

1934



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Gray Rental Houses

other names/site number #21, #22, #23

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number 702 - 708 North Pearl Street [NA] not for publication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>3</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> Total
Name of related multiple property listing:		Number of contributing resources	
<u>Community Development in Belton, Texas, 1850-1945</u>		previously listed in NR <u>0</u>	

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.

Curtis Annell
Signature of certifying official
Texas Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

29 Oct. 1990
Date

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):

Antonio A. Lee
12/26/90

for Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials

foundation WOOD: shingle

walls WOOD: shingle

roof ASPHALT: composition shingle

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

[] See continuation sheet.

The Gray Rental Houses are a series of three nearly identical bungalows built on adjacent lots that exhibit a curious mixture of Shingle Style and bungalow influences with some Queen Anne-style details. The houses are on small, flat lots facing east onto Pearl Street in a North Belton neighborhood of modest houses from around the turn of the century.

The Gray Rental Houses are 1-story rectangular-plan bungalows each with a hipped roof and a single hipped-roof dormer in the front slope. They sit on flared foundations and are clad in wood shingles with composition shingle roofs. A cutaway porch is set in the left half of the main facade that distinguishes the houses by its unusual design. Rather than having chunky porch columns typical of bungalows, the shingled wall of the house is cut away in a semicircular form creating a curvilinear corner support and a parapet for the porch, suggesting a round portal in the skin of the house. The entry door is set at an angle and the eccentricity of the house's design is reinforced by a small square window turned on edge to form a diamond beside the door. In the right side of the facade is a large window flanked by two narrower windows, all double-hung wood sash. These windows, along with the ones set on angle beside the entry, are of the Queen Anne style with decorative colored glass perimeters or art glass panels. The broad open eaves of the houses have shaped rafter tails in the Arts & Crafts style.

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 1913 Significant Dates NA

Cultural Affiliation NA

Significant Person(s) NA Architect/Builder George Alexander Gray, builder

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

The Gray Rental Houses, built in 1913, are products of the dissemination of the bungalow form and its widespread use in the early 20th century for small houses. The houses relate to the context of Community and Regional Development, and specifically illustrate the growth of the middle class after the turn of the century and the increased need for modest housing stock. The houses are eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A in the area of Architecture as quirky local interpretations of the bungalow popularized in California.

All three houses were built in 1913 by George Alexander Gray as rental property. Gray was a local paint store owner and built the houses after visiting California. Presumably he was influenced by the proliferation of bungalows he saw there, because the design of these houses owe more to the western shingled bungalows with their emphasis on texture than to the patternbook bungalows normally found in Texas. Much of the lumber and other materials were salvaged from the Presbyterian Church on North Pearl built in 1882 and razed at about the time of the house's construction; this would explain the Queen Anne-style windows that seem so inconsistent with the design of the houses. The houses are unusual because they combine typical bungalow layout and massing with details that appear archaic in juxtaposition. The houses are historically notable because they represent early examples of houses built specifically as rental property, a practice then just beginning.

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
[] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
[] previously listed in 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:
[XX] State historic preservation office
[] Other State agency
[] Federal agency
[] Local government
[] University
[] Other

Specify repository:
Texas Historical Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

A [14] [646740] [3437440]
Zone Easting Northing
C [] [] []

B [] [] []
Zone Easting Northing
D [] [] []

Verbal Boundary Description [] See continuation sheet

East 125 feet of the South 60 feet and South 45 feet of the North 90 feet of Lot 1, Block 1, Embree and Keys 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

COVER

Substantive Review

12/26/90

1. Austin, F. K. and Mary, House

12/26/90

2. Baggett, Ele, House

12/26/90

3. Baggett, Silas and Ellen, House

12/26/90

4. Baylor Female College Historic District

12/26/90

Substantive Review

5. Beamer, William, House

12/26/90

6. Belton Academy

12/26/90

7. Belton Commercial Historic District

12/26/90

8. Belton Farmers' Gin Coop

12/26/90

9. Belton Standpipe

12/26/90

10. Belton Yarn Mill

12/26/90

11. Birdwell, T. Hamp and Beulah, House

12/26/90

12. Burford, R. F. and Lena, House

12/26/90

13. Cornelison House

12/26/90

14. Elliott, Joel, House

12/26/90

~~15. Farr, Dr. R.S., House~~

Removed
4.30.94

12/26/90

16. Ferguson, James A., House

12/26/90

17. Ferguson, James E. and Mirian, House

12/26/90

18. First Christian Church Parsonage

12/26/90

19. Frazier, Dr. Jacob Moore, House

12/26/90

20. Gray Rental Houses

Substantive Review

12/26/90

21. Hammersmith, John P., House

12/26/90

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90001934

Date Listed: 12/16/90

Gray Rental Houses Bell TX
Property Name County State

Historic and Architectural Resources of Belton, Texas
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.

for *Antoinette Lee*
Signature of the Keeper

12/27/90
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: In the first paragraph of the text, "Criterion A" should be corrected to read "Criterion C."

This information was confirmed with Bruce Jensen of the Texas State Historic Preservation Office.

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: Gray Rental Houses

MULTIPLE NAME: Belton MPS

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: 90001934

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 12/26/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The three Gray Rental Houses are significant as examples of popular house forms in Belton. They were designed as modest bungalows for rental purposes and exhibit influences from California and a number of eccentric features, such as the curvilinear corner support, placement of the door on an angle, and Queen Anne windows.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept/c
REVIEWER Antoinette Lee
DISCIPLINE History
DATE 12/26/90

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
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



366
702 N. PEARL

HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES OF BELTON, TEXAS
GRAY RENTAL HOUSES
702 N. PEARL
BELTON, BELL CO., TEXAS
CAMERA FACING EAST

NEGATIVE WITH CONSULTANT
PHOTO 21 OF 38

Site No. 366, ROLL 11, #. 14

33

Address 702 N. PEARL

View W. FACADE

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



369
708 N. PEARL

Site No. 369, ROLL 11, #16

Address 708 N. PEARL

View N.W. OBUQUE

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

HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES of BELTON, TEXAS

GRAY RENTAL HOUSES

708 N. PEARL

BELTON, BELL CO., TEXAS

CAMERA FACING NORTHWEST

NEGATIVE WITH CONSULTANT

PHOTO ²² 23 OF 30



367
704 N. PEARL

HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES of BELTON, TEXAS
GRAY RENTAL HOUSES
704 N. PEARL
BELTON, BELL CO., TEXAS
CAMERA FACING NORTHWEST
NEGATIVE WITH CONSULTANT

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PHOTO 24 OF 38

Site No. 367, ROLL 11, #16
Address 704 N. PEARL
View N.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