

(Oct. 1990)  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
REGISTRATION FORM



I. NAME OF PROPERTY

HISTORIC NAME: Pomeroy Homestead

OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: N/A

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 202 and 204 South Main Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A

CITY OR TOWN: Pasadena

VICINITY: N/A

STATE: Texas

CODE: TX

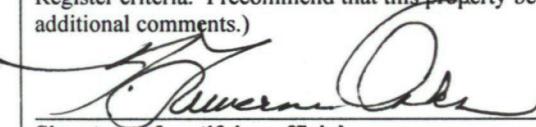
COUNTY: Harris

CODE: 201

ZIP CODE: 77506

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

Feb. 21, 2003

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

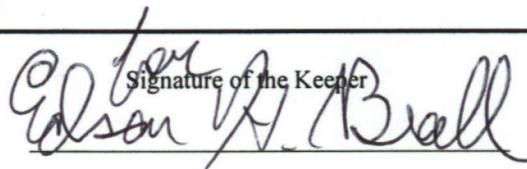
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson W. Ball 5/1/03

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): \_\_\_\_\_

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## **5. CLASSIFICATION**

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**OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY:** Public

**CATEGORY OF PROPERTY:** Building

<b>NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY: CONTRIBUTING</b>	<b>NONCONTRIBUTING</b>
2	1 BUILDINGS
0	0 SITES
0	0 STRUCTURES
0	0 OBJECTS
2	<b>1 TOTAL</b>

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

**NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING:** N/A

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## **6. FUNCTION OR USE**

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**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:** DOMESTIC/dwelling

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:** RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

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## **7. DESCRIPTION**

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**ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:** OTHER/modified L-plan; LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY MOVEMENTS/Bungalow

**MATERIALS:**

FOUNDATION	CONCRETE
WALLS	WOOD
ROOF	ASPHALT
OTHER	WOOD

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION** (see continuation sheets 7-5 through 7-6).

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Pomeroy Homestead  
Pasadena, Harris County, Texas

### **Description**

The Pomeroy Homestead occupies 202 and 204 South Main Street, Pasadena, Harris County, Texas. The homestead includes two of the best examples of early 20<sup>th</sup> Century residences in Pasadena, which are among very few historic houses in the city that are sited on their original lots. John Pomeroy, one of the early citizens of the town of Pasadena, built the modified L-plan house during the summer of 1908 for himself and his widowed mother Anna. After John's family grew to six by 1922, he had a front-gabled bungalow built next door for his mother. The Pomeroy family owned both houses until 1986, when the family donated the property to the City of Pasadena. The Pomeroy Homestead remains the historic core of Pasadena, and is a clear reminder of the origin of the town. The houses retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association to a high degree.

### **Setting**

The Pomeroy Homestead is located at the southwest corner of South Main Street and Eagle Avenue (formerly Sixth Street), in the original section of Pasadena that was platted in 1896. The homestead consists of two houses and outbuildings, though the outbuildings do not contribute to the historic integrity of the property. Both houses face east, toward South Main Street. The houses are sited close to the street and mature live oak and crepe myrtle trees line the front yards. A chain link fence of recent construction surrounds the property. The back yard has three mature pecan trees, and little other landscaping. Other landscaping includes 224 feet of concrete sidewalk around the 1908 house. Most of the historic outbuildings no longer exist, with the exception of a garage (non-contributing).

The house was built of Louisiana pine, which was brought to the site by railroad car. John Pomeroy and two helpers constructed the house in two months during the summer of 1908. It has a pyramidal roof with three projecting gables, and porches front and back. The public sides of the house are augmented with modest gingerbread work and the private side is plain. The interior was wallpapered over with cheesecloth. The home is located on Main Street, near the railroad and former community water well. The surrounding lots were historically used for gardening and a dairy.

### **Architecture and description**

John D. Pomeroy built a modified L-plan house for himself and his widowed mother in 1908, at 204 South Main Street. The massing consists of a pyramidal roof with one front facing projecting gable with fish scale shingles on the east, a rear facing gable with plain shingles on the west, and a bay window projection with gable with fish scale shingles on the north. The front elevation includes an engaged porch and a gabled wing slightly projecting from the main mass of the house. Centered on this wing is a wooden, double-hung 1/1 window, with a small louvered opening contained within the gable. A small shed roof separating the triangular area of the

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gable from the remaining wall plane emphasizes the triangular shape of the gable. The hipped porch roof is dropped slightly, and is slightly recessed behind the plane of the projecting gable wing. Divided into three bays by round Doric columns, the porch provides an elegant, classical impression supporting a simple, unpretentious entablature. On the porch, the front elevation contains one double-hung window adjacent to a wooden door with glass inset, crowned by a small transom.

The south side is the bedroom side of the house; the front master bedroom has a double set of 1/1 windows, the middle bedroom has two separated 1/1 windows, and the rear bedroom has a single 1/1 window. Exterior walls are covered with horizontal shiplap with plain vertical corner trim. The west elevation is a reverse of the front (east) elevation with a projecting gable at the southwest corner over the back bedroom. The rear porch is closed off at the northwest by an original enclosed bathroom; this west-facing porch is thus engaged between the back bedroom and the bathroom. The north elevation is the exterior wall for the living room, dining room, kitchen and bathroom. The living room and kitchen each have a single 1/1 double hung window, and the dining room has a 1/1 double hung window in each of the three planes of the bay window. Above the side bay windows, a gingerbread bracket supports the square corners of the north-facing gable. This elevation faces the main highway through town and the railroad tracks, and therefore was historically the most publicly visible elevation of the house.

By 1922 John Pomeroy and his wife Gertrude had four children, and John had a house built next door for his mother at 202 South Main Street. This front-gabled Craftsman style bungalow features tapered box columns on brick piers, overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails. The front gable includes triangular knee braces. The front door is placed right of the center of the east façade, and is flanked by sidelights. The north and south elevations are identical, and feature double-hung wood windows in a 2-1-2 rhythm. The bungalow house features horizontal shiplap siding with plain vertical trim. The two houses are among a handful of historic houses in Pasadena that remain on their original lots.

