NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

**United States Department of the Interior** 

OMB No. 10024-0018

**National Park Service** NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM 1. NAME OF PROPERTY HISTORIC NAME: Holden, William Curry and Olive Price, House OTHER NAME/SITE NUMBER: Casa Grande 2. LOCATION STREET & NUMBER: 3109 20th Street NOT FOR PUBLICATION: N/A CITY OR TOWN: Lubbock VICINITY: N/A STATE: Texas CODE: TX COUNTY: Lubbock **CODE:** 303 **ZIP CODE: 79410** 3. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally See continuation sheet for additional comments.) statewide x locally. ( inn Signature of certifying official State Historic Preservation Officer, Texas Historical Commission State or Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet for additional comments.) Date Signature of commenting or other official State or Federal agency and bureau 4. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION Signature of the Keeper Entered in the National Register Date of Action I hereby certify that this property is: entered in the National Register See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register other (explain): \_

# USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form William Curry and Olive Price Holden House, Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas Page 2

### 5. CLASSIFICATION

OWNERSHIP OF PROPERTY: Private

CATEGORY OF PROPERTY: Building

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITHIN PROPERTY:	CONTRIBUTING	NONCONTRIBUTING
	1	0 buildings
	0	0 SITES
	0	0 STRUCTURES
	0	0 objects
	1	0 TOTAL

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: N/A

### 6. FUNCTION OR USE

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS: Domestic-Single dwelling

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:** Domestic-Single dwelling

### 7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Pueblo Revival

MATERIALS: FOUNDATION Concrete

WALLS Adobe
ROOF Asphalt
OTHER Wood, glass

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheets 7-1 and 7-2).

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Page Holden, William Cu
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# Description:

The William Curry and Olive Price Holden House (1930-1931) is a 1-story Pueblo Revival dwelling with a series of flat roofs in a modified U-plan. The foundation is concrete, the walls are earth-colored adobe, and the roof is asphalt. Centered on two lots facing north on 20th Street in University Addition, a residential section of Lubbock, the house is just a few blocks west of Texas Tech University. The building is in good condition and retains its integrity to a high degree.

Lubbock County is in northwest Texas on the south portion of the High Plains. The county's terrain is level, broken by hundreds of playas. Lubbock (1990 population 187,863) serves as county seat and as the region's economic hub, based on agribusiness and service industries. The community follows a strict rectilinear street plan laid out on the cardinal directions, and is generally flat with little variation. (See USGS map.)

The Holden House is the oldest of a group of Pueblo Revival style houses and apartments begun in 1930 near a neighborhood of period revival dwellings built from the 1920s through the 1950s. Constructed in the University Addition, the house stood on what had been a cotton field only a few years earlier. While suburban development existed just to the east of the new addition, no buildings were to the north or south; only a farm house, beyond the city limit, was to the west.

The front (north) facade has a rectangular main block flanked by two, shorter wings that project slightly (see Photograph 1). Natural, round wood columns support the shed roof porch that slopes from east to west across the half of the main block. The unfinished columns have wood bracket capitals that are elaborately carved (see Photograph 2). The hand carved main door is centered under the porch roof; a secondary door is also under the porch, centered on the west elevation of the east wing. The west half of the main block has a grouping of three, squat 5/1 wood windows; the wood is painted traditional "Pueblo blue." Another secondary door is centered on the east elevation of the west wing. A curvilinear adobe wall extends from the corner of the west wing to the porch columns, creating a small courtyard. Unfinished vigas with rounded ends project through the wall of the main block. All walls and roof parapets have irregular, rounded edges.

The east wing's north elevation has a grouping of three, squat wood windows (originally 5/1, now fixed sash), and the west wing's north elevation has paired 5/1 windows. The walls of both wings are battered and parapets stepped to meet that of the main block.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The east and west facades of the dwelling are similarly detailed with groupings of windows. A room, added in the 1940s, projects from the east wing with a lower roof level. The west elevation has a shed roof extension at its far south end that covers a carport (see Photograph 3). An adobe wall wraps around the carport.

