

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Alexander-Campbell House

OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: Campbell House / Site No. 645

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 1546 North 5th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Abilene

STATE: Texas CODE: TX county: Taylor

NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A

VICINITY: N/A

code: 441

ZIP CODE: 79601

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.)

Signature of certifying official

2-20-96

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):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

3/29/96

Entered in the
National Register

5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Building

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

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

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: Historic and Architectural Resources in Abilene, Texas

6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: DOMESTIC/single dwelling

CURRENT FUNCTIONS: DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY MOVEMENTS/Prairie School

MATERIALS:	FOUNDATION	Concrete
	WALLS	Stucco
	ROOF	Asphalt
	OTHER	Wood, Brick, Stone

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-10).

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Alexander-Campbell House, Historic
and Architectural Resources in
Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

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Description

The Alexander-Campbell House, at 1546 North 5th Street, is an early 20th-century Prairie School-influenced house on a corner site north of downtown Abilene. Constructed c.1901, the original house, most likely Queen Anne in style, was altered between 1919 and 1921 by David S. Castle, Abilene's preeminent architect of the 1920s and 1930s. Castle's architectural enhancements embody characteristics of the Arts and Crafts movement popular in domestic architecture of the time. The current floor plan is asymmetrical, and according to Castle's architectural drawings, very similar to the original Victorian plan. The present appearance, however, is of the 1921 Prairie School design. Retaining a high degree of architectural integrity, the Alexander-Campbell house is locally significant, and is a worthy addition to the *Historic and Architectural Resources in Abilene, Taylor County, Texas* (N.R. 1991).

A two-story stucco dwelling, the Alexander-Campbell House faces south on a flat site with mature landscaping and a cultivated lawn. Its neighborhood, of similar Craftsman- and Prairie School-influenced houses from the early 20th century, is adjacent to the Parramore Historic District (N.R. 1991) and to the Abilene Commercial Historic District (N.R. 1991).

The Alexander-Campbell House is characterized by bold asymmetrical massing and deep roof overhangs. A prominent front porch and porte cochere wrap the southeast corner of the front facade, strengthening the horizontal appearance of the house. Massive front porch columns define both the entry and a second story deck directly above. Stained glass double doors open onto this second floor porch and small planters ornament the cap of each column. A low pitched asphalt shingle roof and deep bracketed soffits highlight the projecting roof line and add the distinctive characteristics of Prairie School design. All windows have 9/1 wooden sashes. On the principal facade, windows are grouped in threes, giving a stronger horizontal appearance. Stucco walls give the exterior texture and provide highlights to the recessed panels on the front porch piers and stringcourse between the first and second floors.

The primary facade conveys the most pronounced Prairie School appearance, with its bold massing and dominant eaves. The front porch and porte cochere wrapping the east side, carry the prominent features, such as massive columns and deep eaves, around the house. The northeast porch includes a ground level, polygonal tower wrapped in lattice, and the rear facade is unadorned, but for a one story porch also enclosed with lattice, which extends across most of the rear facade. The porch culminates in a small, one room enclosure. The west facade continues the basic features of the house, with a two-story projection of the dining room on the first floor and a bedroom on the second floor.

Despite dramatic changes, the asymmetrical floor plan and characteristics of the c.1901 house are

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apparent in the current facade. A living room bay on the first floor facade appears to be original to the earlier house, as do areas of brick foundation. Architectural plans completed by Castle show concrete foundations which extended the house on an east-west axis, with the dining room enlarged to the west, and the living porch and front porch extended to the east. The foot print of the first floor plan seems to be predominantly as it was in the c.1901 house, but for these extensions. Interior wall changes appear minimal, since Castle's first floor plan matches the original interior foundation walls.

On the second floor, the architectural drawings show some walls remaining from the original house, but materials are primarily new, perhaps indicating that the space was enlarged. Footings were added at strategic locations under the house, evidence that Castle was planning for additional structural loading.

