NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

OMB No. 1024-0018
Expires 10-31-87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received OCT 25 1985
date entered NOV 21 1985

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

1. Name

historic Martin-Lowe House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 507 West Fifth N/A not for publication

city, town Clarendon N/A vicinity of

state Texas code 048 county Donley code 129

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	X work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	N/A in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Zell Rodgers SoRelle

street & number 507 West Fifth

city, town Clarendon N/A vicinity of state Texas 79226

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Donley County Courthouse

street & number 300 West Sully

city, town Clarendon state Texas 79226

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date September 1985 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town Austin state Texas

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
X excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date N/A
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Martin-Lowe House is a two-and-a-half-story frame house built of cypress wood in 1904 in the Queen Anne style. It is prominently sided on an attractive city lot in an older residential area of Clarendon, Texas. Numbered among its distinguishing characteristics are the bay areas, the encircling veranda on the north and east sides, the conical roof which has a striking needle-like finial, the exterior cypress clapboard siding on the first story and an elaboration of patterned shingles on the entire upper portion, and the two pedimented dormers on the half story with a projecting overhang. The original lightning rods and weather vanes, as well as the imposing center chimney, make the house stand tall and majestic with a true awareness of its splendid legacy to the town of Clarendon and the Panhandle.

The front elevation, which faces north, features a generously wide, six-step entry to the north side of the wraparound porch. The entry handrails and balusters match the porch rails and balusters, and a newel post complements this in a harmonious fashion. The exterior of the first story is clapboard and the second and half stories are done in various kinds of ornamental shingles: square, cove diamond, and butts. From the front elevation the six porch columns are beautifully displayed and mounted on terra-cotta brick supports which are the same height as the handrail on the balusters. Beneath the overhanging veranda is a wide, 42-inch front door with beveled glass and bead-and-cove sticking. To the left of the front door is a three-sided bay window, while paired directly above this bay is another bay on the second floor. The two ornamentally shingled gables on the half story are very prominent and seem to add much height to the house. Also, from the front elevation one can see the conical roof with the tall, decorative feature and needle-like finial which adds up to a striking visual display. A stationary, almost square window with twelve 8-by-8-inch panes on the north side is another element that adds to the asymmetrical composition of the facade. Originally, the sidewalks were wooden board walks; concrete was laid later. Since the concrete could not be repaired, a wide, handsome walk has been laid recently, and is made from historic street pavers--a gift from the city of Clarendon. On each side of the walk is a 22-inch flower bed edged in cypress wood and running the entire length to the porch entry.

On the north and east veranda, a rectangular panel with a frieze of spindles has been added at the top between each pair of porch posts, and at its juncture with each post is placed a fan-shaped bracket. This recent frieze should be considered a modest, modern decorative element typical of the period, rather than an actual historic feature. Period paint colors have recently been used on the exterior.

The east elevation is more simply decorated than the front elevation. The main features are a veranda that continues on the east side, with an entry from the east section of the yard. There is also another three-sided bay area off the dining room. A large native persimmon tree, over 60 years old, is on the east side of the house and can be seen directly outside the kitchen window.

The south elevation shows the back of the sun porch, as well as the roof of the kitchen and library on the first level--all of which has a lean-to effect. Also visible are the two windows on the second floor; the south window of one bedroom and a window of an upstairs bath. Restoration work has not yet been done on the lean-to porch. A beautiful hackberry tree grows about thirty feet from the porch, and is a redeeming scenic feature for the south elevation.

The west elevation has a distinctive view because of the three-sided bay window on the first floor, which is paired with another three-sided bay on the second floor; both are directly under the conical roof.

There are no outbuildings around the house except for a single-car garage which was built soon after Sam W. Lowe bought the house in 1926. Earlier stables were removed prior to that time.

Upon entering the front door, one finds a large reception area. On the right is a semicircular bench in the bay window area, and to the left are two 9-foot pocket doors; each door has seven panels. These two doors lead to the parlor, which is highlighted by an ornate fireplace with a mantel that has one rectangular and two oblong beveled mirrors. The mantel also has embossed molding, raised-wood carving, and two columns five inches in diameter with pilaster capitals. The fireplace facing and hearth are laid in 1½ by 6 inch enameled tile. The fire opening has a summer front polished to look like copper.

Dividing the reception room at midpoint is a lovely cased opening with two large columns. In passing the cased opening, one finds on the right another built-in seating area and, on the left, two more pocket doors identical to the ones already mentioned. They lead to a dining room featuring a built-in china cabinet of stained, beveled, and leaded glass, a bay window seating area, and a fireplace. At the south end of the reception room is a wide main stairway with two handsome newel posts. The dining room and parlor join, and are divided by another set of pocket doors.

