

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0668788

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 15 1978

DATE ENTERED NOV 29 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

W. A. Strain House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

400 E. Pecan

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Lancaster

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Texas

VICINITY OF
CODE

048

COUNTY

Dallas

CODE
113

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Ellis White Strain

STREET & NUMBER

400 E. Pecan

CITY, TOWN

Lancaster

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas 75146

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Dallas County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Records Building

CITY, TOWN

Dallas

STATE

Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE **Dallas County Historical Map; Lancaster Historical Survey for
Historic Landmarks; Historic Sites Inventory**

DATE

1975; 1975; 1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

**Dallas County Historical Commission; Lancaster Historical
Preservation Committee; Texas Historical Commission**

CITY, TOWN

**Dallas; Lancaster;
Austin**

STATE

Texas

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The W. A. Strain home stands on a hill at the southeast corner of the Lancaster city limits, facing northwest. Of the original outbuildings, including a barn, smoke house, wood shed, wash house and outhouse, only the smoke house and outhouse, southeast of the home, still remain.

The two and a half story frame late-Victorian structure with gabled wood shingle roof and brick foundation has an asymmetrical plan. Its guttering system around the roof sends rain water through a charcoal bin to a cistern. The house was originally painted a deep rust color with cream-colored trim. It is now white with black trim. Some of the original metal roof cresting has been removed. There is a wide band of imbricated shingle siding between the first and second floors around the front and two sides of the house. The shingle siding is repeated on gable ends and around the third story of the turret. One-over-one double-hung sash windows are used predominantly on all facades of the house. There is a large central corbeled brick chimney with two evenly spaced brick belt courses encircling it, and a smaller, very simple brick chimney toward the southeast (back) of the house.

The northwest (front) facade shows a ground floor gallery wrapping around the southwest corner of the house with a wide central pedimented entry, turned columns, spindled and cut-out balustrade and cut-out spandrels. The second story gallery directly above stops at the southwest corner of the house. Beside the gallery, three windows separated by muntins have a stained-glass transom above on the ground floor. A horizontal stained glass window is on the second floor with a low-pitched pediment above. Both triangular pediments on this facade are trimmed with dentils and applied serpentine wood moldings. The single-light casement window in the gable end above once contained stained glass. The peak of the gable end is spanned by a cut-out bargeboard. There is a three-story turret on the north corner of this facade, its cone-shaped shingle roof topped with a metal finial at its peak. Circular windows on the third floor once contained stained glass. There is a carved wood medallion above the second story window on the turret.

The northeast (side) facade shows the turret and a two-story bay window with an arched stained glass window set in a projection of the ground floor of the bay. The gable end and pediment are identical to those on the northwest (front) of the house.

The southeast (back) facade of the house shows a hipped roof rather than a gable end. The two-story porch was enclosed and a one-story porch added around 1915.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

The southwest (side) facade consists of a central projecting pavilion with gable end and pediment identical to those described on the northwest and northeast elevations, with enclosed porches to the southeast (back) and the wrap-around gallery to the northwest (front). A small balcony above the gallery has been enclosed.

The four original Victorian mantels with beveled mirrors are still in the house. There is an ornate front and simple back staircase. An attic stair was added around 1915. Sliding panelled pocket doors open between the front hall and parlor and between the parlor and diningroom. All the ceilings are 12 feet high on the ground floor.

The three-story smoke house has horizontal wood siding on the two lower floors with imbricated shingle siding around the mansard top floor which contains a cistern fed by a windmill.

