PHO691861

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 1 7 1976

DATE ENTERED

AUG 18 1977

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

NAME

HISTORIC

Oliphant House

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

AND/OR COMMON

same (family now known by Oliphint)

2 LOCATION

Approximately 7 miles east of Milam on highway 21

STREET & NUMBER

and 50 yards north of highway 21 in the Hide-Away-Harbor subdivision near the Toledo Bend Reservoir.

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Charles Wilson

STATE

Texas

CODE 48 countybine

CODE 403

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

_DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

X_STRUCTURE

_SITE

_OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

XPUBLIC PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

_OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

_WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

X_YES: RESTRICTED

_YES: UNRESTRICTED

_NO

PRESENT USE

_AGRICULTURE MUSEUM __COMMERCIAL

__PARK

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT __RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

__GOVERNMENT

_INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

_MILITARY

XOTHER: (vacant)

_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

OWNER OF PROPERTY

Hide-A-Way Harbor, C/O Tom E. Foster

STREET & NUMBER

201 Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Center, Town

VICINITY OF

STATE Texas

75935

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sabine | County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Hemphill

STATE

Texas

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Historical Sites Inventory

DATE

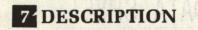
1971

__FEDERAL X_STATE __COUNTY _LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Texas Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN Austin STATE Texas



GOOD

X FAIR

CONDITION

__DETERIORATED EXCELLENT RUINS _UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

_UNALTERED X.ALTERED

CHECK ONE

X ORIGINAL SITE MOVED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Oliphant House sits on two acres that have been set aside for preservation on property that is now part of the Toledo Bend Reservoir resort area. Huge trees stand protectively to the west of the house and at the far north (rear) side. The circa 1820 house is a two story, double log structure with two circa 1860 rear additions. Old gnarled fig trees are grouped beside the ell addition. To the northeast of the house is a dog-trot barn, probably dating as far back as the house. The El Camino Real passed about fifty yards in front of the Oliphant House.

No chinking was used in the original structure's composition and weatherboarding covers the hewn cedar logs everywhere except the walls of the dog-trot and across the front (south) facade beneath the one-story gallery. The sleeper and plate beams are pegged with treenails.

On the south facade the one-story gallery shelters the full front of the house. Six plain wooden posts are bedded in front of the gallery floor. The original pitch of the gallery foof was shallower, with the gallery roof members fitting in immeadiately over the first floor ceiling joists. The central front steps are inset into the flooring of the porch. Flanking the central opening are two four-over-four light windows with wide architraves and solid shutters, matching the interior door, joined by horizontal mouldings. The lights actually appear as two-over-four overlapped because different windows were put into the original openings. The second story has three, four-light windows, symmetrically spaced to correspond with the central hall and two flanking rooms of the upper floor.

Two exterior chimneys were centered in the east and west facades and there are no windows in the upper stories on these sides. The east facade has a four-over-four light window to the left (south) of the fireplace and an outside door to the right. In the west facade the chimney and flanking windows have been removed and double windows, now boarded up, were placed in the space created by the removed chimney.

The north (rear) facade has two, one-story additions. At thewest rear side there is a long narrow room with one window in the west wall. At the east rear side is the two room ell. It has irregularly spaced doors and windows, one door and two windows to each side and a single window at its north end. All windows in the additions are six-over-six and the back room has an interior fireplace. A porch

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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RECEIVED DEC 1 7 1976

DATE ENTERED

AUG 18 1977

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

7

2

runs along the west side of the ell and between the back additions on the north.

The interior hall of the double log structure is open and the staircase has slat balusters, tall newel posts, and a moulded strip applied to the bridgeboard. The enclosed second floor hallway is covered with the chalkings of Francis Oliphant. On both floors beveled pine boards were used to cover the spaces between the logs of the flanking rooms in a way that creates an interesting wall pattern.

