

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

RECEIVED

FEB 01 1993

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic name: Merrill-Roten House

Other name/site number: Site No. 116

2. LOCATION

Street & number: 520 Avenue A

Not for publication: N/A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*

<u> 1 </u>	<u> 1 </u> buildings
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> sites
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u> objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 1 </u> Total

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

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 L. ...
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
 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):

for
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Entered in the
National Register

Delores Byers

3/18/93

PARCHMENT DEED
SOUTHWORTH CO. U.S.A.
100% COTTON FIBER

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

Current: DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. DESCRIPTION

Architectural Classification: LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Tudor Revival

Materials: foundation Concrete
walls Brick
roof Asphalt
other Wood

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: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1930

Significant Dates: 1930

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

Merrill-Roten House
Wharton, Wharton County, Texas

Description:

The Merrill-Roten House is a 2 1/2-story dwelling facing north on Avenue A. This massive brick veneer dwelling with box-like form and massing exhibits Tudor Revival style influence. It rests on brick piers and is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle multi-gabled roof.

The Merrill-Roten House is a massive 2 1/2-story brick veneer dwelling covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle multi-gable roof. It stands northeast of downtown in a residential neighborhood. A side-gabled roof caps the primary (core) section of the dwelling and smaller side-gabled roofs extend over set-back side wings. The upper elevation of the gabled ends are highlighted with half-timbered vergeboard detailing.

A 2-story front-facing gabled extension marks the inset entrance bay that is surrounded by a simple round arch. A single-door primary entrance is set within the simple round arch. An impressive brick veneer chimney with elaborate brickwork detailing rises above the roofline on the principal (north) elevation.

The rear elevation is dominated by a large built-in porch with brick and wood veneer exterior. A wood frame second floor covered by a gabled roof has been added onto the porch. A modern frame garage covered by a gabled roof located behind the main house is considered Noncontributing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Merrill-Roten House
Wharton, Wharton County, Texas

Statement of Significance:

The Merrill-Roten House (1930) is a good example of an eclectic dwelling exhibiting Tudor Revival style influence. Additionally, it represents a relatively small number of dwellings in Wharton with brick exterior construction. It is eligible under Criterion C for architecture and associated with the context: *Community Development in Wharton, Texas, 1875-1942*.

James F. and Lena Merrill had this brick veneer house built soon after their acquisition of the property in 1930. In 1932, John L. Roten purchased the house. John L. Roten was one of Wharton's most successful businessmen during the mid-20th century. He began his career in 1922 when he opened a dry goods store in the community. His successful business practices enabled him to eventually open stores in Bay City, Columbus, Eagle Lake, El Campo, and Victoria.

The Tudor Revival style was popular among professionals in the community during the late 1920s and 1930s. Endless variations of this architectural expression exist in Wharton. The Merrill-Roten House with its brick veneer exterior, steeply pitched multi-gabled roof, impressive exterior brick chimney with elaborate brickwork, and 1/1 wooden, double hung windows are characteristic of this architectural form. Additionally, its full brick veneer exterior is rarely seen on local dwellings.

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

Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 14 782580 3246180 B
C D

☐ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: Barbee Addition, Block 6, Lots 12 & 13

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY (assisted by Dwayne Jones, Preservation Planner, Alan Carey, Preservation Planner Intern, 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

2/1/93

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Wharton MPS

Wharton County, TEXAS

Date Listed

- | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------|
| 21. House at 401 North Richmond | Entered in the
National Register | 3/18/93 |
| 22. House at 512 North Resident | Entered in the
National Register | 3/18/93 |
| 23. Linn Street Historic District | Substantive Review | 3/18/93 |
| 24. Merrill--Roten House | Entered in the
National Register | 3/18/93 |
| 25. Moran--Moore House | Entered in the
National Register | 3/18/93 |
| 26. Speaker, J. H., House | Entered in the
National Register | 3/18/93 |
| 27. St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church | Entered in the
National Register | 3/18/93 |
| 28. Texas and New Orleans Railroad Depot | Entered in the
National Register | 3/18/93 |
| 29. Texas and New Orleans Railroad Bridge | Entered in the
National Register | 3/18/93 |
| 30. West Milam Street Mercantile Historic District | Entered in the
National Register | 3/18/93 |
| 31. Worthing, Louis F., 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: Merrill--Roten House

MULTIPLE NAME: Wharton MPS

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Wharton

DATE RECEIVED: 2/01/93

DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/04/93

DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/16/93

DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/18/93

REFERENCE NUMBER: 93000113

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

DATE

3/18/93

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER

DISCIPLINE

DATE

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 _____

(Oct. 1990)

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

AD
93-113



1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Merrell-Roten House (name correction)

OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: previously listed as Merrill-Roten House

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 520 Ave. A

CITY OR TOWN: Wharton

STATE: Texas

CODE: TX

COUNTY: Wharton

CODE: 481

NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A

VICINITY: N/A

ZIP CODE: 77488

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ 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
☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally
☐ statewide ☒ locally. (X See continuation sheet 8-3 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

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 for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ 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): Additional Documentation Accepted

Additional Documentation Accepted

Edson H. Beall

2/5/01

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Merrell--Roten House

MULTIPLE NAME: Wharton MPS

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Wharton

DATE RECEIVED: 1/09/01
DATE OF 16TH DAY:
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/24/01

REFERENCE NUMBER: 93000113

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 2/5/01 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Accepted

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



MERRILL-ROTEN HOUSE
SITE No. 116
WHARTON CO., TEXAS
1 OF 39

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500657