The rear (south) elevation consists of both wings with a recessed sun porch between them. The wings are similarly detailed with groupings of windows similar to the principal facade. The sun porch has five glass bays. Natural, round wood columns support the shed roof porch; the unfinished columns have wood bracket capitals similar to those on the front porch. Sidelights flank a single door in the center bay. Three remaining bays each have 12 lights; the fourth bay has a single picture window. Above the porch, unfinished vigas with rounded ends project through the wall of the main block. A chimney rises from the center of the main block. A pole ladder protrudes from the porch roof to main block roof, the traditional point of entry into a pueblo dwelling.

Numerous interior structural and decorative elements enrich the Pueblo Revival character of the Holden House. Such elements include exposed vigas and unfinished wood ceilings, abundant niches, multiple floor levels (including a basement), and a corner fireplace. The light grey interior walls are of plaster from a gypsum plant at Sweetwater, Texas. Except for the oak floors, all interior woodwork is pine with a light gray stain, supposedly "aged through a preserving process." Native American inspired designs appear on the woodwork throughout the house, including scenes painted on the kitchen cabinets and a mural over the bathtub (now partially tiled over). Overall, the interior spaces are designed to be open and airy in keeping with Pueblo tradition.

Landscaping on the property emulates that of the desert southwest. Plantings include cacti and other succulents. Behind the house, stucco walls, made to look like adobe, separate the yards and patios of the other Pueblo Revival houses and apartments. At the southwest corner of the property is a patio with a corner fireplace built into the wall. A cistern (now closed over) is near the house at the center of the yard.

The property retains its integrity of setting, location, workmanship, design, materials, feeling and association and it remains an exceptional example of Pueblo Revival design in Lubbock.

#### 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

APPLICABLE	NATIONAL	PECISTED	CDITEDIA
APPLICABLE	NATIONAL	REGISTER	CRITCHIA

 A	PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED	WITH EVENTS	THAT	HAVE	MADE	A	SIGNIFICANT	CONTRIBUTION	TO	THE
	BROAD PATTERNS OF OUR	HISTORY.								

- B PROPERTY IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIVES OF PERSONS SIGNIFICANT IN OUR PAST.
- X C PROPERTY EMBODIES THE DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS OF A TYPE, PERIOD, OR METHOD OF CONSTRUCTION OR REPRESENTS THE WORK OF A MASTER, OR POSSESSES HIGH ARTISTIC VALUE, OR REPRESENTS A SIGNIFICANT AND DISTINGUISHABLE ENTITY WHOSE COMPONENTS LACK INDIVIDUAL DISTINCTION.
- \_\_\_ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS: N/A

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1930-1931

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1930-1931

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Atcheson, James; Holden, Olive Price; Holden, William Curry

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (see continuation sheets 8-3 through 8-6).

### 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

**BIBLIOGRAPHY** (see continuation sheet 9-7).

### PREVIOUS DOCUMENTATION ON FILE (NPS): N/A

- \_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- \_ previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- \_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

## PRIMARY LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL DATA:

- x State historic preservation office (Texas Historical Commission)
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- x University (Texas Tech University, Southwest Collection)
- Other -- Specify Repository:

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Section number		Page	

Holden, William Curry and Olive Price, House Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

# Statement of Significance:

William Curry and Olive Price Holden built their home, between 1930 and 1931, as a reflection of admiration for Native American culture. This dwelling is the earliest and best known example of Pueblo Revival architecture in Lubbock and one of few such houses in the state east of El Paso, Texas. Retaining a remarkable degree of historical and architectural integrity, it is eligible under Criterion C at the local level of significance.