The east lower room is representative of the earliest features of the house. The door into the dog-trot is made of fours large vertical planks joined by three, five inch, beveled mouldings applied horizontally. The detailing of the door matches that of the smaller scale shutters sheltering the outside of the front windows. The plastered brick hearth has a wooden mantel, flush with the wall with the outcropping mantel shelf missing.

At this time no work has been done on the Oliphant House but some of the windows have been removed and stored. The house is protected by the trees and two acre site. Very few homes have yet been built in the area even though it is a resort subdivision. The area is nicely arranged and will not encroach upon the visual surroundings of the Oliphant House.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
_1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	XXARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	_ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X1800-1899	X COMMERCE	X_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	X_TRANSPORTATION
_1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	MOLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

James Gaines

Circa 1820
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SPECIFIC DATES

The Oliphant House is one of the earliest Pre-Republic, Anglo-American structures in Texas. Once part of the early settlement of Gaines Ferry, the Oliphant house is the only surviving structure of James Gaines large plantation and ferry-tavern enterprise on the Sabine River crossing of the El Camino Real. This road, first blazed through Texas by the Spainish in 1691, was used by many Anglo-American colonists entering the frontier from Louisiana.

The two story, double log structure was built about 1820 by James Taylor Gaines. Identical to the Gaines Ferry House that he built for himself in 1815 at the Sabine crossing, the Oliphant House was apparently built for his teenaged wife's parents, the Edmund Norris', so that they might live in the vicinty. Later his cousin Susannah Jackson lived with her family in the house. The Gaines Ferry site was inundated by the waters of the Toledo Bend Reservoir in the 1960's, and the Oliphant House, an exceptionaly fine example of early Texas architecture, is all that remains of this early Nineteenth Century settlement.

One of Texas' first Anglo settlers, James Gaines came to Texas in 1812, prior to the settlement of Stephen F. Austin's first three hundred Anglo colonists in 1821. His influence on Texas' development is significant, for he built a large plantation on the edge of the frontier and was continually involved in Texas' growth. After participating in two Mexican expeditions he held office as first judge (Alcalde) of the municipality of Sabine in 1823 or 1824 and operated a post office at the ferry, for a time in 1836. Like his ancestor Edmund Pendleton, author of the Virginia Resolution calling for American Independence in 1776, James Gaines participated in the creation of the new Texas Republic as a delegate from Sabine County to the convention of 1836. A signer of the Texas Declaration of Independence, he was promptly placed on the committee to draft the

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8 PAGE

2

Constitution of the Republic of Texas and went on to serve as Senator in the Fourth, Fifth, and Sixth Texas Congress.

The property on which the Oliphant House stands was sold to Wilford Oliphant by James Gaines about 1840, but the bargain seems to have fallen through. The deed validly conveying the house and sixtyone acres of land was made by James Gaines and his son John B. Gaines, to Martha A. Oliphant on February 17, 1843.

Martha A. (Causey) Oliphant was the second wife of Alfred Davenport Oliphant, a brother of Wilford Oliphant. A. D. Oliphant came to Texas c. 1839 and the family was in residence at the house before 1842. Oliphant was prominent locally in the Masons and served as county judge from 1848 to 1852.

Francis Virginia Oliphant, child of Judge Oliphant's second marriage, wrote with chalk on the logs and planks of the second story hall: "The 'Buffalow' will leave Hamilton for the Pass Thursday at 4pm. FVO." This serves to commemorate the day when the El Camino Real and the Sabine River, not far to the east, were vital avenues of travel from Louisiana into the Texas frontier. Young Miss Oliphant added quite a few initials, apperantly those of local boys, in addition to her notation about the steamboat. One of the initials referred to William P. Polley who became her husband in 1857.

The large Oliphant family and their descendents are found all over Sabine County and some of the family continued to live in the house until the close of the Nineteenth Century. About 1910 the Oliphant House was bought by the Waller family and one of the daughters married "Bud" McGown and lived in the Gaines Ferry House, twin to her father's place, from 1910 to 1962. She returned to the Oliphant House for a few years in the 1960's.