A butler's pantry, kitchen, library, large bath, sun porch, and back stairway are also on the ground floor.

The upstairs has three bedrooms and two bathrooms, while the stair landing off the bedrooms is adequate for a small sitting room.

The woodwork in the house is in fine condition and remains in brown stain and clear varnish except for the bathrooms, the kitchen and one bedroom. These rooms were painted years ago.

8. Significance

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	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1904 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Martin-Lowe House was built in 1904 by F. D. Martin. His wife Nellie S. Martin owned a very fine mercantile store and was energetic in civic activities. Also, he and his wife added much to the musical and social life of the community. In 1926 R. H. Muir, Sr., sold the house to S. W. Lowe and wife Lilac, and this was to be the Lowes' home for the next fifty-six years. This Queen Anne structure, with the Lowe family as the occupants, weaves a well-established social and civic fabric in Clarendon's heritage. Many factors add to the elaborate texture of the Martin-Lowe House, and each occupying family (Martins, Calhouns, Muirs, and Lowes) added to the historic significance of the structure.

On April 30, 1904, the Clarendon Chronicle carried an item in its Local and Personal Column stating that "F. D. Martin will begin the erection of a handsome residence in southwest Clarendon in the coming week."[1] On July 20, 1904, another news item appeared which stated that "the new residence of F. D. Martin was well under way and would make quite a showing when completed."[2] The Martins, natives of Tennessee, owned a very fine mercantile store which advertised tailor-made suits, real Valencia lace handkerchiefs, and linen and Battenberg material.[3] The Martins were most sympathetic to the arts. Clarendon was proud to have an opera house during this era, and "it is said that many times the female singers would dress at the Martin house for the performance."[4]

The Martin House was acquired in 1910 by San Antonio rancher John M. Calhoun and his wife Annie Moss, who used the structure as a summer residence. R. H. Muir, a rancher, cattle buyer and inspector, bought the house four years later, continuing the tie with ranching, the key industry of the region.

S. W. Lowe and his wife Lilac bought the Martin-Lowe House in 1926, and lived there for fifty-six years. Both Mr. and Mrs. Lowe first lived in south Texas, although after they finished college and were married they came to this area. Mr. Lowe was Dean of Goodnight Baptist College, which was located about 20 miles northwest of Clarendon. Mrs. Lowe served as matron in charge of the girls' dormitory. They then moved to Clarendon where he became the high school principal. In 1919 Mr. Lowe decided to go into the grocery business and did this for twenty years. He served three terms as judge of Donley County. The Lowes were active in the First Baptist Church, where Mr. Lowe served as a deacon, Sunday School Superintendent for twenty years, taught a class for over fifty years, and was an active lay preacher. Mrs. Lowe taught the beginners Sunday School class for over forty years.

During the fifty-six years that the Lowe family lived in the present house, they opened their doors for district and local church affairs, receptions for visiting dignitaries, club meetings, weddings, and funerals. Mr. Lowe died in 1968 and Mrs. Lowe in 1982. Clarendon in 1904 was very much a frontier of American culture and arts. It is hoped that the restoration of this fine historic house will help preserve a feeling of the times for future generations.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Ethel Harvey, The Athens of the Panhandle, A History of Clarendon College. Clarendon: Clarendon Press, 1958, p. 46.

2. Willie Newbury Lewis, Between Sun and Sod. Dallas, Texas: The Book Craft, 1938, pp. 65-69.

3. Donley County Appraisal District; Box 1220, Clarendon, Texas 79226. (see cont. sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Clarendon, Texas **Quadrangle scale** 1:24,000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	14	327010	3867510
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1-3, N 65' & S 10' of S 75' lot 10, N 65' lots 10-12, Blk 143; size of lot is 140' on N and is 225' in length to the S.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Zell Rodgers SoRelle (with Peter Flagg Maxson, THC)

organization **date** June 21, 1985

street & number 507 West Fifth **telephone** (806) 874-3332

city or town Clarendon **state** Texas 79226

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Curtis Tunnell

title State Historic Preservation Officer **date** 15 Oct. 1985

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

for Deloris Byers **date** 11-21-85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: **date**

Chief of Registration

GPO 911-399

NOTES:

1. Clarendon Chronical, Clarendon, Texas, 1904. Microfilm, Panhandle Plains Historical Museum Archives, Canyon, Texas.

2. Ibid.

3. Ibid.

4. Mr. S. W. Lowe, from a taped interview made by Zell R. SoRelle in December 1980.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES Cont.

