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

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

For NPS use only

Texas

state

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 6 1986 date entered SEP 1 8 1986

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

Austin

city, town

ouse	Lia Colon te	and the second
ouse		Constitution of the latest
	THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF TH	e
		mile in inches
	N	/A not for publication
N/A vicinity of	n ayar disemble	A STATE OF S
048 county	Grayson	code 181
	Teller to telle	
Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation
no	military	other:
	mintary	otner:
no	mintary	otner:
y	mintary	otner:
y	state	Texas 75090
hy Nelson McKee	state	
hy Nelson McKee N/A vicinity of	state	
hy Nelson McKee N/A vicinity of I Description	state	
hy Nelson McKee N/A vicinity of I Description on County Courthou	state	
hy Nelson McKee N/A vicinity of I Description on County Courthou	state	Texas 75090
hy Nelson McKee N/A vicinity of I Description on County Courthout Street Existing S Sherman	state	Texas 75090
hy Nelson McKee N/A vicinity of I Description on County Courthout Street Existing S Sherman	state n se state state certy been determined el	Texas 75090
	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted	N/A vicinity of 048 county Grayson Status Present Use X occupied agriculture unoccupied commercial work in progress educational Accessible entertainment X yes: restricted government yes: unrestricted industrial

_				
7	Des	CPI	211	On
	PC3			VIII

Condition X excellent	deteriorated	Check one unaltered	Check oneX original site	
good auA	ruins	X altered	moved date	N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Capt. Noble Allan Birge House is an unusual example of a transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival dwelling noteworthy for its exaggerated Classical detailing. Located in a residential area opposite smaller houses largely built by other members of the Birge family, the Capt. Noble Birge House is prominently sited on a large corner lot. A recent restoration removed most minor additions and modifications of the 1940s and 1950s.

The Capt. N.A. Birge House is a large, two-and-one-half story, wood-frame dwelling with beveled-edge clapboard siding and one-over-one windows. The massing of the structure is typically Queen Anne, with large central block covered by a pyramidal roof. Two pedimented bays project from the east side of the house, while another occurs on the rear. The asymmetrical main facade includes a projecting, two-story, gabled portico with plain returns. As with other gable ends of the house, this one features a Queen Anne window, modillions, and a beaded swag and roundel above the window. The gabled portico and a larger, offset gable cover a verandah and balcony to the right. The portico is supported by two over-sized wooden columns with Scamozzi capitals. The wide, first-story verandah extends across the entire front of the house and wraps around both sides for a distance of sixteen feet. A second-story balcony extends across the right (east) front of the house and wraps back on the right for sixteen feet. The verandah and balcony are supported by small columns (turned posts) eight feet high.

The large, eight-foot front entry door with two side windows is centered between the columns of the portico directly below a balcony window. Above the verandah to the left of the portico is a large, finely detailed, second-story window with segmental arch set into the roof as a dormer with consoles, modillions, and urns. Centrally, a narrow dormer window with hipped roof projects from the third floor. All third-floor dormer windows and gable ends, except for the rear gable, have finials.

On the left or west side of the house is another gable, this one with a pair of Queen Anne windows, a carved panel, and modillions. The beveled, or angled, southern corner of the western projecting bay has an angled corner window on both the first- and second-floor levels. A small, third-floor dormer with window, identical to the front dormer, faces west. These two dormers are equidistant from the southern corner of the roof.

The rear wing of the house, extending beyond the west gable, was originally of only one story, but now has a very early second-story addition. The rear gable on this addition is plain. Projecting from the rear or north side of the house (and not visible from the front) are later, single-story additions: a rear breakfast room was added in 1955-56, and a small water closet in 1984. Both remain.

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1

The right or east side of the house features two nearly identical, gabled, two-story bay wings. The two-story bay towards the rear extends slightly beyond the other, but both have identical double windows on each floor, including the third level. The gable ends have complete pediments, Queen Anne modillions, carved panels, and tin finials.

Inside, the Birge House contains many of its original chandeliers, carved door and window-frame moldings, and ornate fireplace mantels. The floor plan is simple, consisting of a front entry hall from which the front stairs ascend, a large parlor to the left (west) of the entry, a large living room straight ahead, and a dining room to the left of the living room and adjoining the parlor. To the back of the dining room are the pantry and kitchen, while behind the living room and to the right of the kitchen are the back hall, water closet, back stairs, and guest bedroom with bath. Originally, four bedrooms and a bathroom were on the second floor. Presently there are four bedrooms, three bathrooms, and a storage and laundry room. Wide, milled molding of stained yellow pine surrounds windows and doors. Baseboards are wide, milled, stained yellow pine. Four mantels (maple, walnut, mahogany, and oak) decorate coal fireplaces in the entry hall, parlor, dining room, and living room, and all vent to a common main chimney.

