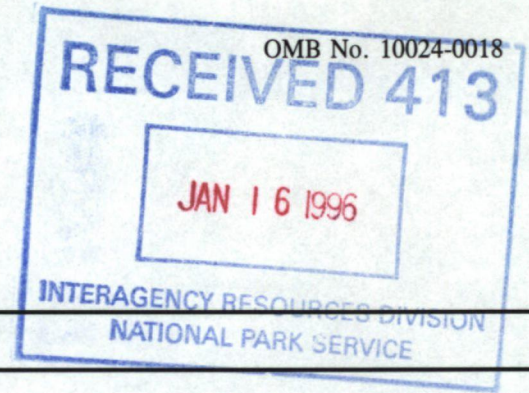


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



76

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Dimmitt, John J., House
OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: Site No. 166

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 1/2 mi. w. of Austin Hwy. on W. University (Hwy 29) NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A
CITY OR TOWN: Georgetown VICINITY: x
STATE: Texas CODE: TX COUNTY: Williamson CODE: 491 ZIP CODE: 78627

3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Curtis J. Jernell
Signature of certifying official

25 Jan. 1996
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:

- 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):

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

2/16/96

Entered in the
National Register

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	1	1 BUILDINGS
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 OBJECTS
	1	1 TOTAL

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: Historic Resources of Georgetown, Texas (NR 1986)

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: OTHER: Vernacular center-passage

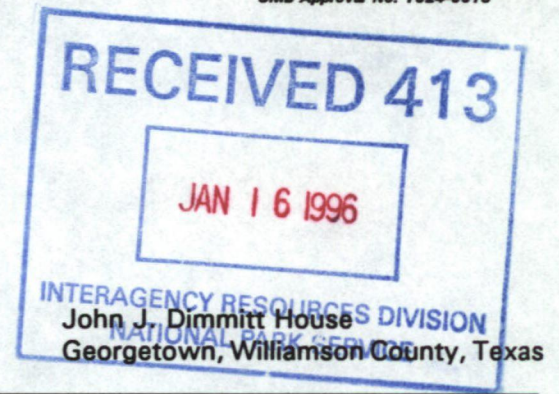
MATERIALS: FOUNDATION STONE: Limestone
WALLS STONE: Limestone
ROOF WOOD
OTHER WOOD

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 5



Description

The John J. Dimmitt House is a 1-1/2 story stone dwelling facing south along West University (Hwy 29) in Georgetown, Texas. The center-passage dwelling is built of cut-ashlar limestone and covered in a large side-gabled roof with projecting gable over the principal entry. Double wooden doors provide entry at the center of the house. Wooden 6/6 windows flank the doorway and form an A-A-A-BB-A-A-A arrangement. Mature live oaks surround the house with small shrubbery adjacent to the stone foundation. A 1-story garage is at the northwest corner of the house and is Noncontributing.

The John J. Dimmitt House faces south along West University (Hwy) 29 in Georgetown, Texas. Although set back from the highway approximately 500 feet, the house is largely visible from the road and sits on a rise of live oaks immediately west of the San Gabriel River. Approximately six acres of undeveloped land surrounds the house. Immediately west of the undeveloped land, however, is a shopping center built in the early 1990s.

The Dimmitt House is a 1-1/2 story center-passage dwelling built of cut-ashlar limestone. Resting on a stone foundation, the house is covered by a large side-gabled roof of wood shingles. Box eaves with jig-sawn brackets connect the expansive roof to the stone. A large gable-front portico with window extends from the center of the house and rests on four square wooden posts set on a concrete porch. This alteration dates to 1948. Gable end interior chimneys rise above the roofline and end in corbeled caps. A metal cresting runs along the ridgeline of the roof adding a Late Victorian element.

The principal (south) facade forms an A-A-A-BB-A-A-A arrangement. All windows are 6/6 wooden double-hung with screens. Double wooden doors with screens are centered on the facade.

A Noncontributing 1-story garage is northwest of the dwelling.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

- A** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH EVENTS THAT HAVE MADE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR HISTORY.
- B** PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- C** PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- D** PROPERTY HAS YIELDED, OR IS LIKELY TO YIELD, INFORMATION IMPORTANT IN PREHISTORY OR HISTORY.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Commerce; Social/Humanitarian

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: ca. 1870 - 1884

SIGNIFICANT DATES: ca.1870

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: Dimmitt, John J.

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: unknown

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-6).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see historic context statement).