Tom E. Foster has owned the home since the 1960's and, at his behest, provisions have been made to restore the structure which has been set aside on two acres.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Texas Historical Commossion Historical Sites Inventory,
"Oliphant House," Texas Historical Commossion, Austin,
Texas, 1971.

GEOGRAPHICAL D. ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY	•			
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Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DEC 2.3 1976

RECEIVED

AUG 1 8 1977

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

9

DATE ENTERED

2

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- Polley, W.L., Interview by Deolece Parmelee, San Augustine, Texas, March 25, 1971.
- The State of Texas Federal Population Schedules, Seventh

 Census of the United States, 1850. Transcribed and
 copyrighted 1969 by Mrs. V.H. Carpenter, Greenville,
 Mississippi, (Huntsville, Ark, Century Enterprises,
 1969).

Property Oliphant	House	77001913 Sabine
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National Register Write-up Federal Register Entry	9.6.22 Send-back	Entered AUG 18 1977



RECORDING OF THE MATIONAL GEOSTER

DEC 1 7 1976

NAME: Oliphant House

LOCATION: Hide-Away-Harbor Subdivision

East of Milam, Texas

Sabine County

PHOTO REFERENCE: Mike Yancey

Texas State Historical Comm.

1976

IDENTIFICATION: Southeast Oblique

#109





PRESERVE OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NAME: Oliphant House

DEC 1 7 1976

LOCATION: Hide-Away-Harbor Subdivision

East of Milam, Texas

Sabine County

PHOTO REFERENCE: Mike Yancey

Texas State Historical Comm.

1976

IDENTIFICATION: North Elevation

(rear additions)

#20f9





Marin Marin Williams ATTOMOST JELIOTTAN JET HO VICETORIE

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DEC 1 7 1976

NAME: Oliphant House

LOCATION: Hide-Away-Harbor Subdivision

East of Milam, Texas

Sabine County

PHOTO REFERENCE: Mike Yancey

Texas State Historical Comm.

1976

IDENTIFICATION: Fireplace detail

East room, first floor

#3 099



THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DEC 1 7 1976

NAME: Oliphant House

LOCATION: Hide-Away-Harbor Subdivision

William Man

East of Milam, Texas

Sabine County

PHOTO REFERENCE: Mike Yancey

Texas State Historical Comm.

1976

Identification: Double Log Crib

(house in rear of photo)

#489

AUG 18 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

AUG 18 1977

DEC 1 7 1976

NAME: Oliphant House

LOCATION: Hide-Away-Harbor Subdivision

East of Milam, Texas

Sabine County

PHOTO REFERENCE: Mike Yancey

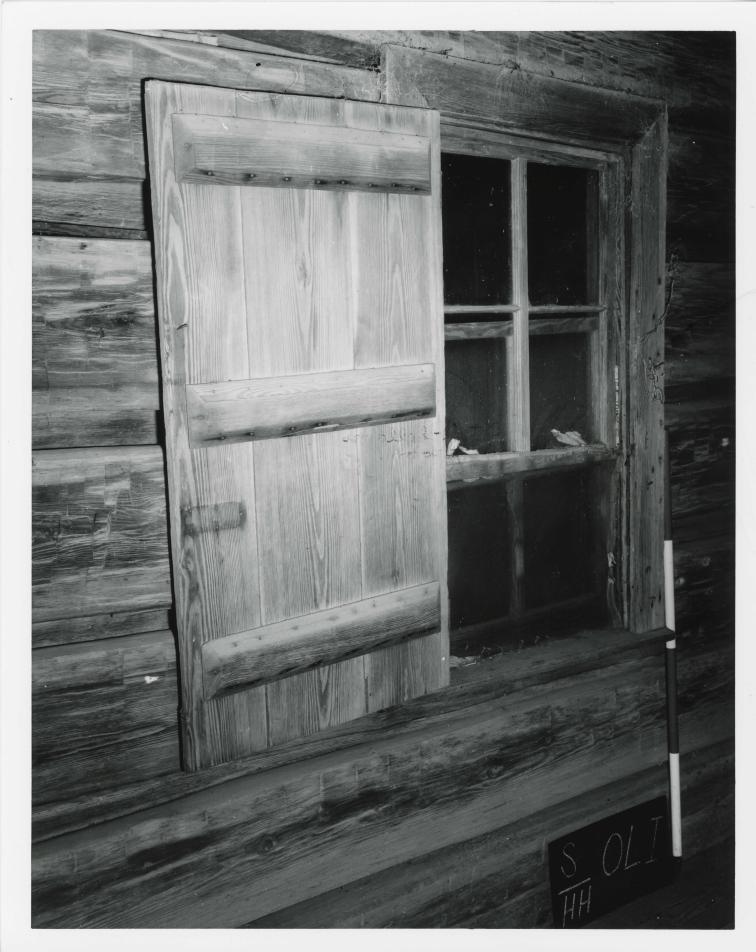
Texas State Historical Comm.

