

1894



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Venable, W.J., House

other names/site number #32

2. Location

street & number 426 North Wall [NA] not for publication

city/town Belton [NA] vicinity

state Texas code TX County Bell code 027 zip code 76513

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Contributing	
Property			
Noncontributing			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>    </u>	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>    </u>	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>    </u>	objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Community Development in Belton, Texas, 1850-1945

Number of contributing resources  
previously listed in NR 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this [XX] 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 [XX] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register Criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official: [Handwritten Signature]
Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

Date: 29 Oct. 1990

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official
State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

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):

Entered in the National Register

[Handwritten Signature] 12/26/90

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

OTHER: vernacular L-plan

Gothic Revival

Materials

foundation WOOD

walls WOOD: weatherboard

roof ASPHALT: composition shingles

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

[ ] See continuation sheet.

The Venable House is a 2-story, frame dwelling in a vernacular interpretation of the Gothic Revival style. The house is arranged on an L-plan with a series of steeply-pitched gabled-roof wall dormers. The house faces east on a large lot in a residential neighborhood of North Belton. Several mature deciduous trees dot the property.

The Venable House is based on a vernacular L-plan form, but the house is sited with the exterior of the L creating the public facades, rather than a leg of the L projecting forward from the main facade as is the customary arrangement of an L-plan house. The Venable House is faced with weatherboard and the roof is covered by asphalt shingles. The most distinctive feature of the house is the series of steep gabled wall dormers intersecting the roof line, giving the house 13 gables in all. The roof is pierced near the center by two limestone chimneys. Set in each gable is a single 2/2 double-hung sash window with a bracketed hood; identical windows are set directly below in the first floor. On the east facade a 2-story porch with boxed columns and Classical Revival detailing spans two of the gabled bays. A turned wood balustrade creates a balcony on the second level of the porch. Although the house is in a deteriorated condition, most of its original architectural features are intact.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [XX] locally

Applicable National Register Criteria [ ]A [ ]B [XX]C [ ]D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) [ ]A [ ]B [ ]C [ ]D [ ]E [ ]F [ ]G NA

Areas of Significance Architecture Period of Significance c. 1879 Significant Dates NA

Cultural Affiliation NA

Significant Person(s) NA Architect/Builder unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. [ ] See continuation sheet.

The late 1870s Venable House is an example of a vernacular house type probably brought to Belton by settlers from the upland South. Contextually it relates to Community and Regional Development, specifically to the influx of settlers to Belton from other parts of the South in the decades following the Civil War. The property is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C, significant in the area of Architecture, as one of the few examples of this distinctive vernacular house type in Central Texas.

The Venable residence was built about 1879, probably for W. J. Venable. Venable sold the house to T. W. Cochran in 1892. Cochran was a prominent local merchant and partner in the Cochran, Blair and Potts Department Store of Central Avenue. About 1900 he built an addition on the rear of the house in the same style.

The Venable House is an excellent example of a vernacular house type suggesting the Gothic Revival style that was apparently brought to Texas from the upland South. This multi-gabled form was popular in Kentucky and Tennessee around the time of the Civil War and it appears in regions of north and east Texas in the 1870s, suggesting that it was perpetuated by immigrants to these areas from the southeastern states after the Civil War. The Augustus Koch bird's-eye-view map of 1881 shows five similar houses in Belton; this house is the only one that is now standing.

9. Major Bibliographical References

[ ] See continuation sheet.

Please see bibliography accompanying context statement "Community Development in Belton, Texas, 1850-1945."

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA	Primary location of additional data:
[ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested	[XX] State historic preservation office
[ ] previously listed in National Register	[ ] Other State agency
[ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register	[ ] Federal agency
[ ] designated a National Historic Landmark	[ ] Local government
[ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____	[ ] University
[ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____	[ ] Other
	Specify repository: _____
	Texas Historical Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

A [14] [646980] [3436960]	B [ ] [ ] [ ]
Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
C [ ] [ ] [ ]	D [ ] [ ] [ ]

Verbal Boundary Description [ ] See continuation sheet

South 1/2 of Lot 2, Block 3, Alexander Addition.

Boundary Justification [ ] See continuation sheet

The legal description consistent with current ownership and most closely associated with historic ownership of the property.

11. Form Prepared By

(based on research by Sally Victor, Victor & Victor Consultants)

Name/Title Chris Long, Historian (with Tory Laughlin Taylor, Architectural Historian)

Organization Texas Historical Commission, NR Programs date August 1990

Street & Number P.O. Box 12276 Capitol Station telephone 512-463-6094

City or Town Austin state TX zip 78711

11/14/90

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Belton MPS Bell County, TEXAS

	Date Listed
22. Harris, Capt. Andrew Jackson, House <u>Substantive Review</u>	<u>12/26/90</u>
23. House at 402 N. East St.	<u>12/26/90</u>
24. House at 730 N. Beal St. <u>Substantive Review</u>	<u>12/26/90</u>
25. Hudson, Dr. Taylor, House	<u>12/26/90</u>
26. James House	<u>12/26/90</u>
27. Kinchion, L. B., House	<u>12/26/90</u>
28. Lee, Walter J., House	<u>12/26/90</u>
29. McWhirter, George and Martha, House	<u>12/26/90</u>
30. Means, V. R., House	<u>12/26/90</u>
31. Miller, J. I., House	<u>12/26/90</u>
32. Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad Bridge at the Leon River <u>Substantive Review</u>	<u>12/26/90</u>
33. Morey House	<u>12/26/90</u>
34. Mount Zion United Methodist Church	<u>12/26/90</u>
35. Naismith, Robert, House	<u>12/26/90</u>
36. Potts, Arthur, House	<u>12/26/90</u>
37. Venable, W. J., House	<u>12/26/90</u>
38. Ware, H. A. and Helena, House	<u>12/26/90</u>

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Venable, W. J., House  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Belton MPS  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Bell

DATE RECEIVED: 11/14/90                      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/30/90  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/16/90                      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/29/90  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90001894

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: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    12/26/90 DATE

Entered in the  
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

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CLASSIFICATION

\_\_\_count      \_\_\_resource type

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STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

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FUNCTION

\_\_\_historic      \_\_\_current

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DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_architectural classification  
\_\_\_materials  
\_\_\_descriptive text

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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

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

\_\_\_acreage      \_\_\_verbal boundary description  
\_\_\_UTMs      \_\_\_boundary justification

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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

\_\_\_sketch maps      \_\_\_USGS maps      \_\_\_photographs      \_\_\_presentation

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OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_





#485  
426 N. WALL

HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES of BELTON, TEXAS

W. J. VENABLE HOUSE

426 N. WALL

BELTON, BELL CO., TEXAS

CAMERA FACING SOUTHWEST

NEGATIVE WITH CONSULTANT

PHOTO 32 OF 38

Site No. 485, ROLL 26, #4

Address 426 N. WALL

View S.W. OBLIQUE

Belton, Texas  
Historic Sites Survey, 1985  
VICTOR AND VICTOR CONSULTANTS, INC.  
P.O. Box 26189  
AUSTIN, TEXAS

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500627