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:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8 Page 6

John J. Dimmitt House
Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas

Statement of Significance

The John J. Dimmitt House (ca. 1870) is an good example of late 19th century vernacular architecture and the home of one of the community's leading citizens. The center-passage house is constructed of local ashlar-cut limestone but built in a traditional form. It is one of Georgetown's earliest buildings in this form and associated with the multiple listing: **Historic Resources of Georgetown, Texas (NR 1986)**. Dimmitt was active in the early social and economic development of Georgetown. Thus, the house is nominated under Criterion B for its association with John Dimmitt in the areas of Commerce and Social/Humanitarian at the local level of significance.

John J. Dimmitt came to Georgetown in 1859, but returned to his native Missouri in 1861. In 1864 Dimmitt again moved to Georgetown and purchased a lot near downtown. Dimmitt gradually began to buy land around Georgetown for raising livestock. In 1866, he is shown on the Williamson County tax rolls with 4,814 acres, 536 horses, and 2,911 head of cattle. Although his land holdings at times were quite large, he did not own any land in the C. Stubblefield Survey until 1870. Dimmitt is listed with the Texas State Comptroller as the owner of a 10-acre tract of land in this survey in 1870 with a given value of \$400. Thus, the Dimmitt House is dated as ca. 1870.

John J. Dimmitt became a leading citizen in Georgetown and Williamson County during the 1870s and 1880s. Local historians believe that he was a surveyor, lawyer, mathematician, linguist, and also held elected office in the county. He is believed to have been among the organizers of Georgetown College, a predecessor of Southwestern University, and to have been involved in attracting Southwestern to Georgetown. Dimmitt also became one of the Georgetown citizens invested in the Georgetown Railroad Company. Chartered in 1878, the company built a rail line to Round Rock (10 miles) for service to the International and Great Northern (I&GN) Railroad. The line was not profitable and was sold under foreclosure in 1879 to the I&GN. Although this investment was not financially successful, it is another example of Dimmitt's efforts to build Georgetown. He was also interested in the social and educational advancements in Georgetown and donated 200 acres of land behind his house to the Texas Chautauqua Assembly active in the late 19th century. The chautauqua became a significant social organization for Georgetown and surrounding areas.

On May 9, 1884, John J. Dimmitt died. His wife, M.L. retained title to the property and house until 1917 when she sold it to Mitti J. Ischy. In 1947, Dr. R.W. and Jean Gamble acquired the house and surrounding land. The Gambles updated the property and added the gable-front portico in 1948. In spite of these changes, the Dimmitt House retains a significant part of its integrity.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: approximately 6 acres

UTM REFERENCES	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	14	625880	3389660	3	##	#####
2	##	#####	#####	4	##	#####

(__ see continuation sheet 10-#)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION C. Stubblefield Survey (A-558), Tr. #11, City of Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION The boundaries include the two extant resources and remaining acreage originally identified in ca. 1870 survey.

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: David Moore

ORGANIZATION: Hardy-Heck-Moore **DATE:** 7/84; 12/95

STREET & NUMBER: 2112 Rio Grande **TELEPHONE:** 512-478-8014

CITY OR TOWN: Austin **STATE:** TX **ZIP CODE:** 78705

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see USGS Map)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-7)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME Dr. R. W. Gamble

STREET & NUMBER 824 Austin **TELEPHONE** N/A

CITY OR TOWN Georgetown **STATE** TX **ZIP CODE** 78626

PARCHEMENT-DEED

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section PHOTOS Page 7

John J. Dimmitt House
Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas

Photograph Inventory

Name of Property	John J. Dimmitt House
Address	Hwy. 29, West University
City/County/State	Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas
Name of Photographer	David Moore
Date of Photograph	1987
Location of Negative	Texas Historical Commission
Camera Facing	Northeast

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Dimmitt, John J., House
NAME:

MULTIPLE Georgetown MRA
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Williamson

DATE RECEIVED: 1/16/96 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/31/96
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/16/96 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/01/96
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 96000076

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 2/16/96 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



DIMMITT HOUSE

HWY 29

GEORGETOWN, WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS

PHOTO BY DAVID MOORE 1987

NEGATIVE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

VIEW LOOKING NORTHEAST

HISTORIC RESOURCES of GEORGETOWN, TEXAS
J. J. DIMMITT HOUSE WORKS
HWY. 29, WEST UNIVERSITY
GEORGETOWN, WILLIAMSON CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 1

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

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000843