This property is still occupied by the W. A. Strain heirs. They have recently replaced the wood shingle roof and have repainted the house. The floors and woodwork inside the house have been refinished. The family plans to continue to maintain the house and its original furnishings as they have in the past.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES **1896**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT **J. E. Flanders & Moad, Arch.
Joe Lyon, builder.**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The W. A. Strain House near Lancaster, Texas, is an excellent example of late Victorian architecture, designed by J. E. Flanders & Moad of Dallas. This firm also designed the Trinity Methodist Church in Dallas, and the Shackelford County Courthouse, which is part of an historic district in Albany, Texas. Joe Lyon built the house in 1896. The 374 acre farm on which it is located has been designated one of 560 farms in Texas for the Family Land Heritage Program. This land has been farmed for over 130 years by the same family. The Strain family has shown pride in their old family home by maintaining it with few alterations since it was built 72 years ago. The house has been the meeting place of many Baptist groups over the years and is the annual location of the Lancaster Historical Society spring luncheon and meeting.

W. A. Strain (1861-1907) was the son of M. L. Fornsworth and W. S. Strain of Washington County, Tennessee. W. A. Strain came to Texas sometime before 1887, followed by his family. He purchased a building on the north side of the square in Lancaster in 1889 in which he opened a drugstore. His brother, Horace, managed this store while W. A. opened another drugstore in Waxahachie.

In 1895, after marrying Minnie White (1867-1957), Strain moved back to Lancaster, sold his two businesses and bought the 380 farm from his wife's family. The young couple was able to build the large house on the hill just east of the W. L. White cotton gin due to the encouragement and financial aid of Minnie's widowed mother, Mrs. W. L. White. Mr. and Mrs. White had planned to build a home one day on the site their daughter and son-in-law utilized in 1896.

The house was built on land that had been settled by Mrs. White's parents, Thomas McKee and Mary Witt Ellis, in 1846. W. L. White was a cattleman, banker, investor and ginner. W. A. Strain helped the White sons run the gin after W. L. White died, and farmed his 380 acres until his death from tuberculosis in 1907. The Strain heirs have continued to live in the old family home, maintaining it with very few alterations and much of the original furnishings still intact.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Unpublished historical monograph by Mrs. W. J. Bain, 716 N. Wilson,
 Lancaster, Texas 75146.
 Dallas County Records
 Strain family papers
 Oral interview with E. W. Strain

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Ferris, Tex. (3296-312)

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 14 711235 36107640
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Two acres from the Thomas McKee Ellis Survey, abstract 987, surrounding the described house and outbuildings, including significant landscaping.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Joe Williams, Project Director
Binnie McCreary, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Texas Historical Commission

DATE

March 7, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

1511 Colorado

TELEPHONE

475-3094

CITY OR TOWN

Austin

STATE

Texas

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Shelley Lanning

TITLE

Texas Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3-10-78

March 10, 1978
Shelley Lanning
11-27

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/29/78

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

11/27/78

William Lewis

William Lewis

Property

Strain, W.A., House

78002952

State

Texas

Working Number

5.15.78.3098

TECHNICAL

Photos

Maps

6

#12-date

March 10, 1978

CONTROL

5.17.78

Significant also for ^{century} association with early family, original furnishings, & continued agricultural use of some property by family. (call on why no farm land)

HISTORIAN

llberfy
10-9-78

- see photo report

copy/accept

ARCHITECTURALLY SIGNIFICANT AS A TURN OF THE CENTURY MANSION IN THE QUEEN ANNE STYLE.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ITS COMPOSITION AND DECORATIVE ELEMENTS EMBODY THE CHARACTERISTICS OF LATE "VICTORIAN TASTE"; WHAT'S LACKING IN THE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE IS COMPENSATED FOR IN THE PHOTOGRAPHS.

ACCEPT
Thibb
6/28/78

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

No statement of architectural significance - "excellent example of late Victorian architecture" is meaningless. - but we have pointed out the trouble to Texas. How can it be agriculturally significant without any land being nominated?

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Return Accept
Lebovich
11/24/78

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

2-6-79

Send-back

Re-submit

Entered

NOV 29 1978

INT:2106-74



W. A. Strain House NOV 29 1978
400 E. Pecan
Lancaster, Dallas Co., Texas
Unknown Photographer, 1896
Reproduction on file with THC
Oblique from west

Photo #1

MAY 15 1978



mahoney.