### **Changes since 1922**

Over the years most lots of the Pomeroy property were sold to the telephone company (lots to the west) or donated to the church (lots to the south). Nine lots remain with the property, which was donated to the City of Pasadena in 1986 and is now maintained as a house museum. The Pasadena Independent School District has many activities here as part of its social studies curriculum. A minor floor plan modification in the 1950s was removed in the 1990s and the original floor plan and room layout was restored. The shiplap siding which was covered by asbestos siding in the 1940s was revealed when the siding was removed in the 1990s.

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## 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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### 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:** COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT; ARCHITECTURE

**PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE:** 1908-1952

**SIGNIFICANT DATES:** 1908, 1922

**SIGNIFICANT PERSON:** Pomeroy, John Edward; Pomeroy, Anna Louise

**CULTURAL AFFILIATION:** N/A

**ARCHITECT/BUILDER:** Pomeroy, John Edward

**NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** (see continuation sheets 8-7 through 8-15).

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## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY** (see continuation sheet 9-16).

**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 – San Jacinto Community College, Central Campus, Pasadena, Texas
- Other -- Specify Repository:

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### **Statement of Significance**

The Pomeroy Homestead represents the very essence of Pasadena history. The homestead is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, in the area of Community Planning, at the local level of significance. The two houses are located in the historic section of Pasadena, a city that has experienced major growth to the east and south in the past fifty years. The homestead is associated with events of the development of the community as it evolved from a small successful farming village to a major industrial city. The homestead is nominated under Criterion B at the local level of significance for its association with John D. Pomeroy and Anna Pomeroy. John Pomeroy played an important role in the development of the commercial, religious, educational and governmental institutions of the city. Anna Pomeroy led the effort for Pasadena to incorporate in 1928 to stave off annexation by the City of Houston. The homestead is nominated under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, at the local level of significance. The 1908 modified L-plan and adjacent 1922 Craftsman-style bungalow both retain a high degree of architectural and historic integrity. The houses embody the distinctive characteristics of early 20<sup>th</sup> Century domestic building types which were prevalent in Pasadena's early history but are now rarely found.

### **Historical development of Pasadena**

The community of Pasadena was established in 1893 as one of a series of new towns in southeastern Harris County associated with the opening of the region by the construction of the La Porte, Houston and Northern railroad line through the area.<sup>1</sup> Located in the upper Gulf Coast region of Texas, the basis of the economy became agriculture, including truck crops. The mild weather, abundant rainfall and fertile soil were perfect for this pursuit. Many of the early settlers to the area were Kansas farmers escaping droughts and bankrupt farms. The area southeast of Houston, is along the southern side of what was then known as Buffalo Bayou. Today that waterway is the Houston Ship Channel and is one of the major seaports in the United States.

Col. John H. Burnett acquired the land for investment and laid out lots for a new town development late in 1892.<sup>2</sup> Not confident that his new town would develop, he did not file the plat until May 25, 1896.<sup>3</sup> Unlike other developers nearby, Burnett did not build a hotel or set aside school and church sites for his new community. His lack of commitment to the new town meant that the development of Pasadena depended on the early residents. When state legislation in 1898 allowed a local community to incorporate for school tax purposes instead of relying on the county school system, the residents of Pasadena were the first in Harris

<sup>1</sup> C. David Pomeroy, Jr., *Pasadena, the Early Years* (Pasadena: Pomeroy Press, 1993), pp. 27, 35; 3,328 acres, March 19, 1890, Vol. 48, page 457, Deed Records of Harris County.

<sup>2</sup> Pomeroy, *Pasadena, the Early Years*, p. 27.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, p. 55.

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County to elect to establish an independent school system.<sup>4</sup> The school system and its local control provided the backbone for the future survival of the community.

The small farming community survived two major freezes and a devastating hurricane in its first decade. The freeze of 1895 still stands as the deepest snow falls in the area.<sup>5</sup> Temperatures dropped to below 10 degrees in the freeze of 1899.<sup>6</sup> The famous Galveston Hurricane of 1900 remains the worst disaster in North America, as more than 7,200 lives were lost.<sup>7</sup> Clara Barton of the American Red Cross shipped in 1.5 million strawberry plants from Louisiana after the hurricane to provide the local farmers with a spring crop and self-sufficiency.<sup>8</sup> The Pasadena farmers took advantage of the offer and strawberries quickly became the major cash crop for the community. In 1900 the population of the community was approximately 200 people. With a strong economy, and an empty schoolhouse on Sundays, two churches were organized which provided social cohesion for the small community. They shared the structure on alternating Sundays and held a common Sunday school each week. Mercantile stores, a railroad express agency and then two banks by 1920 formed the commercial center of the community.

The residents of Pasadena initially ignored the implications of the Houston Ship Channel, namely rapid industrial development along the northern boundary of the community in 1914. However, the Channel's influence eventually began to reshape Pasadena. The small family farms continued to grow and larger commercial operations increased the productive yields of the community. The new industries associated with the Houston Ship Channel hired several of the local farmers, but increasingly non-agricultural workers began settling in the community. The demands of higher density development forced the community to consider incorporation in order to provide the necessary city services. The community struggled with incorporation and fought off an annexation attempt by Houston. Pasadena first incorporated as a city in 1923 but dissolved the incorporation the following year to avoid a legal contest with Houston and the State of Texas.<sup>9</sup> The community had attempted to include the new industries being developed along the Houston Ship Channel and Houston, as the author of the Ship Channel concept, had its own plans for incorporation of those industries. By 1928 the city of Houston was attempting to annex Pasadena. That action was blocked when the community again voted to incorporate on December 26, 1928.<sup>10</sup> The new city immediately set out to provide much-needed municipal services. Fortunately, bonds were approved and sold before the Great Depression hit.<sup>11</sup> The population of

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid, p. 64; Title 17, Ch. 11 as amended by Article 541a, Revised Statutes of Texas, 1897.

<sup>5</sup> Pomeroy, *Pasadena, the Early Years*, p. 48.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, p. 68.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, p. 71.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid, p. 75.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid, pp. 247-250.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, p. 258.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid, p. 296.

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Pasadena in 1930 was 1,647.<sup>12</sup> The agricultural roots of the community and the solvency of the school system continued the community's growth during the Great Depression years.