Until its 1909 incorporation and the arrival of the Santa Fe railway, the Lubbock area remained a remote region of Texas. During the 1920s the community experienced boomtown growth, indicated by a 408 percent increase in population during the decade. This growth is largely credited to agricultural success, especially cotton. Already a rail hub, the 1923 establishment of Texas Technological College (now Texas Tech University) and the 1928 expansion of the Fort Worth and Denver South Plains Railway into Lubbock escalated the community's significance within the region.

William Curry Holden came to Lubbock with his wife, Olive Price Holden, in 1929 to teach history, anthropology and sociology at the college. Born in Coolidge, just northeast of Waco, in 1896, Curry's family moved to West Texas in 1898. He graduated from high school in Rotan, just northwest of Abilene in 1919; he completed his education with a doctoral degree from the University of Texas in 1928. Walter Prescott Webb and Eugene C. Barker, prominent historians, were his mentors. His dissertation, Alkali Trails, remains a definitive work on West Texas frontier history. During his collegiate experience, Curry co-founded the West Texas Historical Association in 1924 and the Texas Archeological Society in 1928.

Curry and Olive, married in 1926, became interested in Pueblo architecture as the result of a course on Pueblo Indians that Olive took at the University of Texas and decided to build a Pueblo style home upon their move to Lubbock. Together they worked out floor plans; Olive, an artist as well as a librarian at the college, made elevation sketches conforming to the Pueblo style. They financed the house with \$5,000 that Olive had received from her grandmother's estate.

Requiring assistance to prepare construction drawings, Olive employed James Atcheson, a senior architecture student and later a principal in the leading local architectural firm, Atcheson Cartwright (now AC Associates). Atcheson traveled with the Holdens to

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Santa Fe where he and Olive spent two days sketching details from Pueblo dwellings. From these sketches Atcheson created detailed drawings for the house they would name "Casa Grande."

The Holdens visited San Geronimo Ranger Station, New Mexico, in summer 1930 and became acquainted with the Shearer family, who lived nearby in Santa Fe National Forest. Shearer processed and sold lumber from the National Forest. He sold the Holdens wood for their house at \$15 per thousand board feet. The lumber cured at the mill until they were ready for construction.

In September 1930 they began manufacturing adobe bricks for the exterior walls. The Holdens hired a Hispanic man, paying him and his four man crew \$45 per thousand bricks. They excavated the basement, which took three weeks, then mixed equal parts top soil and caliche with prairie hay. Four at a time they molded the bricks in forms made of one-by-four-inch pine boards. The mold was progressively narrowed in one-half inch increments to create smaller bricks for the battered walls. Placed flat to dry for three days and then on edge for two weeks, 20,000 bricks were complete by Thanksgiving.

With the help of a cousin, Curry poured the concrete foundation in March 1931. They scavenged steel pipe, rods, cables, and 15 front axles from Ford Model-T automobiles from the city dump to use as reinforcements for the concrete. The wood arrived from Shearer in May 1931. The Holdens acquired additional wood: oak for the flooring and pine for the windows, doors, and baseboards. James Atcheson's father, a master carpenter, constructed window and door frames and interior and exterior doors. He also crafted furniture, including a hand carved dining room set. Indian motifs are throughout the house on curtains, upholstery, rugs, blankets, baskets, pottery, and art work that portrays southwestern scenes. Scenes painted on the kitchen cabinets, by architectural student Everett Fairchild, were reminiscent of Curry's first archeological expedition to Mexico City.

By June 1931 the walls were in place. Curry was away most of the summer, teaching a field course in archeology at San Geronimo Station and serving as a visiting professor at the University of Texas at Austin. During his absence Curry's father and Olive supervised construction; Olive and their daughter, Jane, moved into the house in mid July 1931.

The project sparked interest in Lubbock and Olive wrote Curry in Austin: "The people still come out to look thru--about half come in, the rest just look from the street or

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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yard." So many asked them to explain how to build with adobe that Curry wrote a pamphlet, "Why Use 'Dobe?" and Texas Technological College published it.

