

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

FEB 01 1993

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic name: Harrison-Dennis House

Other name/site number: Site No. 455

2. LOCATION

Street & number: 409 West Burleson

Not for publication: N/A

City/town: Wharton

State: TX *County:* Wharton

Code: 481 *Zip Code:* 77488

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property: *Contributing* *Noncontributing*

4	0	<i>buildings</i>
0	0	<i>sites</i>
0	0	<i>structures</i>
0	0	<i>objects</i>
4	0	<i>Total</i>

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of Wharton, Wharton County, Texas

SOUTHWORTH CO. U.S.A.

100% COTTON FIBER

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. Russell
Signature of certifying official

27 Jan. 1993
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer, 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:

✓ entered in the National Register Curtis J. Russell 3/18/93
 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): _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current: DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: OTHER: L-plan House

Materials: foundation Brick
walls Wood
roof Asphalt
other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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: Politics and Government, Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1913-1942, ca. 1895

Significant Dates: 1913, ca. 1895

Significant Person(s): Dennis, J.H.H.

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

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

See continuation sheet.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Harrison-Dennis House
Wharton, Wharton County, Texas

Description:

The Harrison-Dennis House is a 2-story frame L-plan house facing north on West Burlison Street. It rests on a brick pier-and-beam foundation and is covered with a hipped roof of asphalt shingles. Weatherboard siding covers the house; three interior brick chimneys rise from the southern slope of the roof. All windows are 1/1 wooden double-hung.

The Harrison-Dennis House is a 2-story frame L-plan house facing north on West Burlison Street on a large lot immediately west of the central business district. It rests on a brick pier-and-beam foundation and is covered with a hipped roof of asphalt shingles. Weatherboard siding covers the house; three interior brick chimneys rise from the southern slope of the roof. All windows are 1/1 wooden double-hung with those on the north, east and west with operable wooden shutters. The lot is dotted with mature vegetation including shrubbery and deciduous trees.

The principal (north) facade is dominated by a 2-story open porch that covers roughly 2/3rds of the facade and wraps around to the east facade. The lower tier of the porch projects beyond the upper tier with a skirt roof denoting the division. Turned columns and balusters and a jig-sawn frieze and brackets support both floors. Single doors with sidelights and transoms with leaded glass panels serve as the center bay on both floors. The northwest bay is highlighted by a 2-story hexagonal bay rising to a tower roof.

On the rear (south) part of the site are three outbuildings: garage, carriage shed and utility shed with porch. All three buildings are wood frame with board-and-batten siding and wood-shingled gable roofs. The windows of the utility shed are double-hung with 4/4 lights. All three are considered Contributing elements on the site.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Harrison-Dennis House
Wharton, Wharton County, Texas

Statement of Significance:

The Harrison-Dennis House is an excellent example of a 2-story L-plan form. Its high degree of integrity and location make it one of the finest residential properties in Wharton. The house is eligible under Criterion C for architecture and Criterion B in the area of politics and government for its association with J.H.H. Dennis. Dennis served as the first mayor Wharton, county judge, and followed with a long career of service to the local governments. The house is associated with the context: *Community Development in Wharton, Texas 1875-1942.*

The Harrison-Dennis House is believed to be constructed ca. 1895 for Burr Albert Harrison, a prominent 19th century planter in Wharton County. Although he is not known to have lived here, the property's first association was with the prominent Harrison family. It was sold in 1902 to P.G. Brooks and then sold in 1913 to J.H.H. Dennis. Dennis had a rich career in local government and politics and was one of Wharton's most respected citizens. The following lists political activities of Dennis:

- 1897 - Elected to 25th State Legislature
- 1902-1904 - Served as first mayor of Wharton
- 1906-1914 - Served as Wharton County Attorney
- 1931 - Provided land for the new city hall, fire station, auditorium
- 1936 - Served on executive committee Wharton Co. Flood Control

Although most of Dennis' career in government and politics occurred before occupation of this house, it is the only extant property associated with him. It also served as his primary residence for 43 years (1913-1959). Because Dennis continued as one of Wharton's leading citizens during his occupation of the house, the property also is the one most closely associated with his lifetime accomplishments and contributions. For these reasons, it is significant in the area of politics and government under Criterion B.