However, with the post-Depression boom fueled by the war in Europe and then Japan, the importance of the industrial base in the community stimulated an unprecedented population growth that overnight shifted the community's economy from an agricultural base to an industrial one. Farms yielded to petrochemical plants and their supporting subdivisions. With its community infrastructure well in place, Pasadena was able to handle the transition and growth and quickly became the dominant community in the region. Having developed with the help of many responsible residents taking their turn to contribute to the community, Pasadena was not dependent upon the talents or finances of a small elite group of benefactors, development organizations or industry. This philosophy of sharing leadership and providing necessary community services as appropriate transformed Pasadena into the second largest city in Harris County, Texas, after Houston. Pasadena doubled its population during the Depression and the years leading up to World War II, ending in 1940 with 3,435 people. By 1950 the population had jumped to 22,483 and then to 58,787 in 1960.<sup>13</sup> The rapid post-war boom continued as the community left its agricultural roots behind. Today the population of Pasadena is approximately 125,000.<sup>14</sup>

### **Pomeroy family history**

Payson and Anna Lousie Pomeroy and son John moved to Pasadena from Galveston shortly after the 1900 Hurricane and purchased one of only two buildings then existing in the downtown area of the small farming community.<sup>15</sup> Most of the development of the community had been on the "out-lots" of the community plat as small family farms. The Harrisburg-Lynchburg Road (later the Houston-La Porte road) ran east west through the community with the railroad along the southern side. The Pomerroys purchased the Jasper Hayes home just south of the railroad track. It had served as the first post office for the small community.<sup>16</sup> In addition to farming, the Pomerroys operated a dairy from their home. The homestead was located at the corner of Main Street and Sixth Street (now Eagle). Payson Pomeroy died in 1906.<sup>17</sup> In the early summer of 1908 son John Pomeroy built the current structure adjacent to the little shotgun house (Hayes post office) that had served as their home for seven years. It took John Pomeroy two months with two helpers to build the six-room house for his widowed mother and himself. At the time electricity, gas, water & sewer services were not available in the community. There was only one telephone in town. The size and design of the house was indicative of the success of the family farm and the increasing status of the Pomerroys in the community. It was one of the larger

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, p. 303.

<sup>13</sup> Mike Kingston (ed.), *Texas Almanac 1992-1993* (Dallas: A.H. Belo, 1991), p. 175.

<sup>14</sup> City of Pasadena information available on its web site at <http://www.ci.pasadena.tx.us/ourcity.htm>.

<sup>15</sup> Pomeroy, *Pasadena, the Early Years*, p. 77.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid, p. 40.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid, p. 106.

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houses in town and had a modest touch of gingerbread on the public sides of the home. According to the diary kept by John Pomeroy, the total project cost \$ 1,081.62.<sup>18</sup>

The house was built in the geographic heart of the community. It was located across the street from the community artesian water well that the railroad had drilled. During the day the residents filled their potable water barrels from that well.<sup>19</sup> Subsequently that area became the focus of the newly developed commercial, social and religious center of the community. The town literally grew up around the Pomeroy home. The schoolhouse was moved to a site a block away in 1905.<sup>20</sup> That same year Dickerson and Tilley opened the first mercantile stores in town next to the community water well.<sup>21</sup> The Dickerson store separated the Pomeroy homestead from the railroad track. Across the tracks from Tilley's store was the newly built depot and across from Dickerson's was one of the strawberry loading sheds. The Baptist church was built on the other end (south) of the same block as the Pomeroy home in 1905.<sup>22</sup> Two years later the Methodists completed their first sanctuary on the south end of the block just west of the Pomeroy homestead. John Conn opened his mercantile store across Main Street from the Pomeroy's.<sup>23</sup> By 1910 the Pentecostals opened their church next door to Conn's mercantile. A merchant named Whitten built the fourth mercantile store nearby.<sup>24</sup>

Like the other settlers, the Pomeroy's farmed. They raised strawberries, cane, corn, peanuts, and other truck crops. In addition, they were one of several families in town with a dairy. Each dairyman had his special routes into Houston, which would take all day to service. During the winter, sausage would be added to the usual offerings of milk, eggs and butter. In 1912 John Pomeroy began drilling water wells for the area farmers to help them increase their crop yields.<sup>25</sup> Later the water well company would assist in the transformation of the

<sup>18</sup> Pomeroy, *Pasadena, the Early Years*, p. 107.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid, p. 44.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid, p. 92, 94.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid, p. 95.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid, p. 91.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid, pp. 92, 110.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid, pp. 118, 144.

<sup>25</sup> Pomeroy, *Pasadena, the Early Years*, p. 132; The Pomeroy well drilling company became one of the largest ranging operations in the area. The first water well was a 247-foot deep irrigation well drilled in July, 1912. Almost immediately other wells were drilled in the area for local farmers. With the construction of Crown Refinery in 1919, John Pomeroy began drilling wells for the new industries, including Crown, Shell, Deepwater Refining, Texas Company (Texaco) and American Petroleum. By the 1920s Pomeroy was drilling water wells for railroad companies, providing water along their routes all the way to Mexico for their steam engines. By the 1930s Pomeroy was drilling wells for the City of Pasadena and other cities around the state, including Houston, Wharton, Southside and Huntsville. Beginning with Pasadena Independent School District, Pomeroy provided water to many schools in the region. Major buildings in Houston needed their independent water sources and Pomeroy drilled for buildings such as the Rice Hotel, Lamar Hotel and Warwick Hotel. Sand and gravel companies needed Pomeroy water for the manufacture of cement, and such structures as Loop 610 and the Astrodome were made with cement from Pomeroy water. Many subdivisions required water systems and Pomeroy provided many of them with a complete water plant. With the increasing problem of subsidence in the 1960s, Pomeroy phased out its water well business after having drilled over 2,000 wells around the state of Texas. Water well records, Pomeroy collection.

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community from an agricultural base to an industrial one, and became the principle income for the Pomeroy's. By 1920s the retail establishments expanded northward two blocks, two banks opened and a high school was added across the street from the Methodist Church.<sup>26</sup> A city hall and fire department were built at the end of the decade.<sup>27</sup> The first telephone switching office in Pasadena was built in 1928 on the lots purchased from the Pomeroy and literally in their back yard.<sup>28</sup> In 1937 a junior high school (now Jackson Intermediate) opened behind the elementary school (south side).<sup>29</sup> For over fifty years this was the heart of the community and the Pomeroy homestead was geographically at its center.

