

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRA use only  
received OCT 10 1979  
date entered DEC 11 1979

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

**1. Name**

historic Starr House

and/or common Maplecroft

**2. Location**

street & number 407 W. Travis St. \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Marshall \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 1

state Texas code 048 county Harrison code 203

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name The State of Texas, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

street & number 4200 Smith School Road

city, town Austin, TX 78744 \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harrison County Courthouse (County Clerk's Office)

street & number 200 W. Houston

city, town Marshall \_\_\_\_\_ state Texas

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date March, 1977 federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Texas Historical Commission

city, town 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 Starr House, located at 407 W. Travis Street, was built in 1870-71. It is a two story detached frame residence situated on a corner lot measuring 240' x 360'. The U-shaped plan is the result of additions made at the rear and side of the original two-story rectangular block. The room arrangement of the original block was the traditional East Texas central hall plan with two rooms on each side of a central hall. The front elevation has five vertical bays which are repeated in the fenestration of the house itself and in the column spacing of the one story porch that runs across the width of the main block. The exterior of the house is clapboard siding painted white. The roof is gabled and features a prominent gabled dormer and inside end chimneys.

The front porch has evenly spaced square columns with simple capitals. The porch balustrade is simply detailed with square ballusters. The porch roof has a classically detailed railing that continues across the roof of the one-story bedroom addition unifying the entire composition.

Windows on the first floor are two over two double hung sash and those on the second floor are four over four. Screens and two panel louvered shutters are present; the cypress shutters are painted green to contrast with the white siding. Four light glass sidelights and two light transom embellish the front entrance.

The center bay of the house is marked by a gabled roof dormer with two round-headed, double hung 4/4 light windows. Decorative brackets on a plain frieze appear on both the gabled ends and longitudinal sides of the dormer.

The two-story block is marked by four prominent inside end corbel capped chimneys indicating four fireplaces (two per floor).

The bracketed cornice, characteristic of later phases of the Greek Revival style in Texas, is found on the gable ends and the long sides. The second floor porch railing is the most prominent decorative feature of the house. Simple short posts repeat the bay spacing of the porch columns below and the fenestration behind it. The railing is of plain ballusters.

Originally, the roof was copper, formed to resemble tile and painted dark green. Now the house is roofed with asphalt composition shingles. A twisted wrought-iron lightning rod system, installed in the late 1800's, still exists.

The interior stair is an open stairwell with one flight of steps. The newel woodwork is all of mahogany darkly stained. Interior trim is the architrave type with mitered corners of painted pine. The 4-paneled stained pine 8 foot high doors have operable 2 light glass transoms and their original white porcelain knobs and full mortise locks.

Flooring consists of wide (approx. 1" x 6") edge-grained Southern Yellow heart pine nailed with hand made nails. Most mantels are marbelized iron with cast iron coverings and white marble hearths.

Downstairs, the ceilings are 12' high. Originally, the walls were plastered. Now there is some sheet rock and upstairs the walls have been wall papered. There is wainscoting in the dining room, of solid walnut with narrow oak vertically applied battens capped with a heavy chair rail. Original wood interior shutters are still extant.

The speaking tubes system is no longer in existence. The tower room adjacent to the kitchen

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1870 **Builder/Architect** built by shipwrights for James F. & Clara Starr

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The James F. Starr House, also known as "Maplecroft", at 407 W. Travis St. is an excellent example of a late Greek Revival style residence in Marshall, Texas. Built by shipwrights imported from New Orleans, the house is located on land given to J. F. Starr by his father Dr. James Harper Starr, who was prominent in Republic of Texas politics. The house takes its common name from the stand of maple trees planted on the property by Dr. Starr. The Starr house is one of the most significant homes in Harrison County.

James Franklin Starr was the son of Dr. James Harper Starr and Harriet J. Starr. He was born in Nacogdoches, Texas in 1844. Following the Civil War, James Starr completed his education at the University of Virginia and married Clara Thomas Fry in 1868. He joined Dr. Starr in the land business in Nacogdoches. Not only did they buy and sell land themselves, but they advertised Texas to prospective settlers from all parts of the U. S. The business continued in Nacogdoches until early 1870, when they both decided that Marshall, Texas, would be a more desirable location as both rail and telegraph services were located there. James H. and James F. Starr jointly established Marshall's first bank in 1872. This father-son association continued until 1873 when James H. Starr retired.

Dr. James Harper Starr's career was long and distinguished. He was a physician, businessman and early supporter of higher education in Texas. He served as a Land Commissioner for the Nacogdoches District and did a remarkable job. He also served as Treasurer of the Republic. He died in the James F. Starr House in 1895.