After Dennis' death in 1959, the property was held by family until 1966 then conveyed to Alma Neal Smith Broughton. Subsequent owners are F.L. and Ortega Kirkendall (1969) and Leroy and Lois Bahner (1974).

The Harrison-Dennis House also is one of Wharton's best example of a 2-story L-plan house. Its fine architectural details and excellent integrity makes it one of the two best preserved late 19th century residences in the city. This makes it eligible under Criterion C for architecture.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See bibliography of historic context statement.

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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:

- State historic preservation office (Texas Historical Commission)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreege of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	14	781340	3245700	B	___	___	___
C	___	___	___	D	___	___	___

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: Gallaghers Addition, Block A, Lot 3 & 4

Boundary Justification: The property includes all areas historically associated with the building.

11. FORM PREPARED BY (assisted by Dwayne Jones, Preservation Planner, THC staff)

Name/Title: Ed Galloway and Ralph Newlan

Organization: Hardy-Heck-Moore

Date: July 1989

January 1992

Street & Number: 2112 Rio Grande

Telephone: 512-478-8014

City or Town: Austin

State: TX Zip: 78705

2/1/97

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Wharton MRA TEXAS Wharton County

Date Listed

COVER Substantive Review

2/18/93

- | | | | |
|---|---|---------|----------------|
| 1. Abovitz, Leon, House | DOE/OWNER OBJECTION
Substantive Review | 3/18/93 | Determined Not |
| 2. Banker, Willie, Jr., House | Entered in the
National Register | 3/18/93 | |
| 3. Bernstein, Moses, House | Entered in the
National Register | 3/18/93 | |
| 4. Bolton--Outlar House | Entered in the
National Register | 3/18/93 | |
| 5. Colorado River Bridge | Entered in the
National Register | 3/18/93 | |
| 6. Croom, Wiley J., House | Substantive Review | 3/18/93 | |
| 7. Dannon, F. F., House | Substantive Review | 3/18/93 | |
| 8. Davidson, Dr. Green, House | Entered in the
National Register | 3/18/93 | |
| 9. Davis, Ben and Mary, House | Entered in the
National Register | 3/18/93 | |
| 10. Elkins, Nettie, House | Substantive Review | 3/18/93 | |
| 11. Elliott, E. Clyde and Mary, House | Entered in the
National Register | 3/18/93 | |
| 12. First Methodist Episcopal Church South, Old | Entered in the
National Register | 3/18/93 | |
| 13. Garrett, Henry B., House | Substantive Review | 3/18/93 | |
| 14. Garrett, John A. and Sophie, House | Entered in the
National Register | 3/18/93 | |
| 15. Gifford, George C. and Annie, House | Entered in the
National Register | 3/18/93 | |
| 16. Hamilton, Joseph Andrew, House | Entered in the
National Register | 3/18/93 | |
| 17. Harrison, Gerard A., House | Substantive Review
Entered in the
National Register | 3/18/93 | |
| 18. Harrison--Dennis House | Substantive Review
Entered in the
National Register | 3/18/93 | |
| 19. Hawes, Edwin, House | Entered in the
National Register | 3/18/93 | |
| 20. Hawes, Edwin, Jr., House | Entered in the
National Register | 3/18/93 | |

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Harrison--Dennis House

MULTIPLE NAME: Wharton MPS

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Wharton

DATE RECEIVED: 2/01/93 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/16/93
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/04/93 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/18/93
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 93000110

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: Y SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 3/18/93 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

THE HARRISON-DENNIS House is significant under Criterion B, as the residence associated w/ influential local civic leader + politician J. H. H. DENNIS. J. Dennis served the community in a number of positions, including Mayor, county judge, state representative, local committee chairman, and civic booster. The house served as his residence from 1913 to 1959 + is the resource best associated w/ his productive life. The house is also significant under Criterion C as a well-preserved example of late 19th century vernacular design.

The building represents the L-plan subtype AND STANDS AS one of Wharton's best remaining 19th century homes.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept B+C
REVIEWER Paul R. Lusignan
DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN
DATE 3/19/93

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y

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 _____



HARRISON-DENNIS HOUSE
SITE NO. 455
WHARTON, TEXAS
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Please refer to the map in the
Multiple Property Cover Sheet
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500657