After World War II the community began to grow southward and the center of the community gradually shifted accordingly. Houston was on the west, the Houston Ship Channel and its industries on the north and the city of Deer Park on the east side of community. Sears, Roebuck & Co. opened a store on the southern boundary of the original plat in 1950 and the trend south was confirmed. New schools, new businesses and new churches began locating south and southeast of the old town area. By the mid 1960s the retail center of town had also moved south along with the city hall. The railroad track was replaced with an elevated freeway as more vehicular traffic serviced the new industries along the Houston Ship Channel in 1966.<sup>30</sup> The churches remained until the 1990s and then they relocated south to be near the larger residential areas. The elementary school and the high school were remodeled and expanded in the late 1990s. The school district purchased all of the old church lands and most of the residences in the immediate area for use in the high school expansion. One by one the old residential structures began to disappear. The intermediate school was moved out of the neighborhood to make room for the high school expansion. In 1999 the school district obtained a Texas Historical Marker noting its longevity and commitment to the site.<sup>31</sup>

The Pomeroy house became one of the community centers as the Pomeroy's and their relatives were involved in every facet of the community's development. The Pomeroy's were related by marriage to the McMaster and Williams families of early Pasadena. Payson Pomeroy and son John each served on the school board and Pomeroy Elementary is named in their honor.<sup>32</sup> When John was chairman of the board, he kept the school records in his home. Also serving on the school boards were relatives Ben Williams, Clyde McMaster and Walter Williams.<sup>33</sup> Most of the Pomeroy women taught school and Loise Williams Pomeroy started the first

<sup>26</sup> Ibid, pp. 206, 207, 229.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid, p. 304.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid, p. 275.

<sup>29</sup> Rosemary Estes (ed.), *Follow the Strawberry Road* (Pasadena: Pasadena Council PTA, 1976), p. 54.

<sup>30</sup> *Pasadena Citizen* newspaper, November 2, 1966, p.1

<sup>31</sup> "Pasadena Independent School District," Official Texas Historical Marker, 1999, inscription available at Texas Historical Commission website ([http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/Atlas/atlas\\_search\\_frame.html](http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/Atlas/atlas_search_frame.html)).

<sup>32</sup> Pomeroy, *Pasadena, the Early Years*, p. 354.

<sup>33</sup> E.P. Pomeroy served on the school board 1905-06 (died in office), W.B. Williams served 1904-06 and 1908-09, W.C. McMaster served 1910-12, W.F. Williams 1912-16 and John E. Pomeroy (first former student to serve) 1921-34. Pomeroy Elementary, Williams Elementary and McMaster Elementary are named for these individuals. School board records on file in public school files, Drawer 5.1.A, Pomeroy History Collection at San Jacinto College, Lee Davis Library.

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kindergarten in town. In addition, Anna Louise Pomeroy always had a room to rent to unmarried schoolteachers and provided meals for those living nearby. In fact, she got a daughter-in-law and granddaughter-in-law that way. Son John married schoolteacher Gertrude Lucinda McMaster in 1911 and each of their four children were born in the house: Marguerite (1912), Edward (1914), Bessie (1920) and Clyde (1922).<sup>34</sup> At the appropriate time the doctor would ride out from Houston and spend a few days. After the baby was born the doctor would take some time to hunt and fish before returning back to town. Anna's grandson Edward would wed Loise Williams, another of the schoolteachers who boarded with Mrs. Pomeroy.<sup>35</sup>

The Pomeroy family were charter members of the Pasadena Missionary Baptist Church (now First Baptist) and then subsequently Memorial Baptist Church as well as South Main Baptist Church.<sup>36</sup> Many of the family and relatives served in positions of leadership in these religious organizations.<sup>37</sup> John Pomeroy and brother-in-law Ray Williams were active in the creation of the Mexican Church of Pasadena on July 8, 1933 and John leased them their land for one dollar per year and provided a water well for their needs.<sup>38</sup> John's brother-in-law (and business partner) Clyde McMaster served as Commissioner in the first government of the newly incorporated city and then was elected mayor of Pasadena, serving from 1931 to 1939.<sup>39</sup> W. F. Williams took over the street and bridge commissioner's job when McMaster became mayor. Cousin Everett Williams later served in that capacity for eight years.<sup>40</sup> Pomeroy and Williams served as election judges and precinct chairmen.<sup>41</sup> Payson Pomeroy ran for the state legislature in 1906 and carried the local precinct.<sup>42</sup> Payson Pomeroy was also instrumental in establishing the community cemetery and was the first person buried there.<sup>43</sup> John Pomeroy and brother-in-law W. C. McMaster were charter members of the local producers association during the farming

<sup>34</sup> Pomeroy, *Pasadena, the Early Years*, p. 235; Family records, Pomeroy Collection.

<sup>35</sup> Pomeroy, *Pasadena, the Early Years*, p. 336.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid, pp. 78, 359; Pasadena Missionary Baptist Church, reorganized October 28, 1901 (considered official beginning although they met for three years in nearby Deepwater, Texas), E.P. Pomeroy and Anna Pomeroy and future relatives W.B. Williams, Ella Williams, James Williams and Mrs. A.F. Williams. Memorial Baptist Church, organized 1936, John and Gertrude Pomeroy, Bessie Pomeroy, Clyde Pomeroy, Edward and Loise Pomeroy, Jr., Anna Pomeroy, and nine members of the Williams family. South Main Baptist Church, organized May 12, 1954, with 540 charter members, including all of the Pomeroy family and most of the Williams families. John Pomeroy was Chairman of the Deacons at the time and subsequently donated four city lots for church expansion purposes. Church records, Pomeroy Collection, Drawer 5, file 5.1.E.1.