1976

IDENTIFICATION: South elevation detailing

Inset steps, open hall stair, early gallery roof members, and separately bedded posts.

FROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DEC 1 7 1976

NAME: Oliphant House

LOCATION: Hide-Away-Harbor Subdivision

East of Milam, Texas

Sabine County

PHOTO REFERENCE: Mike Yancey

Texas State Historical Comm.

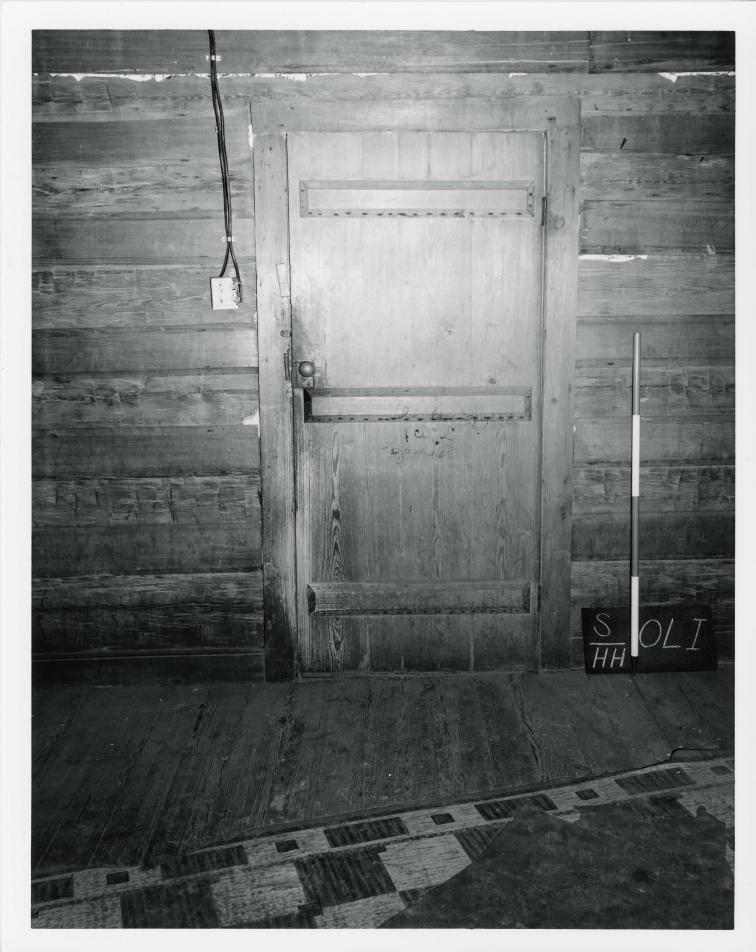
IDENTIFICATION: Detail- main, south ...

facade shutter and four over

four overlapped window. AUG 1

#6019

THE HATIONAL REGISTER



PEOPLETY OF THE NATIONAL CLOSTER

DEC 1 7 1976

NAME: Oliphant House

LOCATION: Hide-Away-Harbor Subdivision

East of Milam, Texas

Sabine County

PHOTO REFERENCE: Mike Yancey

Texas State Historical Comm.