W. A. Strain House
400 E. Pecan
Lancaster, Dallas Co., Texas
Unknown Photographer, c. 1907'
Reproduction on file with THC

Northwest elevation

Photo #2

NOV 29 1978

MAY 15 1978



W. A. Strain House
400 E. Pecan
Lancaster, Dallas Co., Texas

NOV 29 1978

Texas Historical Commission, 1977

Oblique from the east

Photo #3

MAY 15 1978



W. A. Strain House **NOV 29 1978**
400 E. Pecan
Lancaster, Dallas Co., Texas

Texas Historical Commission, 1977

Oblique from the north

Photo #4 **MAY 15 1978**



W. A. Strain House
400 E. Pecan
Lancaster, Dallas Co., Texas
Southwest Facade
Historical Commission Photo, 1977

NOV 29 1978

photo #5

MAY 15 1978

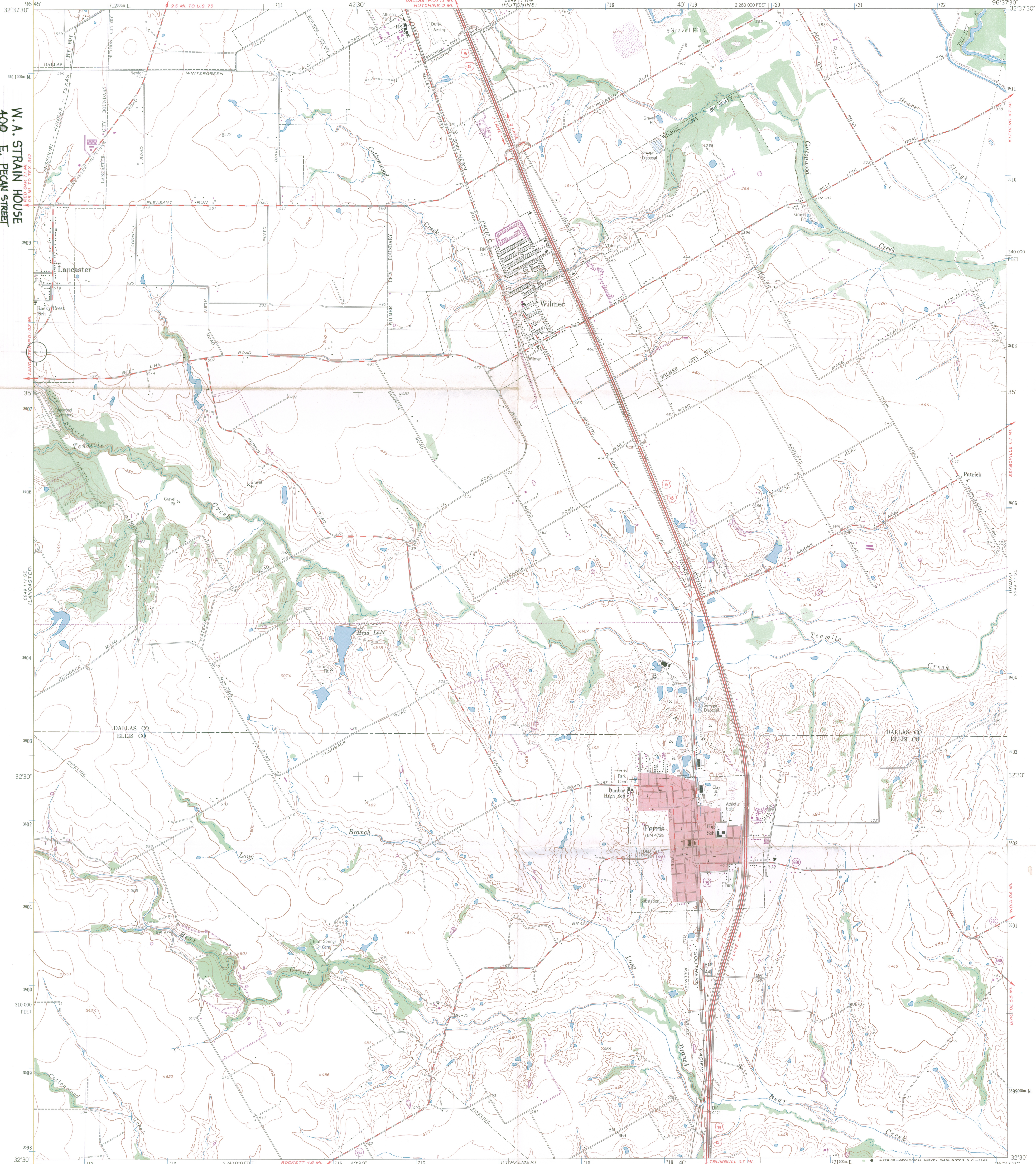


NOV 29 1978

W. A. Strain House
400 E. Pecan
Lancaster, Dallas Co., Texas
Outbuilding southeast of house
Historical Commission Photo, 1977

photo #6

MAY 15 1978



W.A. STRAIN HOUSE
400 E. PECAN STREET
DALLAS COUNTY, LANCASTER, TEXAS
UTM: 14711255/3607640

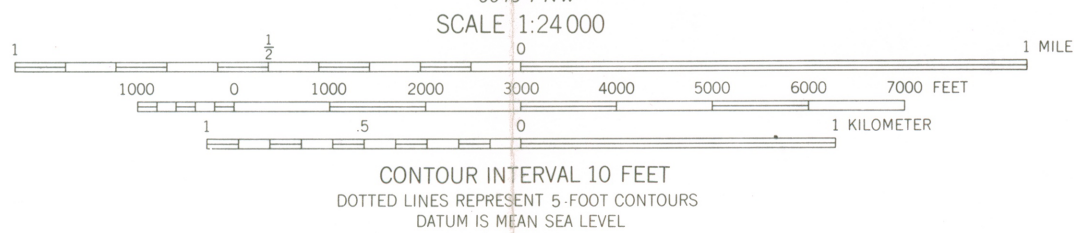
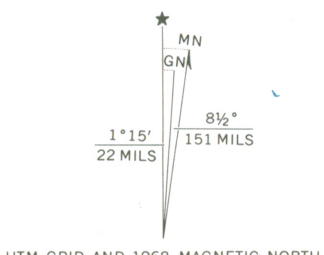
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods
Aerial photographs taken 1956. Field check 1959

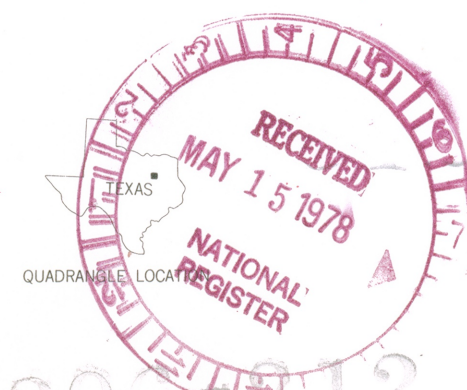
Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Texas coordinate system,
north central zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 14, shown in blue

Red tint indicates area in which only
landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
aerial photographs taken 1968. This information not field checked



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
Interstate Route	U.S. Route
	State Route

FERRIS, TEX.
SW/4 SEAOVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE
N3230-W9637.5/7.5
1959
PHOTOREVISED 1968
AMS 6649 II SW-SERIES V882

NOV 29 1978

TELEPHONE REPORT

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PROJECT: *Bhair*

TO/FROM: *David Moore*

DATE: *10-17*

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

STAFF MEMBER:

Sheffy

DIVISION:

REPORT:

Inquired - not because I wanted to
force - but to ask - whether since
land was in Texas Heritage program -
it could or should be considered
significant.

He will call back.

10-18

- 94 e talked with rest of staff. They did
not feel house had enough historical
significance itself to merit nomination. They
feel land needs to have extraordinary agricultural
value to merit nomination.