Typical Pueblo Revival features on the house include the series of flat roofs all with rounded parapet walls, adobe bricks, projecting wood vigas, battered walls, unfinished tree trunks as columns, and corner fireplaces. Drawing on local historical precedents, Pueblo Revival design appeared first in California around the turn of the century and became popular in Arizona and New Mexico. Scattered examples occur throughout the Southwest, most, like the Holden House, dating to the 1920s and 1930s.

As the neighborhood developed, the house became the center of a complex of adobe buildings. The Holdens built a small dwelling to the west, a larger house to the east, and a small apartment building along the rear alley and to the east. Many locals refer to this block as "Adobe Row."

"Casa Grande" served as headquarters for students who accompanied Curry on archeological expeditions to Mexico and New Mexico, particularly in the excavation of Arrowhead Pueblo. The college's Ko Shari Club (now Pi Beta Phi sorority), which Olive helped found and sponsor, which also met at the house. Many nationally important scholars were guests in the Holden home.

Olive died in 1937. Curry married Frances Mayhugh, a former Texas Technological College archeology and history student, in 1939.

Curry was an active and influential educator. He served as Chairman of the Department of History, Anthropology and Sociology from 1935 until 1954. He also served as Dean of the Graduate School and established the doctoral programs at Texas Technological College. He helped found the Museum at the college and worked as its director from 1929 until his 1965 retirement. During his tenure as director he helped establish the West Texas Museum Association, which supports the college's Museum, raised funds to construct the original museum building (now, with 1976 classroom additions, known as Holden Hall). He also helped establish the Southwest Collection at the college, a regional repository for archival materials.

His professional work included writing a dozen books and more than 50 articles for scholarly journals. He received the Amon G. Carter Award from the Texas Institute of

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Letters and the Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History. Perhaps one of his most cherished projects was the significant archeological resource, Lubbock Lake, now a National Historic Landmark. Since the 1930s he spent more than 30 years researching and seeking preservation of the site.

In the 1960s Curry and Frances formulated the concept of the Ranching Heritage Center and co-chaired the planning committee for the 14 acre complex of authentic ranch buildings. In 1972, the Texas Legislature honored the Holdens for their "numerous contribution to the betterment of the state." They received the Ruth Lester Award for Meritorious Service in Historic Preservation from the Texas Historical Commission and the Cultural Achievement Award from the West Texas Chamber of Commerce. Other state and local organizations have recognized the Holdens for their individual and joint accomplishments.

Jane Holden Kelley, the Holdens' daughter, now owns the property. She is a graduate of Harvard University and a professor of archeology at the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada.

As an outstanding example of Pueblo Revival architecture, the Holden House retains a remarkable degree of integrity and continues to evoke the builders' respect for Native American culture.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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## Bibliography:

- Atcheson, Michael, to Sally Abbe, telephone interview. No manuscript, 9 January 1989.
- Bean, Blanche E. "Indian Lore of Southwest Given Exemplification In Home Being Erected by Dr. W.C. Holden." Lubbock <u>Avalanche</u>, 28 June 1931.
- Holden, William Curry. "Memoirs of William Curry Holden." Manuscript in possession of Frances Holden, pp. 215-223.
- Holden, William Curry. Reference File. Southwest Collection, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas.
- Holden, William Curry, to Mary Louise Brewer, interview. Southwest Collection, Texas Tech University, Holden Homes file. Lubbock, n.d.
- Holden, William Curry and Frances Mayhugh, Papers. Southwest Collection, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas.
- La Ventana 1933 (Texas Tech Annual). Lubbock: Texas Tech University, 1933.
- Lubbock Avalanche-Journal. 3 July 1958, 6 August 1972, 3 August 1979, 18 September 1980.