James F. and Clara Starr occupied the house together from the time it was built until his death in 1902. Mrs. Starr continued to occupy the house until her death in 1925. Their daughter Ruth Starr Blake lived in the house from 1925 until her death in 1969. Clara Pope Willoughby and Ray W. Willoughby have been the owners since 1969. However, in 1976 Maplecroft was deeded to the State of Texas for the benefits and use of the Parks and Wildlife Department by Clara Pope Willoughby, joined pro forma by her husband, Ray W. Willoughby, with a life-estate for her and her husband.

The house itself is in excellent condition and has always been well cared for. Alterations have not been extensive and have been confined to wallpapering, general refurbishing and modern plumbing facilities.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

narrative prepared by Susan M. Bruechner, Marshall, Texas, 1979.  
Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture Since 1780, M.I.T. Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1969.

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 1

Quadrangle name Marshall East, Texas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 5	3 7 1 3 2 0	3 6 0 1 1 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C			
E			
G			

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D			
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification . . . all of Block 52 of the original townsite, which includes Lots 1 through 4, each of which are 120 feet square, making a total land area in Block 52 of 240 by 240 feet, or 57,600 square feet, and the South Half of Lots 2 & 3 of Block 51, and 60 feet by 240 feet of a closed Crockett Street area, having a total land area of 28,800 square feet, or a total composite land area of 86,400 square feet. Subject land area is

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ruth Parshall, Restoration Consultant

organization Texas Historical Commission date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number P. O. Box 12276 telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Austin, Texas 78711 state \_\_\_\_\_

# 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

title State Historic Preservation Officer date September 17, 1979

For HCRS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register Sally L. Oldham Acting Chief of Regis date 12/11/79

Attest: Kristin O. Couvell date 12/6/79  
Chief of Registration

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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originally conained a cistern. Water was pumped from a well to the cistern by a windmill. There was a guage on the side of the tower to determine the amount of water available.

Other structures on the property include the "school house" (#2 on the site plan), which was originally built as a residence for Tempe, a freed slave. Following Tempe's residency there, the one-story, gable-roofed structure was used as a school and later as a laundry house. A comparable structure to the northeast (#3) features a porch and standing seam metal roof. To its east is a simple building (#4) raised on brick piers topped by a pyramidal metal shingle roof and a low pitch shed roof. A one-story gable-roof garage (#5) is also present. It was enlarged and remodeled in 1966. All these outbuildings are in keeping with the main Starr house' architectural and historical integrity.

One room of the original James Harper Starr house ("Rosemont") remains. It is a one-story hip-roofed structure with an end chimney. This was originally an addition built as the downstairs bedroom during James H. Starr's later years. It is #3 on the site plan.

Structures no longer extant include a large barn, the remainder of the original "Rosemont", a stable, carriage house, chicken house, carpentry shop, tool house, windmill with sheds, laundry shed, and grass tennis courts.

Alterations to the main house have been confined to plumbing, wallpapering, and general refurbishing. A long porch at the back of the house was enclosed and made into a hallway, pantry, and breakfast room.



FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

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bounded on the South by Travis Street, on the West by Grove Street, on the North by Crockett Street, and on the East by South Fulton Street.





