

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received APR 28 1982

date entered JUN 1 1982

1. Name

historic Cloud-Stark House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 327 South Dixon Street N/A not for publication

city, town Gainesville N/A vicinity of congressional district

state Texas code 048 county Cooke code 097

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Richard S. Stark

street & number P.O. Box 656

city, town Gainesville N/A vicinity of state Texas 76240

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cooke County Courthouse

street & number California Street

city, town Gainesville state Texas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date July 1972; September 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin, Texas state

7. Description

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved

date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Cloud-Stark House at 327 South Dixon Street is a two story wood frame structure located in one of Gainesville's oldest and most affluent neighborhoods. Constructed circa 1885, the house retains much of its original Victorian Italianate detailing as exemplified by its low pitch roof, off center cupola, broad eaves, and heavy brackets. A major renovation between 1902 and 1908 added classical elements such as the pedimented portico and ionic capitals atop the east facade columns. Despite having altered the original Victorian Italianate character, these changes represent an important segment in the structure's evolution and, therefore, are significant in their own right. Other more minor alterations have slightly modified the building's exterior; however, the Cloud-Stark House remains much as it did in 1908.

The residence stands just south of the original town site, two blocks southeast of the Cooke County Courthouse, and three blocks south of the historic Butterfield Stage Route (now California Street). Facing east onto South Dixon Street, the house is located in a neighborhood of mostly Victorian, Queen Anne, and early 20th century residences. A concrete sidewalk with alternating colored slabs and an iron fence run parallel to Dixon Street and indicate the east boundary of the lot. Resting upon a concrete base, the fence was manufactured by the Champion Iron Fence Co. of Kenton Ohio, as its nameplate reveals, and displays highly ornate posts at each end. An equally elaborate gate marks the main entrance to the house, and the first owner's name, "Cloud," is imprinted in the sidewalk just outside the gate.

The builders of the house, reflecting a popular trend of the late 1800s, utilized an asymmetrical plan. A variation of the central hall plan, the design called for the sitting room at the southeast corner to be brought forward, thereby achieving its off balance though typically Victorian composition. The two story structure rests upon a two room cellar and is capped with a small third floor cupola. All original outbuildings associated with the house have been demolished, but a small, contemporary one story, open carport stands at the southwest corner of the lot.

The front or east elevation is dominated by a two story portico with massive square but slightly tapered columns. Added in the early 1900s, the gable roofed portico exhibits elements of two distinct architectural styles and reveals the aesthetic "conflict" of the building's exterior. The broad eaves and heavy brackets are a carry over from the original Victorian Italianate design. However, the construction of the portico and its use of a pediment and fluted columns with ionic capitals reflect a desire to bring order and balance to the original asymmetrical plan and are characteristic of the Colonial Revival movement. A one story porch with balcony extends across the entire front as well as a portion of the south elevation and serves as another prominent visual feature. The porch displays a cornice with dentil molding and fluted columns with ionic capitals. The columns are identical in design but smaller in scale to the portico's, thus indicating that the porch was probably included in the early 20th century renovation. Interestingly, the columns do not completely extend to the cornice but instead are linked with simple, unadorned brackets. The original

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balustrade of the balcony was replaced in 1952 with the present wrought iron railing. 2/2 wood sash windows are framed with architrave molding and provide natural light for the interior. Capping the structure is a small rectangular cupola with a low pitch hip roof. The 1/1 wood sash windows with round arches are paired--one set pierces the east and west elevations while two sets pierce the north and south--under molding which suggests an almost semi-elliptical arch.

A one story bay window with balcony highlights the north facade, and its 2/2 wood sash windows, brackets, cornice, and dentils are similar to those of the front. The original balcony posts have been replaced with wrought iron supports, but the elaborate jig cut spandrels remain intact and represent some of the house's most outstanding wood work. Numerous additions through the years have significantly altered the rear (west) and south facades. With the exception of a 1936 second story bathroom addition, the rear porch retains most of its original detailing. This ell shaped porch exhibits a turned balustrade for the balcony and slender, chamfered ground level columns. These columns could have possibly resembled the pre-1902-1908 columns of the front porch.

Main access into the house is gained through a double door entrance within the two story portico. These doors are pierced with round arched etched glass and are capped with a single light transom. No doubt intended to impress visitors, the central hallway displays some of the structure's most outstanding interior detailing such as the inlaid wood floor and spiral staircase. The floor exhibits a hexagon chain and diamond shaped patterns framing the alternating bands of light and dark flooring. A six pointed star and a smaller Greek cross motif highlight the center of the floor. The remaining ground level rooms have unadorned hardwood floors. The library to the north of the hallway, the sitting room to the south, and the bedroom exhibit marbalized slate mantels. The library displays an operating chandler light fixture originally intended for gas but later modified to accept electricity. Displaying elaborate carved wood work in the newel post and balustrade, the staircase opens onto the second floor central hall. This hallway presents an inlaid wood floor with geometric designs similar to the ground level. The two front bedrooms with marbalized slate mantels, as well as the balcony door open onto the hall. The rear portion contains another bedroom, a nursery room, two bathroom additions, and a rear balcony.

The Cloud-Stark House formerly had a one story frame service structure to the west of the main house. It appeared on the 1888 Sanborn Insurance Map, and was gone by 1932. The only extant outbuilding is a one story carport of recent vintage and currently slated for demolition.