On the second floor, two oak mantels decorate coal fireplaces which use the same main chimney. On the front stairs are two original, Queen Anne windows with stained glass that are identical in dimensions to the six windows with clear glass in the gable ends of the third floor. The dining room has decorative, stained, intersecting beams of yellow pine, while the floors are heart of pine. Like almost all homes in Sherman built at that time, wallpaper was glued to canvas-covered ceiling and walls, which now have plasterboard covered with appropriate Victorian reproduction wallpapers. Interior doors (eight feet high on the first floor and seven feet six inches high on the second) have five panels each and are made of stained yellow pine. The Birge House was one of the first in the area to be built with electrical wiring, and many original, refinished, electrical wall sconces remain. Original doors, moldings, baseboards, mantels, dining-room ceiling beams, heart-of-pine flooring, and electrical fixtures all remain, although much of the woodwork was once painted over. Happily, the woodwork has recently been stripped of all paint, stained, and refinished as it was originally. In the entry hall, parlor, living and dining rooms, the original flooring was covered around 1900 by attractive, narrow, mitered oak flooring. All the floors have recently been refinished.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 X 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture X architecture art commerce communications	community planning	music t philosophy	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify
Specific dates	1896	Builder/Architect Jo	hn Tulloch (attribute	ed)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Capt. Noble Allan Birge House, built in 1896, is significant not only by reason of its impressive and flamboyant Queen Anne/Colonial Revival architecture (few examples of which exist in Sherman), but also because of its historical association with one of Sherman's earliest and greatest industrial developers. Capt. Birge (1832-1902), who built the house, established what is said to have been one of the largest and best-known cotton brokerage firms in the South: Sherman's Birge-Forbes Co. He also founded other cotton-related industries locally, including a compress company and cotton oil mills. Birge fathered thirteen children, eight of whom subsequently built their homes nearby. The children continued their father's successful businesses, and the Birge family remains synonymous with Sherman's cotton and cottonseed oil industries to this day.

The first reference found regarding N.A. Birge in Texas is recorded in the 1860 Marion County census. He is listed as being, "28, male, born in Connecticut and has the occupation of Sheriff." He was the first elected sheriff of Marion County. At this time, Birge also owned a livery stable connected to the old Central Hotel (now Excelsior House) in 1861-1863. He was a captain in the Confederate Army, serving as brigade quartermaster in northern Louisiana in 1863. In 1866, Capt. Birge was one of the incorporators in the Henderson, Marshall, Jefferson Railroad Co. and in 1573 an incorporator of the Lake City Navigation Co. formed to open and improve the navigation of Big Cypress Bayou.

Between 1860 and 1874, N.A. Birge was a prominent merchant and civic leader. He acquired many lots and parcels of land, buying and selling as a real-estate agent. During this time he built a house in Jefferson that is presently on the National Register: the Beard House, listed in 1970. In 1874 Birge sold that house for \$6,500 and moved with his wife and six children by covered wagon to Sherman, Texas.

After living for three years on a farm south of Sherman, Birge purchased ten acres in the Fairview Addition, an area just west of the city limits at that time. Here in 1877 Birge built a home which was destroyed on May 15, 1896, by the Great Sherman Tornado. The present house was constructed on the same site in the summer of 1896, and was owned by Birge descendents until 1969. Though the house contains many typical Victorian-period details, the massively columned portico indicates that the designer was keenly aware of the newly evolving Colonial Revival style. John Tulloch, a prolific Scottish-born architect in Sherman at that time, was probably responsible. Most of the homes of the Birge Children and other nearby houses are known to have been designed by Tulloch. The

9. Major Bibliographical Referen	nces
Sherman City Directories 1887-1915. Ancestors and Descendents, Grayson County, Texas; Grasherman, Texas, 1980. A History of the Great Sherman Tornado, H.L. Piner, R. 1876.	The plentier of the last the state of the state of
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of nominated property <u>less than one</u> Quadrangle name <u>Sherman</u> , <u>Texas</u> UTM References	Quadrangle scale 1:24,000
A 1 14 7 2 0 9 2 0 3 7 2 5 1 6 0 B Zone C	Easting Northing
Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a E. line of N. Wood St. with the N. line of W. Birge St Woods St. a distance of 196.40 ft. to a steel rod; the of 166.77 ft. to a steel rod, the NW corner of a lot of List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or c state N/A code county	t.; thence N. with the E. line of N. ence So. 89 deg. 42 min. E. a distance conveyed by James S. Thompson (see
state code county	code
11. Form Prepared By	Code
name/title Dorothy and Geer McKee (with Peter Flagg 1	Maxson, THC)
organization	late 1986
street & number 727 West Birge	elephone (214) 892-9091
city or town Sherman	tate Texas
12. State Historic Preservation	Officer Certification
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is: national state X local	restra consiste del provincio del consiste d
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Hist 665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Se	and certify that it has been evaluated
State Historic Preservation Officer signature	unnell
title State Historic Preservation Officer	date 28 July 1986
For NPS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register Auturn Annus	date $9/18/10$
Attest: Bruce J. Mobile, Jr. Chief of Registration	date 9/18/84

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

Capt. Birge House is the oldest and largest house in its neighborhood, and is one of only eight or nine similarly styled houses surviving in Sherman. The neighborhood is one of older homes, and at the time of the house's construction was near the western city limits.

To the rear (north) of the Birge House is a Colonial Revival house moved to its site in 1917 by Fred Birge, a son of the captain. Immediately to the east is a 1918 brick bungalow built by another son, George J. Birge, while one house further east on the same block is the 1898 home of a daughter. On the south side of Birge Street are two very large houses built by sons Willard and Nathaniel in 1910. The Capt. Birge House was the first and most dominant structure in one of the most prestigious of the Silk Stocking residential areas of the city, an area which today remains one of the most beautiful and desirable in Sherman.

Capt. Birge died on November 17, 1902, at age 70, and his widow Virginia Frances Birge lived on in the house until her death on January 2, 1930, at age 75. Several of the captain's children lived with Virginia, including a son from Nolan Birge's first marriage, John Bradford (68 at Virginia's death), and his wife Stella Annie Eliot (66 at Virginia's death). Children from her first marriage—Fred Johnson, Lucy Ann, and George J.—also lived in the Birge home.

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

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 1

Major Bibliographical References continued -

Sanborn Insurance Co. Map, Austin, Texas, 1908.

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

10

Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description continued -

to T. Randolf Cole by deed recorded in Vol. 377, pg. 582 of said deed records; Thence S. 00 deg. 59 min. E. with W. line of said Cole lot, a distance of 195.50 ft. to a steel rod on the N. line of W. Birge St. the SW corner of said Cole lot; Thence W. with N. line of W. Birge St., a distance of 170.10 ft. to the place of beginning and containing 33,004 sq. ft. of land.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Birge, Capt. Nob		Sul		
Grayson County		dostantive Par	AUG	6 1986
TEXAS		Substantive Review	Working No.	
				12.186
			Action:ACCEPT	9-19-06
resubmission			Action:RETURN	
nomination by persor	or local government		REJECT	
owner objection	To local government		Federal Agency:	
appeal	1		reactur Agency.	
Substantive Review:	sample request	appeal	☐ NR decision	
5	TI C 1 Ni ble Allen Big	e House is one		
C - Wary Coul ave	rples of Queen Anne/Colonia erman, Texas. The house is Capt. N.A. Birge, was a l	1 Revival		
of a very few exam	Town The house is	also significant	Recom./Criteria Accept	BC
architecture in on	Cost NA Dices was a l	prominent merchant	Reviewer Bruce J. M.	oble h.
because 115 correct) capit. with the for		Discipline Historian) /
and civic leader.			Date 9/18/86	
			see continuation sheet	Secretary DE
Nomination returned for:	technical corrections cited belo	ow		
	substantive reasons discussed b			
1. Name			The state of the s	19.36 1997
2. Location				
3. Classification				
3. Classification Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use	The fining into
			Present Use	own good of t
Category	Public Acquisition		Present Use	non energy of the second of th
4. Owner of Property 5. Location of Legal Desc	Public Acquisition		Present Use	over great of the control of the con
4. Owner of Property 5. Location of Legal Desc. 6. Representation in Exist	Public Acquisition cription cripting Surveys	Accessible	Present Use	over great of the company of the com
4. Owner of Property 5. Location of Legal Desc	Public Acquisition cription cripting Surveys		Present Use	man gind? cf1
4. Owner of Property 5. Location of Legal Desc. 6. Representation in Exist	Public Acquisition cription cripting Surveys	Accessible	Present Use	continues of the contin
4. Owner of Property 5. Location of Legal Desc 6. Representation in Exis Has this property been de 7. Description	Public Acquisition cription ting Surveys termined eligible?	Accessible		over great of the control of the con
4. Owner of Property 5. Location of Legal Desc 6. Representation in Exis Has this property been de 7. Description Condition	Public Acquisition cription ting Surveys termined eligible?	Accessible no ck one	Check one	Party Edward Communication of the Communication of
4. Owner of Property 5. Location of Legal Desc. 6. Representation in Exist Has this property been description Condition excellent	Public Acquisition cription ting Surveys termined eligible?	Accessible no ck one unaltered	Check one	man grade of the state of the s
4. Owner of Property 5. Location of Legal Desc. 6. Representation in Exist Has this property been description Condition excellent good	Public Acquisition cription cting Surveys termined eligible?	Accessible no ck one	Check one	man grade of the second of the
4. Owner of Property 5. Location of Legal Desc. 6. Representation in Exist Has this property been description Condition excellent	Public Acquisition cription ting Surveys termined eligible?	Accessible no ck one unaltered	Check one	Table 1900 To 17 To 1800 To 18
4. Owner of Property 5. Location of Legal Desc. 6. Representation in Exist Has this property been description Condition excellent good fair	Public Acquisition cription cting Surveys termined eligible?	Accessible no ck one unaltered altered	Check one	man grade of the control of the cont
4. Owner of Property 5. Location of Legal Desc 6. Representation in Exis Has this property been de 7. Description Condition excellent good fair Describe the present and of	Public Acquisition cription cting Surveys termined eligible? yes Che ruins	Accessible no ck one unaltered altered	Check one	man grade of the control of the cont
4. Owner of Property 5. Location of Legal Desc 6. Representation in Exis Has this property been de 7. Description Condition excellent good fair Describe the present and consummary paragraph	Public Acquisition cription cting Surveys termined eligible? yes Che ruins	Accessible no ck one unaltered altered	Check one	The state of the s
4. Owner of Property 5. Location of Legal Desc. 6. Representation in Exist Has this property been description Condition excellent good fair Describe the present and completeness	Public Acquisition cription cting Surveys termined eligible? yes Che ruins	Accessible no ck one unaltered altered	Check one	The state of the s
4. Owner of Property 5. Location of Legal Desc. 6. Representation in Exist Has this property been description Condition excellent good fair Describe the present and completeness clarity	Public Acquisition cription cting Surveys termined eligible? yes Che ruins	Accessible no ck one unaltered altered	Check one	
4. Owner of Property 5. Location of Legal Desc. 6. Representation in Exist Has this property been description Condition excellent good fair Describe the present and excellents completeness clarity alterations/integrity	Public Acquisition cription cting Surveys termined eligible? yes Che ruins	Accessible no ck one unaltered altered	Check one	The second of th
4. Owner of Property 5. Location of Legal Desc. 6. Representation in Exist Has this property been description Condition excellent good fair Describe the present and completeness clarity	Public Acquisition cription cting Surveys termined eligible? yes Che ruins	Accessible no ck one unaltered altered	Check one	The state of the s

8. Signif	icance				
Period	Areas of Significa	nce—Check and justify	y below		
Specific	datae	Builder/Archite	THE PROTECTION OF TABLETANS		
	nt of Significance (in				
П				vo Capt. Noble Allan, Flouse	
	nary paragraph pleteness			views Conversed to the converse to the conversed to the c	
clarit				PAY	
	cable criteria				
	ication of areas check	ked			
	ing significance to the	e resource			
_ cont					
	ionship of integrity to	o significance			
othe	fication of exception				
L otne					
Q Maio	r Bibliographical Refe	prances			
		51011003			
10. Ged	graphical Data				
Acreage	of nominated proper	ty		action to the state of the stat	
	gle name				
UTM Re	ferences				
Verbalt	ooundary description	and justification			Street, and
verbar t	outidary description	and justinication			
					alim r
11. For	m Prepared By	a distribution of the second			The Con-
		on Officer Certification			
The eva	luated significance of	this property within t	the state is:		
	national	state	local		
0		er:			
State H	storic Preservation O	Tricer signature			
title		date			
13. Oth	nor.				
10. 011					
☐ Map					
	tographs				
Oth	er				
Ouest		minosio m mossi bio di	cted to Bruce Noble	(202) 343 - 9547	
Questio	ns concerning this no	mination may be direc	cted to		
				at the desired and the second	
Signed_			Date	Phone:	100



Photo by Wally Black, April 1985; neg. with Edgar McKee, at Birge House Oblique view of front (south) elevation, looking northwest

Photo 1 of 7



Photo by Wally Black, April 1985; neg. with Edgar McKee, at Birge House Roofline, front (south) elevation, looking north

Photo 2 of 7



Photo by Wally Black, April 1985; neg. with Edgar McKee, at Birge House Close-up of portico capital, looking northwest

Photo 3 of 7



Photo by Wally Black, April 1985; neg. with Edgar McKee, at Birge House East side elevation, looking west/northwest

Photo 4 of 7



Photo by Wally Black, April 1985; neg. with Edgar McKee, at Birge House Detail of bay ends, east elevation, looking northwest

Photo 5 of 7



Photo by Wally Black, April 1985; neg. with Edgar McKee, at Birge House Rear (north) elevation, looking south

Photo 6 of 7



Photo by Wally Black, April 1985; neg. with Edgar McKee, at Birge House West side elevation, looking east/northeast

Photo 7 of 7