FULTON STREET

STARR HOUSE  
407 WEST TRAVIS  
MARGUAI HARRISON COUNTY TEXAS

TRAVIS STREET

GROVE STREET

#5

#4

#3

#2

#1

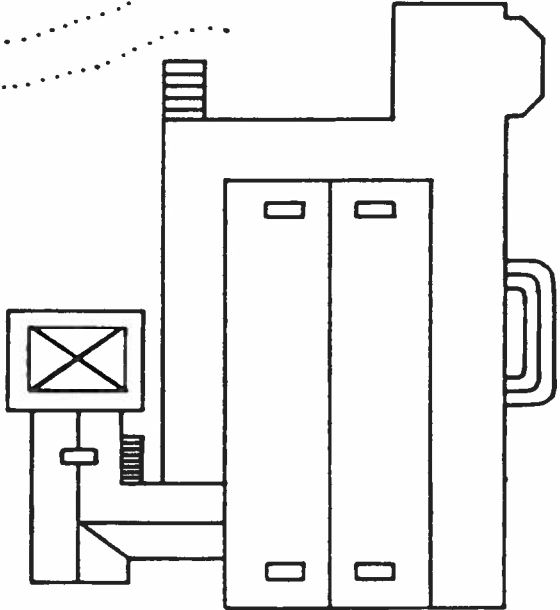
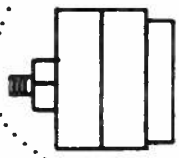
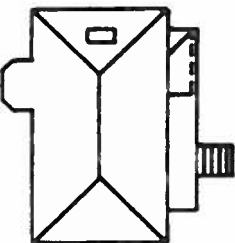
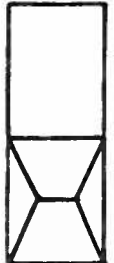
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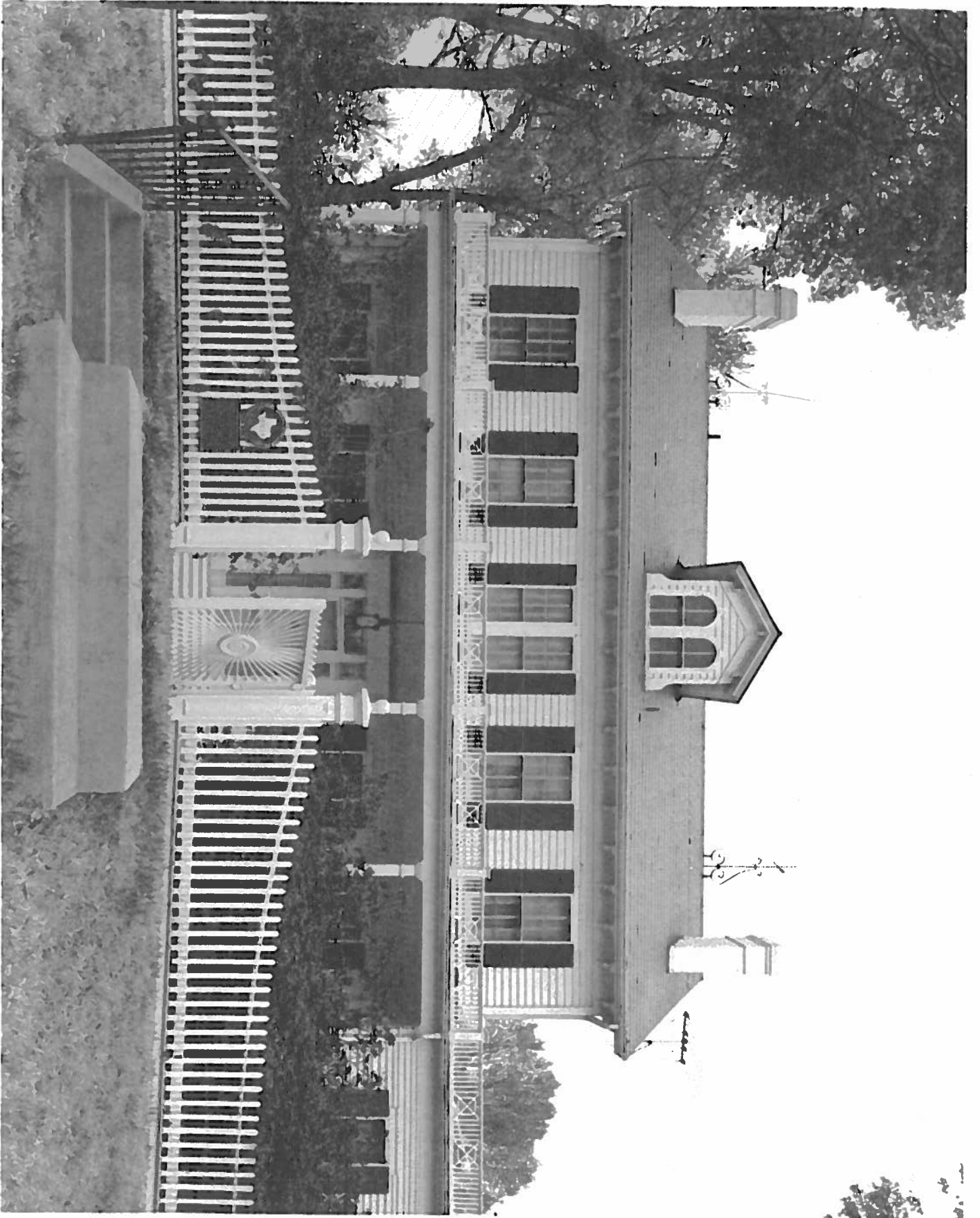
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Starr House  
407 H. Travis St.  
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas

Photo by Danny Hardy, Texas Historical Commission, 1979  
South elevation (southwest oblique) of main house,  
(#1 on site plan).