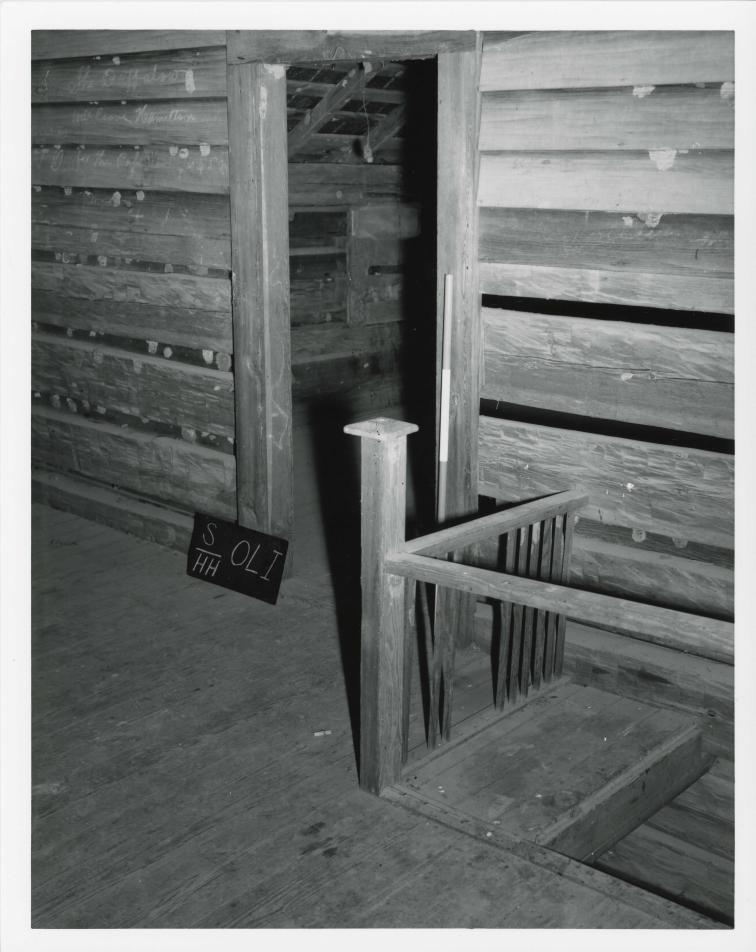
1976

IDENTIFICATION: Detail- hall door east

room, first floor

7019





COPERTY OF THE NATIONAL LEGISTER

DEC 1 7 1976

NAME: Oliphant House

LOCATION: Hide-Away-Harbor Subdivision

East of Milam, Texas

Sabine County

PHOTO REFERENCE: Mike Yancey

Texas State Historical Comm.

1976

IDENTIFICATION: Upper hall detail with

chalkings

#8019





PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DEC 1 7 1976

NAME: Oliphant House

LOCATION: Hide-Away-Harbor

East of Milam, Texas

Sabine County

PHOTO REFERENCE: Mike Yancey

TexasState Historical Comm.