Castle's architectural plans call for reuse of materials from the earlier house, including: some windows; many interior doors and frames; a new front door, with reuse of frame and transom; and reuse of the first floor windows at the southwest corner bay. Apparently, the rear (northeast) porch is also from the earlier house.

Mature trees and shrubs surround the house. Some of the plant material along the south facade appears older, while the rear landscaping is more recent.

The Alexander-Campbell House retains the integrity of location, setting, workmanship, materials, design, feeling, and association from the 1921 renovation by architect, David S. Castle. For its Prairie School characteristics, it is an exemplary addition to the *Historic and Architectural Resources in Abilene, Taylor County, Texas* (N.R. 1991).

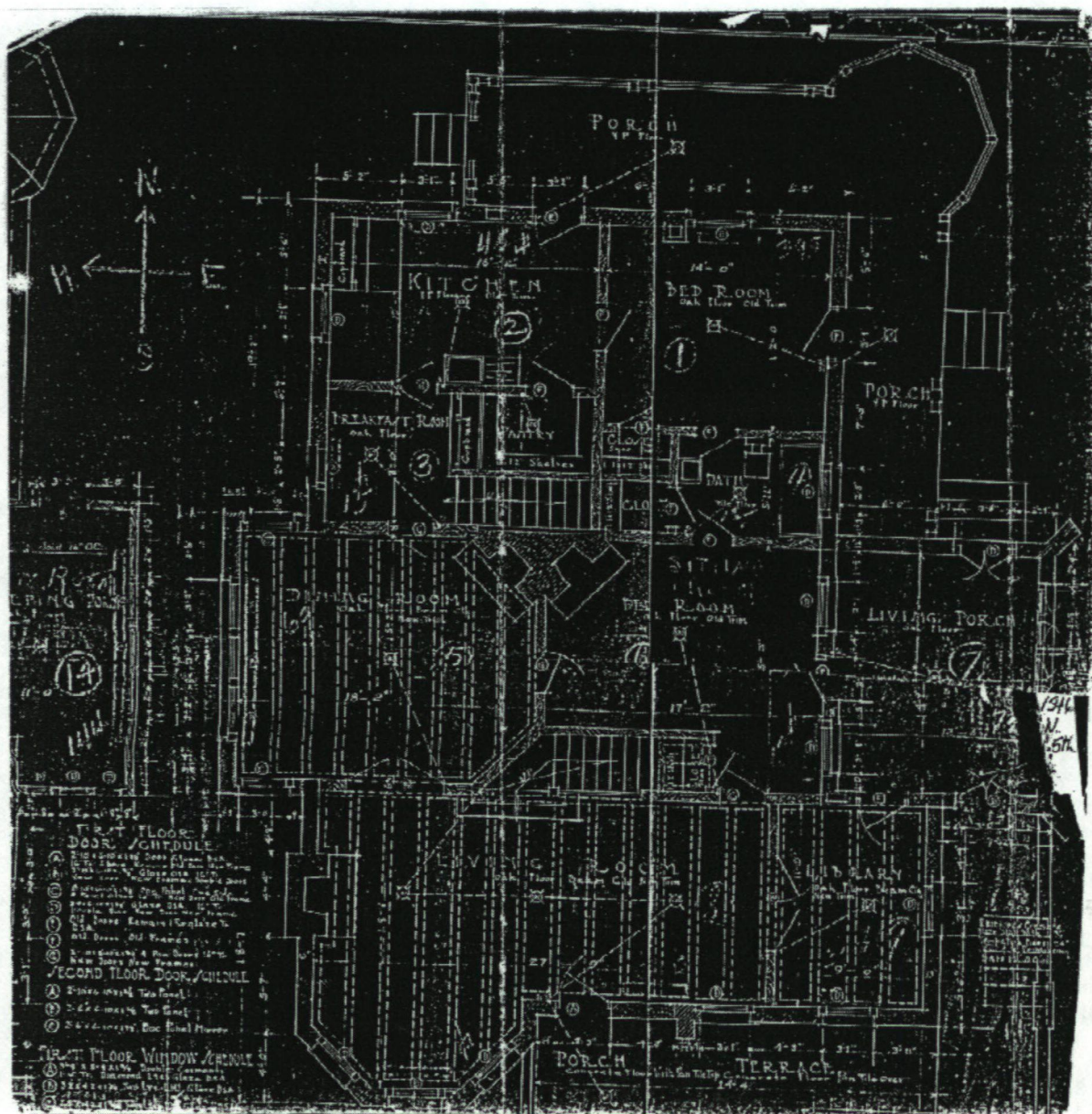
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First Floor Plan, c.1921
(not to scale)



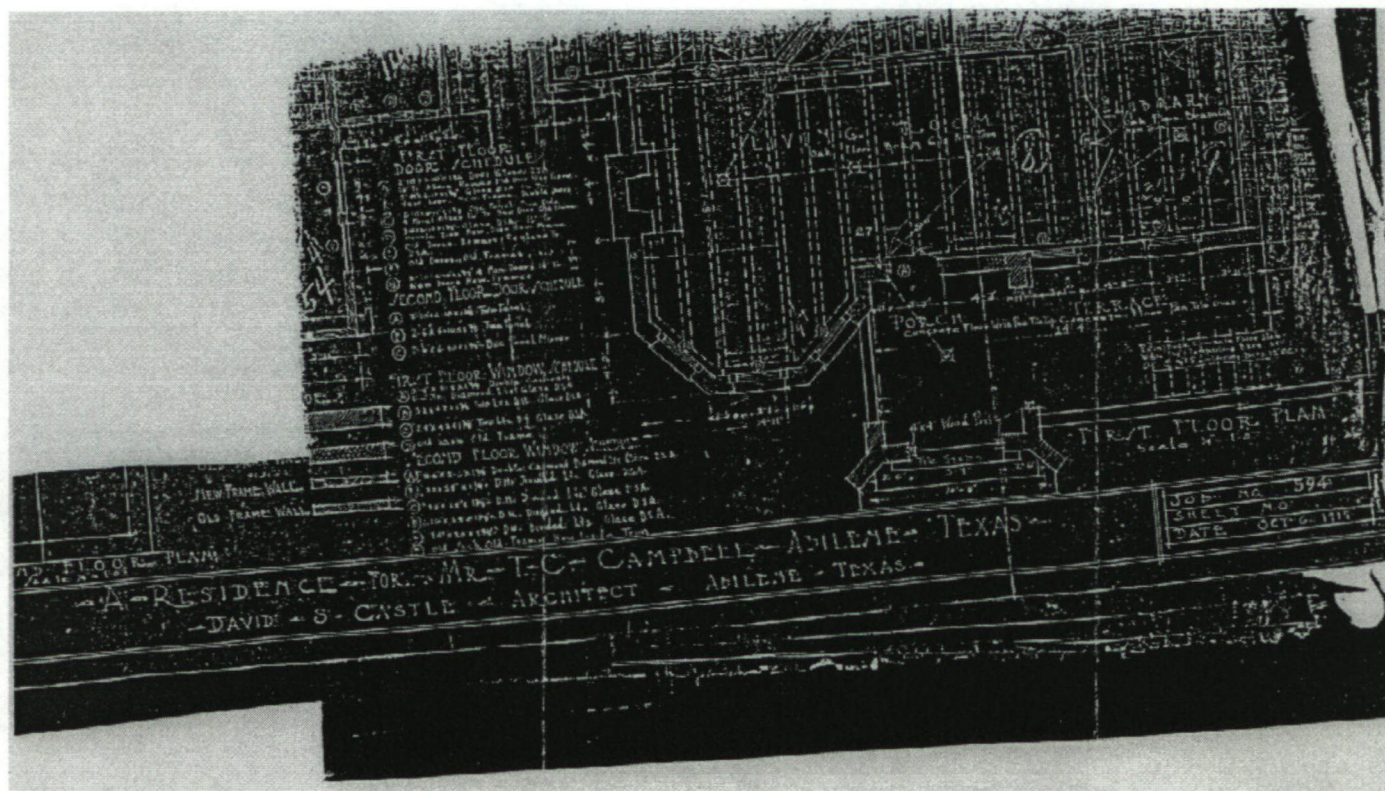
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First Floor Plan, Partial
(not to scale)



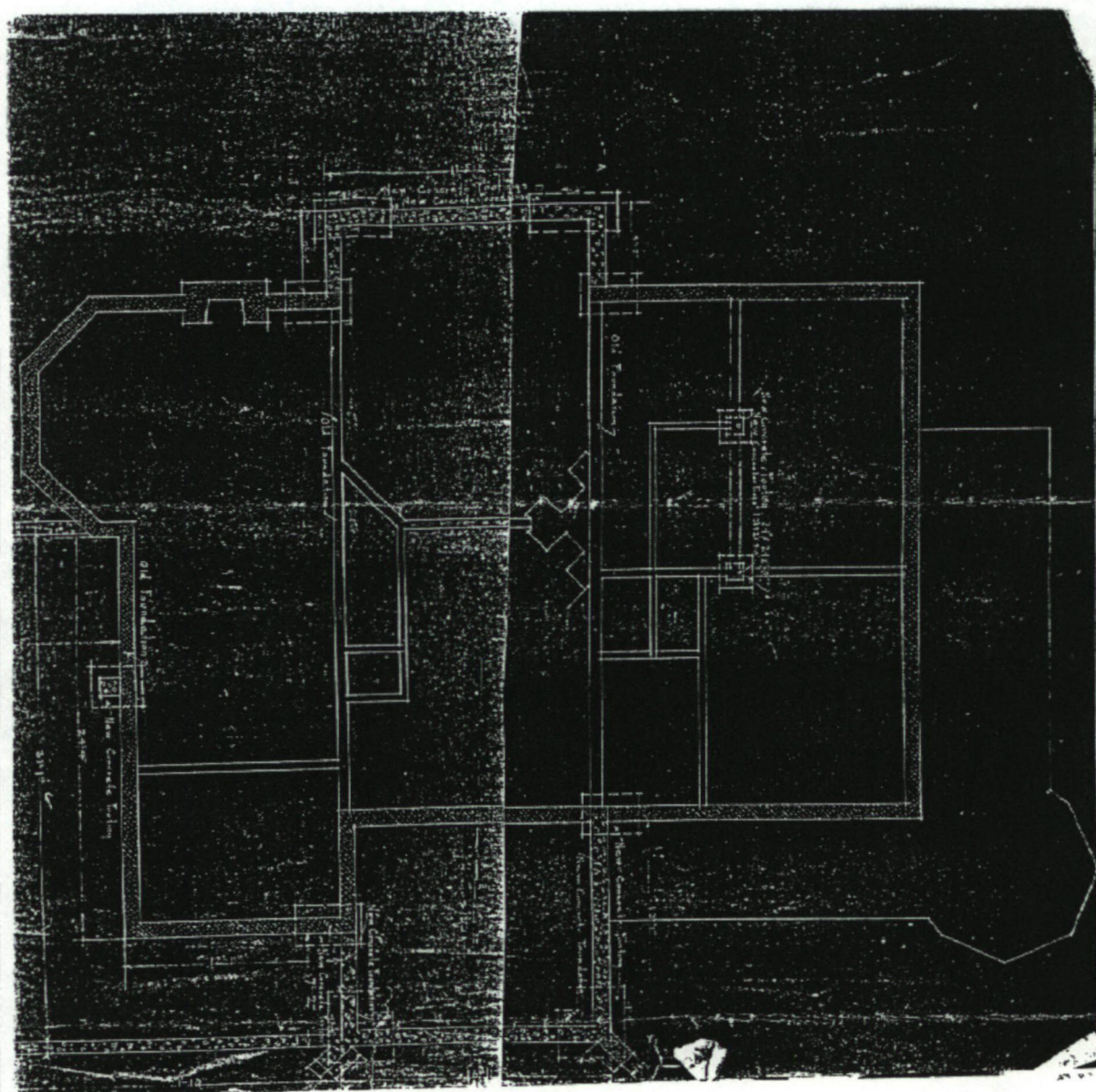
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Alexander-Campbell House, Historic and
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Foundation Plan, c.1921
(not to scale)



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: Architecture

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: c.1901; 1921

SIGNIFICANT DATES: c.1901; 1921

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Castle, David S.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-11 through 8-12).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

BIBLIOGRAPHY (see Historic and Architectural Resources in Abilene, Texas, N.R. 1991).

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: City of Abilene Planning Office; Abilene Preservation League

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Significance

The c.1901 Alexander-Campbell House was built for Dr. James M. Alexander, founder of the Alexander Sanitarium. This original Victorian house, was updated and modified to its present appearance in 1921 by its new owner, merchant T. C. Campbell. David S. Castle, Abilene's most prominent architect of the period, began design in 1919, and three years later, in 1921, renovation was completed. An excellent example of Prairie School-influenced design, the house followed a strong local trend to use Prairie School design in domestic architecture. The house is nominated under Criterion C for Architecture at a local level of significance, as an addition to the *Historic and Architectural Resources in Abilene, Taylor County, Texas* (N.R. 1991) and is associated with the historic context *The Railroad and Abilene's Development into a Wholesale and Distribution Center in West Texas, 1881-1939*.

Dr. James Alexander came to Abilene in 1889 at the age of 22 and opened the Alexander Sanitarium, believed the first hospital between Fort Worth and El Paso. A house was built at 1546 North 5th Street for Dr. Alexander about 1901. The house reflected turn-of-the-century Victorian architectural influences, but no historic photographs of the house are known to exist from this period.

In 1915, Dr. Alexander sold the property and documentation of ownership between 1915 and 1921 is unavailable. Wyatt McLaurin, however, is known to have lived in the house in 1915, either as an owner or a renter. Campbell family members believe the house was purchased in 1917 or 1918 and they confirm that the family lived in an apartment in 1919 as the house was being renovated.

In 1919, T.C. Campbell commissioned local architect David S. Castle to complete drawings that modified the house to a Prairie School appearance. David S. Castle's work is significant for its integrity and for its abundance. Born in Michigan and educated in Illinois at the Armour Institute (now the Illinois Institute of Technology), Castle moved to Texas in 1910 to work first for Southwestern Bell Telephone, then Texas Company Engineering Department and finally, M.L. Waller in Fort Worth. In 1914, Castle established his own firm in Abilene, designing commercial and institutional buildings, and the residences of some of Abilene's most prominent citizens. His work extended throughout West Texas, including significant buildings in Midland, Breckenridge and Big Spring.

Castle's renovation of the Alexander-Campbell House was completed in 1921, at which time the Campbells moved in. Mr. Campbell operated T.C. Campbell's Department store, served on the boards of Hendrick Memorial Hospital and Hardin-Simmons University and held other prominent positions within the community. The house remained in the Campbell family until 1987.

The Alexander-Campbell House is an excellent example of a Prairie School property from the early decades

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of the 20th century. The low-pitched roof, large capped columns on the principal facade and projecting porch and porte cochere are all elements of the Prairie School style. The house is one of a handful of large dwellings designed by David S. Castle in this architectural style in Abilene. It retains historic integrity from the 1921 modifications and is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for Architecture, at the local level of significance, as an addition to the *Historic and Architectural Resources in Abilene, Taylor County, Texas* (N.R. 1991).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES	Zone	Easting	Northing
	14	430540	3590840

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Lots 7, 8, and 9, of Block 114, Original Town.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION Boundary includes the original city lots as described above, incorporating all resources historically associated with the property.