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF PROPERTY: less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES Zone Easting Northing

1 14 232520 3718700

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (see continuation sheet 10-8)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION (see continuation sheet 10-8)

11. FORM PREPARED BY (with assistance from Amy Dase, THC Staff Historian)

NAME/TITLE: Tim Baisden

ORGANIZATION: City of Lubbock Planning Department DATE: August 1989; March 1994

STREET & NUMBER: P.O. Box 2000 TELEPHONE: 806/767-2106

CITY OR TOWN: Lubbock STATE: TX ZIP CODE: 79457

#### ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

**CONTINUATION SHEETS** 

MAPS

PHOTOGRAPHS (see continuation sheet Photos-9)

ADDITIONAL ITEMS

### PROPERTY OWNER

NAME Jane Kelley

STREET & NUMBER 2432 Sovereign Crescent SW TELEPHONE 403/242-2501

CITY OR TOWN Calgary STATE Alberta ZIP CODE T3C2MT

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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Section number .		Page	Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

Verbal Boundary Description:

University Place Addition, Block 7, the west 30 feet of Lot 4, all of Lot 5, and the east 20 feet of Lot 6.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the area historically associated with the property that retains its historic and architectural integrity.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Holden, William Curry and Olive Price, House Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas

Photograph Log

William Curry and Olive Price Holden House 3109 20th Street Lubbock, Lubbock County, Texas Photographed by James B. Harris (unless otherwise noted) June 1994 Negative with Texas Historical Commission

North facade, camera facing south Photograph 1 of 4

Porch detail on north facade, camera facing east Photograph 2 of 4

Northwest oblique, camera facing southeast Photograph 3 of 4

Photographer unknown 1933 Negative at Southwest Collection, Texas Tech University, Lubbock North facade, camera facing south Photograph 4 of 4

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

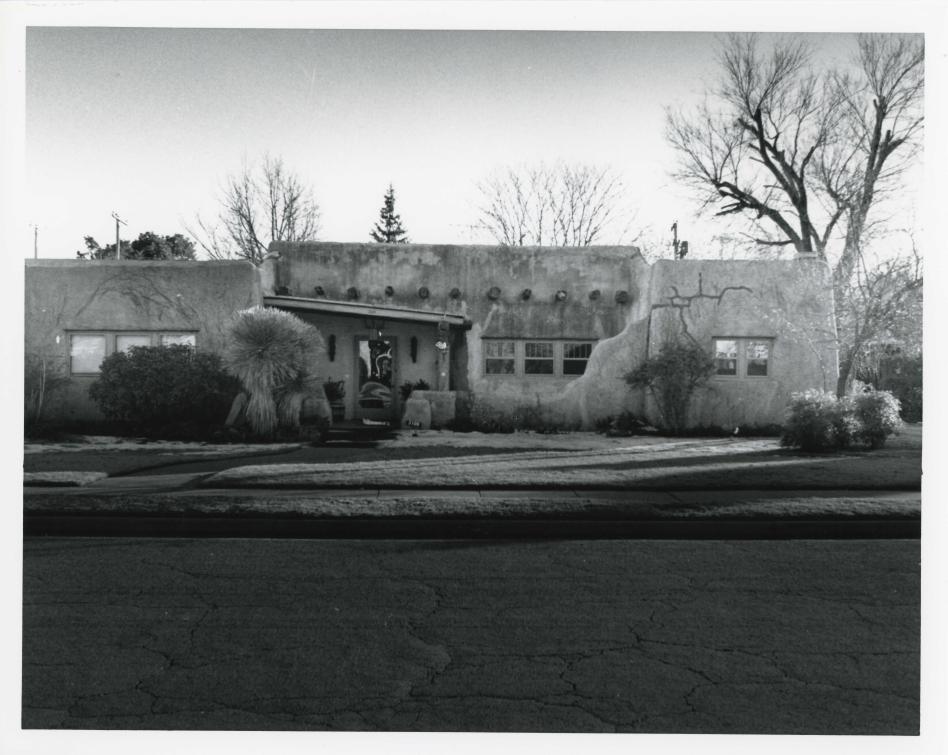
### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED	ACTION:	NOMINAT	ION							
PROPERTY NAME:	Holden,	William	Curi	ry and	Oliv	e Pri	ce, Hou	se		
MULTIPLE NAME:										
STATE & CO	OUNTY: T	EXAS, Lu	bbocł							
DATE RECED DATE OF 16 DATE OF WI	TTH DAV.	0/-/-		D D			DING LI H DAY:		/21/9	14
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ARSTRACT/S	SIIMMARY CO	MMENTS.			,					

RECOM./CRITERIA	
REVIEWER	
DISCIPLINE	
DATE	

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

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Specific dates Buil Statement of Significance (in one	der/Architect paragraph)
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BIBLIOGRAPHY	
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA	
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ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENT	ATION
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OTHER COMMENTS	
Questions concerning this nominati	on may be directed to
	Phone
Signed	Date

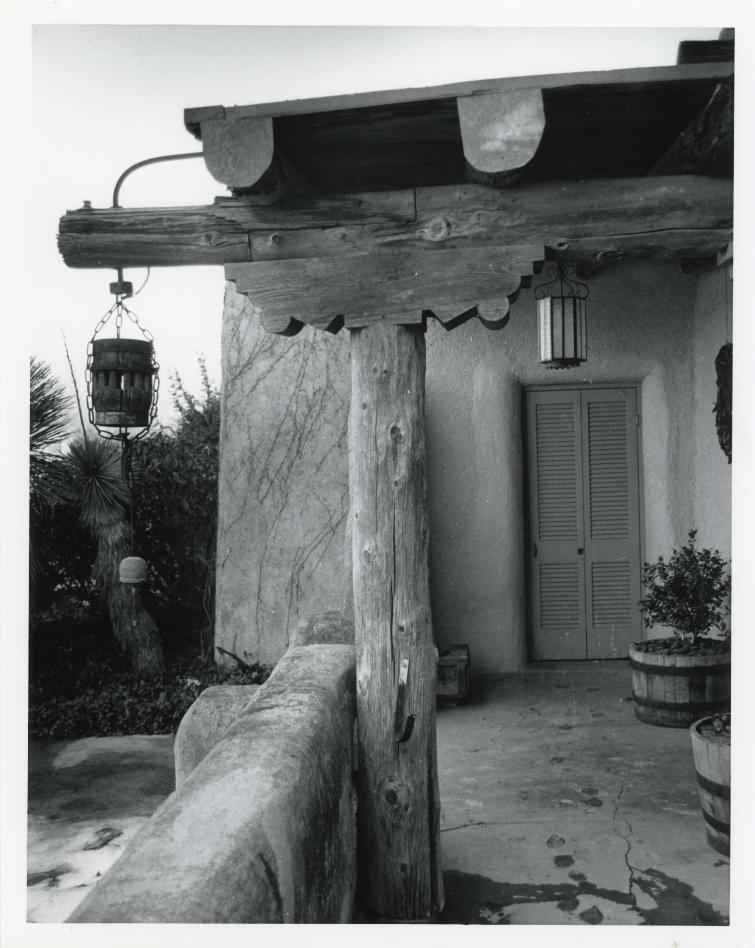


WILLIAM CURRY OLIVE PRICE HOLDEN HOUSE

3109 20TH STREET

LUBBOCK, LUBBOCK CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 1 of 4



WILLIAM CURRY & OLIVE PRICE HOLDEN HOUSE

3109 20TH STREET

LUBBOCK, LUBBOCK CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 2 of 4



HOLDEN HOUSE

WILLIAM CURRY & OLIVE PRICE HOLDEN HOUSE.

3109 20TH STREET

LUBBOCK, LUBBOCK CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 3 of 4



WILLIAM CURRY & OLIVE PRICE HOLDEN HOUSE
3109 ZOTH STREET
LUBBOCK, LUBBOCK CO., TEXAS

PHOTOGRAPH 4 of 4