4. Clarendon Chronicle, various issues, 1904.

WASO Form - 177
("R" June 1984)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

REF # 85002911

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Martin-Lowe House
Donley County
TEXAS

OCT 25 1985

Working No. _____
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 11/21/85 – 12/9/85
Action: ✓ ACCEPT 11-21-85
____ RETURN _____
____ REJECT _____
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the National Register

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

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		Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☐ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☐ altered	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ 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

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM 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

title date

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

GPO 918-450

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

Martin-Lowe House
507 West Fifth
Clarendon, Donley County, Texas

Photo by Gary Mays and Helen Woody, May 1985, neg. with owner, Zell SoRelle

View of northwest corner of house
camera facing southeast

photo 1 of 15

Martin-Lowe House
507 West Fifth
Clarendon, Donley County, Texas

Photo by Gary Mays & Helen Woody, May 1985, neg. with owner Zell SoRelle

View of north facade
camera facing south

photo 2 of 15

Martin-Lowe House
507 West Fifth
Clarendon, Donley County, Texas

Photo by Gary Mays & Helen Woody, May 1985, neg. with owner Zell SoRelle

View of north east corner of house
camera facing southwest

photo 3 of 15

Martin-Lowe House
507 West Fifth
Clarendon, Donley County, Texas

Photo by Gary Mays & Helen Woody, May 1985, neg. with owner Zell SoRelle

View of east elevation
camera facing west

photo 4 of 15

Martin-Lowe House
507 West Fifth
Clarendon, Donley County, Texas

Photo by Gary Mays & Helen Woody, May 1985, neg. with owner Zell SoRelle

View of southeast corner of house
camera facing northwest

photo 5 of 15

Martin-Lowe House
507 West Fifth
Clarendon, Donley County, Texas

Photo by Gary Mays & Helen Woody, May 1985, neg. with owner Zell SoRelle

View of south elevation
camera facing north

photo 6 of 15

Martin-Lowe House
507 West Fifth
Clarendon, Donley County, Texas

Photo by Gary Mays & Helen Woody, May 1985, neg. with owner Zelle SoRelle

View of southwest corner of house
camera facing northeast

photo 7 of 15

Martin-Lowe House
507 West Fifth
Clarendon, Donley County, Texas

Photo by Gary Mays & Helen Woody, May 1985, neg. with owner Zell SoRelle

View of west elevation
camera facing east

photo 8 of 15

Martin-Lowe House
507 West Fifth
Clarendon, Donley County, Texas

Photo by Gary Mays & Helen Woody, May 1985, neg. with owner Zell SoRelle

View of north front door
camera facing south

photo 9 of 15

Martin-Lowe House
507 West Fifth
Clarendon, Donley County, Texas

Photo by Gary Mays & Helen Woody, May 1985, neg. with owner Zell SoRelle

View of bay window and seating area
camera facing west

photo 10 of 15

Martin-Lowe House
507 West Fifth
Clarendon, Donley County, Texas

Photo by Gary Mays & Helen Woody, May 1985, neg. with owner Zell SoRelle

View of pocket doors leading to parlor
camera facing east

photo 11 of 15

Martin-Lowe House
507 West Fifth
Clarendon, Donley County, Texas

Photo by Gary Mays & Helen Woody, May 1985, neg. with owner Zell SoRelle

View of fireplace in parlor
camera facing southwest

photo 12 of 15

Martin-Lowe House
507 West Fifth
Clarendon, Donley County, Texas

Photo by Gary Mays & Helen Woody, May 1985, neg. with owner Zell SoRelle

View of encased opening in foreground, main stairway in background
camera facing south

photo 13 of 15

Martin-Lowe House
507 West Fifth
Clarendon, Donley County, Texas

Photo by Gary Mays & Helen Woody, May 1985, neg. with owner Zell SoRelle

View of beveled,leaded,stained-glass china cupboard in dining room
camera facing south