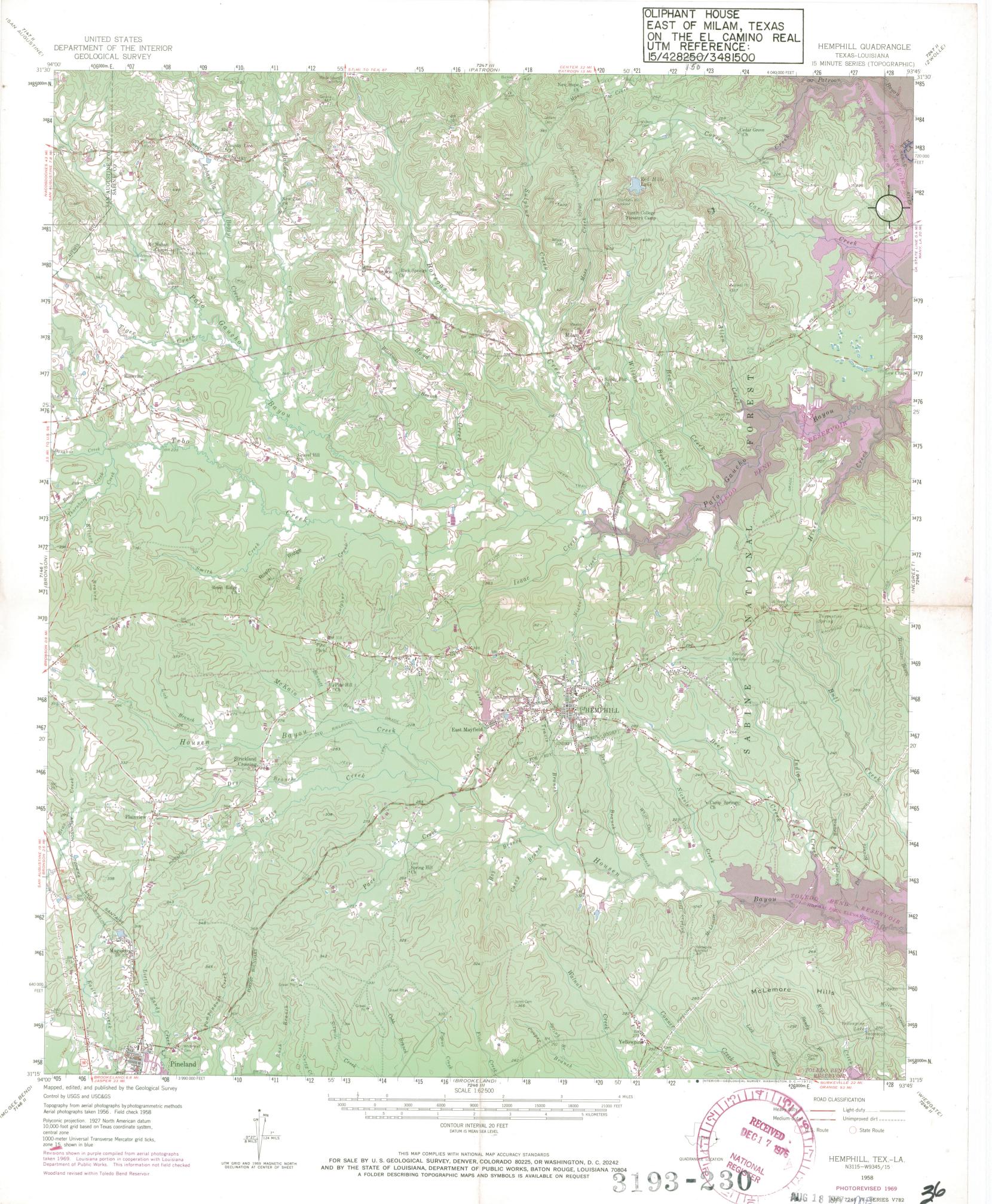
1976

IDENTIFICATION: Southwest Oblique

#9819

AUG 1 8 1977

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER





TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

P. O. BOX 12276 CAPITOL STATION AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711 TRUETT LATIMER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 16, 1976



National Register of Historic Places Department of the Interior National Park Service 18th and C Streets, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20240

To Whom It May Concern:

Enclosed is the continuation sheet for the bibliography to the National Register Nomination of the Oliphant House in Sabine County, Texas. The nomination was mailed only a few days ago and this sheet was inadvertently left out. My thanks and apologies.