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 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 ca. 1885, 1905

Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed about 1885, the Cloud-Stark House stands as one of the oldest extant residences in Gainesville, Texas and is a vital physical link to the city's early prosperity as a cattle boom town during the late 1800s. The two story structure represents a rare example of Victorian Italianate architecture in the city even though an early 20th century Colonial Revival portico has somewhat altered the residence's original appearance. The house was also the birthplace of Rose Lewin Franken who later achieved fame as a novelist and playwright during the 1940s and 1950s. Purchased in 1906 by H.W. Stark, the structure has remained in the same family for over seventy-five years, and its current owner is planning to rehabilitate the building for use as law offices.

During Gainesville's cattle boom of the late 1870s and 1880s, many successful cattlemen and businessmen erected majestic residences to demonstrate their newly acquired wealth. One such prosperous cattleman was Isaac Cloud who purchased lot two of block sixty three in 1881 from A.C. Guthrie for \$800. Although the house's exact date of construction is not known, Cloud sold the property in 1891 for \$5750, and this significant rise in property value indicates that the house was erected prior to 1891 (Information obtained from an 1883 "bird's eye view" of the city--the two story house does not appear on the map--and the 1888 Sanborn Fire Insurance map suggests that the residence was constructed between 1883 and 1888).

Michael Lewin, part owner of the Schiff, Lewin and Co. Dry Goods Store, bought the house in 1891 and with his family lived there for nine years. During their residency on South Dixon Street, the Lewins were blessed with the birth of a daughter, Rose, who later became a prominent writer. The Lewins sold the house in 1900 and moved to New York City. Educated in New York, Rose married Dr. Sigmund Franken in 1917 and soon began to pursue a writing career which was to span four decades. Although she wrote numerous short stories, plays, magazine articles, novels, and screenplays, she is best known for Claudia, a novel published in 1939 and later brought to the stage and screen. Her other works include Pattern (1925), Twice Born (1935), Of Great Riches (1937), Claudia and David (1940), The Fragile Years (1952), Rendezvous (1954), The Return of Claudia (1957), and When All is Said and Done (an autobiography-1963). She also collaborated with her second husband, William Brown Meloney (who she had married four years after Sigmund's death in 1933) on several works under the pennames "Franken Meloney" and "Margaret Grant."

9. Major Bibliographical References

see Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Gainesville, South

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	4	6	7	2	5	2	1	0	3	7	2	1	5	2	1	0
Zone			Easting						Northing							

B

Zone			Easting						Northing							

C

Zone			Easting						Northing							

D

Zone			Easting						Northing							

E

Zone			Easting						Northing							

F

Zone			Easting						Northing							

G

Zone			Easting						Northing							

H

Zone			Easting						Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 2 of Block 63 of the Gainesville Addition

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David Moore

organization date December 10, 1981

street & number 3107 1/2 Tom Green telephone 512 478 6975

city or town Austin state Texas 78705

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Arthur J. ...*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 24 March 1982

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Selous Byers Entered in the National Register date 6/1/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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The third owner of the Cloud House, W.E. Calhoun, and his son were apparently both murdered. Calhoun's widow then sold the property to Harlin Walter Stark in 1906. Stark was a successful businessman and owned the Stark Drug Store and Furniture Co. An active member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Stark served on the Board of Trustees of Texas Christian University for over forty years and was an important benefactor to the college, particularly during the Depression of the 1930s.

The present owner, Richard S. Stark, is the youngest of H.W.'s four children. A former member of the Texas House of Representatives, Stark has been a prominent civic leader in Gainesville for many years. He is presently planning to rehabilitate the structure for use as offices for his law practice.

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National Park Service**

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City Directory of Gainesville, Texas: 1892, 1912, 1913, 1915, 1924, 1927, 1934.

Koch, Augustus. "Bird's Eye View of Gainesville," 1883.

National Register nomination submitted by Roger Martin in October 1981 and filed at the Texas Historical Commission in Austin, Texas.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Gainesville, Texas: 1885, 1888, 1897, 1902, 1913, 1922, 1932.

Smith, A. Morton. The First 100 Years in Cooke County. San Antonio, Texas: Naylor Publishers, 1955.

Roger Martin to David Moore, Interview, Gainesville, Texas, 18 November 1981.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

82004498

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

Property: Cloud-Stark House
State, County: TX, Cooke
Federal Agency: _____

Working No. 4/28/82-1228
Fed. Reg. Date: FEB 1 1983
Date Due: 5-27-82 / 6-12-82

Entered in the National Register
Actions: ACCEPT 6/1/82
 RETURN _____
 REJECT _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

photos _____
maps _____

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
 see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category _____ Ownership _____ Status _____ Present Use _____
Public Acquisition _____ Accessible _____

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition: excellent deteriorated good fair
Check one: unaltered altered
Check one: original site moved date _____
 unexposed

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UMT References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

Site _____ date _____

13. Other

- _____ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Cloud-Stark House
327 S. Dixon Street
Gainesville, Cooke County, Texas

Peter Flagg Maxson January 1982
Negative filed at the Texas Historical
Commission; Austin, Texas

Front (east) facade; camera facing west
Photo # 144



Cloud-Stark House
327 S. Dixon St.
Gainesville, Cooke County, Texas

Peter Flagg Maxson January 1982
Negative filed at the Texas Historical
Commission; Austin, Texas

Southeast Oblique; Camera facing northwest
Photo # 244



Cloud-Stark House
327 S. Dixon St.
Gainesville, Cooke County, Texas

Peter Flagg Maxson January 1982
Negative filed at the Texas Historical
Commission; Austin, Texas

Rear porch; camera facing southeast
Photo # 3 14



Cloud-Stark House
327 S. Dixon St.
Gainesville, Cooke County, Texas

Peter Flagg Maxson January 1982
Negative filed at the Texas Historical
Commission; Austin, Texas

Central Hall staircase from the second floor
Photo # 4 4