<sup>37</sup> J.E. Pomeroy served as Clerk, Superintendent of Sunday Schools and Chairman of the Deacons. W.B. Williams served as a deacon and a Sunday School teacher. Mrs. R.C. Williams was President of the WMU in 1923. Sunday School teachers included Anna Louise Pomeroy, Gertrude Pomeroy, Loise Williams (Mrs. J.E. Pomeroy, Jr.), Mrs. R.C. Williams, Myrtle McMasters, Ruth Williams, Ethel Williams Sprott, Gene Stack and Bessie Pomeroy Stack. Baptist Church files, File 5.1.E.1, Pomeroy Collection.

<sup>38</sup> Pomeroy, *Pasadena, the Early Years*, p. 358. W.C. McMaster was on the first Board of Directors of the church. Baptist Church records, Pomeroy Collection, Drawer 5.

<sup>39</sup> Pomeroy, *Pasadena, the Early Years*, pp. 300, 305, 341, 342; City Government records, Pomeroy Collection.

<sup>40</sup> City Government records, Pomeroy Collection.

<sup>41</sup> Family records, Pomeroy Collection.

<sup>42</sup> Pomeroy, *Pasadena, the Early Years*, p. 101.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid, p. 106; "Crown Hill Cemetery," Official Texas Historical Marker, 1991, inscription available at Texas Historical Commission website ([http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/Atlas/atlas\\_search\\_frame.html](http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/Atlas/atlas_search_frame.html)).

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Pomeroy Homestead  
Pasadena, Harris County, Texas

years and were original stockholders of the local merchants bank (Pasadena State Bank, the predecessor to current Bank One, Pasadena).<sup>44</sup> Relatives James Williams, J. R. Williams and W. F. Williams were also stock holders in the bank.<sup>45</sup> W. C. McMaster served on the initial board of directors of the bank. Later John Pomeroy and his son Clyde would also serve on the bank's board of directors. Grandson David now serves on the board of another community bank (Texas Coastal Bank).

When the city unincorporated in 1924, John Pomeroy drilled water well in his back yard and provided the first county approved municipal water service to the community.<sup>46</sup> The first indoor plumbing in the city was installed in the Pomeroy house, and the first bathtub is still there. McMaster and Pomeroy Water Well Company, headquartered in the house with equipment outside, drilled irrigation wells for the farmers initially and then wells for all of the new industries developing along the Houston Ship Channel. After the city of Pasadena purchased the Pomeroy municipal water works, the company continued to drill the city's water wells for the next 30 years. The company drilled over 2,000 water wells in its history and continues today as Pomeroy Energy Company, developing oil & gas wells in Texas. Although the original water wells were for individuals and farmers, the bulk of the wells have been for industry and commercial businesses. The list of customers is literally a who's who of the businesses that transformed the Houston area into an industrial giant. The company is the oldest private business in Pasadena (the school district is the oldest business in town).

When the Rotary International service club organized in Pasadena in 1936, brother-in-law Clyde McMaster was a charter member, and John Pomeroy joined shortly after.<sup>47</sup> John's son Clyde and his son, David, continue to be members of that club. Relatives Gene Stack and Gary Petty have also been members. Relatives W. F. Williams and C. A. Williams were charter members of the Masonic lodge in Pasadena in 1921.<sup>48</sup> And in other ways the family continues that tradition of community service.

With its inhabitants involved in all facets of the community's development, the Pomeroy Homestead has been at the center of the community's history. It has been the meeting place and listening place for all of the issues of the growing town. Schoolmistresses roomed and boarded there, and school professors worked summer jobs with the water well company to make extra money. John Pomeroy was often the mediator of church and community fights. Anna Pomeroy led the community effort to prevent Houston from annexing the village and thus bought time for the town to incorporate itself.<sup>49</sup> Numerous church parties and classes were held in the house. Due to the efforts of John Pomeroy there had been a church at the other end of the block from the homestead for ninety years. When First Baptist Church wanted to relocate to the booming south end of town, John Pomeroy lead a group that organized South Main Baptist Church and bought the old church assets so that a

<sup>44</sup> Pomeroy, *Pasadena, the Early Years*, pp. 129, 208.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid, p. 208.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid, p. 253.

<sup>47</sup> Pomeroy, *Pasadena, the Early Years*, p. 367.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid, p. 236.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid, p. 257.

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Pomeroy Homestead  
Pasadena, Harris County, Texas

church would continue to operate at the corner of Main and Broadway.<sup>50</sup> After John Pomeroy's death the school district purchased the church property as well as most of the other land in the area for its expansion program. Ironically, John Pomeroy had been a driving force on the school board when it decided to build the first high school, and then later to build the first intermediate (then called "junior high") school in the district.<sup>51</sup>

Anna Louise Pomeroy continued to offer her spare rooms to schoolteachers after she moved into her own house at 202 North Main Street in 1922. It was in this house that Anna organized the incorporation effort in 1928 that kept Houston from absorbing Pasadena. After Anna died in 1948, the house was used as the offices of the Pomeroy well drilling company, and continued in that capacity until 1975. The two houses remained in the Pomeroy family for their entire existence.

On December 15, 1986 the Pomeroy descendants donated the John Edward Pomeroy house (204 S. Main), the Anna Louise Pomeroy house (202 S. Main), and several outbuildings on nine city lots to the city of Pasadena for historical and cultural purposes.<sup>52</sup> The homes are original to the site and only minor changes have been made to the Pomeroy houses over the years. The city has subsequently restored the houses to their original condition and design (with the exception of later introduced utilities). Sheldon Kendall, archeology consultant to the Texas Historical Commission and Jamie Wise, architectural specialist, of the Texas Historical Commission, consulted in the restoration. The property has been designated the Pasadena Heritage Park and the two houses, now available to the public for touring, is maintained in historic appearance. The Parks house, now operating as a museum property representing the agricultural period of Pasadena's history, will be moved to the site in a consolidation effort to concentrate the historical assets of the community and to better tell the story of its history. The Parks house had previously been moved from its original location. The mission statement for the Pomeroy house has been defined as:

"The purpose of the Pomeroy Homestead Museum is to represent the culture and heritage of Pasadena during its transition from an agrarian to an industrial community, as reflected through the household of a prosperous working family. The general objectives of this renovation are to return the interior style of the house to its appearance during the 1935-45 period."

Although there are several houses in the community dating from the same early years, only one other is known to be on its original site. That house, the Anderson house, is located in the outskirts of the community and its various owners over the years have not been involved in the development and transformation of the community of Pasadena.

<sup>50</sup> Baptist Church files, File 5.1.E.1, Pomeroy Collection.

<sup>51</sup> Pomeroy, *Pasadena, the Early Years*, p. 229; Pomeroy served on the school board during the years that land was purchased for both the high school and the intermediate school, from 1921 to 1934. Public school files, Pomeroy Collection.

<sup>52</sup> Lots 16 through 24, Block 70, City of Pasadena, Texas, Deed Records of Harris County.

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Pomeroy Homestead  
Pasadena, Harris County, Texas

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### **Conclusion**

The Pomeroy Homestead in Pasadena, Harris County, Texas meets Criterion A, in the area of Community Development, for its location in the historic residential core of Pasadena, and as rare examples of historic houses in the city that retain architectural and historic integrity. The homestead meets Criterion B for its association with John Pomeroy and Anna Pomeroy, who were both instrumental in the development of the town as it evolved from a small farming community to a major industrial city. The houses also meet Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, as intact examples of a 1908 modified L-plan and a 1922 Craftsman-style bungalow. The homestead retains integrity of location, setting, workmanship, materials, design, feeling and association to a high degree.

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## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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Pomeroy Homestead  
Pasadena, Harris County, Texas

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“Pasadena Independent School System,” historical marker, Texas Historical Commission Atlas web site at [http://www.atlas/thc.state.tx.us/Atlas/atlas\\_search\\_frame.html](http://www.atlas/thc.state.tx.us/Atlas/atlas_search_frame.html) (accessed November 21, 2001).

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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**ACREAGE OF PROPERTY:** less than one acre

**UTM REFERENCES**

1.	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
	15	286220	3288740

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:** East half of Block 70, Lots 16-24, original plat of Pasadena, Texas.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:** Nomination includes all property historical associated with the buildings. The east half of the lots contains the 1908 and 1922 Pomeroy houses.

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**11. FORM PREPARED BY** (with assistance from Bob Brinkman, historian, Texas Historical Commission)

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**NAME/TITLE:** C. David Pomeroy (with architectural assistance by Barry Moore, FAIA)

**ORGANIZATION:** **DATE:** November 27, 2001

**STREET & NUMBER:** 5334 CR 469 **TELEPHONE:** (713) 472-7110

**CITY OR TOWN:** Brazoria **STATE:** Texas **ZIP CODE:** 77422

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**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

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**CONTINUATION SHEETS****MAPS**

**PHOTOGRAPHS** (see continuation sheet PHOTO-20)

**ADDITIONAL ITEMS** (see continuation sheets FIGURE-17 through FIGURE-17)

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**PROPERTY OWNER**

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**NAME:** City of Pasadena, Texas

**STREET & NUMBER:** 1211 E. Southmore Avenue **TELEPHONE:** (713) 477-1511

**CITY OR TOWN:** Pasadena **STATE:** Texas **ZIP CODE:** 77502

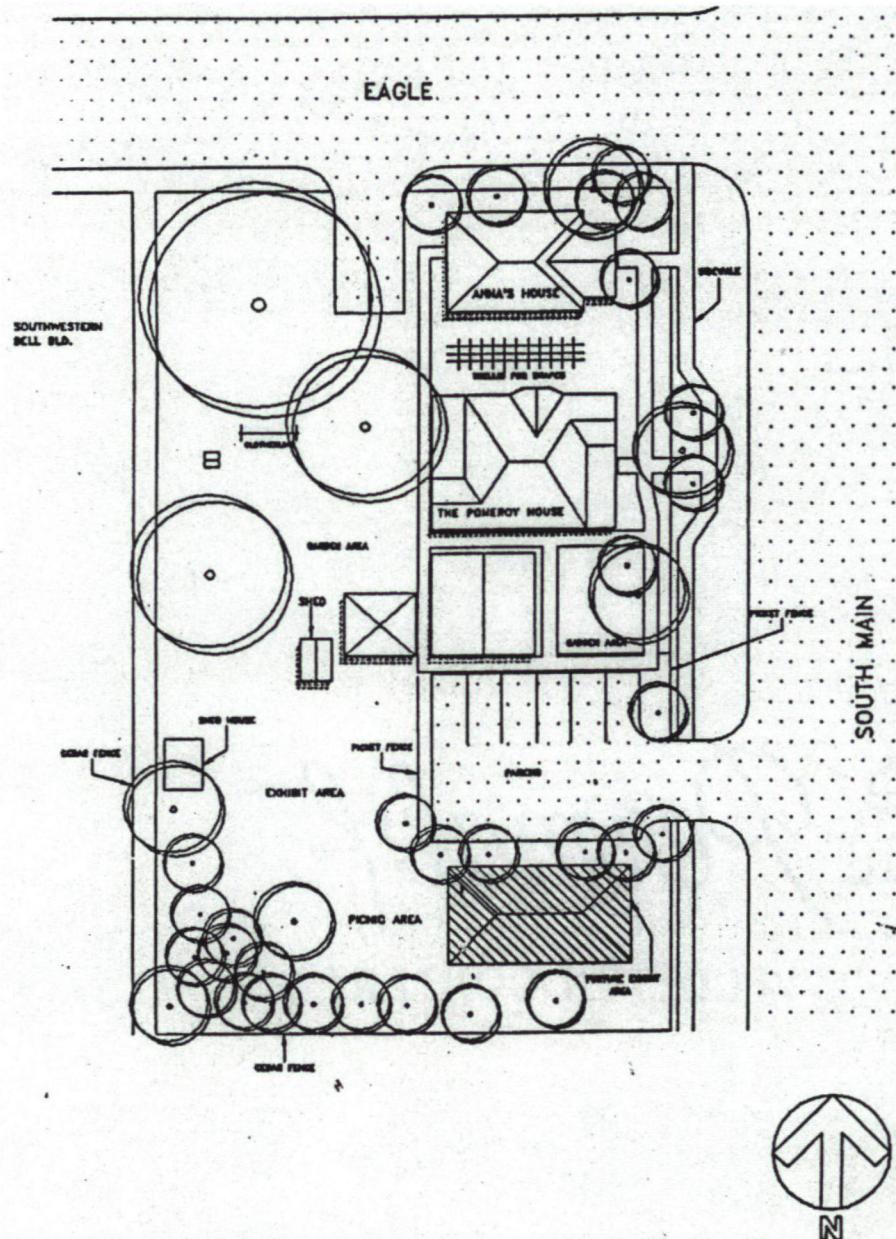
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 17

Pomeroy Homestead  
Pasadena, Harris County, Texas

Figure 1. Site plan of Pomeroy Homestead, 202 and 204 South Main Street, Pasadena.