11. FORM PREPARED BY (with assistance from Jamie Wise, THC Architectural Historian)

NAME/TITLE: Larry Abrigg

ORGANIZATION: City of Abilene **DATE:** July 1993

STREET & NUMBER: 555 Walnut Street **TELEPHONE:** 915-676-6230

CITY OR TOWN: Abilene **STATE:** TX **ZIP CODE:** 79604

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS (see USGS map)

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photo-13)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

PROPERTY OWNER

NAME Jim Matthews

STREET & NUMBER 1546 N. 5th Street

TELEPHONE 915-695-5640/915-677-5556

CITY OR TOWN Abilene

STATE TX **ZIP CODE** 79601

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PHOTOGRAPH INVENTORY

ALEXANDER-CAMPBELL HOUSE

1546 North 5th Street

Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

Photographs by Jonny D. Cates, 1993

Original negatives with Jonny D. Cates

South elevation, camera facing north

Photograph 1 of 6

South elevation, detail at entry, camera facing north

Photograph 2 of 6

Southeast elevation, camera facing northwest

Photograph 3 of 6

Northeast elevation, camera facing southwest

Photograph 4 of 6

East elevation, camera facing west

Photograph 5 of 6

North elevation, camera facing south

Photograph 6 of 6

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Alexander--Campbell House

MULTIPLE NAME: Abilene MPS

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Taylor

DATE RECEIVED: 2/28/96 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 3/12/96
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/28/96 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/13/96
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 96000308

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 3/29/96 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



©STUDIO PHOTOGRAPHY
JONNY D. CATES
3514 N. 8 ST.
ABILENE, TX 79603
(915) 676-FOTO

ALEXANDER CAMPBELL HOUSE
1546 NORTH 5TH STREET
ABILENE, TAYLOR CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 6



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JONNY D. CATES
3514 N. 6 ST.
ABILENE, TX 79603
(915) 676-FOTO

ALEXANDER-CAMPBELL HOUSE
1546 NORTH 5TH STREET
ABILENE, TAYLOR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 2 of 6



1

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JONNY D. CATES

3514 N. 6 ST.

ABILENE, TX 79603

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ALEXANDER-CAMPBELL HOUSE

1546 NORTH 5TH STREET

ABILENE, TAYLOR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 3 of 6



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ABILENE, TX 79603
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ALEXANDER - CAMPBELL HOUSE
1546 NORTH 5TH STREET
ABILENE, TAYLOR CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 4 of 6



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ALEXANDER - CAMPBELL HOUSE
1546 NORTH 5TH STREET
ABILENE, TAYLOR CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 5 of 6



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ALEXANDER - CAMPBELL HOUSE
1546 NORTH 5TH STREET
ABILENE, TAYLOR CO., TEXAS
PHOTOGRAPH 6 of 6



Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial
photographs taken 1984 and other sources
This information not field checked. Map edited 1987

3299-243

ABILENE EAST, TEX.
NW/4 KIRBY LAKE 15' QUADRANGLE
32099-D6-TF-024
1957
PHOTOREVISED 1987
DMA 6048 1 NW - SERIES V882



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

George W. Bush • Governor
John L. Nau, III • Chairman
Curtis Tunnell • Executive Director

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

February 20, 1996

Carol Shull
Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Interagency Resources Division
National Park Service, WASO
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, DC 20013-7127



Re: Alexander-Campbell House, 1546 North 5th Street, Abilene, Taylor County, Texas

Dear Carol:

The enclosed property, recommended by our State Board of Review, is an addition to the multiple property nomination *Historic and Architectural Resources in Abilene, Taylor County, Texas* (N.R. 1991). As State Historic Preservation Officer, I request that this property be approved for listing as submitted.

The **Alexander-Campbell House**, originally a c.1901 Victorian house, was completely redesigned between 1919 and 1921 by prominent local architect David S. Castle. An excellent example of Prairie School-influenced residential architecture, retaining a high degree of integrity, we feel this property easily meets National Register Criterion C.

Please note that a professional photographer stamped the photographs in this nomination. We contacted him, inquiring about the ink's stability. He has used this ink for approximately 25 years and has not had a problem with bleeding, smudging or damage to the photograph. If this remains a concern, please let us know.

Your consideration of this property for official listing is appreciated. If you have questions, please contact Dwayne Jones at (512)463-5997.

Sincerely,

Curtis Tunnell
State Historic Preservation Officer

CT/JW