Photo #197

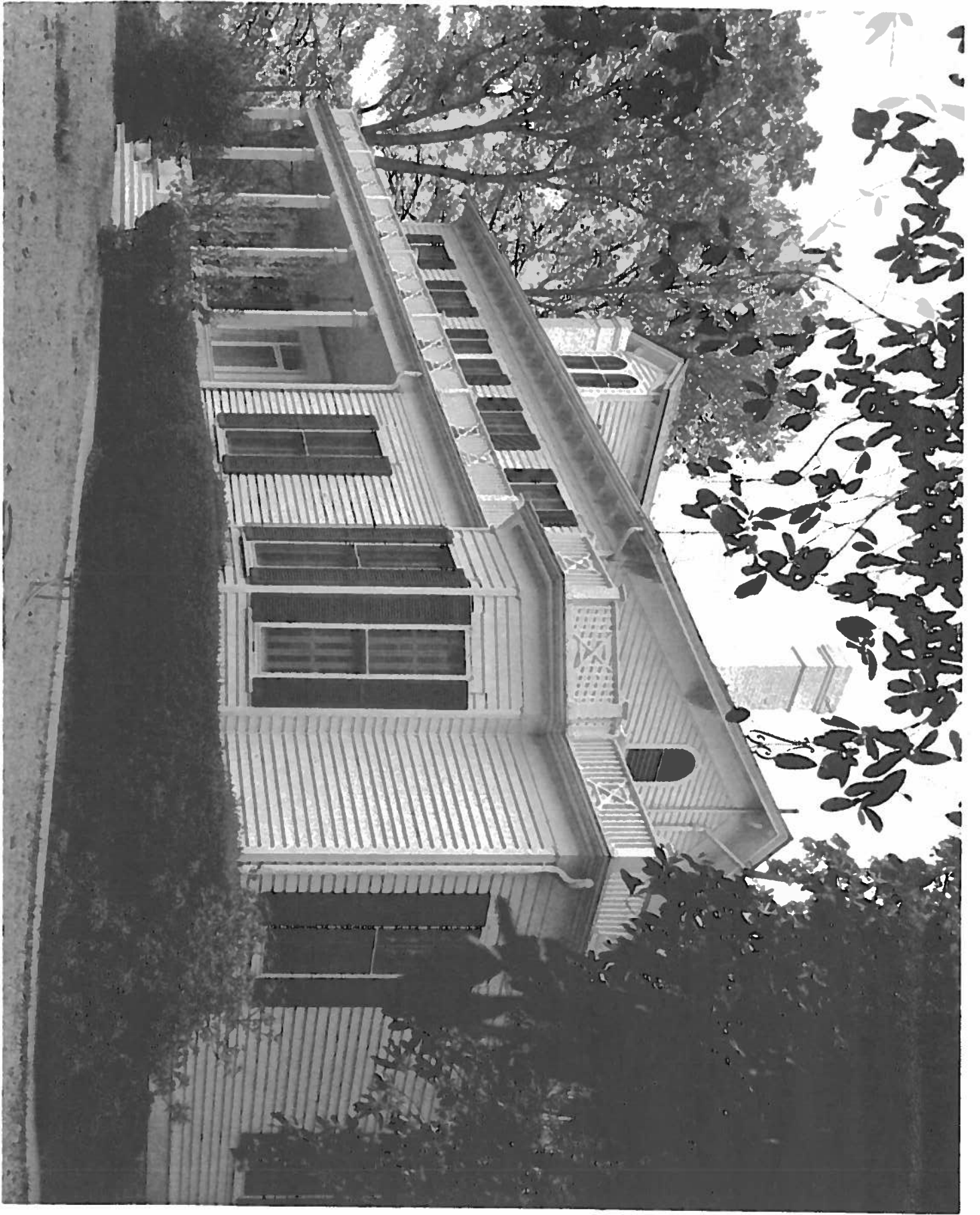
POC  
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Starr House  
407 W. Travis St.  
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas  
Photo by Stan Klein, Texas Historical Commission, 1977  
South elevation of main house.  
Photo #2 977

DEC 11 1979



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Starr House  
407 W. Travis St.  
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas

Photo by Stan Klein, Texas Historical Commission, 1977  
Southeast oblique.

Photo #397

POE  
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Starr House  
407 H. Travis St.  
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas

Photo by Danny Hardy, Texas Historical Commission, 1979  
Northeast oblique of school house (#2) and main house.  
Photo #4/7

POE  
DEC 11 1979



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Starr House  
407 N. Travis St.  
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas

Photo by Danny Hardy, Texas Historical Commission, 1979

Southeast oblique of school house (#2)

Photo #5 of 7

*POE*  
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Starr House  
497 W. Travis St.  
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas

Photo by Danny Hardy, Texas Historical Commission, 1979.

Southwest oblique of remainder of Rosemont (#3)

Photo #697

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Starr House  
407 W. Travis St  
Marshall, Harrison County, Texas

Photo by Danny Hardy, Texas Historical Commission, 1979

Southwest oblique of garage (#5)

Photo #797

*POE*  
DEC 11 1979





STARR HOUSE  
407 WEST TRAVIS  
MARSHALL, HARRISON COUNTY, TEXAS  
UTM REFERENCE: 15/971920/3601140