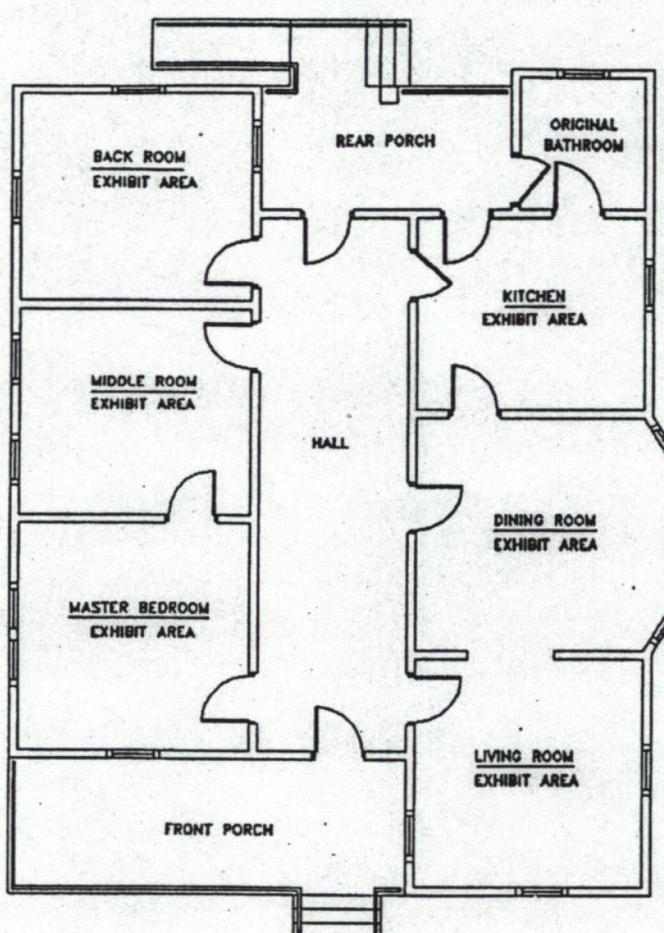
United States Department of the Interior  
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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Pomeroy Homestead  
Pasadena, Harris County, Texas

Figure 2. Floor plan of 1908 John Pomeroy House, 204 South Main Street, Pasadena.



POMEROY HOMESTEAD MUSEUM



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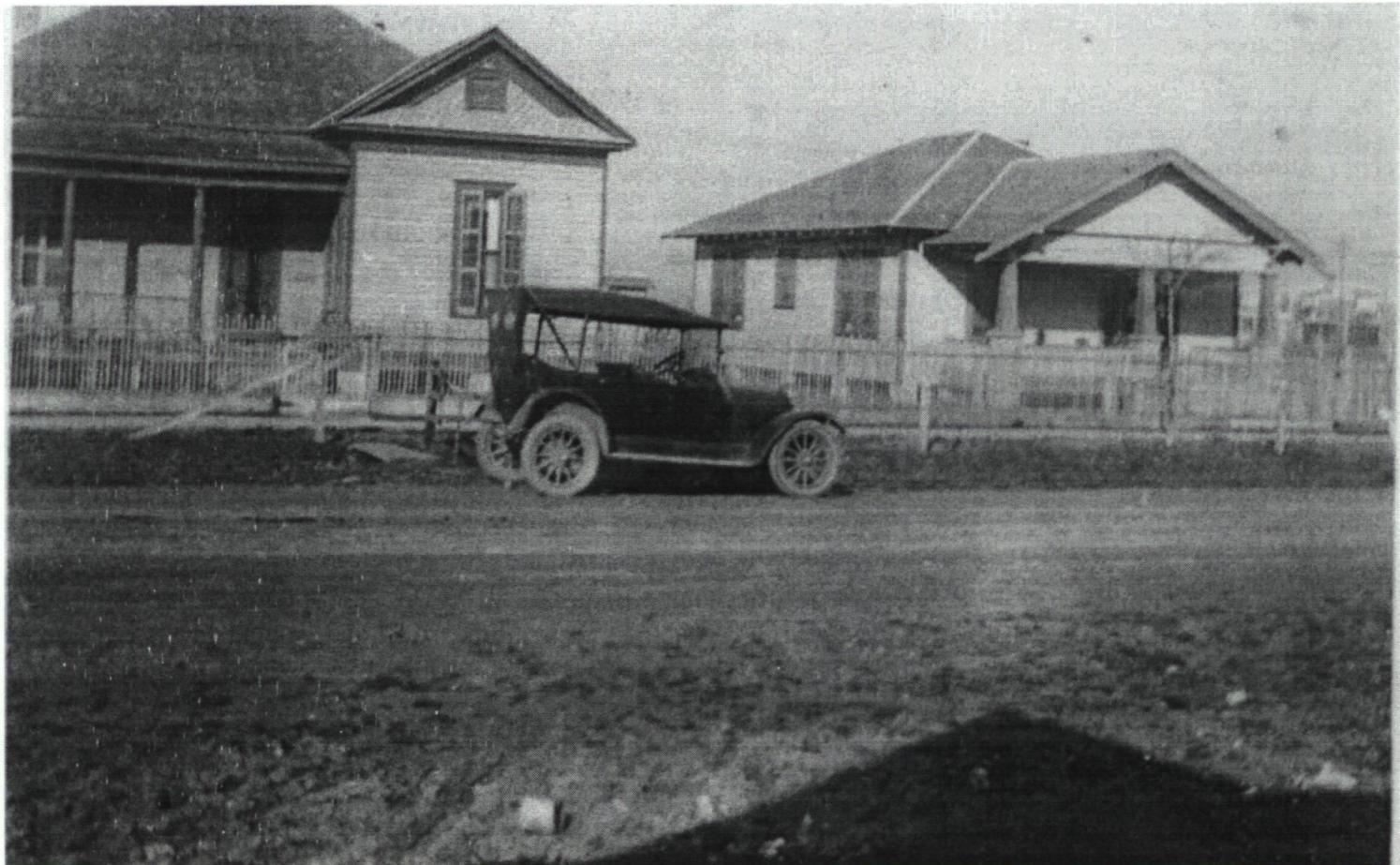
## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section FIGURE Page 19