photo 14 of 15

Martin-Lowe House
507 West Fifth
Clarendon, Donley County, Texas

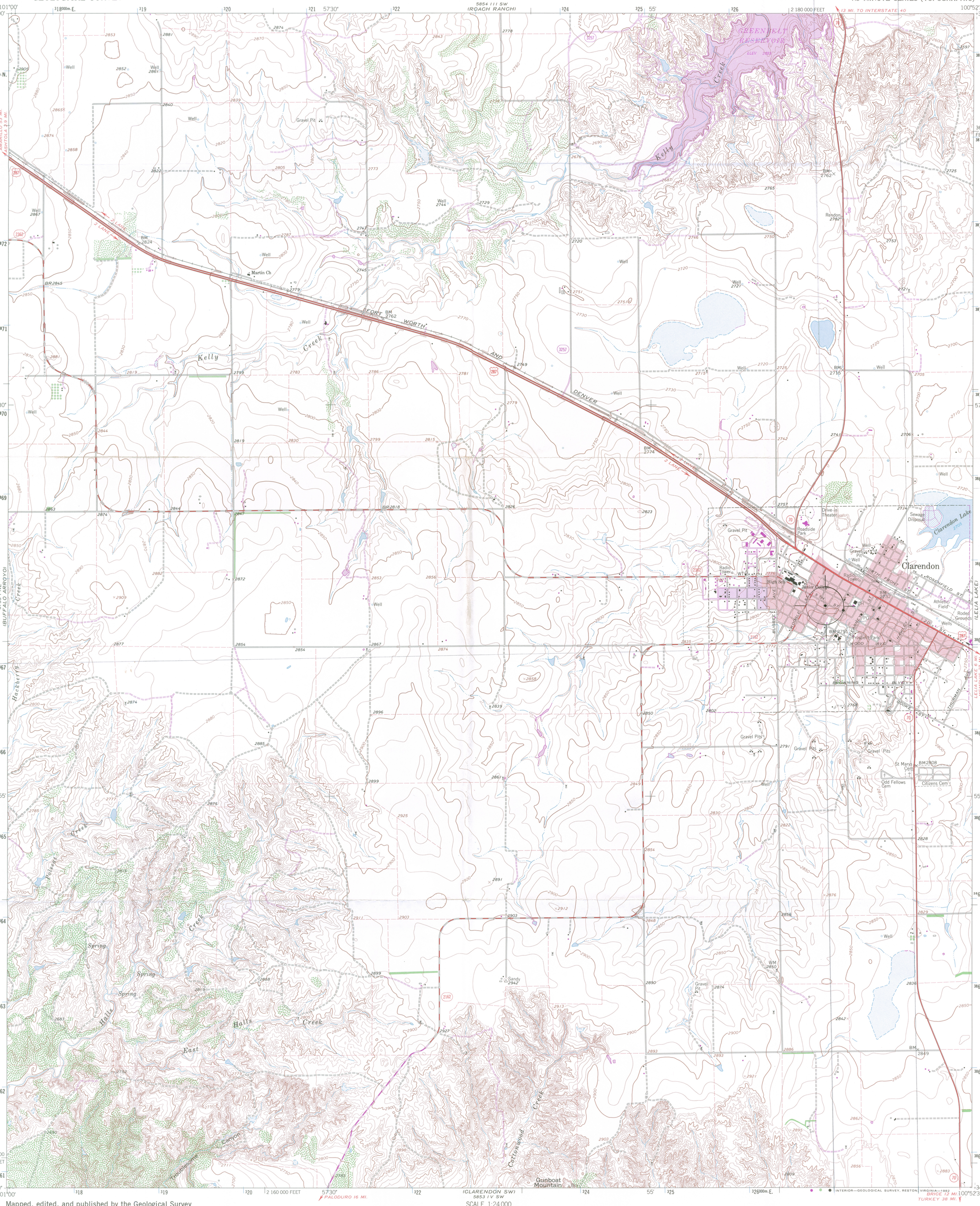
Photo by Gary Mays & Helen Woody, May 1985, neg. with owner Zell SoRelle

View of downstairs bath
camera facing west

photo 15 of 15

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

CLARENDON QUADRANGLE
TEXAS–DONLEY CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



MARTIN-LOWE HOUSE
507 WEST FIFTH
CLARENDON, DONLEY CO., TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 14/327020/3867500

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1962. Field checked 1963

Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Texas coordinate system, north zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 14, shown in blue. 1927 North American Datum. To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 2 meters south and 38 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from aerial photographs taken 1979 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1982

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

UTM GRID AND 1982 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET
(GN, MN; 1°07' / 20 MILS; 9° / 160 MILS)

SCALE 1:24 000

1 ½ 0 1 MILE
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 .5 0 1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

QUADRANGLE LOCATION
TEXAS
3400–333

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty — Light-duty
Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route — State Route

CLARENDON, TEX.
N3452.5–W10052.5/7.5

1963
PHOTOREVISED 1982
DMA 5853 IV NW–SERIES V882

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1982