Sincerely,

Janice Lewis

Research Assistant

JL:cd

Enclosure

TOM E. FOSTER 201 CENTER STREET CENTER, TEXAS 75935

March 5, 1977

farty on

Dr. William J. Murtagh Keeper of the National Register National Park Service Department of the Interior Washington, D. C. 20240

Re: H34-8800

Oliphant House

Dear Sir:

As the owner of the above referred to property, and in response to your notification dated February 17, 1977, I am pleased to advise that I completely concur with the nomination as presented to you by the Texas Historical Commission.

One minor correction should be made, however. That is, all reference to Hide-A-Way Harbor should be deleted. The resort area is now known as Pendleton Harbor instead of Hide-A-Way Harbor. The ownership of the property is not effected.

If I can furnish any additional information, please advise.

Very truly yours/,

TOM E. FØSTER

TEF:ds

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE

TEXAS

Date Entered

AUG 1 8 1977

Name

Location

Coryell County Courthouse

Gatesville Coryell County

Erath County Courthouse

Stephenville Erath County

Old Victoria County Courthouse

Victoria

Victoria County

Point Bolivar Lighthouse

Port Bolivar vicinity

Galveston County

Val Verde County Courthouse and Jail Del Rio

Val Verde County

Galveston Seawall

Galveston

Galveston County

Oliphant House

Milam vicinity Sabine County

Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower

Hon. Lloyd Bentsen

Hon. W. R. Poage

Hon. Omar Burleson

Hon. John Young Hon. Jack Brooks

Hon. Robert C. Krueger

Hon. Charles Wilson

State Historic Preservation Officer

Mr. Truett Latimer Executive Director

Texas Historical Commission

P. O. Box 12276, Capitol Station Austin, Texas 78711

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 4-5-77 Reviewer INITIALS: MJL.

AUG 1.8 1977

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Oliphant House

Oliphint House OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

7 mi. E of Milam waxx off TX 21 STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF Milam

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Texas

48

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

COUNTY

code

-Sabine • 403

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle)

(PRIVATE) STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME) :

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N.ATLANTIC

MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR ✓ Substantially intact-1

_ unknown - 4 _ not applicable - 7

EXTERIOR Substantially intact-2 _unknown.-5

ENVIRONS Substantially intact-3 _unknown -6

_ not applicable - 8 _ Not applicable-9

_Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

_EXCELLENT CONDITION -

_DETERIORATED _RUINS UNEXPOSED

_UNALTERED _Reconstructed

_MOVED _Unknown

_Unexcavated _Excavated

Yes-restricted

Yes-unrestricted No access

NO

Unknown

historic district?

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

YES

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? IF YES, NAME:

IF YES, NAME:

NO

ADAPTIVE USE:

YES

NO

Saved?

YES

MO

then-dulling

now- 'Vacant

SIGNIFICANCE:

_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC _ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE

_CONSERVATION _ECONOMICS **XARCHITECTURE** _EDUCATION ENGINEERING COMMERCE XEXPLORATION _COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE __RELIGION MCAW/Gov't/politics _science _LITERATURE _MILITARY

_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

entertainment . _health __recreation Asettlement

LEDWING DIE DIEMAL

_socio/cultural _urban & commun APPLITIOS/GOVERNMENT __OTHER (SPECIFY) planning

Claims

"first" YES

lamic game, one of twee 1st acque although, active readers "oldest" YES

_MUSIC

"only" YES

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal James gaines - builder; early settler (1810), ferry aperator, local + state official, deligate to 1836 convention

(label role

appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): (.1820

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: C. 1840 (can additions

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 18/2

SOURCE: (OF NOMINATION)

STATE

LOCAL GOV"T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

FEDERAL 'AGENCY:

ACREAGE: (to nearest tenth of an acre)

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

double log structure dug-trot boun

restrat m planned

phillub

Margh

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences) One of the earliest pre-Republic, Anglo-American structures in devas only surviving structure of the James Gaines plantation and ferry towers ant operations on the Salvine Rever crossing of the El Camero Real; Buelt

by James games, one of Texas' 1st anglo settlers, acture resident, and political

freme