Pomeroy Homestead  
Pasadena, Harris County, Texas

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**Figure 3. Pomeroy Homestead in 1925, 202 and 204 South Main Street, Pasadena. Source: Pomeroy History Collection at San Jacinto College, Lee Davis Library, Pasadena, Texas.**



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## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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Pomeroy Homestead  
Pasadena, Harris County, Texas

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### **Photographs**

**Pomeroy Homestead  
202 (Anna Pomeroy house) and 204 (John Pomeroy house) South Main Street  
Pasadena, Harris County, Texas  
Photos by C. David Pomeroy  
November 2002**

South and east elevations, 204 South Main Street  
Camera facing northwest  
Photograph 1 of 2

South and east elevations, 202 South Main Street  
Camera facing northwest  
Photograph 2 of 2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Pomeroy Homestead  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Harris

DATE RECEIVED: 3/19/03 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/02/03  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/18/03 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/03/03  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 03000329

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 5/1/03 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

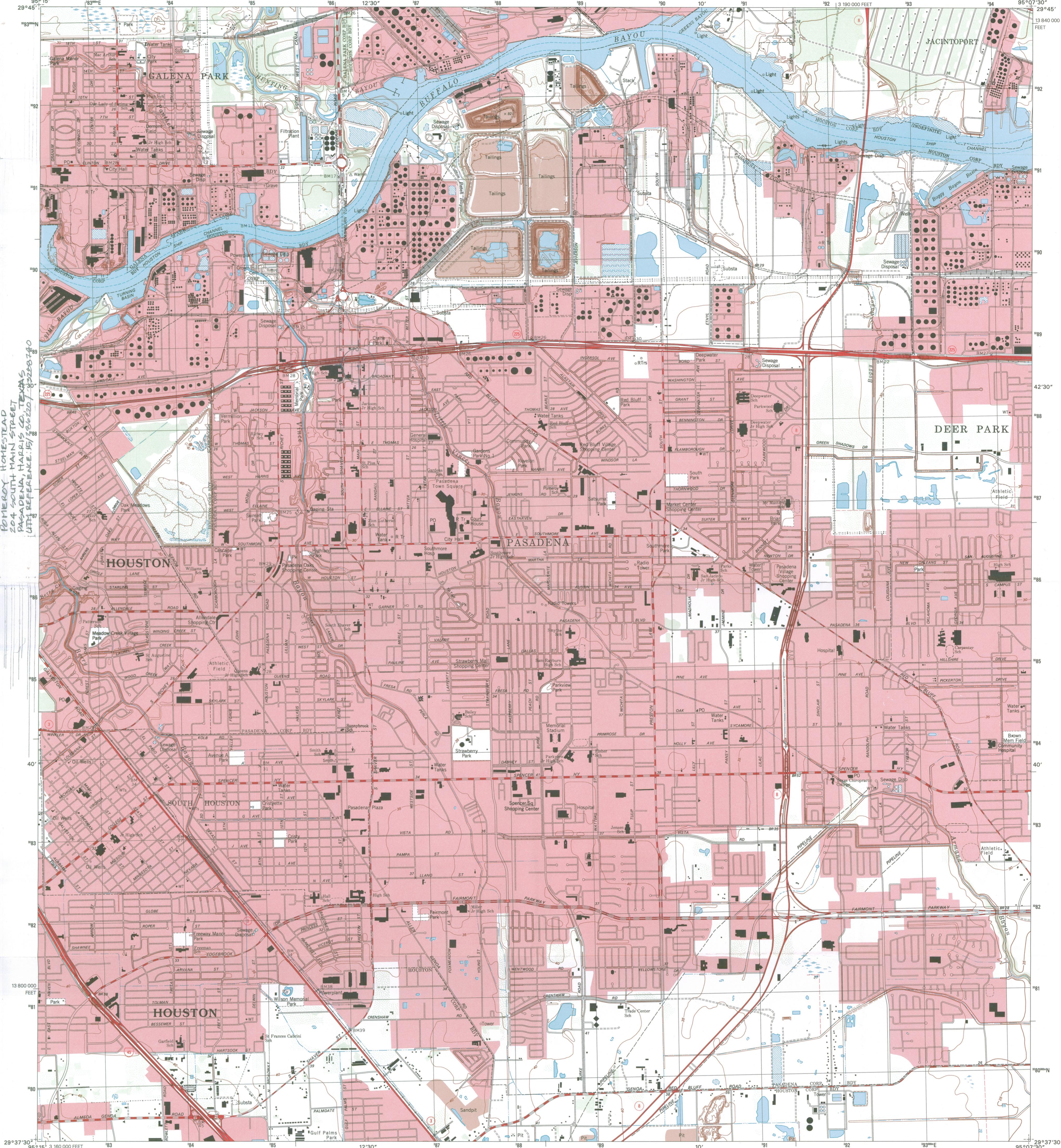


POMEROY HOMESTEAD  
202 & 204 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
PASADENA, HARRIS CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 2



POMEROY HOMESTEAD  
202 & 204 SOUTH MAIN STREET  
PASADENA, HARRIS CO., TEXAS  
PHOTOGRAPH 2 of 2



Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Topographic map compiled 1976. Printed from imagery taken 1990. Survey reference as of 1976.

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 15  
10,000-foot ticks: Texas Coordinate System of 1983  
(south central zone)

North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed contour ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software

This quadrangle covers a subsidence area

Selected hydrographic data compiled from NOS/NOAA Chart 11329 (1980). This information not intended for navigational purposes

Water stages in this area vary with meteorological conditions

Approximate limits of oceanic inundation shown by dashed blue lines where the high water is undetermined for lack of visual evidence

Dotted blue lines indicate the approximate limits of low water

Landmark buildings verified 1976

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