TELEPHONE REPORT

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PROJECT: *Strain*

TO/FROM: *Lissa*

DATE: *11-27-78*

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

STAFF MEMBER: *Sheffy*

DIVISION:

REPORT:

- Date - *March 10, 1978*
 - Quality of *8* - in architecture
 - relayed our concern that general description as "Victorian" is too general - we need specific style ~~and~~ evaluation - and some context on why something is "excellent"
-

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered NOV 29 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Navarro, Jose Antonio, Elementary School	San Antonio Bexar County
Treue der Union Monument	Comfort Kendall County
Strain, W. A., House	Lancaster Dallas County
Wichita Falls Route Building	Wichita Falls Wichita County

Also Notified

Honorable Lloyd M. Bentsen
Honorable John G. Tower
Honorable Henry B. Gonzalez
Honorable Robert C. Krueger
Honorable Olin E. Teague
Honorable Jack E. Hightower

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas State Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Strain, W. A., House				2 OTHER NAMES:		3 date of entry: NOV 29 1978		4 county code: 113			
5 LOCATION street & number 400 E. Pecan St.		city / town Lancaster		vicinity of		state TX		county Dallas			
7 OWNER <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE <input type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> MUNICIPAL <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL (agency name)								8 ADMINISTRATOR:			
9 EXISTING SURVEYS <input type="checkbox"/> HABS <input type="checkbox"/> HAER <input type="checkbox"/> NHL				10 FUNDED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT 6th		12 SOURCE of NOMINATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> FEDERAL			
13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES, NAME <input type="checkbox"/> NO				14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? <input type="checkbox"/> YES, NAME <input type="checkbox"/> NO				15 ACRES		if state who prepared form? TX Historical Commission <input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE ORGANIZATION	
16 CONDITION				17 features:							
<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> altered <input type="checkbox"/> original site <input type="checkbox"/> excellent <input type="checkbox"/> ruins <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> moved <input type="checkbox"/> good <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed <input type="checkbox"/> reconstructed <input type="checkbox"/> unknown <input type="checkbox"/> fair <input type="checkbox"/> unexcavated <input type="checkbox"/> excavated				INTERIOR <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 <input type="checkbox"/> SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-4 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-5 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-7 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-8 EXTERIOR <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-5 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-8 ENVIRONS <input type="checkbox"/> NOT INTACT-0 <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN-6 <input type="checkbox"/> NOT APPLICABLE-9							
18 ACCESS <input type="checkbox"/> YES - Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> YES - Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No Access <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown				19 ADAPTIVE USE <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		20 SAVED? <input type="checkbox"/> YES		21 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no			
21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE :				22 CLAIMS: explain							
<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY - prehistoric-2 <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE-6 <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT-26 <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY - historic-1 <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS-7 <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION-12 <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE-3 <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION-8 <input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH-27 <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE-4 <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS-9 <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY-13 <input type="checkbox"/> ART-5 <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION-10 <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION-14				<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING-11 <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS / GOVT.-21 <input type="checkbox"/> RECREATION-28 <input type="checkbox"/> LAW-16 <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION-22 <input type="checkbox"/> SETTLEMENT-29 <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE-17 <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE-23 <input type="checkbox"/> URBAN PLANNING-31 <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY-18 <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24 <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC-19 <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30 <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY-20 <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION-25				'first' <input type="checkbox"/> 'oldest' <input type="checkbox"/> 'only' <input type="checkbox"/>			
23 functions				24 dates of initial construction:				25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION			
WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT:				major alterations:							
CURRENTLY:				historic events:							
26 architectural style(s):				27 architect:		28 master builder:		29 engineer:			
30 landscape architect / garden designer:			31 interior decorator:			32 artist:		33 artisan:		34 builder/contractor:	
35 NAMES give role & date											
PERSONAL:											
EVENTS:											
INSTITUTIONAL:											

36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP