DR 674:517: 1057:305), selling it in 1958 to the present owners, F.B. and Bertie Bell Sturdivant (DR 1958:238).

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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 X See bibliography for associated historic context.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey# _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record# _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- x State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	14	621980	3353580	B	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description:

Lots 30-32, Block 8, Hyde Park Addition No. 1

Boundary Justification:

Boundaries are those historically associated with the property.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title:	Martha Doty Freeman - Historian	Date:	July 1988
Organization:	RioGroup Architects and Planners	Telephone:	512/440-8751
Street & Number:	1711 S. Congress Avenue	State:	TX Zip: 78704
City or Town:	Austin		

Name/Title:	David Moore - Historian	Date:	July 1988
Organization:	Hardy-Heck-Moore	Telephone:	512/478-8014
Street & Number:	2112 Rio Grande	State:	TX Zip: 78705
City or Town:	Austin		

7/5/90

19. Robbins, Alice H., House

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90001176

Date Listed: 8/16/90

F. T. and Belle Ramsey House
Property Name

Travis
County

TX
State

Hyde Park MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Antonieta A. Lee
Signature of the Keeper

8/16/90
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: For Significant Person, F. T. Ramsey is inserted.

This information was confirmed with Tory Laughlin of the Texas SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Ramsey, F. T. and Belle, House

MULTIPLE NAME: Hyde Park MPS

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Travis

DATE RECEIVED: 7/05/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/17/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/02/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/19/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90001176

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 8/16/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The F. T. and Belle Ramsey House is significant as one of the few surviving Victorian-era residences in Hyde Park and as fine example of the period's forms and features. In addition, its first owner was F. T. Ramsey, one of the state's most prominent horticulturalists. The Ramsey nursery developed many varieties of fruits and nuts.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept / B+ C
REVIEWER Antoinette Lee
DISCIPLINE History
DATE 8/16/90

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR (Y)N

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
materials
descriptive text

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
UTMs boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone

Signed Date



FRANK TAYLOR & BELLE RAMSEY HOUSE

4412 AVENUE B

AUSTIN, TRAVIS CO., TEXAS

DANIEL HARDY

MARCH 4, 1987

NEGATIVE WITH TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

CAMERA FACING NORTHWEST

6 OF 49

Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500640